

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ACEA SETTORE IDRICO ROMA III
Project Number: 20190770
Country: Italy
Project Description: Investments in the integrated water sectors in the territory of ATO 2, Rome area.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed project concerns the 2019-2022 water and wastewater investment programme ACEA ATO2 S.p.A. ("ACEA ATO2"), a majority public owned utility providing Integrated Water Services ("IWS") to ca. 4,000,000 persons in the service area known as Ambito Territoriale Ottimale 2, covering 112 municipalities in the provinces of Rome (108), Frosinone (2) and Viterbo (2) in the Lazio Region. ACEA Ato2 has a 30 year concession until end 2032.

The activities of ACEA ATO2 are under the supervision of the conference of mayors (*Autorita d'Ambito dell'ATO 2*) and the national economic regulator ("ARERA"). In terms of environmental regulation, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention of Lazio (ARPA Lazio) is mainly responsible for monitoring the quality of water bodies. The Health Authority is responsible for monitoring compliance with the drinking water quality standards.

The works to be funded fall within the concession's contractual investment programme (Piano d'Ambito) and includes a wide variety of investments: upgrades and extensions to water abstraction and treatment facilities, the water distribution network, the sewage collection network and sewage treatment facilities. The main frame of the investment plan is the Piano d'Ambito but it is also fed through various plans (Water Safety Plan, development plan of the Region and the shareholding municipalities). The Plan has been approved by EGA at the regional level and by ARERA at national level.

The project will deliver substantial environmental quality improvements in the form of a higher ecological quality of surface and ground water resources and a more rational use of water resources that outweigh the negative impacts, which occur mainly during construction (e.g. noise, dust, traffic). The project will ensure compliance with regional environmental law, and will contribute to closing an infringement procedure opened against Italy for failing to comply

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.

Luxembourg, 18/05/2020

with the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC in the Promoter's service area.

None of the works will be implemented inside or near Natura 2000 or other protected sites. As of now, there is no scheme that falls under Annex I or Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. If a future scheme were to fall under Annex II, the decision whether an EIA is required is left to the Competent Authority (the Region of Lazio), on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Finally, the project will contribute to Climate Adaptation and Mitigation by supporting investments that increase resilience to climate related risks and reduced GHG emissions.

Social Assessment

By increasing the quality and reliability of water and wastewater collection and treatment services, the project is expected to bring substantial health advantages and environmental quality improvements to the affected population, thereby increasing the quality of life in the project area. Social negative impacts are only temporary (.e.g. occupation of public and private space, safety hazards during construction, traffic, noise) and will be addressed as part of the planning for the implementation of each scheme.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter will be requested to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation, notably to facilitate public access to environmental information and guarantee public consultation during the environmental decision process, where relevant, in accordance with the Aarhus Convention.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

During the project's due diligence, the Promoter has demonstrated sound practices with respect to environmental, health and safety management. In addition to procedures to meet regulatory requirements, the Promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system which is applied to new projects and monitors ongoing operations. The Promoter has the following certifications: ISO 9001 (Quality Certification), ISO 14001 (Environmental Certification), OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety), and ISO 50001 (Energy Management certification).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is driven by the requirement to ensure compliance with relevant EU environmental directives and it will also contribute towards improved climate resilience and emissions reductions. All schemes under the project will be subject to the Promoter's compliance with the following requirements:

1. The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to programme components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
2. The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities the declaration under Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.



Luxembourg, 18/05/2020

3. The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision and subsequent justification that screen out project components from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.