

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	CLUJ-NAPOCA BABES-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY
Project Number:	2021-0270
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	The project concerns the campus development programme of the University Babes Bolyai (UBB) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania.
EIA required:	Certain sub-projects could be subject to an EIA. If required by the competent authority, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.
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 project concerns the campus development programme of the University Babes Bolyai (UBB) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The project addresses shortcomings in UBB's infrastructure, in particular the need for space for teaching and staff offices for UBB's growing Environmental Science and Engineering as well as Mathematics and Informatics faculties, the need for state-of-the-art research infrastructure for UBB's most successful research groups, and the need for an energy efficiency upgrade in several of its buildings.

The project will finance the campus development plan and comprises: (i) Construction of a new building for research activities, an incubator and complementary services for SMEs, (ii) Construction of a new building for the faculty of Environmental Science and Engineering, (iii) Energy Efficiency upgrades for four existing buildings, (iv) construction of a new building for the faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, (v) Equipment for digitalization and creation of platforms and development of IT services, (vi) refurbishment of the botanical garden greenhouses. While strengthening teaching and research activities, the project will also improve the energy efficiency of the campus and reduce the carbon footprint of the university.

Universities and Scientific institutions of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (if applicable, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. If any of these subprojects require an EIA, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB prior to disbursement.

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.

Luxembourg, 03 December 2021

So far, no building permits have been obtained. If required by the competent authority, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.

The project is located in an urban developed area. The project will have an impact on the environment during construction and project operation. All construction works will be implemented within or close to the existing university campus and within an approved urban development plan. At the construction stage, the project will increase noise and vibration levels, and will impact air quality. Adequate mitigation measures will be considered together with the enforcement of good construction practices. The project's impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

The new constructions will comply with NZEB regulations concerning the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU). The works will reduce energy consumption and lower CO₂ emissions compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The project, therefore, contributes to mitigating climate change by improving the energy efficiency of public buildings.

The buildings to be renovated will also target energy levels 20% below the NZEB definition of the country and the region.

The body responsible for implementing EPBD and NZEB standards is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice). Which prepared the first National Plan in 2014. It contains numerical definitions of NZEBs and the timeframe for implementation. According to the last amendment of the Law 372/2005 on energy performance on buildings new National Plan is going to be made on the basis of local plans, which are now supposed to be prepared by municipalities to increase the number of NZEBs locally.

In Romania, the national plan to increase the number of NZEBs (July 2014) includes nonbinding limitations on the primary energy from conventional sources in NZEBs for residential, office, educational and health care buildings:

Energy thresholds in Romania. Cluj is located in Climate Zone III

Climate Zone	Residential Buildings [from 31 December 2020]		Non-residential [from 31 December 2018; [values from 2021]		
	SFB	MFB	Office Buildings	Educational Buildings	Health Care Buildings
	(kWh/sqm/year)				
I	98	93	50 (45)	100 (92)	79 (76)
II	111	100	57	120 (115) ²	97
III	145	111	69	136	115
IV	189	127	89 (83)	172 (170)	149 (142)
V	217	135	98 (89)	192 (185)	174 (167)

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing with a minor negative residual impact.

² 120: before 31.12.2018; (115): before 31.12.2020

Luxembourg, 03 December 2021

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the project concerns construction and refurbishment works in an urban area within or close to the existing facilities, no significant impact is expected on the environment. Positive social and environmental outcomes are expected as a result of the project, especially with respect to improved energy efficiency of the building estate and for a safer and healthier learning environment for students and teachers.

The Promoter shall provide the EIB with the Energy Performance Certificates of the sub-projects at the completion of the project. In case an EIA is requested by the competent authority, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.

The Promoter is considered capable of selecting the best project complying with the Bank's specific procedures and eligibility criteria, particularly regarding the environmental protection aspects.

With the proposed conditions in place, this project is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.