



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 17/11/2021

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	LWOWEK-ODOLANOW GAS PIPELINE
Project Number:	2013-0291
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Construction of the Lwowek-Odolanow gas pipeline in Poland, contributing to increased system capacity, energy security and diversification of natural gas supplies. The project consisted of two sections, Lwowek to Krobia (114 km) and Krobia to Odolanow (54 km). Most of the project's route lies in the Wielkopolskie province (województwo wielkopolskie). The Krobia-Odolanow section's final route crosses the Lower Silesia province (województwo dolnośląskie).

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

The length and diameter of the pipeline are such that the project falls under Annex I of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and was subject to an environmental impact assessment, which included impact assessments on Natura 2000 sites as per the Habitats and Birds directives requirements.

In the course of the preparation of the environmental impact assessment, 4 options of the gas pipeline route were considered. Based on the analyses, a route running parallel to the existing DN 500 Lwówek – Odolanów pipeline was selected. This route circumvents the Natura 2000 area of the Western Curvature, however another route option would avoid other Natura 2000 areas known as the Great Obrzański and Dabrowy Krotoszyński. However, the rejected alternative route runs through the General Disingenuous Landscape Park where the presence of numerous common protected species has been identified. Environmental analysis demonstrated that the two options have comparable environmental impacts.

Both route options would have had impact on the habitat of Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*). However, with the adequate mitigation measures applied, the Project does not have any significant impact on the population of this vulnerable species. Additionally, the inventories taken over the recent years prior to the execution of pipeline project demonstrated that the species is fortunately less rare and endangered as it was thought. Moreover, the chosen route required the removal of 1.7 ha less forest areas compared to the alternative option.

The applied mitigation measures included using the trenchless method which eliminates the impact of the project on the site of Desmoulin's whorl and reducing the range of the

<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs



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depression funnel in the first layer aquifer. In addition, in order to monitor the groundwater table at the site of the ovoid pupa of *Vertigo moulinsiana*, piezometers were used at the stage of project implementation. As part of the preparation of the environmental impact assessment of the pipeline, natural field surveys were carried out along the route. Field research conducted, among others, by a specialist in the field of zoology has shown the occurrence of a sedge in the area of the investment with hydrological conditions conducive to the occurrence of pupae. After searching for individuals, it was confirmed that the site is inhabited by ovoid pupae of *Vertigo moulinsiana*. The mentioned insufficient recognition of the species is caused by special habitat preferences and small body size, uneven distribution of the pupa across the country, also confusing it with another species from the pupae family found in Poland, in particular with the distal pupa (*Vertigo antvertigo*).

The environmental decision imposed several other obligations on the developer, which were implemented at the stage of investment implementation. These included:

- narrowing the assembly belt to 27 m on selected sections in order to limit the range of potential impact on protected species sites and natural habitats located in the vicinity of the gas pipeline;
- carrying out work on selected sections outside the seasonal breeding of birds;
- the use of protective fences preventing small animals, in particular amphibians, from entering the place of work;
- implementation of the project under supervision of environmental experts;
- implementation of compensating plantings for cut greenery.

In April 2015 the Design Engineer submitted the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (2nd version) supplemented according to the comments by the Naturalists' Club, for review by RDEP Poznań (Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection). In June 2015, RDEP Poznań send out the announcements concerning the initiation of the procedure under Article 10 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (the procedure started on 1 July 2015). For 14 days the public had the opportunity to review the announcements with information on the initiation of the procedure. The environmental decision ref. no. WOO-11.4203.3.2014.WM.30 was obtained on 7 August 2015, and became final and binding as of 16 September 2015.

During the appraisal EIB identified and requested disbursement conditions from the promoter, i.e. the final environmental impact and nature assessment reports, the environmental and nature approvals for the pipeline. These documents were submitted for the Bank review and were accepted prior to the first disbursement of funds.

#### **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.