

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	COVID-19 ITALIAN HEALTHCARE FL
Project Number:	2020-0297
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Framework Loan dedicated to support healthcare investments incurred by the regions and/or other public sector entities / sub-sovereign public authorities in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This framework loan consists of financing project schemes in the twenty-one Italian Regions, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response and future preparedness. The investments are framed by the Decree 34 of May 19th 2020, for the overall improvement of the national healthcare system resilience, comprising two main lines of intervention: community care (consisting of home and residential services) and hospital-based care (in existing healthcare facilities).

The investment components include: health infrastructure adaptations and renovations for the increased capacity of intensive and sub-intensive care beds, and emergency departments in existing facilities; medical equipment and IT technologies and eHealth solutions; additional and temporary staff costs for healthcare services delivery; operational expenditure for specific services related to the pandemic emergency response and preparedness.

The majority of the regional plans that will be included under the framework loan, relate to the COVID-19 emergency response and future preparedness, and they will mainly concern investments in renovation and extension works and healthcare activities to be carried out in existing facilities, already authorised for the same purpose. Hospital and healthcare infrastructure are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU; however, they may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development.

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, 19/06/2020

The infrastructure schemes could be subject to screening, however, on the basis of the technical explanatory documentation issued by the promoter for the mentioned Legal Decree 34/2020, 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. In any case, the EIB will ask for copies of the necessary permits and/or screening decisions by the relevant competent authorities in relation to the infrastructure renovation schemes. Should an EIA be required for any of the schemes, the promoter shall be requested to send a full copy to the EIB.

In consideration of the expected health infrastructure heavier refurbishment and extension schemes of the plan, the EIB estimates that approximately 10% of the investment costs will be used to finance renewable energy and energy efficiency measures in public buildings, hence contributing to the Climate Action target.

Social Assessment

With regard to the community care component of the investment plan, various schemes will specifically target the territorial settings, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic management and response. This includes activities aimed at improving the home care and residential care capacity for vulnerable and fragile categories of the population. Therefore, the EIB expects that the project will have a significant positive social impact leading to improved future health emergency preparedness and response capacity, hence contributing to the EIB's social sustainability objectives.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The framework loan consists of financing schemes in the twenty-one Italian Regions, in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency response and future preparedness. A legal and technical framework, as set by the Italian government and the Ministry of Health, outline the investment plan. This will cover both operational expenditures in relation to temporary additional staff and services, as well as capital costs related to health infrastructure adaptations and renovations, medical equipment and IT technologies with eHealth solutions. As such, on the basis of the technical explanatory documentation issued by the promoter, it is not expected that an EIA will be required for any of the schemes.

With particular reference to the community care component of the plan, the EIB expects the investment will have a significant positive social impact.

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

Undertaking: the promoter undertakes to inform the Bank's services about any significant environmental issue that might emerge in relation to the health infrastructure renovation schemes and interventions and any possible related EIA requirement from the competent authority; to supply the EIB with the relevant data and information concerning the energy efficiency measures as well as the green public procurement initiatives adopted by the regions for the implementation of their plans.