



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 30 July 2018

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: *Arges County Wastewater*
 Project Number: *2010-0700*
 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 Arges County (Phase 1).*

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The measures consisted of drinking water treatment and distribution, as well as wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure for five agglomerations/water supply zones situated in the County of Arges in Central Romania. The main river that crosses the county is the Arges 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 Phase I of the project partially achieved the following objectives: (i) improvement of the environmental quality by reducing the negative impact on the Arges River as a result of the new WWTPs constructed; (ii) improvement of the living standards for the population in the project area, by providing compliant potable water 24 h / day to a high proportion of the consumers in the area, and (iii) reduction of the risk of pollution to groundwater aquifers and soil, due to exfiltration from poor quality sewer networks.

The Project included provisions for the establishment of strategies and action 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 Promoter (S.C. APA CANAL 2000 SA. PITESTI) and approved by the relevant authorities.

The Project is part of the SOPs (Sectoral Operational Programmes) that falls under SEA¹ Directive and the procedure 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 agency (REPA-Pitesti) examined each project component in accordance with criteria in Annex III of the EIA Directive. The conclusion was that project components are not likely to have significant environmental impacts.

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.



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Negative screening decisions included: Costesti Buzoiesti agglomerations: 11202/07.07.2011; Pitesti agglomeration: 11201/07.07.2011; Topoloveni agglomeration: 11203/07.07.2011. The "Environmental Agreement" was issued on July 2011.

The negative screening decisions were made available to the public on the web site and at the premises of the Regional Environment Protection Agency Pitesti (28.06.2011), APA CANAL 2000 website (29.06.2011), local papers ("Curierul Zilei" - 29.06.2011) and at the headquarters of all the city halls of the localities involved in the project.

The Relevant authorities confirmed that the Project did not have any significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter that the Project (Phase 1) has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.