

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	ROMANIA HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAMME LOAN
Project Number:	2019-0550
Country:	ROMANIA
Project Description:	The programme loan includes the construction, extension, renovation and rehabilitation of a selected number of university premises in Romania during the period 2021-2025.
EIA required:	Although the indicated investment schemes do not currently require an EIA it is possible a determination will be made by the competent authorities under Annex II of the EIA Directive depending on the precise nature and location of the investment.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The various operations that will be included in this programme have not yet been identified. These operations will be subject to separate analyses.

The sub-projects included in the program include the design, construction, extension and renovation of university educational establishments including some crosscutting operations (interventions in favor of renewable energies, energy efficiency, accessibility buildings and the pedagogical use of advanced IT technologies) in, probably, five Romanian universities. Part of the investments could also concern projects to improve the accessibility of establishments for disabled people and to adapt education to advanced digital technologies.

The main objective of the program is to provide better learning conditions for students and the educational community by creating additional capacity in universities and by renovating existing spaces that have become obsolete. All building construction and renovation projects will be energy efficient and will follow energy efficiency standards.

Universities and Scientific institutions are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (if applicable, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. If any of these subprojects requires an EIA, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.

The project will comply with NZEB regulations concerning the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2018/844/EU). The works will reduce energy consumption and lower CO<sub>2</sub>

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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emissions compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The project therefore contributes to mitigating climate change by improving the energy efficiency of public buildings. Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing with a minor negative residual impact.

The body responsible for implementing EPBD and NZEB standards is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice). Which prepared first National Plan in 2014. It contains numerical definitions of NZEBs and timeframe for implementation. According to the last amendment of the Law 372/2005 on energy performance on buildings new National Plan is going to be made on the basis of local plans which are now supposed to be prepared by municipalities to increase number of NZEBs locally.

In Romania the national plan to increase the number of NZEBs (July 2014) includes nonbinding limitations on the primary energy from conventional sources in NZEBs for residential, office, educational and health care buildings:

Climate Zone	Residential Buildings [from 31 December 2020]		Non-residential [from 31 December 2018; (values from 2021)]		
	SFB	MFB	Office Buildings	Educational Buildings	Health Care Buildings
	(kWh/sqm/year)				
I	98	93	50 (45)	100 (92)	79 (76)
II	111	100	57	<b>120 (115)<sup>2</sup></b>	97
III	145	111	69	136	115
IV	189	127	89 (83)	172 (170)	149 (142)
V	217	135	98 (89)	192 (185)	174 (167)

Once completed, the promoters shall make the Energy Performance certificate for the building available to the EIB.

## Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Promoters must ensure compliance with national and European environmental and natural regulations and facilitate public access to information relevant to the environment, in accordance with the Bank's transparency policy.

## Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Historic buildings

To be checked during project instructions.

Natura 2000

To be checked during project instructions.

Birds and Habitats Directives (2009/147/EC and 92/43/EEC)

To be checked during project instructions.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The various operations that will be included have not yet been identified. These operations will be subject to separate analyses.

The promoters are all from the public sector. By experience in this sector, they are responsible, own and operate buildings. The different project sites will probably be located on existing sites and/or are part of regional plans.

Directive 2014/52/EU amending Council Directive 2011/92/EU concerning Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), does not specifically mention education and research-related activities, but in the case of urban development, Annex II of the ESIA Directive applies. The need for an ESIA will be decided by the competent authorities for each sub-project on a case-by-case basis.

With the conditions proposed and the eligibility criteria in place, this programme is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental point of view.