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Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WROCLAW WATER & WASTEWATER PROJECT II
Project Number:	2021-0476
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The project covers various investments relating to the development and modernisation of the water and wastewater infrastructure in the City of Wroclaw
EIA required:	No. This is an investment programme made up of multiple schemes. All components under the Programme have been screened out.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: yes

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project is a sub-operation under Programme Loan Polish Water Sector 2020-0802 operation. It is composed of numerous components that are included in the promoter's 2021-2025 Investment Plan. The investment will cover interventions such as rehabilitation and upgrading of water production, treatment and network facilities; additional storage capacity on the storm water network, rehabilitation and upgrade of wastewater and network facilities. The investments are geared towards improving the performance of the existing water supply and wastewater treatment infrastructure, as well as countering identified climate change risks.

The Promoter of this project is Miejskie Przedsiębiorstwo Wodociągów i Kanalizacji S.A. (MPWiK), the water services company of the city of Wroclaw. MPWiK is a public entity and owned by the city of Wroclaw. The Investment Plan has been approved by the municipality of Wroclaw.

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure

The project is designed to meet the requirements of the Regional River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the Odra River (as approved by the Polish Council of Ministers of 18 October 2016) which is part of the national implementation of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, hence subject to a SEA. For RBMPs the competent SEA authority is the Ministry of Climate and Environment. Prior to the approval of the RMBP the SEA procedure had been concluded and its results had been incorporated into the RBMP.

[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.

Luxembourg, 15.10.2021

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU, is fully transposed in Poland according to the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (O.J. 2018 no 199 item 1227).

The Office of the President of the City of Wroclaw (Prezydenta Wrocławia), is the EIA Competent Authority for analysing, approving and monitoring the implementation of EIAs.

Works are foreseen to take place within the boundaries of the existing water treatment plant (WTP) and wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) sites and the service area of the promoter is located in a consolidated urban environment, using the existing routes of water mains and sewers. Therefore, the Project components were screened out by the Competent Authority.

In terms of Habitats and Biodiversity, the Promoter confirmed that no Natura 2000 sites or other protected areas will be affected by the project.

Environmental impacts

The project will contribute to continued compliance with the EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184[2] and EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC by rehabilitating and upgrading the existing water supply and wastewater systems, and extending to currently un-serviced municipalities within the vicinity of Wroclaw, thus ensuring safe provision of drinking water and sanitation services to the concerned population.

The project is also expected to bring significant long lasting environmental benefits, such as reduction in sewer infiltration, water losses, pollution to groundwater aquifer and combined sewer overflow incidents. The project will also have significant long term positive environmental impact on surface waters, by providing appropriate treatment to European Standards of wastewater collected, including in small settlements (with pollution loads mainly between 2,000 and 10,000 PE), before its discharge into surface water bodies. Hence, the Project will contribute significantly to bridge the country's gap to compliance with EU environmental legislation, in particular the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC.

Investment in wastewater treatment will contribute towards the compliance with HELCOM[3] recommendations for WWTP's effluent (recommendation 28E/5, HELCOM).

Negative impacts to the environment are assessed only as temporary. During construction, temporary impacts to the environment such as noise and dust may occur. The prevention and mitigation of any impacts associated with the construction phase will be done through adoption of the recommendations of Environmental Management Plans (EMP) to be implemented by Contractors.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The Project is expected to positively contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation will be achieved by a number of performance improvement measures,

[2] Revised DW directive has been released in Jan 2021 but there is a transitional phase of two years and this project complies with the previous directive.

[3] HELCOM – Helsinki Convention, which regulates the protection of the Baltic Sea from all sources of pollution, specifically for Phosphorous (0.5 mg/l) and Nitrogen Removal (10 mg/l)

including but not limited to more efficient use of resources, reduction of water losses and sewer infiltration, energy efficiency interventions, improved sludge digestion, connecting currently un-serviced customers to centralised wastewater collection and treatment. These will contribute towards the overall reduction of energy requirements and will result reduction of GHG emissions.

Adaptation to identified climate change risks, such as increased frequency and magnitude of drought and extreme rainfall events will be addressed by implementing measures such as increasing storm water storage capacity, increasing water production/treatment capacity and reducing water losses.

The Project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR).

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Estimated annual emissions of the project in a standard year of operation: 24 kT CO2/year absolute (gross) and -3 kT CO_2/year relative (net). This corresponds to an annual estimated emissions savings of 3,000 tons of CO_2 equivalent. These emissions consider the operation of the water supply as well as the wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure. The adopted baseline considers a scenario without the planned energy efficiency improvements.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Social Assessment

The project is comprised of the rehabilitation and upgrade of the water supply and wastewater infrastructure, expansion of the storm water storage capacity, and extension of drinking water and sanitation services, including municipalities in the vicinity of Wroclaw city.

The proposed investments will improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, as well as will result in more resilient and reliable water services. This will yield lasting positive social benefits, including improving the living conditions of the inhabitants of Wroclaw and neighbouring areas and thus they will be beneficial for the public health. The works will also contribute to employment creation during construction. No additional permanent employment is foreseen after project completion.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Where relevant, 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 process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter holds certificates for the following management systems: ISO 9001 (Quality Management), 14001 (Environmental Management) and 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety). Its water quality testing laboratory is accredited to ISO 17025 (Testing and calibration laboratories).

Luxembourg, 15.10.2021

Conclusions and Recommendations

By rehabilitating and upgrading the water treatment and sewage treatment facilities, and improving the performance of existing drinking water supply, wastewater collection and storm water management systems, the project is expected to generate a positive impact on the environment and will contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants of the broader area of Wroclaw.

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) Directives and Drinking Water Directive.

- The promoter will be required not to allocate Bank funds to project 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.

- 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.