

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	CENTRAL BOHEMIA REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2019-0800
Country:	Czech Republic
Project Description:	<i>The Project, structured as a multi-sector Framework Loan, comprises the schemes implemented under the investment programme of the Region of Central Bohemia that will improve the regional infrastructure, in particular in the sectors of healthcare, transport, social care, education and energy efficiency of public buildings.</i>
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Most of the schemes will not require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
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

The proposed operation will mainly concern a tentative pipeline of 52 investment schemes with total estimated costs of approximately CZK 3.96bn (ca. EUR 146m) in healthcare, transport, social care, public building energy efficiency improvement and education. The share of planned investments by sector should approximately reach 53.5% in the healthcare sector, 30% in transport, 6.5 % in social care and the remaining 10% in energy efficiency and education. The transport investments are due to be implemented within the framework of the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (IROP).

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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The investment programme is expected to bring economic benefits to the Region in terms of improved intra-regional connectivity with an impact on road safety and reduced traffic congestion. Further improvements are expected in the delivery of public services, mainly in healthcare, education and culture, due to construction or rehabilitation of public buildings with an impact on the quality of life and life expectancy.

The Central Bohemia Region Development Programme 2014-2020 (update 2011) defines five development priorities for the Region: (i) Entrepreneurship and employment, (ii) Infrastructure and territorial development, (iii) Human resources and education, (iv) Countryside and agriculture and v) Environment. Apart from the general development strategy, there are also mid-term sector plans particularly in the areas of transport, health, education, social care and others, which describe in detail plans and intentions in terms of development (investments), as well as maintenance needed. The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) statement was issued on 13 March 2012. All SEA process documents are published online².

In view of the nature of the projects involved in the operation, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is unlikely to be required in the majority of the tentatively proposed schemes. The probability is considered low that the schemes will affect protected sites in the Region. The schemes are expected to have a limited temporary impact during the construction phase, usually through increased local traffic, as well as construction and demolition waste and noise generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority. In the case of road safety and modernisation schemes, the intervention shall be limited to the existing lanes of the roads, as well as other existing transport structures, which reduces potential impacts to a minimum. However, the road schemes are expected to have limited residual impact in the operational phase. Small infrastructure schemes are not expected to have negative environmental impacts.

As far as public buildings are concerned, there are a number of positive effects forecasted, including energy savings in buildings owned by the Region as a result of the adopted Central Bohemia Energy Policy³. Energy efficiency measures within the construction of new public buildings will contribute partially to the Climate Action (mitigation).

The Czech Republic regions are impacted by climate change through increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards, e.g. droughts, floods and excessive precipitation.

² https://portal.cenia.cz/eiasea/detail/SEA_MZP125K

³ <https://ged.beilux.eib.org/ged/ged.dll/open/125991760>

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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 available to the inhabitants as a result of the construction of new or the refurbishment of already existing public buildings in the health, education, and social sector. Furthermore, road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Regional Development Programme was subject to comprehensive and extensive public consultations. Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter (Central Bohemia Region) 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 valued above EUR 25m 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 that may have a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoter has to submit to the Bank the screening, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents supporting the compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives – Form A/B or equivalents before the Bank funds are allocated. 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 allocated.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in the Czech Republic, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.