



GOVERNMENT OF KOSOVO
RWC Hidromorava



European Investment Bank



European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Gjilan & Mitrovica Wastewater Infrastructure

**Gjilan, Technical Addendum including
Environmental and Social Due Diligence**

Non-Technical Summary

Final

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIB	European Investment Bank
ESAP	Environmental and Social Action Plan
ESDD	Environmental and Social Due Diligence
FS	Feasibility Study
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
PE	People equivalent
RWCH	Regional Water Company Hidromorava
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WBIF	Western Balkan Investment Framework
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Government of Kosovo requested the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB) to support the implementation of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and related sewage infrastructure of Gjilan and Mitrovica. Feasibility studies (FS) for both regions had been finalized in 2013 and 2015 funded by the Western Balkans Investment Framework (WBIF).

The Banks have commissioned Posch & Partners to prepare a Technical Addendum for both regions in order to validate the original work and where necessary refresh key information and fill any information gaps for both Projects and water companies. The aim is to check independently the robustness of the Priority Investment Programme (PIP) solutions originally proposed, revise critical information and confirm the expected benefits and financability of the proposed solution. The review shall be conducted along with an Environmental and Social Due Diligence ("ESDD") to assure consistency and sustainability of the project.

This document is the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) that provides a summary of the Project in a non-technical language covering the background and the project description, the national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, the environmental and social benefits and impacts, mitigation and management measures that have been incorporated into an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) and the details of communications with a summary of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that includes a grievance mechanism.

This report deals with the planned investments for Gjilan only.

1.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

The objective of the project is to collect and treat all the wastewater in the urban area of Gjilan and its surrounding villages including Koretishte, Pasjak and Shillove; Malisheva; Gjilan South and Velekince as shown in below figure. The planned design horizon is 2032.

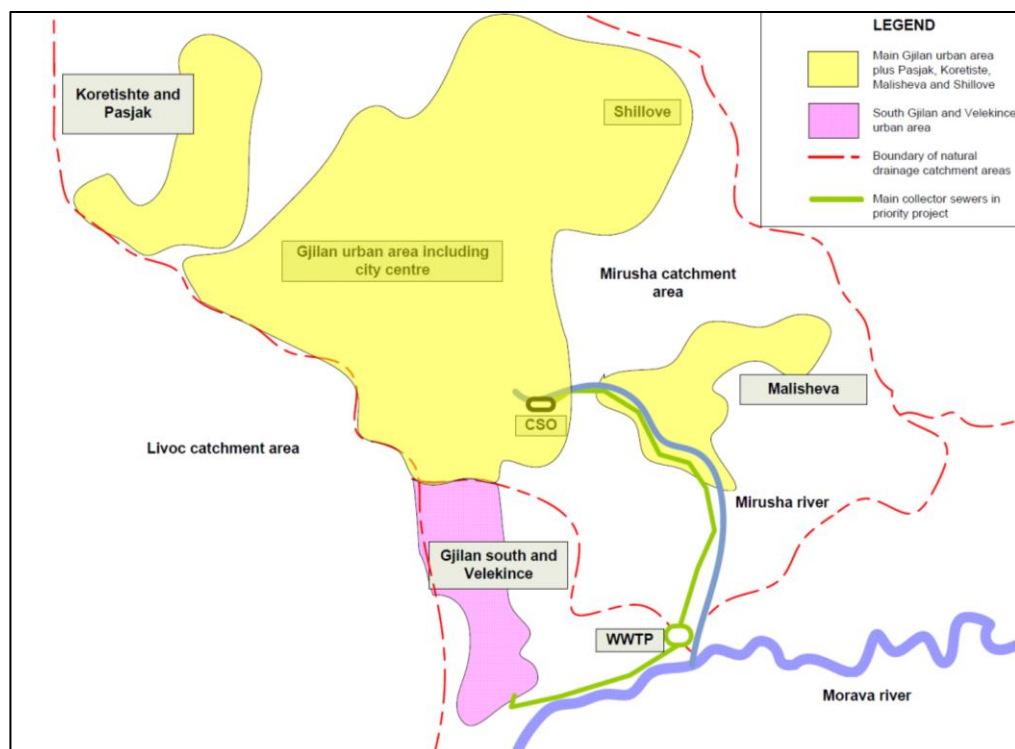


Figure 1-1. Extent of the Project

The following elements have to be implemented:

