Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ROMANIA EU CO-FINANCING FOR ENVIRONMENT 2014-20

Project Number: 2015-0548
Country: Romania

Project Description: Structural Programme Loan (SPL) providing for the Romanian State

contribution during the 2014-2020 programming period to the environment sector operations under the OP Large Infrastructure

EIA required: yes

This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes will require an EIA. The Promoter shall provide the link to a website where Non-Technical Summaries (NTSs) are published or send their copies to the Bank before projects are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure has been carried out and approved. This operation is a multi-scheme programme geographically spread over Romania. The schemes will have a number of impacts on the environment, both positive and negative. Impacts during the construction and operation phase are expected to be mitigated by good practice and work organisation following the competent authorities' requirements.

Some of the schemes are likely to fall under Annex I or Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU. Further, some of the schemes in the Programme are likely to have impacts on protected sites and therefore will be subject to a nature assessment according to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC.

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU directives, including the SEA, EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives. Should an EIA be required, the Promoter will be obliged to make the Non-Technical Summary of the EIAs publicly available. Should a landfill/dumpsite closure project affect the livelihood of population, the Promoter will be required to implement appropriate compensation measures. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the final beneficiaries with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the fields of environment.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Operational Programme Large Infrastructure was subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment. Copy of the report was published on the Bank website. The Programme has been approved by the European Commission on 10 July 2015.

In Romania, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) is carried out according to Governmental Ordinance 860/2002 with subsequent amendments and according to the

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.

Government Decision 1213/2006, transposing the EIA Directive. The different components of the overall project fall under the jurisdiction of the local environmental protection agencies in the various project counties.

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In accordance with agreed transitional arrangements, Romania must comply with the European Directive 98/83/EC on drinking water quality by 2015 and the Directive 91/271/EC on urban wastewater treatment by the end of 2018.

The projects are expected to contribute to the protection of water bodies by implementing the EU Directive for Urban Waste Water Treatment (EU Directive 91/271 EEC) and by ensuring an efficient and sustainable use of water resources thanks to a reduction of technical water losses and demand. All project locations - as does all of Romanian territory - belong to the greater Danube river basin that drains into the Black Sea.

The projects will respect the principles of preventive action, with significant emphasis on the rehabilitation of sewers, reducing the risk of pollution (by ex-filtration to the groundwater) and unreasonable drainage (infiltration to the sewer). Reduction of infiltration also reduces dilution of wastewater, thus enabling more efficient wastewater treatment.

The projects are also expected to provide for increased efficiencies in the area of water supply, by reducing water losses from networks and installation of more efficient pumping.

A minor residual negative impact could potentially occur to the natural environment (e.g. loss of or disturbance to designated habitat, change in river characteristics or altering fauna diversity and densities, fragmentation of habitats).

Some components of the programme explicitly promote adaptation to climate change by reducing floods risk or impact, or increasing the adaptive capacity by developing disaster preparedness and response capacity. It will also support the development of new water sources in water stressed regions. Overall it is estimated that around 7% of the loan is likely to support adaptation to climate change.

Social Assessment

The projects will generally benefit public health, by increasing or improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, or by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving waters bodies and eventually into the Danube and the Black Sea. It will reduce the risks or impacts of floods and coastal erosion. It will further improve solid waste management in some regions.

Closure of dumpsites may affect livelihoods of the informal waste-pickers, and will need to be addressed in compliance with EIB standards.

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