

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	IRISH HIGHER EDUCATION PPP
Project Number:	2019-0617
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	Investment in new teaching and learning facilities for post-secondary vocational education and training on various Institutes of Technology campuses across Ireland delivered under two bundles using a PPP structure.
EIA required:	To be confirmed
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises two bundles of investment across 11 Irish Institutes of Technology. Each bundle comprises the new construction of academic buildings to create modern teaching and learning facilities meeting the specific needs and specialisation of academic activities at each institute. The beneficiary institutes are located across Ireland including Dublin, Cork, Galway, Donegal, Waterford and Limerick.

The new buildings will be designed and built to Irish nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) standards and are likely to include some passive design measures in an attempt to reduce their primary energy consumption. Moreover, the project investments will seek to reduce their energy consumption with the installation of best available energy efficient technologies, potentially including renewable energy apparatus onsite, as well as enhancements to the building fabric. The design of the new buildings will be completed and reviewed at Stage II of the EIB's appraisal process. A copy of the energy model and on completion a copy of the energy performance certificate will be requested by the EIB.

University buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. Individual sites are unlikely to require an EIA for their proposed development, however not all sites have yet been assessed by their respective competent authority. Should an EIA be required, the promoter shall be required to send a full copy to the EIB.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

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, 08 April 2020

The project will provide additional facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments and will also support increased research activity at the beneficiary Institutes of Technology, thus increasing the formation of human capital. These additional facilities will enable the beneficiary institutes to expand generating additional employment and attract more students, high calibre staff and researchers and strengthen collaborations with commercial and industrial partners to smooth the transition into employment of their graduates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is enabling 11 Irish institutes of technology to create additional state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research facilities. The project components form part of a strategic effort to modernise the higher education facilities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency at the beneficiary institutes.

Conditions:

- The promoter shall provide to the EIB prior to the first disbursement on each bundle a full copy of any EIA should one be required for any of the proposed sites.

Undertakings:

- The promoter shall provide to the EIB a copy of the energy model report for the new buildings. In addition, the promoter shall provide to the EIB a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate(s) (EPC) or equivalent on completion of the new buildings.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing.