

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Acque Bresciane Green Loan
Project Number:	2021 0551
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Investments in wastewater infrastructure in the Province of Brescia (Lombardy Region)
EIA required:	yes (multiple investments)
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project aims at supporting investments in wastewater infrastructure by Acque Bresciane SRL ("AB") in Italy during the period 2021-2023. AB (the "Promoter") is a public company providing Integrated Water Services (IWS) to ca. 466,000 inhabitants in the province of Brescia in the Lombardy Region.

Investments in wastewater infrastructure will contribute to ensuring compliance with key EU directives in the water sector, notably the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (i.e. WFD). Investments are designed to meet the requirements of the Programma di Tutela ed Uso delle Acque della Regione Lombardia (last revision in 2016), which is part of the national implementation of the WFD, hence subject to a SEA. The project is expected to bring substantial environmental quality improvements in the form of higher ecological quality of surface and groundwater resources.

All investments to be considered under the Project have been reviewed by the local service regulator (Ente di Gestione dell'Ambito, "EGA") in the relevant service area (Ambiti Territoriali Ottimali, "ATO"), and approved by the national economic regulator for Electricity, Gas, and Integrated Water Services (i.e. ARERA). Furthermore, they form part of a "Piano d'Ambito", which is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). In terms of environmental regulation, the Regional Agency for Environmental Protection and Prevention of Lombardia (ARPA Lombardia) is mainly responsible for monitoring the quality of water bodies. The Health Authority is responsible for monitoring compliance with the drinking water quality standards.

Italy 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

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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2011/92/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC). Large parts of the investment programme will consist of the upgrade and expansion of networks and facilities in urban areas, with the main impacts being those during construction (noise, dust, traffic) and not normally requiring a full EIA. Some project components are likely to fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. For the latter case, this means that the decision as to whether an EIA is required is left with the competent authority on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the Directive. To date, no component has been subject to an EIA and no component is in the screening process according to the requirements of the Habitats Directive for their locations inside or near Natura 2000 sites.

Finally, the Project will contribute substantially to the Bank's objectives of Climate Action and Environmental Sustainability by supporting investments that enhance the sustainable use and protection of water resources.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project is expected to bring important lasting benefits to the population, by increasing the quality and reliability of 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 only, common for this type of projects in urban environments, and will be addressed as part of the planning for each sub-operation.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter 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

Not applicable

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is driven by the requirement to ensure compliance with relevant EU environmental directives. 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 project schemes 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 FB will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and full 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.
3. The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions and subsequent justifications that screen out project schemes from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.



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