



Luxembourg, 12.12.22

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ACQUE WATER INVESTMENTS
Project Number:	2022-0580
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Investments in water and wastewater infrastructure in the Provinces of Firenze, Lucca, Pisa, Pistoia and Siena (Tuscany Region), included in the business plan 2022-2025.
EIA required:	It is a multi-scheme project where some components might require a full EIA. At appraisal stage, five sub-projects were subject to EIA (four published and one ongoing)
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the ACQUE Spa 2022-2025 water and wastewater investment programme for its “Programma degli interventi e piano delle opere strategiche (POS)”, approved by the Regulator, Autorità Idrica Toscana, for the service area in Tuscany Region. The service area comprises 0.8 million people living in 55 municipalities located in the Provinces of Firenze, Lucca, Pisa, Pistoia and Siena. ACQUE Spa will be the Promoter of the Project.

The investment plan aims to increase efficiency, security of supply and climate resilience of water and wastewater services as well as compliance with the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC, while solving pending infractions of the latter. The Plan will allocate 46% of the investments to drinking water, 37% to wastewater treatment, 14% to sewerage and 3% to other general activities.

Works to be financed by EIB concern: optimising the use of water resources by improving water production and distribution networks, the extension and rehabilitation of the sewage collection network and the upgrade and construction of new wastewater treatment facilities.

The Regional Agency for Environmental Protection of Tuscany (ARPAT) is mainly responsible for monitoring the quality of water bodies. The local health authorities (USL) are responsible for monitoring compliance with the drinking water quality standards. The project will deliver substantial environmental quality improvements in the form of a higher ecological quality of surface and ground water resources and a more rational use of water resources. It will outweigh the negative impacts, which occur mainly during construction (e.g. noise, dust, traffic). The

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, 12.12.22

project will achieve full compliance with regional environmental law and the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC in the Promoter's service area.

Italy has harmonized its environmental legislation (Legislative decree 152/2006) in line with the relevant EU Directives (i.e. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EC amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC). A few project components may need an EIA and a large number of the project components are likely to fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. For the latter case, this means that the decision as to whether an EIA is required is left with the competent authority on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the Directive.

At appraisal stage, the following sub-projects have required an EIA:

Sub-project	Environmental Competent Authority	EIA status
Extension of San Jacopo WWTP	Regione Toscana	Completed and published
Improvements in the Dam Drove di Cepparello	Ministero della Transizione Ecologica	Completed and published
Implementation of water capture Badia a Coneo	Regione Toscana	Completed and published
Sewerage discharges collection Pieve a Nievole	Regione Toscana	Final project to be approved
Sewer Pieve a Nievole - Santa Croce	Regione Toscana	Completed and published

In terms of Biodiversity, two projects will intervene in the marshes of Massaciuccoli and Fucecchio, where a framework agreement has been reached with leather processing industries to centralise wastewater treatment and reduce pollutant discharges (-30% P and N discharged in five years).

Finally, the project will contribute to Climate Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability by supporting investments that increase resilience to climate related risks and contribute to sustainable use and protection of water resources objective.

The project has been assessed for the Bank's Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned as set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment was completed by the Regulator, Autorità Idrica Toscana (VAS Piano d'Ambito), available at:

<http://www301.regione.toscana.it/bancadati/atti/DettaglioAttiG.xml?codprat=2018DG0000000146>

Social Assessment

Negative social impacts are only temporary (i.e.g. occupation of public and private space, safety hazards during construction, traffic, noise) and will be addressed by the promoter as part of the planning for the implementation of each scheme.



Luxembourg, 12.12.22

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter is 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-making process, where relevant, in accordance with the Aarhus Convention. Public consultations are available on the links provided with the EIA above.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

During the project's due diligence, the Promoter has demonstrated sound practice with respect to environmental, health and safety management. In addition to procedures to meet regulatory requirements, the Promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system for ensuring proper implementation of new projects and monitoring of ongoing operations and publishes a Sustainability Report on a yearly basis (<https://www.acque.net/bilancio-di-sostenibilita>).

The Promoter has the following certifications: ISO 9001 (Quality Certification), ISO 14001 (Environmental Certification), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System), SA 8000 (Social Accountability Management System), ISO 50001 (Energy Management System), ISO 17025 (competence, impartiality and consistent operation in performing laboratory activities) and ISO 39001 (road traffic safety Management System).

The Promoter is screened out from the EIB's PATH (Paris Alignment for Counterparties Framework) Framework: non-polluting activities, not high vulnerabilities.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

All schemes under the project will be subject to the Promoter's compliance with the following requirements:

1. The Promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to project schemes that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority (Ministero dell'Ambiente e della Sicurezza Energetica or Regione Toscana). Once any EIA is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and full copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
2. The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authorities the declaration under Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.
3. The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decision and subsequent justification that screen out project schemes from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent authorities regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.
4. The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank an acceptable Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, one year after signature of the Finance Contract. This CRVA shall include the quantitative and qualitative risk analysis at the regional level and the actions foreseen to mitigate the identified risks. The CRVA shall be aligned with the ongoing Regional Master Plan of Water Resources (drafted by the Regulator AIT).