

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Medium Sized Utilities Programme Loan
Project Number:	20130451
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Loan for funding capex investments in water, waste, district heating, electricity and gas networks by medium sized utilities
EIA required:	Certain project components could be subject to EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

Most components are aligned with the requirements of the relevant regulatory frameworks and the promoters all have a long track record in their respective fields and typically have all the systems in place to meet the regulatory requirements, be it environmental management systems for during operation or for project planning and implementation.

Large parts of the programmes consist of the upgrade and expansion of networks and facilities in urban areas, with the main impacts being those during construction (noise, dust, traffic) and not normally requiring a full EIA. A few project components may need an EIA and a larger number of the project components are likely to fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EC). 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.

The investment programmes are expected to have predominantly net positive environmental and social effects and are acceptable for Bank financing, subject to the promoter complying with the following requirements:

Promoters undertake not to allocate the Bank funds to programme components that require an EIA until the necessary assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. Once any EIS is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for publication on the EIB website.

The Promoters undertake to provide to the Bank, if requested, with any decisions that screen out project components from being subjected to a full EIA.

The Promoters shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving the conclusion of the appropriate assessment under the Habitats and Birds Directives carried out from the competent Authority and informing the Bank that the confirmation that there are no significant impacts has been obtained.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation is structured as a programme loan that will fund the capex investments of different Italian mid-sized utilities in the environmental and the energy sector including:

1. Electricity, gas and water distribution networks;
2. Wastewater collection and wastewater treatment schemes;
3. Waste collection, recycling and treatment facilities;
4. District heating facilities and co-generation plants; and,
5. Municipal public lighting for energy saving purposes.

The requirement for an EIA, an SEA and assessments according to the nature directives will be assessed on a case by case basis. The water and wastewater investments form part of a "Piano d'Ambito", which normally is subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Similarly, the solid waste components may respond to a waste management plans that are subject to an SEA.

A few project components may need an EIA and a larger number of the project components are likely to fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EC). By providing better wastewater services, including compliance with the EC Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EC as amended by Directive 98/15/EC, as well as the requirements under the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the proposed project is expected to result in an improvement of the quality of the water bodies receiving the wastewaters.. The investments into the security of water supply contribute to safeguarding public health and the environment thereby increasing the resilience to potential effects of climate change. Network and treatment process rationalisation will contribute towards emissions reduction and resource efficiency.

The solid waste components under this programme will increase the levels of recycling of materials and bio-waste through separate collection and extraction from residual waste. They will furthermore reduce emissions and climate change impact from current operations.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoters will have to ensure compliance with national and European environmental and nature regulations and facilitate the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.