



Luxembourg, 18 July 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>ACQUE VERONESI WATER INFRA UPGRADE</i>
Project Number:	<i>2017 0795</i>
Country:	<i>Italy</i>
Project Description:	<i>Investments in water and waste water infrastructure in the Province of Verona (Veneto Region) during the period 2018 - 2021.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The proposed project concerns the 2018-2021 water investment programme of Acque Veronesi (AV), a publicly owned utility providing Integrated Water Services (i.e. IWS) in the service area known as ATO (Ambito Territoriale Ottimale) Veronese, corresponding to the administrative borders of the Province of Verona in the Veneto Region. AV is the main operator of IWS in the ATO, serving 77 municipalities in the framework of an in-house concession granted in 2006 and expiring in 2031. The Promoter's activities are under the supervision of (i) the local authority (i.e. Consiglio di Bacino Veronese), an entity under public law representing the municipalities of the Province, and (ii) the national economic regulator (i.e. ARERA).

The project's schemes were defined consistently with the 30-year master plan of the ATO (Piano d'Ambito – PdA), the planning framework of the proposed operation. The initial PdA was approved in 2006 and revised in 2011. The project consisted of numerous small to medium size investments aimed at upgrading and optimising the existing water production, transfer and distribution systems as well as the wastewater collection and treatment works. The timing and nature of the works included in the project were geared towards compliance with national and European legislation, notably the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) and the respect of the service standards defined in the concession agreement, which governs the Promoter's activities in the service area. With regard to water schemes the project comprises the upgrade of treatment works, in response to the pollution of underground in the Veneto Region with PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances).

Three schemes required a full EIA, there were no scheme requiring an Appropriate Assessment. All information was shared with the EIB.

The operation has allowed to close the last remaining infringement cases in the promoter service area. In addition, the efforts implemented have reduced PFAS content in tap water within the latest regulations of the Veneto Region. Finally, all expected environmental benefits (in terms of higher ecological quality of surface and groundwater) have been achieved.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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