

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *UNIACQUE SETTORE IDRICO BERGAMO*
 Project Number: *2015-0570*
 Country: *Italy*
 Project Description: *2014-2019 investments in water and wastewater schemes*

EIA required: yes

This is a programme made up of multiple schemes. Some of them might require an EIA

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The proposed programme concerns the ongoing 2014-2019 water and wastewater investments of Uniacque, awarded in 2007 with a 30 year concession for the provision of water and wastewater services in service area, “Ambito Territoriale Ottimale (ATO)” of the Province of Bergamo, Lombardia Region. The Programme will contribute to the implementation of urgent measures to comply with the environmental standards set by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and the Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC, with which six agglomerations in the Province of Bergamo are still not compliant. It will also contribute to improve security and efficiency of the water supply system in the service area.

The schemes to be financed need to be approved by the ATO authority (“Autorita’ d’Ambito”) of the Province of Bergamo. They have to be in line with the objectives of the River Basin Management Plan at the Po River District level and the “Piano di Tutela delle Acque” (PTA) of the Lombardia Region, which were both subjected to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

This operation is fully driven by environmental and customers’ service and health considerations, making it acceptable for EIB financing. As some works will require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC or may affect protected areas, the operation will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:

1. The promoter undertakes not to allocate Bank funds to programme components that require a full EIA until the EIA and/or the necessary nature assessment have been finalised and approved by the relevant competent authority. Once any EIS is available, the promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for publication on the EIB website.
2. The promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against any scheme that impacts nature conservation sites, without receiving from the relevant competent authority the declaration under Art. 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that there are no significant effects and informing the Bank of such declaration having been obtained.
3. The promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions and subsequent justification that screen out project components from the requirement of a full EIA as well as the decisions issued by the competent Authority regarding the Habitats and Birds Directives.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The verification of the environmental compliance with the relevant EU Directives transposed into the Italian legislation is required both at programme level (SEA Directive 2001/42/EC) and project level (EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Birds and Habitats Directive 92/43/EC), and is implicitly incorporated into the permitting procedures. The Promoter is well aware of the requirements of the Italian and European legislation and will act according to the relevant EU Directives' provisions.

The River Basin Management Plan and the "Piano di Tutela delle Acque" (PTA) of the Lombardia Region constitute the main planning framework of the investments. Both plans and the relative Strategic Environmental Assessments are currently being revised for the new programming period 2016-2021 as prescribed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The public and the environmental authorities have been informed and consulted on the draft plans and the Environmental Report prepared as required by the SEA procedures. The investments need to comply also with the ATO Management Plan ("Piano d'Ambito") of the Province of Bergamo, which was approved on 28 October 2004 and as such does not fall within the scope of the SEA Directive.

Some schemes might require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC or an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.

The Programme is expected to have net environmental benefits. Most impacts are expected during construction (noise and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards). The authorization procedures should be sufficient to ensure the implementation of the necessary mitigation measures as prescribed by the competent authorities.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Overall, the Programme will generate a positive social impact contributing to the long term social sustainability in the service area. The impact of the operation will be also highly positive taking into consideration the improvement to customers' service and health considerations. Social impacts of this type of projects in urban environments during the implementation phase typically include the possible disruption of services, noise and temporary occupation of public or private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards, and will be addressed through the necessary mitigation measures as part of the authorization procedures.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The Promoter has to ensure compliance with national and European environmental and nature regulations and facilitate the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Aarhus Convention.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Not applicable.