



# Trash, the world and me

In Romania, we produce about 67 million tons of trash and us, we recycle about 4% of it, less than most other countries in Europe, four times less than Malta, for example. The biggest quantity is represented by the packing waste, 500,000t/year, which is 70 million euros in value.

In 2012 scrap iron was worth 1,5 billion euros.

In our capital city, Bucharest, there are about 19 trash dumps with the most important ones (also the least clean) being (fig. 1):

- **Glina Landfill** - Drumul National Centura Bucurestiului, nr 45, comuna Glina, jud. Ilfov
- **Chiajna Landfill** - Drumul Comunal DC22, comuna Chiajna, jud. Ilfov

But we do not lack recycling centers or incineration sites for garbage. In the map below, you can see 18 different centers (fig. 2), but not many citizens go there because they either don't know about them or don't bother going there at all due to distance and the fact that throwing garbage on the street is much easier. They do this without thinking about the consequences that their action might have in the future.

Here is what Andrei, a 28-year old man says: "Why should I throw away the garbage separately? I've no place to put three different bins in the kitchen; and there's no container nearby so I have to carry the bags and cross the street and "... too much effort, isn't it?"

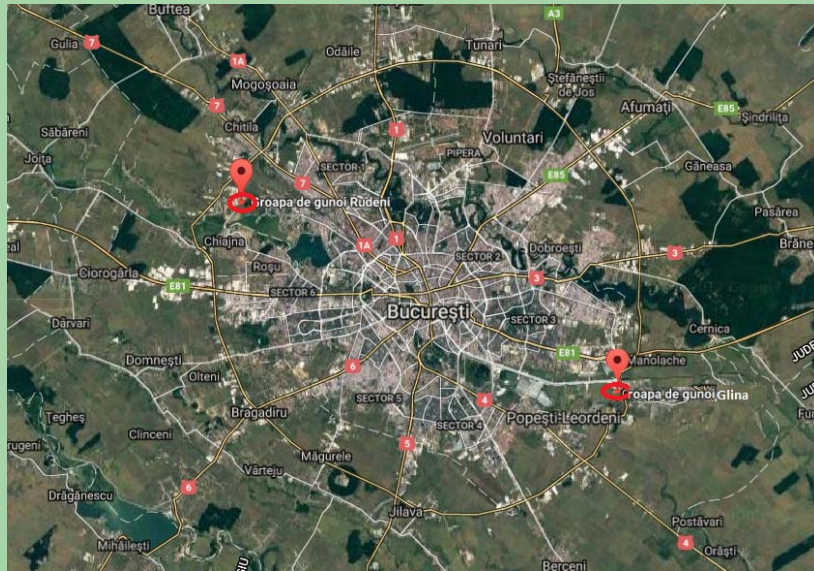


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

Bilingual National College "G.Cosbuc" - Bucharest  
Students - grade 9

*QUESTIONNAIRE regarding COLLECTING and RECYCLING WASTE*  
*For the global school's exchange programme called "TRASHEDWORLD"*

Collecting centre: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:*

1. *How long has your centre been collecting waste ?*

\_\_\_\_\_

2. *What kind of materials are being collected? Which of them is the most frequently brought to your centre?*

\_\_\_\_\_

3. *What is the approximate quantity collected per day/month?*

\_\_\_\_\_

4. *How much of it is recycled? What materials are mostly recycled?*

\_\_\_\_\_

5. *Where does this process (recycling) take place?*

\_\_\_\_\_

6. *Other information you might consider relevant for the questionnaire.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your time!*

*One sample:*

Collecting centre: SC.SCRAP RECYCLING

Address: Sos.Pantelimon nr.39 / Bucharest - 2<sup>nd</sup> district

*We would be grateful if you could answer the following questions:*

1. *How long has your centre been collecting waste ?*

*\_\_\_since 1994\_\_\_*

2. *What kind of materials are being collected? Which of them is the most frequently brought to your centre?*

*\_\_\_Ferrous, non-ferrous, paper, plastic and most commonly-collected scrap iron*

3. *What is the approximate quantity collected per day/month?*

*\_\_\_the average quantity is 300-400 kg/day\_\_\_, but it varies according to the material collected.*

4. *How much of it is recycled? What materials are mostly recycled?*

*\_\_\_all of it, about 3-4 tonnes, mainly, scrap iron, paper and plastic bottles (PET)*

5. *Where does this process (recycling) take place?*

*\_\_\_near Bucharest at the recycling centres, but also in Constanta or Galati.\_\_\_\_*

6. *Other information you might consider relevant for the questionnaire.*

*\_\_\_many of such old centres (in the small neighbourhoods) disappeared in time, due to the lack of interest of the local authority that hasn't struggled enough to improve the process of collecting waste; more such centres should be in every district of Bucharest.*