



Luxembourg, 10 December 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GREEK PUBLIC SECTOR DIGITALIZATION INVESTMENTS
Project Number:	2020-0240
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	The framework loan represents a subset of projects listed in the so-called Digital Transformation Bible (DTB), which is the guideline for the implementation of the Greek`s state digital transformation strategy. The projects will lead to new as well as enhanced administrative mechanisms for the benefit of the Greek citizens and economy across the entire country.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The framework loan includes various schemes carried out by the Greek government, its ministries and its agencies related to the digitalisation of mostly public services. These measures include among others basic infrastructures in order to enable the digitalisation of the public sector such as investments into Wi-Fi networks and enhancements of the TV coverage. On the other hand, there are also many investments related to new IT solutions used in the health sector (enhancements of electronic prescriptions), public information portals and basic software packages supporting public operations.

The current project pipeline foresees investments in tangible and intangible components. Such components are typically implemented by making use of existing infrastructures such as poles and shelters, which reduces the environmental impact. The operation of the IT systems is the responsibility of the Ministry for Digital Governance, which runs different existing data centres through its agencies. The environmental impact of this component is expected to be very limited.

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 activities of the preliminary project pipeline do not fall under any of the Annexes of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments. Moreover, the activities will make as much as possible use of existing infrastructures and existing facilities such as data centres already authorised for such a scope of activity.

In order to make sure that the finally allocated schemes under the framework are compliant with the Bank's standards, the Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to EU, national and provincial law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and having the EIA process successfully completed, including information to and consultation with the public, if and when required by applicable EU legislation.

The Promoter shall store and maintain updated the relevant documents (including environmental studies related to the EIA, the Non-Technical Summaries of the EIAs, and Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents supporting the compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives – Form A/B or equivalents) to be provided to the Bank upon request.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Effective process simplification and reducing administrative burden on citizens, businesses and public administration remains the biggest challenge of the new digital governance of the state. Properly implementing such projects will contribute to increased competitiveness, productivity, investments as well as citizen's engagement.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.