

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	VARAZDIN WATER (SPL 20140375)
Project Number:	2017-0922
Country:	Croatia
Project Description:	<i>The main objective of the project is to achieve compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive in the Varazdin agglomeration. The project is co-financed by ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds) under the Operational Programme Competitiveness and Cohesion and has been reviewed by JASPERS Independent Quality Review (IQR).</i>
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Application of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)

The project stems from and is consistent with the recently adopted (2016) River Basin Management Plan (RBMP), for which the Strategic Environmental Impact Study was undertaken. The RBMP, the NTS (Non-Technical Summary) of the SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) and the information related to Article 9.1.b of the SEA Directive are provided in the following link:

<http://www.voda.hr/hr/plan-upravljanja-vodnim-podrucjima>

Application of the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EC)

The project components are classified as follows under the EIA directive:

- The sewerage works fall under Annex II 10 (b) of the EIA Directive (Urban development projects)
- The works foreseen at the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) fall under Annex II 11c of the EIA Directive and 13a of the same Annex (expansion and upgrade of an existing installation with a capacity of 127,000 PE (person equivalent)).

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.

Luxembourg, 15 March 2018

According to the National Legislation a full EIA is done for WWTP with a capacity over 50,000 PE.

An EIA was performed and a Decision issued on 12 January 2016 (Class: UP/I 351-03/15-02/05, Reg 517-06-2-1-2-16-18). A Non-Technical Summary was not provided. However, it is noted that the entire EIA report was made available to the public during consultations and a public hearing was held on 20 October 2015 (the EIA report covers the requirements of Annex IV of the EIA Directive). Public comments were addressed and the way these were addressed is evidenced by the relevant documentation (e.g. expert committee report, EIA decision).

It is noted that the composting plant is not covered by the procedure. However, the cumulative impacts from the WWTP and the adjacent composting plant were considered in the final version of the EIA report (as a result of the public consultations and the expert committee works).

The following documents were made available through the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection (<http://www.mzoip.hr/hr/okolis/puo-i-spuo.html>):

- Information on the request for the implementation of the procedure of environmental impact assessment.
- Information relevant to the public consultation.
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report.
- EIA Decision, 12 January 2016.

The construction permit for the WWTP is not yet issued. However, a number of location and construction permits have been issued for the network components of the project. It is noted that some of them were issued before the EIA procedure was concluded. In order to assess their compliance with the proposed mitigation measures an Opinion (certificate) was issued by the Ministry of Environment on 9 July 2016 (Class: 351-03 / 16-04 / 677, Reg 517-06-2-1-2-16-2). The conclusion was reaffirmed by the compliance check of 21 December 2016. The aforementioned follows the guidance issued by the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds and addresses the relevant articles of the EIA Directive. Therefore, the requirement of the Action Plan is considered fulfilled for the project in question. The construction and location permits are available at the following links:

<http://www.varkom.hr/default.asp?SubItemID=16390&FlashID=16386&ParentID=16385&title=aglomeracija-varazdin>

http://www.varazdinska-zupanija.hr/javni-pozivi-i-natje%C4%8Daji/?page=6&1534-D83A_1933715A=72094cdb4d06b84a590bd2cf6a773554e6fe9e30

Provision of the pending permit will be required by the EIB.

Environmental Impacts

The overall environmental impact of the project is positive as it will allow stopping the discharge of insufficiently treated effluent into the Drava River, and ultimately into the Danube. There may be some negative impacts arising from the construction process (demolition, excavation, erection and rehabilitation works), but most of these will remain temporary. There are two Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity of some of the components, but the relevant studies show that there is no significant impact. All relevant statements from the competent authority have been received.

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Social Assessment, where applicable

Social impacts during construction, demolition or rehabilitation works include the disruption to services, noise, and temporary occupation of private space, traffic disruptions, and safety hazards. All these impacts will require project management measures to minimise the negative disturbance, inconvenience and impacts.

The positive impacts of the project are the improvements in public health as well as the job opportunities created during the implementation.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The entire EIA report was made available to the public during consultations and a public hearing was held on 20 October 2015 (the EIA report covers the requirements of Annex IV of the EIA Directive). Public comments were addressed and the way these were addressed is evidenced by the relevant documentation (e.g. expert committee report, EIA decision).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, the project will generate positive impacts on the environment.

The project will also provide long-term socio-economic benefits to the local population in the form of employment opportunities and improved quality of life.

Provision of the pending permit for the WWTP will be required by the EIB.

In view of the above findings the project is acceptable for EIB financing from the perspective of environmental and social compliance.

PJ/SQM/ECSO 15.10.15