

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: SMAT WATER NETWORK INVESTMENTS
Project Number: 20200256
Country: Italy
Project Description: Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure over the 2020-2024 period in the city of Torino and neighbouring areas.

EIA required: no

None of the project components is expected to be subject to EIA, to be confirmed throughout programme implementation.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Programme concerns the SMAT Group ongoing 2020-2024 water and wastewater investment programme for its “Ambito Territoriale Ottimale (ATO) Nr. 3” service area in Piemonte Region. The service area comprises 2.2 million people living in 306 municipalities located in the Province of Turin. The works to be funded fall within the concession’s contractual investment programme (Piano d’Ambito 2016-2033) and includes a wide variety of investments: upgrades and extensions of water abstraction and treatment facilities, water distribution network, sewage collection network and sewage treatment facilities.

The activities of SMAT ATO3 are under the supervision of the conference of mayors (*Autorità d’Ambito dell’ATO 3*) and the national economic regulator (“ARERA”). In terms of environmental regulation, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention of Piemonte (ARPA Piemonte) is mainly responsible for monitoring the quality of water bodies. The local health authorities (ASL) are responsible for monitoring compliance with the drinking water quality standards.

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 continued compliance with regional environmental law and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC in the Promoter’s service area.

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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The main frame of investment (Piano d'Ambito 2016 – 2033) from which this investment plan derives was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in 2016. The SEA procedure obtained a positive opinion from the Piedmont Region on 24 March 2016. The ATO itself with its own resolutions 597 and 599 of 29 April 2016 published its own summary declaration relating to the SEA.

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 was to fall under Annex II, the decision whether an EIA is required is left to the Competent Authority (the Region of Piemonte), 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, where applicable

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. Negative social 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-making 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 practice 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), and OHSAS 18001 (Occupational Health and Safety).

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.



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3. The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision and subsequent justification that screens 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.