

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EU FUNDS VALENCIA CO-FINANCING 2014-2020
Project Number:	2019-0219
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	Framework loan to support the Spanish Autonomous Community of Valencia in the implementation of selected investments under ERDF, ESF and EAFRD, during the 2014-2020 programming period.
EIA required:	The project is a multi-scheme Framework Loan; some individual investments may require EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed framework loan supports the Spanish Autonomous Community of Valencia (CV) in the implementation of its operational programmes under the European Fund for Regional Development (ERDF OP), the European Social Fund (ESF OP), and selected investment-oriented measures of the Rural Development Programme (RDP) under the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), during the 2014-2020 programming period. The programmes co-financed are in line with the Spanish Partnership Agreement (PA), the relevant sectoral strategies at national and regional levels and with the RIS3 Smart Specialisation Strategy of the region.

Schemes supported by the ERDF OP will target the Thematic Objectives (TO) of stronger Research, Development and Innovation (TO1), better ICT access and use (TO2), SME competitiveness and internationalisation (TO3), the shift to a low-carbon economy (TO4) as well as environment protection and resource efficiency (TO6). Schemes supported by the ESF OP will aim at promoting sustainable and quality employment (TO8), promoting social inclusion (TO9) and investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning (TO10). The main EAFRD/RDP priorities supported by this project are: Priority 4: Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry;

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: 100,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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Priority 5: Resource efficiency and shift to low carbon and climate resilient economy in agriculture, food and forestry sectors; and Priority 6: Social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.

The selected measures/axes under the project are expected to deliver multiple environmental benefits, through improved resource efficiency in agricultural, forestry and downstream/processing activities. The programme is expected to contribute to EU environmental policy objectives in the field of land and water management and climate change. Investments under the ERDF OP *inter alia* target an increase in the production capacity for renewable energy, a gradual shift towards softer modes of urban transport and significant energy efficiency gains in public buildings.

All investments envisaged under the project are subject to applicable EU environmental and social regulations. As such, SEAs have been conducted for both the RDP and the ERDF operational programme, in accordance with applicable regulation. In addition, certain project-supported activities may require an EIA, subject to determination by the competent authority, in accordance with the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU).

Furthermore, where an action may affect a Natura 2000 site, as designated according to the Habitats or Birds Directives (1992/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC respectively), the Bank requires the Promoter to follow the directives' procedures, where applicable.

As the project is a multi-scheme framework loan, data available ex-ante is insufficient to conduct a detailed carbon footprint calculation, although investments foreseen under the project, such as an increased use of renewable energy sources, greater energy efficiency in public buildings, improved forest management and orchard development will act towards mitigating emissions caused by project supported investments.

For example, under TO4 of the ERDF, the increased production of energy from renewables will result in a reduction of GHG emissions by 64 kt CO₂eq p.a. compared to the baseline. Energy efficiency renovations in public buildings will save another 8 kt CO₂eq p.a.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

During the preparation of the 2014-2020 programmes supported by the project, public consultation and stakeholder engagement were conducted in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds. During the preparation of the RDP, for example, economic and social entities were engaged in the conduct of the SWOT and needs analysis and input from affected local communities and administrations was received after publication of the draft programme. Public representation, information and consultation will also be required in programme-specific monitoring and awareness activities, such as through the socio-economic and environmental representation in the Monitoring Committee and through the rural network established in support of the RDP, as well as in the EIA process, in accordance with the EIA Directive.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for this project:

- 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,

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the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC and Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives, as applicable.

- The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to the EU acquis 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.
- When an EIA is required for schemes financed in the Project, the Promoter shall submit a copy of the EIA to the Bank for publication. The Promoter shall also 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.
- In case the EIB requires such documentation, the Promoter shall provide all documents requested promptly. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the field of environment.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the project as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and issues, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.