

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: UCD CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT
Project Number: 2014-0348
Country: Ireland
Project Description: *The project concerns selected investments of the University College Dublin's larger campus development plan including new construction and renovation of teaching, research and supporting facilities.*

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises of upgrading and modernising the building estate located on the UCD's principal campus, Belfield campus in outskirts of Dublin. The sub-projects include two deep renovation projects, construction of two new academic buildings as well as expansion of on-campus student residence capacity by 2,100 beds. Additionally, the project includes an upgrade of the campus' outdoor and indoor sports facilities including a provision for improvement of public realm and landscaping.

Universities and related facilities are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. All the sub-projects are located on the campus, which is covered by approved land use plans. The sub-projects will be identified for the EIA screening through a standard consultation process with the local authority. So far, the student residences expansion has required a full EIA study whereas the construction of two new academic buildings was screened out from the EIA. If any of the remaining sub-projects requires an EIA, the Promoter shall make the relevant documentation available to the EIB.

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, 18 May 2020

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Sustainability is a key pillar of UCD's strategy and is demonstrated across university's activities. Through its Green Campus initiative that is aligned with EU EMAS, UCD seeks to harness the knowledge of their diverse community to find ways to improve the campus environment as well as to ensure that all their graduates are well-informed and environmentally aware citizens. UCD has recently conducted an environmental baseline review of their campuses in order to set up a baseline against which their progress in the field of environmental sustainability can be measured. The main themes of the baseline are biodiversity, energy, water, waste management and recycling as well as sustainable transport.

UCD's Energy and Water Management System (EWMS) is ISO 5001 certified since 2016. All the new buildings will meet the NZEB requirements as set by the national legislation. Due to its efficient EWMS and other measures defined in its decarbonisation strategy, UCD is on their target to improve their energy efficiency from 2008 baseline by 33% by 2020. This area is aligned with the Ireland's Climate Mitigation strategy and targets for public promoters, which obliges them to reduce their emissions by 30% by 2030 and improve the energy efficiency by 50% by 2050. The project is expected to bring at least 1,690 MWh annual savings in energy consumption and respectively 267 kg CO₂ savings in annual CO₂ emissions when compared to the baseline.

Additionally, the project includes elements to make the buildings more resilient towards changing climate conditions and future impacts of climate change. The project is identified as exposed to current or future impacts of climate change. In the zoning plan the areas reserved for development of third level educational institutions are defined as highly vulnerable to flooding based on their use. Historical data shows, that some parts of the campus have been flooded in the past. The project includes measures to address the flood risk. Additionally, other adaptation measures such as grey water recycling, green roofs, Sustainable Drainage Systems are part of the project.

Based on the above sustainability related measures the project is also considered eligible for EIB's Climate Action targets in the fields of Climate Adaptation and Climate Mitigation (Energy Efficiency).

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the project concerns construction and refurbishment works in an urban area within or close to the existing facilities, no significant impact is expected on the environment. Positive social and environmental outcomes are expected as a result of the project especially in respect to an improved energy efficiency of the building estate and for a safer and healthier learning environment for pupils.

The promoter shall provide the EIB the Energy Performance Certificates of the sub-projects at completion of the project. In case an EIA is requested by the competent authority, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.

In light of the above, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing.