



European Investment Bank

Guide to accessing environmental and social information/documents held by the EIB



Guide to accessing environmental and social information/documents held by the EIB

31 March 2015

1. Introduction

This information guide allows the public to easily identify and access environmental and social information/ documents that are held by the European Investment Bank (EIB) and are available on the EIB website or can be obtained on request.

Public access to information which is held by the Bank, is governed and promoted by the [EIB Transparency Policy](#). The Transparency Policy takes account of the relevant provisions of the Regulation (EC) N°1367/2006 (The “Aarhus Regulation”). The Regulation allows, as from 28 June 2007, the application of the Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation in decision making and access to justice in environmental matters to EU institutions and bodies. The Regulation aims to help the public to be more involved in environmental matters and to contribute actively to the preservation and protection of the environment. It calls for public access to information either following a request or by active dissemination, in particular through the website. Where the provisions of the EIB Transparency Policy and those of the Aarhus Regulation diverge, the Aarhus Regulation is applicable.

This guide does not provide a full and comprehensive overview of the EIB Transparency Policy. It has been prepared for information purposes only and no rights can be derived from it. The Bank’s rules and procedures concerning access to information are defined in its Transparency Policy, to which stakeholders should refer for authoritative guidance.

A [guidance note for promoters and partners on the EIB’s Transparency Policy](#) is also available on the EIB website¹.

2. The EIB and the environment

As the long-term financing body of the European Union (EU), the European Investment Bank (EIB) promotes EU policies through its financial and other support to sustainable investment projects. The increasing prominence given to environmental and social considerations within the EU and throughout the other regions of operation of the Bank is reflected in its priority lending objectives as well as in the regular review and revision of its environmental and social requirements and operational practices.

The environmental and social policies, principles and standards as well as the operational practices of the EIB derive from and reflect the evolving EU approach and that of other international institutions towards the promotion of environmental sustainability and social well-being, in the broader context of the goal of sustainable development.

¹ Readers may also want to refer to the [Aarhus Convention Implementation Guide](#)

3. Key EIB environmental policy documents and standards

The Bank publishes a [list of key policies, strategies and standards](#) on its website, including those related to the environment such as the [EIB Environmental and Social Principles and Standards](#) or the EIB [Environmental and Social Handbook](#).

In addition, some of dedicated sub-sections on the EIB priorities on the EIB website provide further information and documents related to the environment such as:

- [Climate Action](#)
- [Urban and Natural Environment](#)
- [Energy](#)

4. Project-related environmental information and documents

EIB Public Register

In compliance with the Aarhus Regulation, environmental and social information/documents held by the Bank and related to projects is made available through the [EIB's Public Register](#), that the Bank has set-up on its website on 2nd January 2014.

In particular, the Public Register currently includes the following types of project-related information/documents held by the Bank:

- **EIB Environmental and Social Data Sheets (ESDS)**, which summarises the EIB's environmental and social appraisal of individual projects. ESDSs are published on the Public Register following project approval by the EIB Board of Directors
- **EIB Environmental and Social Completion Sheets (ESCS)**, which summarise the Bank's assessment of environmental and social issues at project completion stage and are published on the register when available after the completion of the EIB investment.
- **Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) of Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA)** carried out by the project promoters and published on the Register during project appraisal when received by the EIB.
- **The equivalent of the NTS** (for projects outside the EU), carried out by the project promoters and published on the Register during project appraisal when received by the EIB.
- **Environmental and Social Impact Study/Statement (EIS)** (for projects outside the EU), carried out by the project promoters and published on the Register during project appraisal when received by the EIB.

The EIB is developing this register to ensure that environmental and social information held by the Bank is progressively made available and disseminated to the public.

Additional project-related information published on the EIB website includes:

- [Project Summaries](#) – Project summaries of investment projects (including loans through financial intermediaries) are published systematically, at least 3 weeks prior to approval by the EIB Board of Directors, on the EIB website. However, a limited number of projects are not published before Board approval and, in some cases, not before signature to protect justified interests based on the exceptions for disclosure laid down in the EIB Transparency policy.

Project summaries generally include the name of the project, the project promoter or financial intermediary (for intermediated loans), the location of the project, the sector it represents, a project description, its objective(s), its environmental and, if relevant, social aspects, procurement data, proposed EIB finance, the total project cost, and the status of the project, noting whether it is “under appraisal”, “approved” or “signed”. When applicable, links are provided to documents/information published on the EIB Public Register (see above), as well as to other relevant documents pertaining to a project’s environmental and social performance, as early as possible in the project cycle.

- [Projects financed Pipeline](#) – The list of signed loans is also published on the website and can be searched based on multiple criteria
- [Project Briefs](#) – in case a project raises considerable public interest, detailed information is published on the Bank’s website.
- Activity reports and statistical data – key figures over the previous calendar year are published in the EIB Activity Reports. Summary tables for the reference year and the last 5 years are included in the Statistical Report.
- Evaluation Reports – ex-post thematic, sector and regional/country evaluations of EIB’s financing operations, as well as technical studies and thematic brochures can also be obtained from the “[Publications](#)” section on the EIB website.

5. Applications for information

Everybody has the right to request and receive information from the Bank. The applicant is not obliged to mention reasons for an application.

An application for an information/document which is not available on the Bank’s website/Public Register can be addressed to the [EIB Information desk](#). Applicants may use the [contact form](#) available online, send an e-mail to infodesk@eib.org, or send their application by post to the [EIB headquarters in Luxembourg](#) or to its external offices.

Information will be provided in an existing version and format, or, if feasible, in a format according to the specific needs of the requester. The Bank will reply in English or French, and where possible, the Bank’s staff will reply in the official EU language used by the applicant.

The procedures for handling information requests and the provisions for appeal are set out and further described in the [EIB Transparency Policy](#).



Contacts

For general information:

Information Desk

☎ +352 4379-22000

☎ +352 4379-62000

✉ info@eib.org

European Investment Bank

98-100, boulevard Konrad Adenauer

L-2950 Luxembourg

☎ +352 4379-1

☎ +352 437704

www.eib.org