

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	OSTRÓW WIELKOPOLSKI SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2019-0495
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Framework Loan intermediated through Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego, Poland's national development bank, financing eligible schemes implemented under the long-term capital investment programme of the City of Ostrów Wielkopolski, improving sustainable urban development and supporting climate mitigation measures.
EIA required:	Multiple-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive and may be screened in.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This Framework Loan operation, intermediated through the Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego (BGK), the national development bank, to support multiyear investment programme of Ostrów wielkopolski to be implemented in the period 2020-2023 and PIC estimated to EUR 51.7m.

The eligible investment schemes will support Ostrów Wielkopolski community and quality of life as well as improving climate change mitigation by targeting schemes related to: clean energy production and distribution, clean public transport and support other infrastructure investments enhancing attractiveness of public spaces and preservation of natural and cultural heritage.

Some of the schemes may benefit from EU grant support, particularly from the Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment and Integrated Territorial Development Programme for Kalisz-Ostrów Agglomeration for 2014-2020, and potentially from the new operating programmes under programming perspective 2021-2027.

The Polish EIA law, which is compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008 (Act on Providing Information on the Environment and Environmental Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessment). According to the Act, the Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for urban roads of national significance is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection (RDEP) after

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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consultation with the Regional Sanitary Inspectorate. For other urban projects (i.e. other urban roads, urban renewal, etc.) the Competent Authority is the Mayor of the City.

The competent authority for Natura 2000 areas is the corresponding "Voivodship's" Regional Director for Environmental Protection. Ostrów Wielkopolski is not covered and not bordering with any of the Natura 2000 sites. The nearest, one (Specjalny Obszar Ochrony Siedlisk PLH300002, Obszar Specjalnej Ochrony Ptaków PLB3000007 and Wspólnota Uroczyska Płyty Krotoszyńskiej PLH300002) are distanced by about 1.5 km. The other (Obszar Specjalnej Ochrony Ptaków Dolina Baryczny PLB020001 and Specjalny Obszar Ochrony Siedlisk Ostoja nad Baryczą PLH020041) are distanced by about 2.5km. Therefore, at appraisal it was assumed that there will be no schemes located in Natura 2000 zones.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some infrastructure schemes fall under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU, Annex II. Should any scheme under this FL fall under Annex II and be "screened in" by the Competent Authority, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs, and the full EIAs report to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The City development strategy is a public document subject to extensive public consultations and approvals. It is generally deemed that the overall social impacts of the FL is positive, with improved quality of life for the inhabitants of Ostrów Wielkopolski.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The consultation process is embedded in the Planning process and procedures (Law on planning and spatial management – official journal 2015.22 of 27.03.2003).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

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

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national laws. In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS of EIAs, and the full EIAs report to the Bank before Bank funds are disbursed.

For Schemes having a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance (including screening) with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable). For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are disbursed.

The overall environmental and social impact of the project is expected to be positive, with improved environment and citizens' quality of life, especially in matter of improvement of the air quality, public transport system, urban road network, and energy efficiency in buildings (contributing also to the climate mitigation objectives of the Bank). Potential negative effects

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(e.g. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

The institutional capacity of the end-borrower (City of Ostrów Wielkopolski) to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed very good. Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.

The overall institutional capacity of the Financial Intermediary (Bank Gospodarstwa Krajowego) to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed moderate. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Poland, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the project is acceptable in environmental and social terms.

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