KOSOVO

FERIZAJ WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE KOSOVO

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY (NTS)

October 2023

SWECO in cooperation with InfraPlus, Enova and BDO

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESP	Environmental and Social Policy
EU	European Union
MESPI	Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
NTS	Non-technical Summary
O&M	Operation and Maintenance
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
RWCB	Regional Water Company Bifurkacioni
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

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1 INTRODUCTION

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is considering providing financing to the Government of Kosovo to finance **modernisation and reconstruction of sewerage and wastewater treatment infrastructure in Ferizaj** (the "Project"). The wastewater infrastructure is managed by the public entity Regional Water Company Bifurkacioni ("RWCB" or the "Company"). The deficiencies in the existing wastewater networks and the lack of wastewater treatment services have resulted in surface and groundwater pollution. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the modernisation and improvement of the wastewater infrastructure which would improve the quality of wastewater services, as well as surface and groundwater quality.

In 2014, the European Union (EU) funded a Feasibility Study to assess Ferizaj's wastewater treatment needs and propose development options for both urban and peri-urban areas. The Study identified priority development options for wastewater extension and rehabilitation, as well as wastewater treatment. In 2023, the EBRD initiated **an update of the Feasibility Study** and an accompanying environmental and social (E&S) assessment of the Project. A summary of the updated Project scope is provided in the next chapter.

The Project will be managed by a **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** to consist of representatives of RWCB and central government (relevant ministries).

The Project has been categorised as **Category "B"**[1] according to the EBRD E&S Policy (ESP) (2019).

The Project is in compliance with the long-term development objectives and guidelines of the **Kosovo National Development Strategy 2016-2021** for improving wastewater collection networks and constructing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) in Ferizaj. It is also aligned with the **Kosovo National Water Strategy 2017-2036**, which sets objectives for improvement of wastewater collection and treatment services, thereby enhancing surface water quality.

In accordance with **national environmental legislation**, a local Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study is not automatically mandatory since the WWTP will treat the wastewater of less than 100,000 users. However, the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI) will issue an opinion on whether an EIA is needed.

The Project is in compliance with the **EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, as well as EU Best Available Techniques (BAT) for water treatment,** which stipulates that urban wastewater entering collection systems serving over 15,000 people must undergo secondary treatment before being discharged. The Project is also in compliance with the established guidelines set in the **EU Sewage Sludge Directive** regarding sludge utilisation, including its application in a manner that considers the nutrient requirements of plants and avoids contamination of soil, surface water, and groundwater.

This document is a Non-technical Summary (NTS) of the E&S Assessment of the Project carried out in 2023. The NTS provides a Project summary in non-technical language covering the Project background and description, legal requirements, E&S benefits and impacts with mitigation measures needed to structure the Project to meet the EU requirements, EBRD ESP (2019), and the disclosure and communication requirements of the Project.

[1] According to the EBRD Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), a project is categorised "B" when its potential environmental and/or social impacts are typically site-specific, and/or readily identified and addressed through effective mitigation measures.

2 BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Project will cover the following components:

1. The **construction of Ferizaj South Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)** which will treat wastewater from *approx.* 90,000 people in Ferizaj and nearby villages, including three villages in the Kacanik (Koxhaj, Elezaj, Bajnica). The Ferizaj South WWTP is planned to be built on flat agricultural land in Kacanik Municipality, in close proximity to the Nerodime River. The international Pristina-Skopje railway line runs adjacent to the border of the WWTP site. Parallel to the railway line is the road connecting Old Kacanik-Ferizaj, as well as the motorway R-6 connecting Pristina and North Macedonian Border, as presented in the figure below.

