

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	OPOLE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE II
Project Number:	20150620
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Part financing of small and medium investment schemes in the City of Opole, relating mainly to the road infrastructure, cultural, educational and recreational facilities
EIA required:	This is a multiple-scheme operation. Some of the schemes are likely to fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and may be screened in.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The framework loan operation comprises of 13 multi-sector investments projects. The final list of schemes will be determined during implementation of the framework loan. The investments covers small and medium investment schemes in the City of Opole. The investments are mainly relating to the road infrastructure (bridge reconstruction, removing the bottlenecks within internal by-pass); sustainable transport (including cycle path construction, P&R and B&R facility and acquisition of 56 new buses of which 8 are expected to be hybrid to replace existing ones), cultural, educational and recreational facilities (development of zoo garden, Polish Songs Museum and urban renewal).

The due diligence for the individual schemes will be done at the time of allocation.

The Polish EIA law, which is fully compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008 (Act on Providing Information on the Environment and Environmental Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessment). According to the Act, the Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for urban roads of national significance is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection (RDEP) after consultation with the Regional Sanitary Inspectorate. For other urban projects (i.e. other urban roads, urban renewal, etc.) the Competent Authority is the Mayor of the City.

The competent authority for Natura 2000 areas is the corresponding "Voivodship's" Regional Director for Environmental Protection. However there are no Natura 2000 areas included in the vicinity of the projects presented in the preliminary list of schemes to be financed by the Bank.

The Project will have an impact on the environment both during construction and operation. At construction stage, it will increase noise levels, and will impact water and air quality. Adequate mitigating measures have been considered in the designs such as drainage systems, management of earthworks, waste, and landfills, reparation of the vegetation damaged with local species and wildlife protection with underpasses or rehabilitation of existing structures. Felling of trees is required in some road schemes, trees will be protected in appropriate manner and tree clearance will be conducted outside the nesting season.

Investments in culture and education facilities primarily comprise rehabilitation and modernisation, rather than new construction, thus not falling under the EIA Directive. The Project's impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

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.

Modernisation of street lighting and purchase of hybrid buses should lead to improvements in energy efficiency.

At operation stage, significant impacts will be related to noise and emissions from motor vehicle traffic linked to road projects. Special mitigation measures have been proposed according to legal emission thresholds which include the construction of noise barriers or fences where needed. The project also includes the acquisition of new buses (including hybrid) and the majority of the road schemes include cycle tracks which contribute to sustainable mobility.

Social Assessment

No separate social impact assessment needed to be carried out, however, it is generally deemed that the overall social impacts of the FL are positive, with improved quality of life for the inhabitants of Opole.

Acquisition of low floor buses and modernisation of bus stops and terminals will contribute to improve the accessibility of disabled person to public transport.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation process is imbibed in the Planning process and procedures (Law on planning and spatial management – journal of laws 2015.22 of 27.03.2003).

The Strategy of Integrated Territorial Investment of the Opole Agglomeration was the subject of a public consultation process, which was completed February 2015. All roads projects were also subject of the public consultation process prior to issue the environmental permits by the Competent Authority.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The individual project building permits will stipulate monitoring of environmental requirements prior to, during and post construction. In addition, road safety is expected to improve, contributing to upgrade the road network and public transport infrastructure to current safety standards.

Institutional Capacity of the Promoter

The experience from the previous programming period 2007-2013 showed that all projects falling under the EU EIA Directive and “screened in” for EIA were managed in line with the requirements of the EIA Directive and the national legal framework. The Bank received all necessary documents relating to the EIA process and possible affected protected areas under Natura 2000 (the clarification of the competent authority that the Natura 2000 areas were not affected). The Promoter’s institutional capacity to manage social and environmental risks within the framework of this operation is therefore considered to be good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is a multi-sector framework loan. Given the relative small size of the individual schemes and the nature of the sectors concerned, most of the schemes are deemed not to have significant environmental impacts.

The investments selected for the EIB operation will contribute to enhancing the attractiveness of the city and the quality of life, improving accessibility within the city, increasing access to sustainable public transport, and improvement in the quality of educational and cultural facilities. Energy efficiency due to street lighting modernisation and hybrid buses acquisition will also be enhanced.

It is likely that some infrastructure schemes will fall under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, under Annex II. Should any scheme under this framework loan fall under Annex II and be “screened in” by the Competent Authority, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

For schemes with potential or likely significant effects on a Site of Community Importance (SCI) (Natura 2000 or otherwise) and subject to a screening under the EU Habitats and Birds

Directives: the promoter shall provide the Form A or its equivalent signed by the competent authority responsible for the monitoring of Natura 2000. This declaration should confirm that the required assessments under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives have been carried out (if necessary), that the scheme will have no significant impact on any protected site and that the appropriate mitigation measures have been identified.

The overall environmental and social impact of the framework loan is positive, with improved environment and quality of life for the citizens, especially in matter of improvement of the urban road network, sustainable transport development and energy efficiency in street lighting. Furthermore the Project is expected to contribute to climate change adaptation.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good and therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.