

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is supporting improvements to the wastewater network in the Croatian city of Sisak and neighbouring municipalities with a €9.2 million loan.

The funds will be provided to Sisački vodovod, the local water supply and wastewater company, for the financing of the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and upgrades and extensions to the municipal wastewater network.

Sisak is located south-east of the capital Zagreb and has a population of around 47,000. It used to be a leading industrial city known for its steel production, among other things. In March 2013 the EBRD provided a €20 million loan for the restructuring and modernisation of the famous Sisak Ironworks.

The EBRD has also worked with the municipality in the past, financing the acquisition of new buses and providing a first loan for upgrades of the wastewater network. Further development of both water supply and wastewater collection and treatment services, which will help preserve the city's three rivers Kupa, Sava and Odra, is a clear priority for the City of Sisak.

Vedrana Jelušić Kašić, EBRD Director for Croatia, said: "We are pleased to sign this loan agreement with Sisak Water Company as it underlines our commitment to this important Croatian city. Decent water supplies and well-functioning sewage disposal are preconditions for the sound development of any municipality. In our strategy for Croatia we emphasise our readiness to work with the authorities and the European Union to modernise the country's infrastructure."

Kristina Ikić Baniček, the Mayor of Sisak, added: "I am pleased that we managed to secure EBRD financing, especially funding for the project design and extension of the wastewater collection network in more remote areas of our municipality, such as Pogorelec, Galдово Kaptolska and parts of Zeleni brijeg."

The EBRD has been active in Croatia as an investor since the country's independence and has invested some €3.2 billion in more than 170 projects to date. The Bank's activities cover all areas of the economy but are especially strong in the infrastructure, corporate, financial institutions and energy sectors.

source: ebrd.com