

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Warsaw Sustainable Development
Project Number:	2019-0286
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Framework loan to co-finance eligible schemes in the City of Warsaw, grouped in the following sectors: education, culture, transport, public buildings, social housing social inclusion, natural based solution infrastructure, sport and recreation as well as other urban infrastructure. Some of the schemes may benefit from EU grant financing.
EIA required:	Multiple-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive and may be screened in.
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 operation structured as a Framework Loan (FL) to finance multi-sector investments supporting implementation of the development strategy #Warsaw 2030 (adopted in 2018), the Climate Adaptation Strategy 2030 (adopted in 2019) as well the other strategic documents.

The eligible investment schemes will support Warsaw's community and quality of life as well as improving climate change adaptation by targeting the following sectors: Education, Culture, Sustainable Transport, Public Buildings, Social Housing, Social Inclusion, Sport and Recreation combined with Climate Resilience measures. Some of the schemes may benefit from EU grant support, particularly from the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment and Integrated Territorial Development Programme for Greater Warsaw Agglomeration for 2014-2020, and potentially from the new operating programmes under programming perspective 2021-2027.

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.

Luxembourg, 06.02.2020

The Polish EIA law, which is 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. Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is possible that some schemes could be located near Natura 2000 areas (PLB140004 Dolina Środkowej Wisły), thus requiring screening procedure. However, at this stage of project appraisal there were no schemes located in Natura 2000 zones.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some infrastructure schemes fall under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU, Annex II. Should any scheme under this FL fall under Annex II and be “screened in” by the Competent Authority, the Promoter shall deliver the EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

At construction stage, the Project is expected to increase noise levels, and may affect water and air quality. Adequate mitigating measures will be considered in the designs such as drainage systems, management of earthworks and reinstatement of damaged vegetation with local species and wildlife protection with underpasses or rehabilitation of existing structures for the road projects. Felling of trees is required in some schemes, trees will be protected in appropriate manner and tree clearance will be conducted outside the nesting season. Overall, the project’s impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level, which is deemed acceptable.

At operation stage, main impacts will be related to noise and emissions from motor vehicle traffic linked to road projects. Special mitigation measures may be proposed in line with legal emission thresholds including the construction of noise barriers or fences where needed. Severance will be solved with animal underpasses and repair of affected animal paths.

The project will comprise revitalization (physical renovation, combined with a set of supporting activities aimed at local population and businesses) of degraded urban areas, renovation of public buildings, renovation of public space (streets and squares located in historic central areas, subject to revitalization) as well as other investments included in the development strategy of the City.

Social Assessment

The City development strategy is a public document subject to extensive public consultations and approvals. It is generally deemed that the overall social impacts of the FL is positive, with improved quality of life for the inhabitants of Warsaw.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The consultation process is embedded in the Planning process and procedures (Law on planning and spatial management – official journal 2015.22 of 27.03.2003).

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Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The individual project building permits will stipulate monitoring of environmental requirements prior to, during, and post construction.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national laws. In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver EIAs to the Bank before Bank funds are disbursed.

For Schemes having a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance (including screening) with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable). For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are disbursed.

The overall environmental and social impact of the project is expected to be positive, with improved environment and citizens' quality of life, especially in matter of improvement of the public transport system, urban road network, and energy efficiency in buildings (contributing also to the climate mitigation objectives of the Bank). Potential negative effects (e.g. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

The institutional capacity of the promoter (City of Warsaw) to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed very good. Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.

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