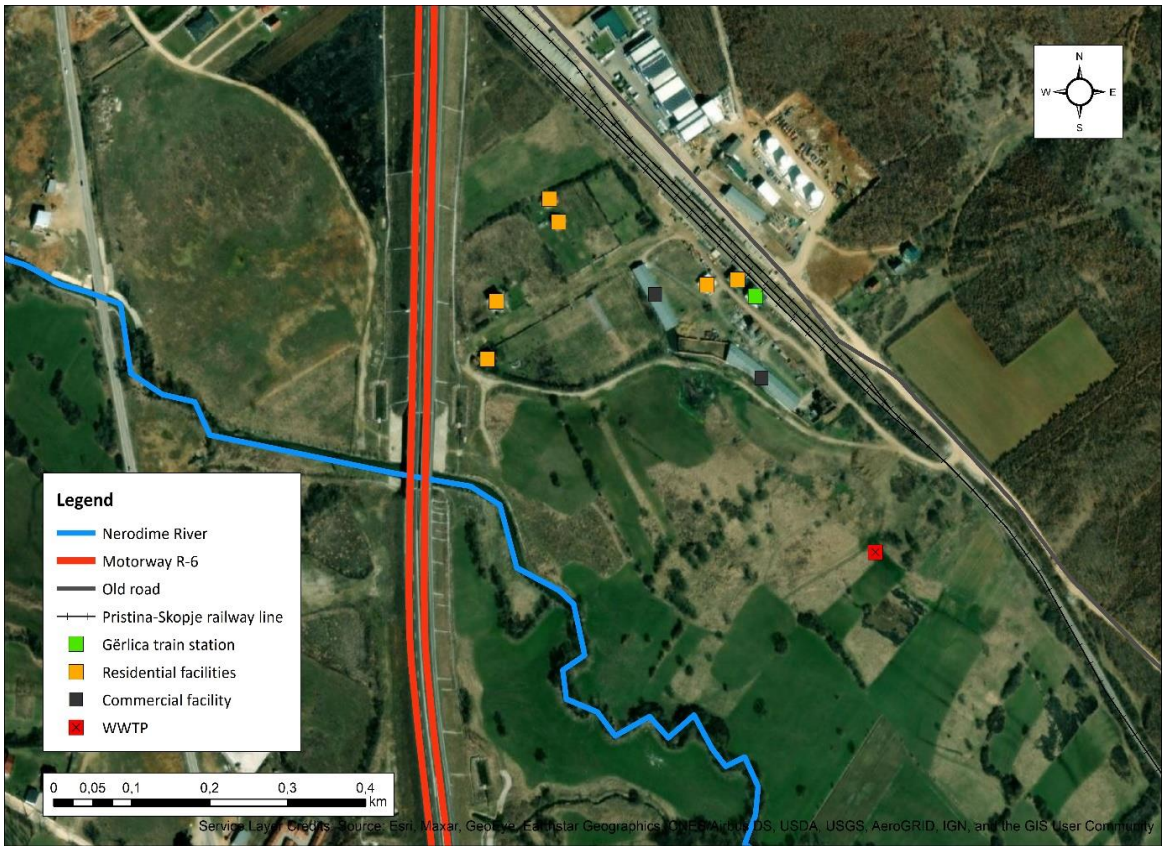

Figure 2-1: Proposed location of the South WWTP and surrounding facilities and infrastructure

There is currently no electricity supply at the WWTP site. The power supply is available at a distance of *approx.* 500 m from the WWTP. The RWCB will apply to Kosovo Electricity Supply Company for the extension of the power supply to the site.

There is currently no adequate access to the WWTP site. Three options are considered, and the final decision will be made in the later stages of the Project design. One of the proposed options will require approval from the Railways Authority "Infrakos" to construct a railway crossing.

2. The **extension of the existing main collector** from the current location near Gerlice village to the proposed WWTP site (*approx.* 3 km).

3. The **construction of a small part of the new wastewater network** to connect the main collector with the villages of Varosh, Gracke, Rakaj, Gerlice and Doganaj (less than 2 km in total), as well as three villages of Kacanik municipality (Koxhaj, Elezaj, Bajnica) (length unknown at this moment).

4. The **purchase of equipment** for the purpose of WWTP and wastewater network maintenance.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Project benefits. The proposed Project offers significant benefits, including: (i) enhanced river and groundwater quality, (ii) reduced greenhouse gas emissions through wastewater treatment and electricity production via anaerobic digestion, (iii) increased customer satisfaction through expanded wastewater network connections, (iv) improved service reliability, (v) reduced river and groundwater pollution, (vi) increased capacity for future wastewater network expansion, and (vii) employment opportunities during operation. Additionally, during the construction phase, there are opportunities for temporary employment for the local workforce, skill development for local workers, potential engagement of local subcontractors, and opportunities for local businesses.

A summary of E&S impacts and risks during the pre-construction, construction and operation/maintenance (O&M) phases is provided below, followed by measures to be put in place to mitigate any such impacts/risks.

Pre-construction. Precise information on the exact scope of land acquisition will be available after the development of the expropriation study as required by the Kosovo *Law on Expropriation*. According to initial estimates, a total of 33 privately owned land plots at the planned WWTP site will be affected by permanent land acquisition, but no physical displacement is expected. It is not anticipated that land acquisition will be necessary for the expansion of the main collector due to its planned placement alongside the existing railway line. At present, it remains unclear if land acquisition will be needed for the construction of the access road or power supply extension leading to the WWTP site. Also, the exact routing of the part of the new wastewater network required to connect the main collector with several villages will be determined in future detailed design stages. Detailed design stages will provide clarity on these aspects. A Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Framework has been developed to guide the development of a future Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Plan which will manage land acquisition activities in line with national legislation and EBRD performance requirements.

