

Luxembourg, 29/10/2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	LEUVEN CLIMATE CITY FRAMEWORK LOAN
Project Number:	2023-0434
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	Framework Loan (FL) to support the multi-sector investment plan of the City of Leuven in Belgium, as well as the implementation of its urban regeneration and climate strategies.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II ("screened in") of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project covers upgrading and (re)construction of urban infrastructure including green areas and public open spaces, public buildings (performing arts centre, youth and community centre, storehouse, municipal buildings), cultural heritage interventions (city town hall, Romanesque gate), sports and recreational facilities, sustainable mobility schemes (public urban transport infrastructure, electric rolling stock, pedestrian and bicycle paths, e-charging stations, bicycle infrastructures, etc.), streets greening, energy efficiency investments in schools and sport complex, renewable energy, as well as social and affordable housing.

The schemes covered by this project mirror the key priorities of the City of Leuven's urban master plan. In addition, the project supports the implementation of the Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2020-2030 (SECAP), the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP), the Smart City Strategy, and the Leuven Circular City Strategy.

Some of the project's underlying investments may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU, potentially requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) based on the competent authority screening on the basis of the related Annex III criteria. Furthermore, some schemes may be located in areas inside or near Natura 2000 or other protected zones.

During construction, the main project's impacts are expected to be related to disruptions because of traffic, noise, vibration, and dust. These impacts are expected to be short-lived and reversible.

¹ 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 CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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The project has been assessed for Paris Alignment and it is deemed aligned both, against low carbon and resilience goals, as set out in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap². Investments will be eligible for EIB financing if they are aligned with the Paris Agreement.

Finally, the project contributes to the climate action and the environmental sustainability objectives of the Bank. It includes sustainable mobility schemes and energy efficiency measures in public buildings, which contribute to climate mitigation. It also includes sustainable public green areas and parks, which contribute to climate adaptation and environmental sustainability. Therefore, it is expected that, during operation, this project will have positive effect on the environment, the resilience of the city to climate change and, overall, the quality of life of its residents.

Social Assessment

The schemes covered by this project reflect the objectives of Leuven City Master Plan, which applies integrated, sustainable, and inclusive planning principles. Supported urban investments aim at provision of the vital infrastructure and services to inhabitants of the city, such as social and affordable housing, community and youth centres, and sport infrastructures.

The project's overall social benefit is expected to be positive. Furthermore, wider social-economic benefits may be expected such as induced investment, positive employment effects and productivity impacts resulting from the improvement of public infrastructure and services.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The individual investments are expected to form part of urban development strategies and plans for which public consultation is carried out.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Based on the due diligence process and the institutional capacity of the promoter to manage and monitor the environmental and social issues is deemed good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The City of Leuven is an experienced and capable promoter deemed able to manage the environmental and social issues of investments included in this project.

The overall environmental and social benefits of the project are expected to be very good, with improved environment and quality of life for people living and visiting the city. Furthermore, the project is expected to contribute to climate action through mitigation and adaptation measures, as well as environmental sustainability improvements that will be incorporated in the schemes to be implemented.

² [The EIB Group Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025](#)



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In projects where applicable, the promoter will be requested to deliver to the Bank and before the Bank funds are allocated, the EIA report and the evidence of the compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives.

For schemes falling under the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoter will be requested to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated.

For schemes falling under the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD), upon Bank's request, the promoter will be requested to provide selected energy performance certificates obtained during implementation or after completion of works, in line with the applicable national and EU legislation.

Therefore, given the nature of the operation and subject to the conditions stated above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.