

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	PROGRAMME COLLECTIVITES FRANCE VS COVID-19
Project Number:	2020-0318
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	Programme multi-thématique visant à soutenir les collectivités publiques françaises pour leurs investissements urgents liés à la crise sanitaire et ses suites.
EIA required:	This is a Programme which will include several multi-scheme Framework Loan operations with different Promoters. Under each Framework Loan operation, some of the schemes may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and may require EIA. This is to be further appraised during due diligence process of each individual Framework Loan operation.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This is a Programme which will cover a set of Framework Loans (each with different public Promoters covering a particular territory including Regions, Departments and Cities), to support emergency response against the COVID-19 crisis. Eligible support investments will help the economic recovery. Main sectors to be covered by the framework loans are Health, Education, SME, Transport and Urban Development,. In general, it is expected that the operation will contribute to fostering competitiveness of the regions and strengthening their territorial cohesion. It will also enhance the quality of life in the functional urban areas.

Schemes in relation to the COVID-19 emergency response shall be included in a Pandemic Response Plan approved by the relevant assembly, thereby providing justification and confirming coherence with applicable strategies. This can for example consist of equipment and consumables for disinfection and protection (disinfectant gel and dispensers, masks, plexiglas), healthcare equipment for hospitals (e.g. ventilators), modifications to public

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, 15 July 2020

buildings for distancing of staff and visitors, improvements in public space to support safe and sustainable transport (e.g. bike paths), support to research, and provision of IT equipment to vulnerable groups for off-site communication.

Other investment shall be part of the multi-annual investment plan of the Promotor and align with relevant spatial strategies (urban, regional), sector-specific strategies (transport, health, education, culture, tourism) and transversal strategies (climate, sustainable development). This can consist of a wide range of public infrastructure, but also other support for economic recovery (mainly provided by Regions) including provision of working capital and investment grants to SMEs. Depending on the region there might be a specific focus on the Tourism or Agriculture sectors.

In view of the nature of the schemes supported in the sub-operations, the application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures may be relevant for very few or none of the schemes to be proposed. Protected sites are expected to be affected by few or none of the schemes to be proposed.

Some of the schemes involving construction might have a limited temporary impact, usually through increased local traffic and construction and demolition waste generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority.

Potential schemes related to sustainable mobility are expected to have a positive environmental impact by helping to maintain modal share. As far as public buildings are concerned, there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings.

Environmental and social risks will be further assessed for each framework loan under the programme.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts, including the increase in the quality of public services for managing the sanitary crisis caused by COVID-19.

Furthermore, sustained investments from public entities will help to mitigate the anticipated economic contraction and related negative effects.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Development strategies of public entities are normally subject to comprehensive and extensive public consultations. Also pandemic preparedness plans, part of more broad emergency response plans, are built on consensus and broad consultations.

Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

Relevant strategies and their consultation will be further assessed for each framework loan under the programme.

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Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoters (French public entities, including Regions, Departments and Cities) 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 law. In cases where projects require an EIA to be carried out, the Promoter shall submit to the Bank the EIA and Non-Technical Summary (NTS) for review and publication on its website before funds are allocated. In all other projects requiring an EIA, the Promoter shall keep the EIA and NTS on record, which shall be provided to the Bank upon request.

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

Promoters envisaged under this Programme are most likely repeat borrowers, experienced in implementing large projects in the sectors of Health, Education and Transport whereby overall institutional capacity to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed Good. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in France, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Programme is acceptable in environmental and social terms.