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Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SOLAS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND
Project Number:	2018-0414
Country:	Europe (80% EU Countries)
Project Description:	The proposed operation concerns an equity investment of up to EUR 20m in Solas Sustainable Energy Fund (SSEF), a debt fund targeting to invest up to EUR 160m in energy efficiency projects through ESCOs (Energy Services Companies)

EIA required	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

Environmental and Social Assessment

The fund objective is to provide funding to Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) to develop energy efficiency projects mainly in lighting and building retrofits as well as small renewable projects. The Fund will target the ESCO (Energy Services Companies) market, to support their long-term project funding needs.

The project will contribute to climate change mitigation by supporting the implementation of energy efficiency measures in buildings. The works will lead to a decrease in energy consumption. The exact savings will depend on the initial energy performance of the buildings and the Promoter’s investment optimisation strategy.

Eligible investments will be consistent with the Energy Performance Building Directive (2010/31/EU) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU).

Environmental Assessment

The projects will be located in urban developed areas and at construction stage; the projects 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.

[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.

At operation stage, the project will have a positive impact on the environment, reducing energy consumption and therefore contributing to mitigating climate change. Energy efficiency measures will be the focus of the measures planned.

Social Assessment

The energy efficiency measures will contribute to reducing energy consumption and subsequent running costs for the tenants. Therefore, the socio-economic benefits in terms of urban development, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation are expected to be positive.

The operation is not expected to produce any hazardous social impacts, and it is estimated that it can contribute to create 900 person-years of employment during the implementation phase.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the location and nature of the projects in built-up urban areas, it is expected not to have any significant negative environmental and social impact, and is expected to contribute to a significant reduction in energy consumption and greenhouse gases emissions. Exceptionally, a scheme may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. In these cases, the Bank will require the promoter to act according to the provisions of the aforementioned Directive as transposed into national law. Should the relevant competent authority screen in a scheme, the promoter shall deliver to the Bank the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the EIAs before the Bank funds are allocated.

The promoter is considered capable to select schemes complying with the Bank’s specific procedures and eligibility criteria, in particular regarding the environmental and social aspects.

In view of the above findings, the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.