



Luxembourg, 20 September 2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	EIB CDC PLATFORM - DATA CENTER
Project Number:	2020-0713
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project consists in a newly created Investment Platform with French National Promotional Bank Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC) to support the development of Data Centers in France and more specifically in cohesion regions. EIB's contribution will materialise through an equity type financing.
EIA required:	No
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>2</sup> :	No

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project consists of financing an Investment Platform with the French National Promotional Institution (NPBI) Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC) datacentres. In the 5 coming years, the Platform intends to finance around 12 datacentres located in French cohesion regions. The project represents a mixture of greenfield deployments and upgrades in urban areas within or close to the existing facilities. The appropriate level of required environmental approvals will be assessed for the different cases during the project appraisal stage.

The topic of energy-efficient cloud computing has become a priority for the EU. Data centres need to become more energy efficient, reuse waste energy such as heat, and use more renewable energy sources, with a view to becoming carbon-neutral by 2030. To meet this goal, the Commission will rely on a mix of existing instruments, reviews of existing legislation and new initiatives.

The main project components, the server manufacturing and the data centre extensions / constructions, are not explicitly mentioned in any Annexes of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU. However, such projects may fall under urban development and require screening for an EIA, if they exceed the defined thresholds for urban development depending on local regulation. The promoter is required to seek a construction permit including a form of environmental assessment for each new data centre whether new construction or refurbishment. Key environmental concerns of the competent authorities are issues such as the battery handling/storage, the diesel storage and the exhaust of diesel

<sup>1</sup> The information contained in the document reflects the requirement related to the environmental, social and climate information to be provided to Investment Committee as required by the Invest EU Regulation and it represents the equivalent of the information required in the template of the InvestEU sustainability proofing summary

<sup>2</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



Luxembourg, 20 September 2023

generator sets. Depending on the size of the site, such assessments are more detailed and conclude with an environmental authorisation before the construction is allowed to start.

Concerning energy efficiency, all projects will have to fulfil the below criteria to be eligible for financing:

- (i) Data centres implementing the mandatory best practices as indicated in the EU Code of Conduct on Data Centres (new build, upgrades or retrofit, etc.) of the previous year to the project implementation or
- (ii) Data Centres making use of state of the art energy efficiency technologies for the relevant type of project.

Finally, at the completion of the project the promoter shall provide the EIB with:

- the Energy Performance Certificates of the sub-project,
- the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) if requested,
- a copy of the construction permit for new Greenfield data centres constructions.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Estimated annual emissions of the project performed under EIB owned methodology, and with reference to a standard year of operation:

- absolute (gross) 3 kilo tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year and
- relative (net) 0 kilo tonnes of CO2 equivalent per year

The above emissions concern the additional power consumption of the newly installed servers plus auxiliary systems such as cooling.

### **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework:**

As a public sector entity, the counterparty is out of scope of the PATH Framework.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The climate risk assessment has concluded after the assessment that this operation is low risk.

Data centres are by default designed for a very high reliability and include depending on its design objectives backup options for all vital parts of the facilities and its external network connections. Backup for the servers or backup on the application layers are also available however this is often a commercial decision of the customer what is the right risk level of its IT applications.

The quality and security standards of data centre facilities are categories according to the US Uptime Institute. They range from 1 to 4 whereby 4 being the most reliable design. The data centres financed by the platform will fall under tier 3 and 4 level.

The CDC group seeks to implement the recommendations of the Task-Force on Climate-related Disclosures and the French Prudential Control and Resolution Authority (Autorité de contrôle prudentiel et de résolution (ACPR)) for the management of climate risks. The Group monitors both the impacts of its activities on climate change (carbon footprint of portfolios, measurement of GHG emissions from activities) and the impacts of climate change on its activities (assessment of climate risks of the balance sheet, climate stress test , ...)



Luxembourg, 20 September 2023

The Group incorporates physical climate risks into its risk management through four areas:

- Integration of climate issues into risk management policies
- Integration of climate risks in the internal ratings of counterparties by the risk department
- Mapping of the exposure of the entire balance sheet to climate risks in progress
- Assessment of the impact of global scenarios

Finally, the CDC group is currently developing a plan to adapt to climate change in order to extend the assessment of physical risks to its activities and to take the appropriate protective measures.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project is carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation

Based on the environment, climate and social (ECS) information and based on the review of the likely significant ECS risks and impacts and the mitigation measures and management systems in place, the project is deemed to have low residual ECS risks and impacts.

In case an EIA is requested for any of the subprojects included in the project, the Promoter shall make the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) / and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) available to the EIB. The Bank will also request a copy of the construction permit for new Greenfield data centres constructions.

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.