



Luxembourg, 27 September 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: Water Supply Oasen

Project Number: 2017-0475

Country: The Netherlands

Project Description: The project concerned the 2017-2022 investment programme into the production and distribution facilities of OASEN, one of Netherlands' smaller water supply companies. The programme consisted mainly of renewal and upgrading of water treatment plants, reservoirs and pumping stations and distribution networks.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

This was the first operation with Oasen Water Company (Oasen), an experienced drinking water company in the Netherlands that took into consideration environmental and social aspects as required by national and European environmental requirements and in particular the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

The programme was mainly geared towards improving security and quality of drinking water supply including continued compliance with national and EU legislation. The main components concerned the upgrading and renewal of groundwater abstraction and treatment facilities (mainly pumping stations for abstraction, water treatment and softening plants), the rehabilitation and renewal of distribution pipes, water meters, information and communication technology (ICT) items, throughout the service area of Oasen Water. Initial project implementation duration was the period 2017 – 2022, however, in 2021, it was decided EIB to co-finance the next Oasen investment programme for the period 2022-2026. As a result, the project implementation duration was shortened by one year and thus the Promoter reported only on the investments implemented in the period 2017- 2021.

The project generated long term positive environmental impacts through the sustainable management of environmentally sensitive (Natura 2000) areas for the protection of the ground water abstraction zones and the nature development in these areas. For example, the management of the new nature reserve “The Kikkerpoel” around the water treatment plant of De Put in Nieuw-Lekkerland that aimed at developing habitat and foraging area for amphibians, bats and birds.

The use of advanced water treatment technologies ensured continued compliance with the Drinking Water Directive. Softening of water after aeration has the benefit of increasing the lifespan of water mains by reducing the accumulation of calcium and magnesium deposits that clog the water pipes. The investment programme aimed as well at increasing the water supply network resilience towards land subsidence, which is an acute issue in the operator area. The programme included large investments in replacing leaking PVC pipes by steel pipe and thus



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resulted in reduction of physical water losses along the network and improvement of the sustainable use of raw water resources.

The project had a positive climate adaptation impact through investments in new water treatment processes that will be resilient to future changes of water quality (higher salinity content and increased micro pollutants content).

The interventions of the programme's components were generally small and geographically dispersed with only some minor temporary negative impacts during construction works (dust, noise, traffic) occurring according to the Promoter's monitoring reports.

The Promoter confirmed that none of the schemes implemented under the 2017-2021 programme required a full EIA report. More specifically, the Promoter reported that for the scheme "PR17318 – Herinrichten winveld de Put" that concerned the construction of new groundwater abstraction works which would have been located within nature conservation areas, OASEN has launched in 2020 the environmental impact assessment process as required, however the EIA screening process is still on-going. As a result, this scheme was not implemented under the 2017-2021 programme, and it has been transferred to next OASEN investment plan ie the 2022-2026 investment programme which is being currently co-financed by EIB. When the environmental permitting process of the scheme will be completed, the Promoter will inform the Bank accordingly and submit a full copy of the EIA report as per his contractual obligation.

For the remaining schemes, the Promoter confirmed that there were no project components that have negatively impacted any Natura 2000 areas due to the nature and location of the schemes.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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