



Luxembourg, 30 August 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BRATISLAVA WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2024-0042
Country:	Slovakia
Project Description:	Investment programme aimed at improving water and waste water infrastructure in the catchment area of Bratislava water company in the period 2024-2026
EIA required:	Yes. This is an investment programme made up of multiple schemes. Some of them may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Promoter of this operation is Bratislavská vodárenská spoločnosť a. s. (BVS), a regulated water utility operating in the Bratislava Region, a part of the Trnava Region (Senica and Skalica Districts) and a part of the Trenčín Region (Myjava District) of Slovakia. BVS is a public entity and majority owned by the city of Bratislava.

The project concerns the Promoter's 2024-2026 Investment Plan, which includes the development, rehabilitation and upgrading of drinking water abstraction and treatment facilities, as well as the development, rehabilitation and upgrade of the wastewater collection and treatment system, including sludge treatment facilities. The investments target to improve the performance of the existing water supply and wastewater infrastructure, as well as to address climate change risks.

The project will contribute to compliance with the EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/2184, the EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC by rehabilitating and upgrading the existing water supply and wastewater systems, and extending it to currently un-serviced municipalities within the service area of the Promoter. This will ensure safe provision of drinking water and sanitation services to the concerned population.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure

The project is consistent with the Programme of Measures of the latest River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) for the River Danube (approved on 22 May 2022), which was subject to a SEA procedure as required by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The competent authority for the SEA is the Ministry of Environment. Prior to the approval of the RBMP, the SEA procedure had been concluded in the course of 2021. Its results had been incorporated into the RBMP.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedure

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the 2014/52/EU is transposed in Slovakia by the Act no. 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment (last amended on 27 April 2022). Depending on the location and type of each project component, the district offices of the Ministry of Environment will be the EIA Competent Authority.

Components under the Promoter's investment programme are foreseen to be implemented either within the boundaries of existing water and wastewater treatment plant sites within the Promoter's service area, which is predominantly located in urban environments or following, to the extent possible, existing routes of water mains and sewers.

Given that the project is an investment programme, the environmental screening process of the project components is still ongoing and as a result, some of the project components may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. This means that the decision as to whether an EIA is required or not, is left with the competent authority based on the criteria defined in Annex III of the Directive. To date, several components of the investment programme have already been reviewed and screened out. In addition, none of the components under the project is located within or in the proximity of nature protected areas or has so far been screened in as per the Habitats Directive requirements. Nevertheless, in case some components under the programme require a full EIA according to Directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, the Promoter is obliged to inform the Bank accordingly and the respective EIAs will be published on the EIB website.

Environmental impacts

The project is expected to have significant long lasting environmental benefits, such as reducing exfiltration from sewers as well as reduced pollution of surface waters, by providing appropriate treatment of wastewater collected from currently un-serviced municipalities. Hence, the project will contribute significantly to bridge the country's gap to compliance with EU environmental legislation, in particular the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC.

Negative impacts to the environment are assessed only as temporary ones. During construction, temporary impacts on the environment such as noise and dust may occur. The prevention and mitigation of any of such impacts during the construction phase, will be done through adoption of the recommendations of Environmental Management practices to be implemented by Contractors.

Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

The project is expected to positively contribute towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. Mitigation will be achieved by a number of performance improvement measures, including but not limited to, reduction of water losses and sewer infiltration, energy efficiency interventions, improved sludge digestion, and connecting currently un-serviced customers to a centralized wastewater collection and treatment system. These measures will contribute towards the overall reduction of energy requirements and will result in reduction of GHG emissions.

Adaptation to identified physical climate risks, such as increased frequency and magnitude of extreme temperatures and droughts will be achieved by implementing measures such as reducing the water losses in the water network from the current 26% to below 20%.

The Project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR).



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EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Estimated annual emissions of the project in a standard year of operation are 67 kT CO₂/year absolute (gross) and -1 kT CO₂/year relative (net). This corresponds to an annual estimated emissions savings of 1,000 tons of CO₂ equivalent. These emissions concern the operation of the water supply as well as the wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure. The adopted baseline considers a scenario without the planned energy efficiency improvements and without the connection of currently unserved inhabitants to centralized wastewater treatment. For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The core business of the Promoter is to provide water supply and sanitation services. It is a public sector entity and therefore in scope of the PATH framework. However, since it is not active in high emitting sectors, nor considered high vulnerability, it is screened out of the PATH framework.

Social Assessment

The proposed investments will improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation, and will result in more resilient and reliable water services at affordable prices. This will yield lasting positive social benefits, including improving the living conditions of the inhabitants within the service area of BVS and thus they will be beneficial for the public health.

The works will also contribute to employment creation during construction. No additional permanent employment is foreseen after project completion.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Where relevant, the Promoter will be requested to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation, notably to facilitate public access to environmental information and guarantee public consultation during the environmental decision process. Consultations with affected communities and interested parties take place in line with the requirements of the Directives.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

During the project's due diligence, the Promoter has demonstrated sound practice with respect to environmental, health and safety management. In addition to procedures to meet regulatory requirements, the utility has a comprehensive environmental management system, which is applied to new projects and monitors ongoing operations. The Promoter has the following certifications: ISO 9001: Quality management systems, ISO 14001: Environmental management systems.

Conclusions and Recommendations

By developing, upgrading and rehabilitating the water treatment and sewage treatment facilities, and improving the performance of existing drinking water supply and wastewater collection systems, the project is expected to generate significant positive impacts on the environment and to contribute to the improvement of living conditions of the inhabitants within the service area of BVS.

All project components covered by the programme will be subject to the Promoter complying with the following requirements:



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- The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA (2014/52/EC) amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC, Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and the Drinking Water Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive.
- The Promoter will be required not to allocate Bank funds to project 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 EIA is available, the Promoter will provide the Bank with an electronic copy of the EIA, for publication on the EIB website.
- The Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank, if requested, any decisions issued by the competent authority that screen out project components and the main reasons for not requiring EIA with the reference to the relevant criteria listed in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Considered the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.