

Luxembourg, 29 May 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Hamburg Sustainable Wastewater Systems
Project Number:	2023-0667
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The EIB will co-finance part of the 2024-2027 investment program of Hamburger Stadtentwässerung, the public wastewater utility for Hamburg City and surrounding communities. The operation mainly concerns replacements and expansion of sewer networks, pumping stations and treatment facilities.
EIA required:	No.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes
(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)	

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Promoter and Borrower of the project is the Hamburger Stadtentwässerung (“HSE”), one of two legal entities forming Hamburg Wasser (“HW”). HW is the second largest public water utility in Germany. HSE is collecting and treating wastewater from around 2 million customers in Hamburg City and surrounding communities. The proposed operation concerns the following investments in wastewater collection and treatment in its service area:

- Construction and rehabilitation of sewer networks.
- Extension of sewer networks.
- Rehabilitation and upgrading of pumping stations.
- Rehabilitation and extension of facilities on the wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) Köhlbrandhöft-Dradenau.

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.



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Environmental Assessment

The project supports compliance with the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC).

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

Depending on the project component, the competent authority is the Environmental, Climate, Energy and Agriculture Agency (Behörde für Umwelt, Klima, Energie und Agrarwirtschaft). It is expected that none of the investments in the project will require an EIA study. The Promoter has committed to send to the Bank all the screening out decisions related to the different components.

The project is in line with the Elbe River Basin Management Plan, which has been subject to a strategic environmental assessment in compliance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC.

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The project components do not affect any Natura 2000 areas, nor any national or local protected areas.

Environmental impacts

The project will have significant long-term positive environmental impact on ground and surface water, by rehabilitating sewers, reducing untreated stormwater overflows and keeping the wastewater treatment at WWTP Köhlbrandhöft-Dradenau at the currently high level.

Due to the nature of the works to be implemented, it is anticipated that the negative impacts to the environment will only be temporary, during the construction period. In that period, temporary impacts to the environment such as noise and dust may occur. In view of preventing and mitigating any impacts associated with the construction phase, mitigation measures will be included in the Environmental Management Plans of the work contracts and implemented by the Contractors during construction.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The project is expected to positively contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Adaptation to climate change is done by ensuring sufficient capacity of the network to accommodate heavy rainfall events. Mitigation will be achieved by a number of performance improvement measures, including but not limited to an increase of renewable energy generation and energy efficiency measures, by reducing sewer infiltration, improving the efficiency of pumping stations and increased sludge digestion. These will contribute towards the overall reduction of energy requirements and methane emissions and thus will result in a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

The project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR).

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated emissions of the project are about 51 kilotons of CO₂ equivalent per year. The project results in savings of about 5 kilotons of CO₂ equivalent per year.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting nor high vulnerability.



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Social Assessment

The project will generally benefit public health, by ensuring the continued provision of sanitation services at affordable tariffs, by reducing combined stormwater overflows to the surface water and sewage infiltration to the groundwater and by keeping the wastewater treatment at WWTP Köhlbrandhöft-Dradenau at the currently high level. The project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction.

Every two years, the Promoter prepares a Sustainability Report which reflects the Promoter's activities and strategies in being a socially and environmentally sustainable organisation. The report also describes its human resources strategy, which aims at improving representation of women in all parts and at all levels of the organization. It is published on the Promoter's website and therefore available to all interested parties. The latest one was prepared in 2022. In 2008 the Promoter also signed the Charta of Diversity².

Temporary negative social impacts of the Project may occur such as the possible disruption of water services and traffic, noise and temporary occupation of public and private space during the construction period. They are common for this type of projects and will be addressed during construction site management.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Where relevant, the Promoter will be required 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 process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter actively contributes to nature-friendly initiatives and social projects in Hamburg. In cooperation with Hamburg City, the Promoter puts a strong emphasis on nature-based solutions to mitigate heavy rain events and reduce the pressure on the sewerage system. The Promoter has implemented nature-based solutions in a number of different areas pursuing different objectives, such as water retention and water cleaning. For one of the projects, an innovative water retention basin under the Hein Klinik Stadion, the Promoter received the DWA Klima Preis 2023. The various efforts of the Promoter to integrate nature-based solutions into their projects take place in cooperation with the Hamburg Environment Agency and support the City's ambition of becoming a sponge city. The natural elements of the nature-based solutions support the absorption of heavy rain events and reduce heat islands in the summer months.

The Promoter is certified under EN ISO 14001 and EMAS (Eco-Management and Audit-Scheme).

Conclusions and Recommendations

By extending, rehabilitating and upgrading the wastewater collection and treatment facilities and their performance, the project is expected to have a positive impact on the environment and to contribute to the improvement of living conditions in Hamburg City. The temporary negative impacts to the environment that may occur during the construction period, such as noise and dust, will be mitigated as much as possible.

All components covered by the project will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, EIA Directive (2011/92/EC) amended by the EIA Directive (2014/52/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives.

² An employer-led initiative promoting diversity in organizations. [Charta der Vielfalt - Für Diversity in der Arbeitswelt \(charta-der-vielfalt.de\)](https://www.charta-der-vielfalt.de)



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- The Promoter will be required not to allocate Bank funds to project components that require a full EIA study until the EIA study and/or the necessary appropriate assessments have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIA study is available, the Promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA study, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring an EIA study with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive (if relevant).

Considering the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.