- A WWTP at the conjunction of Rivers Morava and Mirusha; designed for a capacity of 76,000 people equivalent (pe) achieved with two treatment trains with Imhoff tanks and trickling filters.
- Replacement and upgrading of urban sewers in Gjilan (4,099 m) and Velekinca (2,947 m) to improve the functionality of the sewer network.
- Construction of new sewers in Gjilan urban area to unify the fragmented networks so that all sewage flows to one single point, to the CSO, which is also the start of the main collector to transfer the sewage to the WWTP.
 - Sewers from Koretishte (7,021 m)
 - Sewers from Shillove (1,120 m)
 - New interceptors and collectors in the urban area (13,328 m)
 - New CSO chamber with automated screens
 - Overflow pipe from CSO to discharge point (150 m)
- Construction of new sewers in Velekinca and South Gjilan (4,265 m) to unify the networks so that all sewage flows to the start of the Velekinca collector to transfer the sewage to WWTP.
- Construction of two main collectors to convey the sewage to the WWTP.
 - From Gjilan (CSO) to WWTP (4,682 m)
 - From Velekinca to WWTP (2,269 m)

1.3 LEGAL ASPECTS AND COMPLIANCE

A feasibility study has been conducted for the project.

An independent environmental and social assessment has been undertaken against EBRD's / EIB's Performance Requirements, EU standards and best practice. The assessment has been used to develop an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) for implementation and a disclosure pack comprising this NTS and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) in English, Albanian and Serbian.

The SEP provides a framework for consultation activities and project disclosure information including methods used for consultation activities.

1.4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Potential environmental and social impacts have been identified and mitigation measures have been developed that are presented in the ESAP. The RWCH are committed to ensuring that the ESAP is implemented. A summary of the key impacts and their mitigation are presented in the following sections.

2 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS, POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

2.1 POSITIVE IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF INVESTMENTS

The project is expected to have a number of positive impacts on the environment:

- The project will considerably reduce pollution load to the Mirusha and Morava rivers and eventually to the Danube
- The reduced pollution load to the Mirusha and Morava river will gradually improve the river ecosystem and aquatic life in these water bodies will be rehabilitated
- Fish numbers and size will increase with a more diverse fauna composition. Elevated level of dissolved oxygen in river water would prevent fish kills
- The project will have a positive impact on groundwater quality. The extension of the sewerage system and gradual phasing out of septic tanks will substantially reduce the pollution of shallow groundwater by stopping infiltration of sewage to the groundwater.

2.2 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS AND MITIGATIONS

Construction activities will produce short-term, local impacts mainly associated with the usual construction-related impacts such as noise, air pollution, restricted access to buildings and roads, possible effect of vibration on buildings, debris, spoils, and traffic congestion.

By applying appropriate mitigation measure, all negative impacts will be reduced to acceptable levels. Mitigation measures are described in the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) which will be part of the construction contracts. Contractors will be obliged to adhere to the stipulations of the ESAP, and all activities will be closely monitored by the Supervision Consultant.

The proposed site for the wastewater treatment plant is an agricultural rural area. No residential premises are situated within the 500 m radius of the WWTP location. Odour is not considered to have an impact on the residences.

The construction activities will have minimal disturbance on local fauna species in the works area and surrounding areas. The rehabilitation and construction works will possibly result in removal or relocation of some trees and vegetation within the construction sites. However, as the proposed Gjilan WWTP is located on an agricultural site, the construction is not expected to have significant impact on biodiversity. There will be limited clearance of trees in the interceptor corridors.

Emergency and response plan will be in place to handle accidental pollution or natural disasters. Dust emissions will be minimized by optimizing construction traffic, maintain speed limits and use of water as dust suppressant. All necessary measures will be specified in the construction contracts.

3 SUMMARY OF SOCIAL BENEFITS, POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS, MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES

3.1 POSITIVE IMPACTS AND BENEFITS OF INVESTMENTS

The project is expected to have a number of positive impacts on people living in Gjilan and the surrounding villages.

The proposed investments are assessed to have significant positive impacts. In general, households, organisations, commercial and industrial enterprises currently connected to the wastewater services will benefit through improved services. Furthermore, RWCH is expected to be in a better position to establish wastewater connections for additional households, who will then also benefit from the investments. Other positive impacts include:

- Some reduction in water and sanitation related diseases, resulting in reduced mortality and morbidity; this will lead to reduced health costs for the individual family and the society as a whole;
- Improved living conditions and wellbeing, especially for people living in the centre of Gjilan and adjacent to the existing discharge points at Mirusha stream, Livoc stream and Morava river;
- The construction of a functioning WWTP will be a major improvement of the current sewerage/sanitation system and will reduce odour levels, and reduce contamination of surface and groundwater;
- Employment opportunities, and thereby increased incomes, for local residents in connection with the proposed improvement of the wastewater infrastructure; increased incomes may in turn lead to increased demand for goods and services and thereby increased economic growth;
- Human resources development, in the form of training mainly by the suppliers to the project; increased knowledge and skill levels will be of economic benefit to the individual person and to the society as a whole.

