

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	PORT OF SMEDEREVO (FL 20170671)
Project Number:	2019-0661
Country:	REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
Project Description:	The project comprises the rehabilitation of existing and the construction of port infrastructure in the Port of Smederevo, on the shore of the Danube River. The port is located along the core TEN-T Rhine-Danube inland waterway corridor. This sub-project is one of the preliminarily identified schemes under framework loan operation 2017-0671 SERBIAN INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE.

EIA required: Yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will be located in Serbia, an EU candidate country, currently in the process of alignment with the EU legal acquis.

The project is aligned with the Development Strategy on Waterborne Transport for the Republic of Serbia 2015-2025 for which a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a public consultation procedure under Art. 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context was conducted and finalised in November 2014.

If within the EU, the project would fall under Annex I of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on environment (EIA Directive). The Competent Authority (CA) for environmental matters is the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Serbia.

The Promoter, the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, filed an application requesting EIA approval to the CA on 7 June 2018. The Technical Commission in charge of the assessment of the filed application initially concluded that the information made available to the CA did not fully comply with requirements of the applicable

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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legislation and presented a request for a number of corrections and additions to be performed by the Promoter as part of the EIA process. Subsequently, the Promoter presented an updated version of the EIA on 24 August 2018 incorporating the comments received from the CA and the aforementioned Technical Commission confirmed that the new submission complied with all applicable requirements on 7 September 2018. On the same date, the CA issued a decision approving the EIA with a condition to commence project implementation within a period of two (2) years from the date the decision was issued.

Concerning the impacts generated by the project, the EIA identifies that certain negative effects caused by the works are possible, mainly related to air, water and soil quality, noise, heat and radiation levels. These impacts may result in air pollution caused by construction vehicles and machinery, as well as dust and noise generation, and possible water and land pollution limited to the location of the works. The project is not expected to produce heat pollution or radiation.

Major permanent effects of the project on the flora are assessed as negligible, although impacts on ichthyofauna are possible during the execution phase. In this context, it is a requirement to plan the works execution periods with particular care in order to minimize these impacts.

In line with the requirements set forth by Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), Romania was notified as a potentially affected party of this project about the procedure initiated by the CA concerning the EIA for the project on 22 March 2018. The Romanian Ministry of the Environment responded on 4 May 2018 and stated that the project does not have a significant transboundary impact. However, it requested the CA to notify the final decision on the EIA for the project as well as any changes to the project that could have an adverse environmental impact in Romania.

Concerning areas of importance for nature conservation, the competent supervisory authority is the Institute for Nature Conservation of Serbia, which, after analysing the application submitted by the Promoter concluded on 1 August 2019 that the project does not have a significant impact on areas of importance for the conservation of nature.

Furthermore, as assessed and stated by the Competent Authority, the project does not involve a new modification to the physical characteristics of a surface water body nor alterations to the level of bodies of groundwater which could deteriorate the status of a water body or cause failure to achieve good water status/potential, neither during the implementation of the project, nor after the implementation of the project.

As part of the project preparatory works, the Promoter has prepared a Climate Change Risk Vulnerability Assessment where the main climate change related risks have been identified and measures proposed to mitigate the effects of those risks to the largest possible extent. This includes measures taken at project design level that will eventually be implemented during construction and operation of the project. The main risks are related to flooding and the effect of winds and ice on the infrastructure. As such, the climate residual risk is considered to be low.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The area covered by the project is located in an area of Smederevo dedicated to industrial activities and in the vicinity there are neither settlements nor activities conducted as part of access to livelihood of any kind. As such, no major social impacts are foreseen, no

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resettlement as a consequence of this project will take place, voluntary or involuntary, and no restriction of access to natural resources is expected.

Three (3) plots of land located within the limits of the project had to undergo expropriation procedures. Two of these procedures have been settled and closed. The procedure related to the third plot of land is still ongoing and the Promoter expects to complete it prior to project implementation.

All major construction projects entail a certain risk of occupational health and safety accidents if project stakeholders do not implement adequate measures. As such, the Promoter will count on the support of experts in occupational health and safety within the Project Implementation Unit in order to monitor full compliance with all applicable legislation.

Based on data from the register of the Regional Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Smederevo, there are no recorded and protected cultural assets in the project area, nor are there any cultural assets that were subject to previous protection.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

As part of the public consultation requirements, the project was made available for public viewing and a presentation was organised following an advertisement placed in the local newspaper *Naš Glas* on 12 June 2018 as well as through the website of the Ministry of Environment. The public consultation was held on 5 July 2018 at the City Administration of Smederevo. During the course of the public consultation, none of the relevant authorities, organisations or public offered comments about the EIA procedure.

Furthermore, the Promoter has established an Stakeholder Engagement Plan as part of the requirements under the parent project (2017-0671 SERBIAN INLAND WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE) and has a grievance mechanism in place which, to date, has not received any grievances.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

At the time this document has been released, a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) is in the process of being established by the Promoter (tendering ongoing) within its organisation with financial support of the EIB through a technical assistance grant. The PIU will receive the support of consultants in relation to, amongst others, the environmental aspects related to the project preparation and implementation. The PIU will review the project's compliance with the measures indicated in the EIA as environmental measures and performance indicators and provide regular reporting to the Bank on the matter.

A new railway line connecting the existing Serbian National Railways infrastructure to the port location has been recently completed. This was part of a different project, which was subject to its own EIA procedure with an environmental permit granted on 21 September 2017.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Including the support of the PIU, the Promoter is expected to have a solid project management team in place. Therefore, no particular problems are envisaged during the execution and operation of the project.

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Conditions

- Prior to the allocation of funds related the scheme of Port of Smederevo, the Promoter will provide to the Bank satisfactory evidence that all land expropriation procedures have been completed in compliance with the applicable legislation as well as the Bank's Environmental and Social Standards;

Undertakings

- The Promoter shall ensure that adequate environmental, social, health and safety management plans, defined according to the legal requirements and related documents, are implemented and monitored during the construction of the project, and will promptly notify the Bank of any unexpected environmental impacts or incidents during the works.

As such, subject to the aforementioned condition and undertaking being met, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.

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