

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ROMANIA REGIONAL WATER PROGRAMME LOAN
Project Number: 2016-0164
Country: Romania
Project Description: Programme Loan financing the Regional water operating companies (ROCs) contribution during the 2014-2020 programming period to the investment programmes funded by the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure.

EIA required: yes
Should the EIA not be completed at the appraisal stage it will be required as a disbursement condition.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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 the Government Decision 17/2012, 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.

Some of the schemes are likely to fall under Annex I or Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/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.

In accordance with agreed transitional arrangements, Romania was obliged to 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.

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.

Luxembourg, 13 December 2016

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 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, fragmentation of habitats).

Some components of the programme promote adaptation to climate change by supporting the development of new water resources in water stressed areas. The wastewater collection and treatment components are likely to result in the reduction of greenhouse gases emission.

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 Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Projects to be included in this operation, when require Environmental Impact Assessment, will be subject to public consultations. Competent authority will make available to the public and the members of the technical analysis commission for consultation the environmental impact assessment report. The notice concerning the possibility for the public to participate in taking the decision related to the respective project will be published on the internet pages of the competent authority for environmental protection and of the public authority that issues the development consent. The public concerned can transmit the competent authority for environmental protection the comments/opinions/observations to the environmental impact assessment report and take part in the public debate.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Strategic Environmental Assessment 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 2014/52/EU. Further, some of the schemes in the Programme are likely to be subject to a nature assessment according to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EC.

Should an EIA be required, the Promoter will be obliged to make the Non-Technical Summary of the EIAs publicly available. The Promoter shall provide relevant documents supporting environmental compliance of the project (Non-Technical Summary of EIAs, a declaration from the Competent Authority that the schemes are in compliance with EU Habitats and Birds Directives). The project is acceptable for EIB financing in Environmental and Social terms.