

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ORADEA URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2014-0624
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	Projects promoted by the Municipality of Oradea in sectors of tourism and urban infrastructure.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

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

This is a multi-scheme operation aiming at improving the local road network and the urban infrastructure in Oradea. The objectives are in line with those included in the Local Development Strategy, approved by the Local authorities in 2012 (decision no 147/2012). This Strategy is in large measure aspirational policy and as such, does not fall under the scope of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. This Strategy is currently being updated to cover more specifically projects to be implemented in 2014-2020.

The operation comprises six schemes (individual project cost below EUR 25m) which either do not fall under the scope of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (four schemes) or fall under its Annex II and have been screened out (two schemes). Therefore none of the schemes requires an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA).

None of the schemes are located on or next to protected areas, including Natura 2000. Evidence of the compliance with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) have been reported for all the projects.

Any negative impacts of the projects at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, with proposed mitigation measures deemed acceptable. The planned projects do not negatively interfere with cultural heritage.

The overall negative residual impacts of the projects are small; on the other hand the projects will have a positive influence on the living conditions of the City's inhabitants, as well as on the City's spatial layout. Areas and services in need of improvement will be upgraded, providing a safer environment and opportunities for various activities for the local residents. Ciuperca hill project will transform a currently rundown but scenic hill facing the city into a natural park with native vegetation, visitor centre and other public amenities. Nufarul geothermal project will make use of renewal energy and is expected to contribute to climate change mitigation. Furthermore, the road projects should have a positive effect on the environment, decreasing local traffic-related emissions in and around the existing streets currently used to cross the city.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed adequate. Therefore, the project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The EIA and SEA Directives are transposed into national law via Government Resolution No. 445/2009 concerning EIA, and Government Resolution No. 1076/2004 on SEA. Furthermore, the Habitats and Birds Directives are transposed into Romanian law via the provisions of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 57/2007 on nature and landscape. The level at which a decision is taken depends on the geographical scope of the project, not its categorization in

accordance with the annexes of the EIA directive. For this project, the competent authority for EIA is the Local Office of the National Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The operation includes six sub-projects in the road, tourism and renewable energy sectors. According to the competent authority, based on the national legislation aligned with the EIA EU Directive 2011/92/EU, the schemes do not require an EIA. Furthermore, the competent authority determined that none of the schemes have impacts on protected sites, including Natura 2000 sites.

Name of the scheme	Date of the EPA notice on EIA and Natura 2000	EIA Directive	Form A (or equivalent)
Nymphaea Wellness Thermal Complex	18/11/2014	Annex II (screened out)	available
Roundabout DN 76 Deva - Oradea	08/08/2012 and 10/08/2012	Not applicable	available
Roundabout DN 79 Arad-Oradea	08/08/2012 and 10/08/2012	Not applicable	available
Construction of some 3.5km of local road	11/10/2012	Annex II (screened out)	available
Ciuperca Hill	18/08/2014	Not applicable	available
Geothermal Central Heating	11/06/2014	Not applicable	available

The projects will have impacts on the environment both during construction and operation. At construction stage, the projects will result in increased noise levels, vibrations from heavy traffic to and from the sites, and impacts on water and air quality. Some trees (e.g.: walnuts and chestnuts) will be felled. Special mitigation and compensation measures are being considered in order to minimize impacts and, in most cases, improve original conditions of existing sites such as drainage systems, management of earthworks, waste, landfills replacement of impacted vegetation with local species - The Ciuperca hill project will transform a currently rundown but scenic hill facing the city into a natural park with native vegetation -. Impacts at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

At operation stage the impacts will be connected to noise, pollution occasioned by road use and generated waste. Special mitigation measures have been proposed in order to reduce impacts to legal thresholds such as the introduction of greenery. Furthermore, Ciuperca Hill and Nymphaea waterpark will be transformed from an eyesore, public attractions will be installed and the project will improve overall layout of the area.

The above-mentioned measures are considered adequate.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project will not entail involuntary resettlement of people. Expropriations have been carried out in line with Romanian Law (Law 255/2010). At time of appraisal, compensating measures were carried out and the process completed without complaints.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

For each scheme, public consultation was carried out as part of the permitting process, in conformity with Romanian Legislation. During public consultation, complaints and remarks received (both from public and private stakeholders) were incorporated in the corresponding final designs.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

For roads, a monitoring plan is considered and if necessary special mitigation measures (mostly noise barriers) will be considered to reduce noise level to legal thresholds. The road projects include safety measures in line with the technical characteristics of the roads, contributing to upgrade the road network to current safety standards and to improve road safety in the region.