



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 15 November 2019

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name: *Neamt-Harghita Water-Wastewater*  
 Project Number: *2015-0325*  
 Country: *Romania*  
 Project Description: Allocation under NSRF Co-financing Facility framework loan (2008 0170) in relation to extension and rehabilitation of the water supply and sewerage systems in Neamt and Harghita Counties corresponding to the 2007-2013 programming period.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.**

The measures consisted of investments concerning drinking water treatment and distribution, as well as wastewater collection and treatment for 11 agglomerations/water supply zones situated in the Counties of Neamt and Harghita. These Counties are located in the northwestern Region of Romania. The projects contributed to the protection of water bodies by implementing works that treat wastewater to the standards required by the EU Directive for Urban Waste Water Treatment 91/271 EEC as amended and by ensuring an efficient and sustainable use of water resources. In addition, the project contributes to the compliance of Romania with the EU Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

The Projects contributed to: (i) elimination of groundwater and subsoil contamination through the construction and rehabilitation of wastewater collectors (ii) reduction of health risks for the population by eliminating discharge of untreated or insufficiently treated wastewater and (iii) the increased availability of safe drinking water. The Projects were part of the Sectoral Operational Programme Environment (SOP ENV), which contributes to the implementation of the 3rd National Development Priority of the NDP 2007-2013 Protection and Improvement of the Environment Quality. It takes into account the social, economic and environmental needs in Romania so as to obtain the highest positive impact upon environment and to stimulate the economic development. The projects were consequently designed to contribute to implementing a reliable service level and an efficient operation.

The Projects included provisions for the establishment of strategies and actions plans for sludge and industrial wastewater management, the latter with a view to safeguarding the operation of wastewater treatment processes and safe sludge disposal. These action plans were developed by the Technical Assistance contracted for the preparation of the Feasibility Study of the works.

The SOPs (Sectoral Operational Programmes) fall under SEA<sup>1</sup> procedure that was undertaken accordingly and finalized on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197 of 21.7.2001.



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EPA Neamt (Environmental Protection Agency of Neamt) and LEPA Harghita (Local Environmental Protection Agency of Harghita) took the decision not to carry out full EIAs for the 11 agglomerations following case-by-case examination of the project's component and using the criteria included in Annex III of the EIA Directive. The motives sustaining this decision were that the project location is out of wet areas, and will not affect the mountain, forests or other protected areas. The project will not have transboundary impact. During the implementation phase, as well as during the operating phase, the probability of the occurrence of a negative impact on the environmental components was assessed as low. The Environmental decisions were obtained as follows:

County	Environmental decisions
Neamt	Negative Screening Decisions : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piatra Neamt – 10430 / 24.08.2010</li> <li>• Roman – 10434 / 24.08.2010</li> <li>• Tirgu Neamt – 10429 / 24.08.2010</li> <li>• Savinesti – Roznov – 10431 / 24.08.2010</li> <li>• Bicaz – 10432 / 24.08.2010</li> <li>• Sabaoani – 10433 / 24.08.2010</li> </ul>
Harghita	Negative Screening Decisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Miercurea Ciuc – no.28 / 27.12.2010</li> <li>• Vlahita – no.87 / 27.12.2010</li> <li>• Sandominic – no.84 / 20.06.2011</li> <li>• Madaras – no.90 / 27.12.2010</li> <li>• Siculeni-Ciceu – no. 89 / 27.12.2010</li> </ul>

The Project did not have any significant effect on NATURA 2000 sites and the relevant authorities issued the Natura 2000 declarations for each agglomeration.

#### **Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.