

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CSEE PUBLIC SECTOR COVID-19 RESPONSE

Project Number: 2020-0279

Country: Czech Republic, Hungary, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia

Project Description: The Programme Loan consists in the financing of (i) the emergency response against the COVID – 19 crisis; (ii) pandemic preparedness medium term interventions; (iii) improved capacity and functionality of health systems through longer term schemes in six countries from Central and Eastern Europe

EIA required: no

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 programme loan consists of financing sub-operations in Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, along three levels of interventions. (i) The short-term emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, including the purchase of medical and non-medical equipment, operational expenditures and health infrastructure light adaptations. (ii) The mid-term Countries' emergency preparedness capacity reinforcement, through heavier health infrastructure refurbishments and extensions with equipment and IT solutions. (iii) Investments, consisting of the construction and equipment of healthcare facilities aiming at the long term strengthening of the healthcare systems.

The sub-operations related to the COVID-19 emergency response (short-term) and preparedness (mid-term) will mainly concern investments in activities that are expected to be carried out in existing facilities already authorised for the same purpose. Therefore, it is not expected that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU will be required for any of the investments.

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, 26/06/2020

As for the long-term sub-operations, it should be considered that hospitals 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); although the projects are likely to be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development.

Therefore, the Bank's services will review the environmental aspects of each sub-operation and will ask for the necessary permits or decisions by the relevant competent authorities. Should an EIA be required, the promoters shall be requested to send a full copy to the EIB.

In consideration of the expected health infrastructure heavier refurbishment, extension or construction schemes of the programme, the Bank's services estimate that approximately 10% of the investment costs will be used to finance measures relating to renewable energy and energy efficiency in public buildings, hence contributing to the Climate Action target.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The various operations that will be included in this programme loan have been partially identified but not yet defined in detail. These sub-operations will be subject to separate analyses.

For the sub-operations related to the short-term emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, mainly implying the procurement of consumables, drugs and medical devices, it is not expected that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required under the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Similarly, for the mid-term sub-operations consisting of renovations and equipping of existing healthcare facilities in relation to the health emergency preparedness, it is not expected that any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required either, being such sites already authorised for the same scope.

For the long-term heavier health infrastructure schemes however, referring to extensions or new constructions, while hospitals 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), in the case of urban development, Annex II of the EIA Directive applies. Therefore, the competent authorities might still require an EIA for some sub-projects, on a case-by-case basis.

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