

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: NEAMT-HARGHITA WATER-WASTEWATER (FL2008-0170)

Project Number: 2015-0325

Country: Romania

Project Description: Neamt and Harghita Counties water supply and wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure. The sub-project is co-financed with EU structural funds under the OP Environment.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

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

The projects 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. The entire Romanian territory belongs to the greater Danube river basin that drains into the Black Sea and has been declared sensitive, requiring advanced wastewater treatment for all agglomerations above 10 000 person equivalents. All projects include conditions and provisions for the establishment of strategies and action plans for sludge management and industrial wastewater, the latter with a view to safeguarding the operation of wastewater treatment processes and safe sludge disposal.

The projects also provide for significant efficiencies in the area of water supply, by reducing water losses from networks and installation of more efficient pumping. Overall, however, the energy savings in water supply are not expected to offset the increased energy consumption arising from the very substantial upgrading of wastewater treatment in the different project locations.

All Annex II projects comprising rehabilitation and development of networks in smaller agglomerations were screened out. The results of the EIA process were also reviewed by DG Environment. For schemes falling within the “Major Project” definition according to the relevant Structural Funds regulations, the Bank accepts the judgement of the Commission that the scheme complies with EU environmental law based on standard forms completed by the Competent Authority of the Member State and forwarded by the European Commission’s Regional Policy Directorate-General to the EC’s Environmental Directorate-General for scrutiny.

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 Impact Assessment

The projects are supported by the Sector Operational Programme Environment, which was subject to a compulsory Strategic Environmental Assessment.

All subprojects fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive. In Romania, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) is carried out according to Governmental Ordinance 860/2002 with subsequent amendments and according to the 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.

Impacts on the surface water bodies and groundwater is expected to be minimal during construction phase, assuming good practice and legal requirements are adhered to and during the operation phase. The implementation of the project will bring a positive impact on the quality of surface waters comparing with the current situation.

Emissions to the atmosphere will occur during both construction and operation phases, but are expected to remain below thresholds in compliance with the existing regulations and under the conditions of proper use of the materials and equipment. The necessary minimum distances are respected to avoid unacceptable noise and odour emissions.

The construction/rehabilitation/extension works, generally will be limited to existing roads and to existing WWTP/WTPs locations thus minimising impact on biodiversity.

A positive impact on human health is expected due to improved quality of drinking water and connection to the sewerage system.

Environmental and social context

The projects are strongly environmentally driven. The specific objectives of the Sector Operation Programme to which they belong are:

- Objective 1: Provide adequate water and sewerage services, at accessible tariffs
- Objective 2: Provide adequate drinking water quality in all urban agglomerations
- Objective 3: Improve the ecological status of watercourses
- Objective 4: Improve of the level of management of sludge from wastewater treatment plants
- Objective 5: Create innovative and efficient water management structures

The definition of the projects have systematically taken into account the social impact of the projects through affordability considerations in the estimation of project revenues and determination of the necessary grant component in each case.

Compliance with EU Acquis, river basins affected and pollution impact

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. For this reason, Romania intends for the period 2010-2015 to make the necessary investments to comply to the extent possible with the European drinking water indicators for e.g. turbidity, ammonia, aluminium, pesticides, nitrates etc. and for urban wastewater collection, treatment and discharge. Also by 2015 waste water collection and treatment is planned to be realized for 263 agglomerations of more than 10 000 population equivalent (p.e.) and by 2018 in 2 346 agglomerations of between 2 000 and 10 000 p.e.

The projects 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 the Romanian territory - belong to the greater Danube river basin that drains into the Black Sea.

The projects respect the principles of preventive action, with significant emphasis on the rehabilitation of sewers, reducing the risk of pollution (by seepage of sewage into the groundwater) and unreasonable drainage (drainage of groundwater through infiltration into damaged sewers). Reduction of infiltration also avoids excessive dilution of wastewater, thus enabling a more efficient wastewater treatment.

Water and energy efficiency

The projects also provide for increased efficiencies in the area of water supply, by reducing water losses from networks and installation of more efficient pumping. Overall, however, the energy savings in water supply are not expected to offset the increased energy consumption arising from the very substantial upgrading of wastewater treatment in the different project locations.

Environmental permits

County	Environmental decisions
Neamt	<p>Negative Screening Decisions :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piatra Neamt – 10430 / 24.08.2010 • Roman – 10434 / 24.08.2010 • Tirgu Neamt – 10429 / 24.08.2010 • Savinesti – Roznov – 10431 / 24.08.2010 • Bicaz – 10432 / 24.08.2010 • Sabaoani – 10433 / 24.08.2010
Harghita	<p>Negative Screening Decisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miercurea Ciuc – no.28 / 27.12.2010 • Vlahita – no.87 / 27.12.2010 • Sandominic – no.84 / 20.06.2011 • Madaras – no.90 / 27.12.2010 • Siculeni-Ciceu – no. 89 / 27.12.2010

All above decisions were displayed on the ROC website and on each local environmental protection agency website. The authorisations were publicly announced in the local newspapers.

Social Assessment, where applicable

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. Public health will also be increased thanks to the safe disposal of sludge from waste water treatment plants.

The definition of the projects has systematically taken into account affordability considerations in the estimation of project revenues and determination of the grant component in each case.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

In Romania, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) is carried out according to Governmental Ordinance 860/2002 with subsequent amendments according to the Government Decision 1213/2006, transposing the EIA Directive, including requirements for public consultation at the relevant stages.