Construction. Typical negative impacts and risks, such as dust, noise, and potential spillages of chemicals, oil derivatives, wastewater and other hazardous materials are expected within the construction sites. Construction activities will also lead to temporary habitat changes and removal of vegetation. During the construction phase, various waste types will be generated, including: excavation materials, construction debris, demolition waste, as well as hazardous and municipal waste. Effective management of these waste materials will avoid water and soil pollution at constructions sites. There are some potential health and safety risks for workers, including working near the railway line, exposure to heavy machinery, the risk of falls, excavation hazards, and vehicular accidents. Negative but temporary impacts for local communities are related to dust generation, emissions of exhaust gases from mechanisation and increased levels of noise. Unauthorised access to construction sites may also lead to safety issues for the local population due to exposure to construction hazards. Traffic and road safety on local roads (particularly for any sensitive receptors) may be temporarily affected. However, based on the predominantly rural setting of the Project area with lower population density and the nature of the planned activities, the anticipated impacts on community health and safety are not expected to be significant. The potential for GBVH risks has been assessed as low since no significant risk factors that would increase the potential for GBVH have been identified, such as large-scale influx of transient male workers, need for migrant workers, remote locations with people having limited access to resources to report GBVH, etc.

O&M. During the O&M phase, typical negative impacts are expected, including generation and improper handling of sludge, damage to the wastewater network, as well as damage of mechanical and electrical equipment or process failures. Workers may face hazards associated with chemical handling, exposure to biohazards and wastewater pathogens, and machinery operations. Furthermore, potential negative impacts for local communities include odours from wastewater and sludge treatment processes, as well as potential leaks or overflows from aging or inadequate wastewater network infrastructure, leading to untreated wastewater entering the environment and potentially affecting community health.

Cumulative impacts are not expected, as there are no significant current or planned developments near the WWTP site that could lead to cumulative impacts.

The identified negative E&S impacts are site-specific and can be effectively avoided, reduced or remedied through the implementation of **mitigation measures** outlined in the Project's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) and the Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP). The Contractor will be required to prepare and implement a Construction Environmental and Social Management Plan (CESMP), while RWCB will be responsible for the development and implementation of an Operational Environmental and Social Management Plan (OESMP), both of which will be based on the developed ESMP. The PIU will oversee the implementation of specified mitigation measures.

4 COMMUNICATIONS

A **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)** has been developed to identify relevant stakeholders, define stakeholder engagement methods and objectives and establish a Project-specific grievance mechanism.

The PIU will disclose this NTS, the SEP, the Project Grievance Form and the Land Acquisition and Livelihood Restoration Framework as early as possible in the Project development process. The documents will be publicly available in **Albanian, Serbian and English** language in electronic and printed forms at:

Name of institution	Website	Address
RWCB	http://www.bifurkacioni.com/	Str. Enver Topalli, Ferizaj, Kosovo Tel. +383 (0)290 320 650 info@bifurkacioni.com
Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI)	https://mmphi.rks-gov.net/	Former "Rilindja" media palace, 10000 Pristina, Pristina, Kosovo Tel. +383 (0) 38 200 32 003 dkp.mmph@rks-gov.net
Municipality of Ferizaj	https://kk.rks-gov.net/ferizaj/	Str. Dëshmorët e Kombit, nn, Ferizaj, Kosovo Tel. +383 (0)38 200 46 076 & 080011005 info.ferizaj@rks-gov.net
Municipality of Kaçanik	https://kk.rks-gov.net/kacanik/	Str. Emin Duraku, Kacanik, Kosovo Tel. +383 290 380 047 & 080011014

After the disclosure of the documents listed above, the PIU will hold **public consultation meetings** as follows:

- at least one set of meetings after the selection of the Project designer and start of development of the Main Design – to present the Project to stakeholders with the purpose of receiving feedback from local stakeholders,
- at least one set of meetings prior to start of construction – to present the Project details defined in the Main Design to all stakeholders and to receive feedback from local stakeholders.

The PIU will inform all stakeholders about the exact date, time and venue where the meetings will be held 10 days in advance through channels listed in the SEP. A brief report comments/proposals received and responses from the PIU will be published on the websites of RWCB, MESPI, Municipality of Ferizaj and Municipality of Kacanik.

The PIU will also provide **information on planned construction works**. This includes specifics about the locations, anticipated commencement date, expected duration of planned works and any predicted disruptions in traffic flows and any other potential inconveniences to the public at least 30 days before start of works through channels listed in the SEP.

During the O&M phase of the Project, **summaries of E&S Reports will be regularly published** on RWCB's website.

A Project-specific grievance mechanism has been set up a process for receiving, evaluating and addressing grievances from affected communities. The PIU will implement the grievance mechanism to ensure that it is responsive to any concerns and complaints particularly from affected communities. A detailed explanation of the mechanism is provided in the SEP.

Contact information for sending grievances:

FERIZAJ WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
Project Implementation Unit
Str. Enver Topalli, Ferizaj, Kosovo
Tel. +383 (0)290 320 650
E-mail: info@bifurkacioni.com