

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview			
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Project Name:	ROMANIA EU-COFINANCING FOR ENVIRONMENT 2014-20		
	Allocation of large projects (above EUR 50M investment cost):		
	2019-0030 Hunedoara county water and wastewater		
	2019-0031 Alba county water and wastewater		
	2019-0033 Vrancea county water and wastewater		
	2019-0034 Galati county water and wastewater		
Project Number:	2015-0548 (parent operation) plus numbers of projects as above		
Country:	Romania		
Project Description:	Co-financing of four large projects in water sector supported by EU funds under the Large Infrastructure Operational programme (LIOP) 2014-2020, in Romania		
EIA required:	Yes		
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : no			

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹:

Environmental and Social Assessment

The projects are focused on fulfilling the compliance requirements for water and wastewater (Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC), of agglomerations with more than 2,000 PE (Population Equivalent) for wastewater collection and treatment, and localities with more than 50 inhabitants for water supply. In this respect, the proposed investments envisage extending the service coverage for drinking water supply and wastewater collection and treatment, as well as addressing the deficiencies of the existing systems.

With the results to be achieved by the present operation, its objectives and output indicators are considered consistent with and contribute to the LIOP's objectives (Priority Axis 3: Environmental Infrastructure Development on an efficient management of resources, Specific Objective 3.2: "Increasing the collection and treatment of urban wastewater and to ensure the supply of drinking water to the population".

The projects will be located in 4 Counties: (i) Alba County, situated in the western side of the central part of Romania, (ii) Hunedoara County, west Romania, (iii) Vrancea County, located in Central Eastern Romania, and (iv) Galati County situated in the eastern part of Romania.

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 20,000 tons CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) - both increases and savings.



Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The entire Romanian territory belongs to the greater Danube River Basin that drains into the Black Sea. The projects will be implemented as a result of the River Basin Management Plan developed under the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (2000/60), initially for 2009-2015 then updated for 2016-2021 (hereafter RBMP). The National RBMP 2009-2015 was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the procedure was completed on 12 October 2010. The competent SEA authority, i.e. the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests, concluded that the update of the National RBMP (2016-2021), was not likely to have significant negative impact on the environment.

EIA Directive

In Romania, the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (EIA) falls under the jurisdiction of the regional or local Environmental Protection Agencies (EPAs) of the counties, which are the competent authorities.

All the projects were screened according to the Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU. As a result, a full Environmental Impact Assessment was required for some projects and others were screened out:

EIB project	EPA	Environmental Impact Assessment
Hunedoara county water and wastewater	EPA Hunedoara	• Negative screening decision (ref. No 8.786), issued on 24.11.2015. The decision was published and no comments were received.
Alba county water and wastewater	EPA Alba	• Negative screening decision (ref. No 7.759), issued on 15.09.2016. The decision was published and no comments were received.
Vrancea county water and wastewater	EPA Vrancea	 Negative screening decision (ref. No 135), issued on 14.12.2015. The decision was published and no comments were received. Two minor modifications were reported to the EPA-Vrancea. The EPA issued the revised decision on 01.03.2017.
Galati county water and wastewater	EPA Galati	 The project was divided into five subprojects. For four subprojects (Galati, Beresti, Tecuci and Movileni) a full EIA was required. For the fifth one, namely Project agglomeration Pechea, the EIA screening was completed with a negative screening decision. For Agglomeration Galati, the Environmental
		permit (ref No 1) was issued by the EPA on 28.07.2016. Due to modifications for technical reasons, the final Decision (ref No. 187) was issued on 06.07.2017.
		• For Agglomeration Tecuci, the Environmental permit (ref No 02) was issued by the EPA on 07.07.2016. Due to modifications for technical reasons, an annex to the Environmental Permit was issued on 26.05.2017.



