

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: *Braila County Water-Wastewater*
Project Number: *2014-0723*
Country: *Romania*
Project Description: *Allocation under NSRF Co-financing Facility framework loan (2008 0170) in relation to extension and rehabilitation of the water supply and sewerage systems in Buzau County.*

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The measures consisted of investments concerning drinking water treatment and distribution, as well as wastewater collection and treatment for five agglomerations/water supply zones situated in the County of Braila. Buzau County is located in the Easter Region of Romania. The main river crossing the county is the Buzău River which collects many small rivers from the mountains and flows to the East into the Siret River and finally into the Danube River.

The project contributes to the protection of water bodies by implementing works that treat wastewater to the standards required by the EU Directive for Urban Waste Water Treatment 91/271 EEC and by ensuring an efficient and sustainable use of water resources. In addition, the project contributes to the compliance of Romania with the EU Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

The main environmental and social benefits of the Project were: (1) Considerable reduction of organic and nutrient pollution load discharged into the receiving water bodies, the Buzau and Siret Rivers, Danube River and finally the Black Sea; (2) elimination of groundwater and subsoil contamination through the rehabilitation of wastewater collectors and elimination of leakages and (3) reduction of health risks for the population by eliminating discharge of untreated or insufficiently treated wastewater and the increased availability of safe drinking water.

The Project included provisions for the establishment of strategies and actions plans for sludge and industrial wastewater management, the latter with a view to safeguarding the operation of wastewater treatment processes and safe sludge disposal. These action plans were developed by the Technical Assistance contracted for the preparation of the Feasibility Study of the works (ILF).

The Project is part of the SOPs (Sectoral Operational Programmes) that falls under SEA¹ Directive that was undertaken accordingly.

The Project is covered by Annex II of the EIA Directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC. The regional environmental protection agencies (REPA-Galati and LEPA Buzau) followed the screening procedure considering the selection criteria from Annex III, establishing that no full EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure) was necessary for the components of the Project.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197 of 21.7.2001.



Luxembourg, 5 December 2017

The Project did not have any effect on NATURA 2000 sites and the relevant authorities filled the necessary declarations.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.