



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 22/12/2022

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

### Overview

Project Name:	Transgaz BRUA Gas Interconnection Project
Project Number:	20140240
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	Investment to build the Romanian section of the Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria (BRUA) natural gas transmission corridor, thus allowing better market integration and increasing security of supply.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The implementation of the project resulted in the construction and putting into operation of a 482 km-long high-pressure gas transmission pipeline with the related above ground installation including three compressor stations.

The Project was an EU Project of Common Interest (PCI 6.24.2). At national level, the so-called BRUA Law adopted by the Romanian Parliament confirmed the “priority status” of the project ensuring fast administrative treatment. The competent authorities issued the environmental decision in 2016 and the construction permit in 2017. The EIA process involved stakeholder engagement and included comprehensive public consultations. Public consultation meetings were held about the EIA and appropriate assessment (AA) studies, which were published on the website of the regulator.

Impacts that occurred during implementation were temporary by their nature and mainly related to construction works (clearing of rights of way, noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways, rails and water ways). These impacts were effectively managed by appropriate mitigation measures in order to avoid unacceptable nuisance to other parties and the public. To comply with the measures included in the environmental decision the Promoter prepared a series of management plans e.g. for waste, hazardous materials, biodiversity, water resources, pollution prevention, reinstatement etc. The implementation of the management plans was systematically monitored.

Since the construction of a pipeline is a linear work, the project areas were affected only locally and temporarily in different sections (a few weeks per section). No section was affected for the entire duration of the construction period, which significantly reduced the negative impacts.

The pipeline route was generally parallel to existing pipeline sections belonging to the national system of natural gas transportation. The new pipeline replaced some of the older segments. A large portion of the area impacted by the project has been categorized as cultivated agricultural land. The project caused certain permanent and temporary losses of land and crops. Vegetation with short roots, like vegetables, cereals and pastures have been replanted after finishing the construction works. The only minor residual impact was related to forest habitats but it was compensated by planting saplings on previously treeless forestland along the project site. All landowners affected by the project were identified and compensated for losses related to destroyed crops and cut forest incurred by the set easements and protection

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



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area of the pipeline according to the national law and the international requirements. The project did not result in involuntary resettlement.

The pipeline route crossed seven Natura 2000 areas (six designated for Habitats and one for Birds) and a national protected area, as well as passed in vicinity of other four Natura 2000 sites. The EIA and the AA concluded that the Project would have limited or no impact, including Natura 2000 sites crossed by or located near the pipeline. Based on monitoring reports the proposed mitigation and reinstatement measures were implemented, the temporary restrictions on construction works in protected areas were followed and no residual impacts occurred.

The project does not serve incremental gas demand; it only provides diversification of gas supply routes and sources. Therefore, no changes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are associated with the project.

Special archaeological studies were prepared for the pipeline route. The studies included desktop research and non-intrusive field surveys. Locations of potential archaeological interest were defined and if necessary intrusive surveys were carried out before construction works started. The construction works at one of the compressor station sites suffered delays due to a need to carry out a comprehensive intrusive archaeological survey.

The project resulted in both short term and long term positive socio-economic impacts. The short-term positive impact was the opportunity for temporary employment. The long-term positive impacts relate to the permanent jobs created, the improved access to gas, the security of supply and the improved competition in the gas market.

The environmental and social impact assessment, including appropriate assessment, as well as the related authorization processes were completed to the satisfaction of EIB. In accordance with the contractual reporting criteria, the Promoter confirmed both in the Project Progress Reports and in the Project Completion Report that the mitigation measures outlined in the ESIA, appropriate assessment, environmental and construction permits had been fulfilled and complied with in all respects as per conditions.

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

EIB is of the opinion based on information available at appraisal stage, reports from the promoter and a site visit by the EIB team during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.