

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BARCELONA RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITY
Project Number:	2019-0838
Country:	SPAIN
Project Description:	This operation includes an Investment Loan to co-finance a programme of 38 multi-sector schemes included in the current multi-annual investment strategy of the Municipality of Barcelona, and supporting the implementation of the Resilience Model and Climate Plan of the City.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project comprises mainly urban regeneration schemes, addressing reconversion of streets through the so-called superblocks. The Project also includes schemes in social and cultural infrastructure (schools, kindergartens, care homes, library), open areas and spaces (parks, squares), improvements in Energy Efficiency in public lighting, traffic lights and public buildings, sports and leisure facilities, upgrade of urban roads, and sustainable mobility, notably increasing the bus network. All the schemes are below EUR 25 m each.

Spain, as an EU Member State, has harmonized its environmental legislation with the relevant EU Directives: EIA Directive 2014/56/EU amending the 2011/92/EU EIA Directive, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU.

Schemes are in line with the Spatial Development Plan of Barcelona (*Plan General Metropolitano de Barcelona – PGM-76*) as amended. The selected locations are all in urbanised areas and not inside or near any Natura 2000 or protected zones. Given the location and size of the schemes included in this operation, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under existing environmental legislation, is not required for any of them. In addition, all the buildings included in the Project comply with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU as transposed into the Spanish legislation.

The Competent Authority issuing building permits for this Project is the Municipality of Barcelona (Promoter of this Project). The administrative procedure to grant these permits already takes into account (when required) the consultation with the Regional Environmental Protection Department of Catalonia, the Competent Authority for EIA and protected areas for

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.

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this Project. The individual building permits stipulate monitoring of environmental requirements prior to, during and post construction.

During construction, the residual impacts are largely temporary and localized. The main impacts are the ones related to disruptions because of noise, vibration, dust, etc. as well as access to construction sites. The impacts are addressed through environmental monitoring plans. The Project's environmental impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable. Appropriate site and construction managements will alleviate potential negative effects (e.g. dust and noise during construction).

Climate Action

Through its Climate Action Plan 2018-2030, Barcelona is committed to reduce GHG emissions by 45% per capita by the year 2030, compared to 2005 levels. In addition, among its climate adaptation measures the city committed to increase urban green areas by 1.6 km² and reduce domestic potable water consumption to 100 liters per inhabitant per day.

In January 2020, Barcelona launched a Climate Emergency Declaration aiming at accelerating the impact of climate action and push it forward toward more ambitious emission reduction goals by 2030 (50% reduction with respect to 1992).

Climate Action is therefore at the core of this Project, with measures that consider identified current and future climate change risks. Project designs incorporate solutions to reduce GHG emissions (e.g. energy efficiency in public buildings, traffic lights and public lighting, installation of solar panels as source of renewable energy). The Project includes pedestrian areas, and bicycle and bus lines, which will contribute to sustainable mobility and climate mitigation.

The Municipality works also closely with technical teams to incorporate climate adaptation measures in its projects, notably nature-based solutions (e.g. SUDS, green areas to reduce heat islands, sustainable irrigation systems). Where possible, the Municipality also aims at improving biodiversity by creating or restoring eco-systems, mainly in parks and other green areas, where local species (trees and birds) can develop with positive impacts on urban biodiversity.

Project is therefore in line with objectives emphasized in the City Resilience Model and Climate Action Plan, supporting Barcelona to become carbon neutral by 2050. This makes the schemes included in this Project Paris Aligned, more resilient to climate change and, contributing significantly to the climate objectives of the Bank.

Social Assessment

The schemes covered by this operation mirror the key priorities of the City's Resilient Model, which aims, to prioritize and promote projects from a social perspective, especially sensitive to the most vulnerable groups. The Resilient Model of Barcelona include the creation of new employment, safer transport infrastructures, improved social housing standards, investment in services for vulnerable people, and improving the effectiveness of public services.

In addition, this Project considers the social dimension in the core of designs and implementation. Design instructions take particular attention to accessibility, gender equality as well as inclusion of vulnerable users and promotion of local economies and tourism. In this regard, it is to be noted that among the sectoral plans under which the urban regeneration schemes were developed is the so-called *Plan de Barris* (Neighbourhoods Plan). This Plan addresses the most vulnerable city neighbourhoods, taking into consideration social inequalities as well as other social and economic indicators.

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All these initiatives aim to make Barcelona an integrated city, tackling social inequalities and becoming resilient not only to climate change but also to other social risks and vulnerabilities.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The proposed schemes are aligned with the City Resilience Model and the Sectoral Strategies, Plans and Programmes. These documents have undergone public consultation and have been drafted with the support of many stakeholders, including a wide spectrum of local, national and international stakeholders from academic institutions, public and private sector entities and civil society organizations.

The consultation process is also embedded in the planning and project design process followed by the Municipality (e.g. *Ley de Arquitectura*). In this regard, the Promoter, through each one of the local public teams working in each City districts, has organised a large number of public presentation and consultation sessions with residents and other economic and civil society stakeholders (e.g. businesses, representatives from schools, kindergartens, etc.). Some of these meetings were open to the public and included a presentation of the technical, social and environmental aspects of the selected schemes.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Barcelona develops its urban projects following not only the technical requirements and specifications included in the National Building Code but also the ones established at regional and local level. These two technical norms complement and go beyond the environmental and climate requirements set by National Law. In addition, some buildings included in this Project have a sustainable building certification (e.g. LEED).

Gender mainstreaming in Municipal Policies aims to develop, implement and evaluate equality policies so that both genders benefit equally from all policies and actions at all levels and stages of economic, social and political life. This has a direct and positive impact in the design of the projects implemented by the Municipality, including public participation (e.g. public lighting, urban regeneration, public buildings, etc.).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The overall environmental and social impact of the Project is expected to be very positive, with improved environment and quality of life for citizens. The Project is expected to significantly contribute to climate action through mitigation and adaptation measures incorporated in the project designs.

The Municipality of Barcelona is a very experienced and capable promoter able to manage the environmental and social issues of all the schemes included in this Project. In addition, Barcelona has a strong climate governance, which guarantees that climate principles are well rooted and integrated across the Municipality, and reflected in the city investment plans.

Therefore, given the nature of the operation and the procedures put in place by the competent authorities in Barcelona concerning EIA, nature protection, climate action and social inclusion, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms, with no specific E&S conditions.