



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 7 December 2021

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	KOELN ABWASSER UND UMWELT
Project Number:	2013-0127
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	Investments in the wastewater disposal and treatment facilities of the city of Cologne 2014-2019.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The project concerns the 2014 to 2020 investment programme of the Stadtentwässerungsbetriebe Köln (STEB) to improve the wastewater, storm water and flood management of the City of Cologne.

The Programme was strongly environmentally and climate driven and therefore has predominantly positive effects on the environment as also elaborated in STEB's Sustainability Report 2019<sup>1</sup> from December 2020, as well as in their annual Environmental Declarations (since 2018). The works carried out under the Programme were mainly:

- Rehabilitation of existing combined sewers (conveying both wastewater and storm water) to reduce the exfiltration of sewage to the groundwater, to reduce the impact of stormwater overflows on the surface water quality (River Rhine) and to improve their resilience to higher rainfall intensities because of climate change.
- Improvements at STEB's five wastewater treatment plants that allowed reducing the energy consumption and increasing the energy production from renewable sources (mainly biogas).
- Facilities for the treatment of rainwater and combined sewage before the overflows to surface waters.
- Extensions of sewers to increase sewage collection.

The promoter also implements different methods to remove micropollutants such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products. In addition, through communication campaigns, STEB informs its clients on how they can reduce their environmental and climate change impact.

The Promoter complies with the requirements of the EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended in the Directive 2014/52/EU, as well as Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. The investments also effectively ensured compliance with environmental service standards set by EU and national legislation (EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC). The Promoter confirmed that none of the schemes fell under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive and therefore no Environmental Impact Assessment was required. The Promoter also confirmed that none of the schemes

<sup>1</sup> [Nachhaltigkeitsbericht 2019 \(steb-koeln.de\)](https://www.steb-koeln.de/nachhaltigkeitsbericht-2019)



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negatively impacted any protected areas designated under the Habitats Directive, so no forms needed to be sent to EIB in relation to this directive.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.