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## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *DOLJ WATER AND WASTEWATER*  
 Project Number: *2022-0265*  
 Country: *ROMANIA*  
 Project Description: Financing State Budget's contribution to the Dolj County water and wastewater investment programme which is included in the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure during the 2014-2020 programming period. The project is an allocation under the SPL FL-2015-0458.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Promoter of the Project is SC Compania Oltenia SA (ROC Oltenia), the Regional Operating Company (ROC) in Dolj County, located in the southwest of Romania. The Project aims at improving water and wastewater infrastructure in ROC Oltenia's area of service through: (i) the extension and rehabilitation of centralised water supply service, in localities with more than 50 inhabitants in line with the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and its recent revision<sup>2</sup>; (ii) the collection and treatment of wastewater in agglomerations with more than 2,000 PE (population equivalent) as per the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) requirements and (iii) the rehabilitation of aging water supply and sewage networks in order to reduce leakage and infiltration, respectively.

#### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure

The Project is consistent with the National River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) 2016-2021 (*Planul National de Management aferent portiunii din Bazinul Hidrografic International al fluviului Dunarea 2016-2021*) which is the Romanian part of the whole Danube RBMP.

The National RBMP 2016-2021 was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening. With the final Screening Decision with ref. No. 13657 of 01 June 2016 the competent

<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.

<sup>2</sup> The revised drinking water Directive (EU) 2020/2184 was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on 16 December 2020 and entered into force on 12 January 2021.



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SEA authority, the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests, concluded that the National RBMP 2016-2021 is not likely to have significant impact on the environment and that a full SEA under the RBMP of Danube would not be required.

### **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure**

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU, is fully transposed in Romania according to the Law 292/2018 which entered into force on 9 January 2019.

The whole project, which is implemented in two counties (Dolj and Gorj) was made subject to a single EIA procedure. As the project is mostly located in Dolj County, the EIA competent authority was the Environmental Protection Agency of Dolj county (EPA Dolj).

According to the Screening Decision 14183 of 27 November 2018 issued by EPA Dolj, the project was classified under Annex II of the EIA Directive and thus no full EIA was required. Considering that by the time the screening decision was issued, the revised EIA Directive was not fully transposed yet in Romania, JASPERS reviewed the compliance of the screening Decision with the revised EIA Directive. The review found the screening Decision compliant since: (i) it took into account the selection criteria under Annex III of the Revised EIA Directive (2014/52/EU); (ii) it provided the necessary justification and (iii) the Article 4(5) of the Revised EIA Directive was fully applied.

Due to minor modifications in the project, the competent authority was consulted again in January 2019. It concluded that the screening Decision would not be affected by the modifications and on 23 January 2019 it issued the annex amending the initial Screening Decision.

### **Appropriate Assessment**

In compliance with the Romanian national legislation, the Appropriate Assessment (AA) procedure is integrated with the EIA procedure. Hence, the AA for the project was carried out together with the EIA procedure described above. Some components under the project (e.g. sections of transport pipelines) are planned to be implemented within or in the immediate vicinity of NATURA 2000 sites. Following the screening procedure, EPA Dolj in consultation with the management authorities of these sites, concluded that the project was not likely to have significant impacts on protected habitats and species.

### **Environmental impacts**

According to the Screening Decision, the negative impact of the project will be only temporary (i.e. during the construction phase), be insignificant, local and reversible (such as traffic disturbance, noise, dust). The project includes the collection and treatment of wastewater and therefore during the operation period, the impact on the environment is expected to be positive during the operation period. Cumulative impact with other projects is not considered likely to occur.

### **Climate Change**

The Project contributes to Climate Change adaptation since it will include the rehabilitation of water supply trunk mains and distribution networks. These rehabilitated components will increase the resilience of the water supply system and ensure water security within a service area that is expected to be affected by more frequent and prolonged periods of drought in the future. In addition, the Project has a significant contribution to Climate Action Mitigation, which stems from new, efficient water distribution networks and installation of SCADA systems as well as from the extension of the sewage network with a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the wastewater treatment.



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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).

### **Social Assessment**

The project will generally benefit public health, by increasing or improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services at affordable tariffs, and by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies. The project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction.

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

In the course of the project preparation, all the screening decisions were made public as required by applicable EIA legislation in Romania.

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

The Project will not produce any Transboundary impact.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project will contribute to implementing the requirements of the EU environmental legislation in the water sector, in particular with the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and the Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC) and its recent revision<sup>3</sup>.

All components under the Project 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). In case of a change in scope of the Project, the promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA until the EIA and the necessary appropriate assessment, if required, have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. In this case, once the EIA is revised and approved, 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.

PJ/SQM/ECSO

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<sup>3</sup> The revised drinking water Directive (EU) 2020/2184 was adopted by the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union on 16 December 2020 and entered into force on 12 January 2021.