

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | Poland Science & Research National Centres V |
| Project Number: | 2019-0041 |
| Country: | Poland |
| Project Description: | The project finances a broad range of R&D activities procured on a competitive basis by two national agencies in 2019 and 2020. The National Science Centre (NSC) in Krakow finances excellent, early stage research projects. The National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD) in Warsaw finances applied R&D projects and downstream innovation activities of strategic importance. |
| EIA required: | no |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: | no |

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns financing intangible basic and applied research activities and related costs including some research material and equipment. The included R&D activities will be carried out within existing facilities, making use of existing installation and within already authorised scope. Such activities create intangible (new knowledge and scientific discoveries), which do not fall under the Directive 2011/92 as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Part of the centres funding is yearly allocated for climate change related research including variety of topics concerning both climate adaptation and climate mitigation. Based on the information provided by the Promoter, it is estimated that 4% of the project's funding is eligible for climate action. During the implementation of the project, the Bank will request the NCRD and NSC to improve their reporting system related to climate change research. Additionally, the promoter is requested to report to the Bank what part of the project concerns climate change related research.

Some of the laboratories receiving funds from National Centres handle small amounts of toxic materials as a part of their activities, while others carry out experiments with living animals. The promoter has confirmed that they comply with all relevant legal provisions, notably Directives 2012/18/EU on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances and 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, where applicable.

Luxembourg, 22 July 2019

The centres have confirmed that they do have auditing practices in place. On yearly basis, they audit a sample of on-going projects receiving their grants, including auditing of environmental and research ethical aspects. Additionally, both centres have confirmed to have an informal route for public to report on any non-compliance.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project finances intangible basic and applied research activities and related costs that are not expected to have significant impact on environment. Instead, part of the research activities are expected to provide some positive social and environmental benefits. As a part of the project, the promoter is requested to improve their reporting on climate change related research as well as to report to the Bank what part of project concerns climate change related research.

In light of the above, the project is acceptable for EIB financing.