

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	PROGRAMME LOAN WATER SECTOR POLAND
Project Number:	2020-0802
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Financing of eligible projects in the water sector in Poland
EIA required:	yes - certain components of the sub-operations could be subject to EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation is structured as a programme loan that will fund the investment projects of different Polish small or medium sized public utilities in the water and wastewater sector.

The projects to be included in the Programme will be appraised separately. The below describes the general approach at sector level and applies for the whole Programme Loan.

Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure will contribute to ensuring compliance with key EU directives in the water sector, notably the Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184/EU, the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (i.e. WFD). The investments are expected to bring substantial environmental quality improvements, notably in terms of higher ecological quality of surface and groundwater resources, as well as a more rational use of water resources, thereby increasing the resilience to potential effects of climate change. All water and wastewater investments to be considered under the programme loan will be reviewed by the concerned local authorities to ensure alignment with municipal and regional development plan, and approved by the national economic regulator for Water Services (i.e. Polish Water).

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 22.07.2021

Certain project components may be designed to meet the requirements of the regional River Basin Management Plans, which are part of the national implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. In October 2016 Poland approved all the River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for the period 2016–2021. These RBMPs have all been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment according to the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

Poland has harmonized its environmental legislation in line with the relevant EU Directives (i.e. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EC amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC).

Some of the projects (or project components) are likely to fall under Annex I of the EIA Directive and will need a full EIA. In other cases, the project components are likely to fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive so the Competent Authority (Starosta, head of a county, or Marshal of the Voivodship, head of a region) will decide whether a full EIA is required on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the Directive. In all the cases, the beneficiaries will be required to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation.

Overall, the projects implemented under the Programme are not expected to have any significant negative environmental impact. Several of the projects are expected to consist of the upgrade and expansion of water supply and sewage networks and facilities in urban areas, with minor negative impacts being those during construction (noise, dust, traffic).

It is expected that the projects will achieve GHG emissions savings in terms of reduction of methane emission due to the improved wastewater treatment and increased water efficiency. The GHG emissions will be assessed for each project at the time of appraisal.

In the same way the contribution of the Programme to the Bank's objective of Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability will be assessed for each project individually.

Paris alignment will be assessed for each project as well. However, given its focus on investments in water and wastewater services infrastructure the Programme components are expected to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR).

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The programme is expected to bring important lasting benefits to the population, by increasing the quality and reliability of water and wastewater services. Potential social impacts include the possible disruption of services and traffic, noise and temporary occupation of public and private space, and safety hazards during construction. These impacts are common for this type of projects in urban environments, and will be addressed as part of the planning for each project.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The Promoters will have to ensure compliance with national and European environmental regulations and facilitate the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

N/A

Luxembourg, 22.07.2021

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Programme Loan is expected to have predominantly net positive environmental and social effects. The Bank will appraise each project and the capacity of the promoter of each project to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation, and require the promoters to act according to the provisions of the aforementioned law.

Based on the above considerations the Programme Loan is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.