

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: **RESALTA (EGFF)**
Project Number: **2018-0458**
Country: EU Member States (*Slovenia, Croatia, Bulgaria*);
Non-EU (Balkans, mostly Serbia)
Project Description: *The project concerns a Slovenian energy services company ("ESCO") who will develop and implement energy efficiency solutions for public and private clients.*

EIA required: Multi-investment project. EIA may vary

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

Environmental and Social Assessment

The proposed operation concerns equity type financing in the legal form of a loan under the European Growth Finance Facility (EGFF), an instrument under the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI).

The loan amount is for up to EUR 12m for a pipeline of at least EUR 32m. Investments are to develop, design, engineer and implement energy efficiency solutions for clients, which will satisfy agreed upon performance standards and energy savings. The EIB will also support some related R&D as well as the expansion of this fast growing company.

The target market is South Eastern Europe. At least 80% of projects will be EU based in line with EFSI cross border rules. Main targeted EU countries include Slovenia, Croatia and to a lesser extent Bulgaria. Non-EU targeted countries mainly includes Serbia.

Environmental Assessment

The majority of EIB funds will be used for implementing Energy Contracting projects, which may include small-scale renewable projects. Investments are considered to be motivated by energy efficiency based on an energy audit in line the European Standard EN 16247 or equivalent.

The energy efficiency measures that will be carried out are expected to be a similar structure to those in the ESCO's current portfolio, which did not require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) as they are in existing authorised facilities that do not change their scope

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, 17/12/2019

i.e project activities are expected to not be listed in any annexes of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU).

Due to their technical characteristics, if one of the sub-project investments will fall under Annex II of the EIA-Directive 2011/92/EU, it will be up to the Competent Authority to decide whether or not an EIA is required. In any such cases a copy of the non-technical summary of the EIA report will be provided by the Promoter to the Bank for publication. The Promoter will also be required to verify that none of the schemes submitted for part-financing by the Bank have a significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance (Habitat, Natura 2000). The Promoter will be required to obtain a confirmation to this effect from the Competent Authority.

EIB's Environmental and Social Standards will be followed for all projects. The company will be required to ensure compliance of the investments with the Environmental and Social national laws and regulations and the principles of EU relevant directives. For sub-projects in countries outside of the EU, the same principles apply as if they were under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU).

At operation stage, the energy efficiency measures will contribute to reducing energy consumption and subsequent running costs for the clients. Therefore, the project is expected to have a positive impact on the environment, reducing energy consumption and thus contributing to mitigating climate change.

Social Assessment

The operation is not expected to produce any hazardous social impacts, and it is estimated that it can contribute up to 395 person-years of employment during the implementation phase.

Conclusions and Recommendations

This operation intends to bring environmental benefits by supporting projects that reduce energy consumption, increase the use of renewable energies and help to mitigate climate change. The individual schemes to be financed are expected to be carried out in existing facilities already authorised that will not change their scope due to the project. An EIA is not expected to be required considering the nature of the majority of the sub-projects, as defined under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU. If one of the sub-project investments will fall under Annex II of the EIA-Directive 2014/52/EU, it will be up to the Competent Authority to decide whether or not an EIA is required. In any such cases a copy of the non-technical summary of the EIA report will be provided by the Promoter to the Bank for publication.

EIB's Environmental and Social Standards will be followed for all projects. For sub-projects in countries outside the EU, the same principles apply as if they were under the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

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.