



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 15 July 2019

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: Timis County Water-Sewerage (Phase I)
 Project Number: 2015-0085
 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 Timis 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 investments concerning drinking water treatment and distribution, as well as wastewater collection and treatment for ten agglomerations/water supply zones situated in the County of Timis. Timis County is located in the western Region of Romania. The project contributed 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 contributed to the compliance of Romania with the EU Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.

Phase I of the project contributed to: (i) elimination of groundwater and subsoil contamination through the rehabilitation of wastewater collectors and elimination of leakages and (ii) 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 Sectoral Operational Programme Environment (SOP ENV) contributes to the implementation of the 3rd National Development Priority of the NDP 2007-2013 Protection and Improvement of the Environment Quality, taking into account the social, economic and environmental needs in Romania so as to obtain the highest positive impact upon environment and to stimulate the economic development. The project was consequently designed to contribute to implementing a reliable service level and an efficient operation.

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.

The Project was part of the SOPs (Sectoral Operational Programmes) that fell under SEA¹ procedure that was undertaken accordingly and finalized on 31st January 2007.

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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The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) of Timis made the decision, on a case-by-case analysis of the projects components and using the criteria included in Annex III of the EIA Directive, to screen the following 8 agglomerations out of the full EIA process: Timisoara, Gataia, Faget, Deta, Jimbolia, Saclaz, Ciacova, Buzias. The rationale for this decision was that the location of the project was outside of wet areas, and would not affect mountains, forests or other protected areas. The project did not have any transboundary impact. During the implementation phase, as well as during the operating phase, the probability of the occurrence of a negative impact on the environmental components would be low. A full EIA procedure was followed for the agglomerations of Sanicolaul Mare and Recas, and after the required public consultation, the Environmental Permit was obtained.

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.