

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TURDA WATER AND WASTE WATER (FL 2015-0548)
Project Number:	2019-0032
Country:	ROMANIA
Project Description:	Allocation under SPL Romania EU CO-Financing for Environment 2014-20 (2015-0548) aiming to achieve compliance with the EU Drinking Water and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directives in the County of Cluj, Turda-Campia Turzii area.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation concerns a major allocation under the SPL ROMANIA EU COFINANCING FOR ENVIRONMENT 2014-20, which stipulates that Romania's objective for 2020 in the field of environment and resource efficiency is to improve environmental and living standards in order to achieve a more competitive economy, a better environment and more balanced regional development, while focusing on meeting the environmental acquis.

The project consists of investments in water supply and wastewater and collection systems. The project will benefit the more than 100,000 inhabitants of the service area of the Promoter, Compania de Apa Aries S.A. Turda in the County of Cluj.

The project contributes to achieving compliance with the EU Drinking Water and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive as well as to promote greater sustainability in water services and resource management.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure

The Project is part of the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure 2014-2020 (Programul Operational Infrastructura Mare, POIM) which was subject to the Strategic Environmental

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

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Assessment as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. Furthermore, the Project complies with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and it is consistent with the National River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2016-2021 (*Planul National de Management aferent portiunii din Bazinul Hidrografic International al fluviului Dunarea 2016-2021*) which is the Romanian part of the full Danube RBMP.

The National RBMP 2016-2021 was subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). By the final Screening Decision with ref. N 13657 of 1 June 2016, the SEA Competent Authority, the unit of Waters and Forests under the Ministry of Environment.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU, is fully transposed in Romania according to the National Law 292/2018.

The Project components were screened in by the Competent Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency Cluj (EPA Cluj). As a result, a full Environmental Impact Assessment was required for the whole Project, which was completed in August 2017. The Environmental Permit (Acord de Mediu) was published on the website of the EPA on 01 August 2017.

Environmental impacts

The project components will contribute to the protection of surface and ground water bodies. They will also ensure a more efficient and sustainable use of water resources due to a significant reduction of water losses.

The project will have significant positive environmental impact on surface waters, by providing appropriate treatment to European Standards of wastewater collected from locations with population between 2,000 to 10,000 PE before its discharge into surface water bodies. Hence, the Project will contribute strongly to bridge the country's gap to compliance with EU environmental legislation, in particular the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

Negative impacts are assessed as local, minor, temporary and reversible. It is considered that they are likely to occur only during the construction phase. The negative impacts on soil and landscape are also expected to occur only during the period of construction, as the environment will recover to its previous state after the completion of the works. Temporary negative impacts on humans and biodiversity relate to noise, vibrations and dust emissions. In view of preventing and mitigating any impacts associated with the construction phase, the Environmental Permit imposed a number of mitigation measures that will be included and followed by the Contractors in the Environmental Management Plans.

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

In compliance with the Romanian national legislation (Law 292/2018), the Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedure is integrated in the EIA. According to the AA, the negative impact on the Natura 2000 sites was assessed to be insignificant, and the authorities responsible for the management of these sites in the surroundings of the Project gave favourable opinions:

- "Grupul Milvus" and Greenenviro, which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No. 194 of 11 May 2017 and 123 of 11 May 2017, for the following NATURA 2000 sites: ROSPA0113 – Canepisti and ROSCI0223 Sarnaurile Ocna Veche;

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- Asociația Enviroteam which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No.6 of 3 May 2017 for the following NATURA 2000 site: ROSCI0040 –Coasta Lunii;
- Administrația Natura 2000 Trascau which gave a favourable opinion with ref. No. 915 of 4 June 2017 for the following NATURA 2000 site: ROSPA0087 – Muntii Trascalui.

Climate Change

The Project has a significant contribution to Climate Action Mitigation, which stems from the extension of the sewage network and extension of centralized wastewater treatment plants with a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the wastewater treatment.

Social Assessment

The project will generally benefit public health, by increasing and improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, and also by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies. Public health will also be enhanced thanks to the safe disposal of sludge produced at the wastewater treatment plants, to a Regional Composting Plant at the Wastewater Treatment Plant of Turda - Campia Turzii. Finally the project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

In the course of the project preparation, all the screening decisions were made public as required by applicable Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in Romania.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will not produce any Transboundary impact.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will further contribute to implementation of the requirements of the EU environmental legislation in the water sector, in particular with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

All project components covered by the programme will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2014/52/EC) amending the EIA Directive (2011/92/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC). In case of a change in scope of the Project, the promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and the necessary appropriate assessment, if required, have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA is finalised, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Considered the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.