• For Agglomeration Beresti, the Environmental Permit (ref No 4) was issued by the EPA on 14.07.2016. Due to modifications for technical reasons, an annex to the Environmental Permit was issued on 04.05.2017.
• For Agglomeration Movileni, the Environmental Permit (ref No 3) was issued by the EPA on 07.07.2016. Due to modifications for technical reasons, an annex to the Environmental Permit was issued on 28.04.2017.
• For Agglomeration Pechea, the Negative screening decision (ref. No 213), was issued by the EPA on 25.03.2016. The decision was made public and no comments were received.

The projects contribute to the protection of water bodies by: (i) implementing the EU Directive for Urban Waste Water Treatment (EU Directive 91/271 EEC) and the Water Framework Directive (2000/60), (ii) avoiding the pollution of water bodies due to the discharge of untreated wastewaters and (iii) ensuring an efficient and sustainable use of water resources thanks to a reduction of technical water losses and demand.

The projects respect the principles of preventive action, with significant emphasis on the rehabilitation of sewers, thus reducing the risk of pollution (by ex-filtration to the groundwater) and unreasonable drainage (infiltration to the sewer) and reducing of infiltration avoiding the dilution of wastewater.

The negative impacts are associated with the period of construction and are considered localized, temporary and reversible. In view of preventing these negative impacts, the competent authorities have imposed respective measures related to the organisation of the construction activities like limiting the works to the daily hours, cleaning the sites, proper waste management and restoration of the environment into its previous state. The projects will not have Transboundary Impact.

Assessment of effects on Natura 2000 sites

The EPAs carried out the screening decisions under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, as transposed in Romanian national legislation, whether or not Appropriate Assessment (AA) would be needed. The required Natura 2000 declarations were issued by the competent authorities:

EIB project	EPA	Natura 2000 declaration
Hunedoara county water and wastewater	EPA Hunedoara	AA not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 10367 of 16.12.2015
Alba county water and wastewater	EPA Alba	AA not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 8545 of 16.9.2016
Vrancea county water and wastewater	EPA Vrancea	AA not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 10728 of 10.12.2015
Galati county water and wastewater	EPA Galati	 The major project was divided into five subprojects (Galati, Beresti, Tecuci, Movileni, and Pechea). For Agglomeration Galati, AA was found not to be needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref.



Luxembourg, 31.05.2019
No 1208 of 19.01.2017
 For Agglomeration Tecuci, AA was found not to be not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 14580 of 22.07.2016
 For Agglomeration Beresti, AA was found to be not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 14581 of 22.07.2016
• For Agglomeration Movileni, a full AA was required. Following the AA, EPA Galati concluded that the project as proposed for implementation is not likely to have significant impact on the relevant NATURA 2000 sites. The authority for the management of the sites, gave its Favourable Opinion with reference No 2466 of 15.03.2016.
 For Agglomeration Pechea, AA was found to be not needed. Natura 2000 declaration issued with ref. No 2013 of 23.05.2016

Climate Change

The projects contribute to the Bank's priority transversal objectives regarding support to environmental protection and natural resources efficiency and Climate Action Adaptation (increasing the resilience of the assets to floods, droughts and landslides). The projects contribute also to Climate Action mitigation (through the efficient water metering and tariff collection from the end-users, a more sustainable and rational use of water resources, thereby also improving energy efficiency).

Social Assessment

The projects will generally benefit public health, either by increasing and/or improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, or by collecting and treating wastewater before discharging into receiving water bodies and eventually into the Danube and the Black Sea. Public health will also be enhanced thanks to the safe disposal of sludge produced from wastewater treatment plants.

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

Public Participation

Public consultation was carried out at the relevant stages of the EIA procedure in the four projects. The decisions were published on the EPA's and Beneficiaries websites. In addition, announcements were placed at the municipalities premises.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The projects will provide a net positive environmental outcome and significant public health benefits as they address the country's EU compliance requirements in the water and sanitation sector. The projects will contribute significantly to public health protection and also enhance the quality of life of the population affected by ensuring continuity of drinking water



supply. They will have net positive impact on the quality of surface waters, by properly treating the wastewater collected before its discharge to water bodies.

Comprehensive conditions are included in the Finance Contract of the parent operation. No additional E&S conditions are required.

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

PJ/SQM/ECSO 9.04.2019