3.2 COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Construction and repair works in public areas sometimes interfere with the existing utilities, e.g. gas pipelines, telecommunication cables, and power cables, etc., and results in temporary suspensions of the services.

Fencing and signs are used to inform the public on site to provide them alternative routes around the work site.

Community health and safety risks posed during construction and repair works include dust, noise and vibration, furthermore traffic congestions.

To ensure effective management of community health and safety, the following measures will be taken:

- Contract documents to specify preparation and implementation of a traffic management plan;
- Contract documents to specify that works are to be performed strictly during daytime hours unless with special application and approval;
- Contract documents to specify that construction sites be properly signposted and fenced.

3.3 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

To ensure that occupational health and safety for construction workers are effectively managed by the contractor, the following measures will be taken:

- Contract documents to specify health and safety procedures to be published and implemented for construction staff;
- Contract documents to specify a special grievance procedure for the contractors' employees.

3.4 LAND ACQUISITION AND ECONOMIC DISPLACEMENT

The construction of the WWTP requires the acquisition of approximately 7 ha of land. A site near the village Uglara at the Morava river has been selected for the WWTP. This location requires the acquisition of 36 plot of agricultural land currently planted with maize for the WWTP, and in addition one plot of land for the access road.

No land acquisition is needed for the collectors from Gjiland and Velekince, which will be laid along the rivers of Mirusha (4.682 m) and Morava (2.269 m).

The right of way should be obtained for the laying of the collectors near the WWTP. Measures should be taken to avoid the loss of crops, in case this cannot be avoided, these needs to be compensated.

To ensure that land acquisition is carried out in accordance with international best practise a Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Framework has been developed for the project outlining the land acquisition process in line with EBRD Performance Requirement 5. When the exact impacts of the Project are known, the following measure will be taken:

- A Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan be developed once the exact magnitude of the land acquisition related to the project is known, e.g. after the development of the expropriation studies required by national legislation.

4 COMMUNICATION

4.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been prepared for the project, defining communication channels and plans regarding the construction of the Gjilan WWTP.

The SEP aims at summarising the methods, procedures, policies and activities that will be implemented by Gjilan Municipal Administration and RWCH to inform stakeholder in an inclusive and timely manner about the potential impacts of the project.

The SEP includes a programme of immediate consultation and engagement activities required to address current stakeholder concerns, as well as regular consultation and disclosure throughout the project life cycle. In addition, the SEP includes a grievance mechanism, as outlined below.

The SEP is available on the RWCH and Gjilan Municipal Administration web-sites and in hard copy at the RWCH and Gjilan Municipal Administration offices.

4.2 GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

A grievance mechanism will be implemented to ensure that Gjilan Municipal Administration and RWCH are responsive to any concerns and complains particularly from affected stakeholders and communities.

Any comments or concerns can be brought to the Municipal Administration verbally or in writing (by post or email) or by filing in a grievance form included in the SEP. The grievance form will be made available in the office of municipal administration, schools, community centres, and other public places that are easily accessible for all relevant stakeholders, alongside with a description of the grievance mechanism.

All grievance will be:

- Registered in a grievance log including information on contact details (unless the grievance is anonymous) and the details on the grievance;
- Acknowledged within 7 days,
- Responded to no later than within 30 days.

4.3 CONTACTS

Any inquiries regarding the project should be address to:

Gjilan Municipal Administration
Bulevardi i Pavarësisë p.n.
Telephone: 0280 320 781
Email: info.gjilani@rks-gov.net
<https://kk.rks-gov.net/gjilan>

Kreshnik Aliu, Project Manager
Email: kreshnikaliu@hotmail.com
Telephone: 045 713 113

Or

Hidromorava
Vëllezërit Gërvalla p.m 60000 Gjilan
Telephone: 44 983 071
Email: info@kru-hidromorava.com
<http://kru-hidromorava.com>

Veton Shaqiri, Coordinator
Email: vetonshaqiri@gmail.com
Telephone: 045 999 961

The PIU can also be contacted through the following project email: infoftuz@gmail.com