

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *ALBA REGIONAL WATER*  
Project Number: *2016-0759*  
Country: *ROMANIA*  
Project Description: Financing Alba County regional operator's contribution to the investment programme, which is included in the Operational Programme Large Infrastructure during the 2014-2020 programming period.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Operational Programme Large Infrastructure 2014-2020 (Programul Operational Infrastructura Mare, POIM) was subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. 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 (amending Government Decision 445/2009), transposing the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Romania has not notified yet to the EU the transposition of the Directive 2014/52/EU.

The project falls under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and was subject to screening by the competent authority "Agentia pentru Protectia Mediului Alba". In the course of the permitting process, the Promoter has provided environmental study (Memoriu de Prezentare în vederea emiterii Acordului de Mediu). The competent authority concluded that neither EIA nor appropriate assessment is required. The competent authority has issued the environmental permit No. 7759 on 19.09.2016.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 28 August 2018

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 project components 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 water losses. All component locations belong to the greater Danube river basin that drains into the Black Sea.

The project will provide a significant positive environmental impact and contribute to meeting the country's needs in the water and sanitation sector, in relation to compliance with EU environmental legislation, in particular the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC. It will have a beneficial impact on surface waters, by proper treatment of wastewater collected from localities with population between 2,000 to 10,000 PE before its discharge into surface water bodies.

The competent authority (Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Alba) has concluded on 16 September 2016 that the project will not have significant effect on Natura 2000 sites (namely ROSCI00002; ROSPA0081; ROSCI0324) and a copy of this statement has been provided to the Bank. The individual component of the project in Arieseni, the water intake, will be located in the Natura 2000 site and water transfer pipes will pass through the site. The Feasibility Study concluded that it was not possible to obtain water from other sources in the area that will comply with quality and minimum flow requirements. Following the necessary consultations with the Administration of the National Park Apuseni (Avizul favorabil nr. 178RA/2.08.2016) and with S.C. Global Alternative Consulting S.R.L, custodian of the ROSCI0324 Muntii Bihor (Avizul favorabil nr 19/18.01.2015), the County Agency for the Protection of Environment (Agenția pentru Protecția Mediului Alba) has approved the project, with several conditions requiring good practice for the construction works in this area.

The project will contribute to climate change mitigation through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions caused by the decrease in water losses and hence the reduction of energy use in the water supply system.

### **Social Assessment**

The project 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. Public health will also be improved thanks to the safe disposal of sludge from waste water treatment plants, implementing a sludge management strategy. The project will increase quality of life of the population thanks to continuity of water supply and enhanced recreation possibilities thanks to cleaner surface waters.

The definition of the project has taken into account affordability considerations in the estimation of project revenues and determination of the grant component. The project will increase the employment opportunities during the construction of the different components.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Luxembourg, 28 August 2018

In the course of the project preparation the Promoter has been engaged in the consultation with the stakeholders as required by applicable Environmental Impact Assessment legislation in Romania. The decision was subject to public consultation during the month of August 2016.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

n/a

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The competent authority concluded that this project does not require an Environmental Impact Assessment or an appropriate assessment. The project will further contribute to implementation of the requirements of the EU environmental legislation in the water sector, in particular with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

The project will provide a significant positive environmental and public health impact and contribute to meeting the country's needs in the water and sanitation sector. The project will protect the public health and increase the quality of life of the population by ensuring continuity of water supply. It will have a beneficial impact on surface waters, by proper treatment of wastewater collected before discharge into water bodies.

The Promoter undertakes that should there be a change in the scope of the project, the Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and submitting the non-technical summary of the EIA and information on the EIA process and consultations to the Bank for review and publication.

The Promoter undertakes to fulfil during the construction phase, the conditions approved by the custodians of the Natura 2000 local Areas.

The project is therefore acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

PJ/SQM/ECSO 13.6.18