



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 18 October 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	EBS - ENERGY OPTIMISATION SLUDGE TREATMENT
Project Number:	2014-0123
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Financing of investments in the wastewater treatment system of Vienna during the period 2016-2020
EIA required:	YES
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise1 :	NO

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The main components of the project were to undertake necessary renovation works at Vienna's main wastewater treatment plant, reduce its energy consumption through the EOS project (Energy optimisation of sludge treatment) and to create three storm water retention basins to allow continued compliance with the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EC as amended by Directive 98/15/EC and with the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.

The project resulted in an improvement of the environment, health and livelihood in the Vienna area, by providing:

- Wastewater treatment according to EU standards.
- Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions through biogas recovery from the sludge digesters to be used for electricity generation;
- Decreased odour emission with the reduction of open areas at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Decreased discharge of contaminated storm water into the Liesing, the Danube Canal and the Danube during heavy rain events with the creation of three storm water retention basins.

The EOS project fell under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU. The EIA study and the public consultation were carried out in compliance with the Directive and received the required permit by the Competent Authorities in May 2014.



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The environmental permit (“Abnahmebescheid”) was issued October 12, 2021, and came into legal force on December 3, 2021..

The project falls under the Habitats and Birds Directives (92/43/CEE and 79/409/EC), as there are several Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of the wastewater treatment plant. For all sites, the absence of impact was confirmed by the competent authority.

The project does not fall under the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/CE as it concerns works in an existing plant and is not part of a programme.

During the construction, the operation of the WWTP was not interrupted and all effluents complied with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

The project contributed to the Bank’s transversal objective Climate Action Mitigation by supporting energy efficiency and renewable energy production from sludge. The project also contributed to the Bank’s transversal objective of Climate Action Adaptation through the components that improved storm water management.

Through the project the WWTP has become not only energy self-sufficient but even has a surplus of electricity and heat which is fed into the Vienna electricity grid. In October 2020 the EOS project received the Sustainability price 2021 from the City of Vienna and the OekoBusiness Wien.

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

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