

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: COVID-19 RESPONSE HUNGARY PUBLIC SECTOR
Project Number: 2020-0492
Country: Hungary
Project Description: Financing the costs of the Covid-19 emergency in the Hungarian public sector. The project will contribute to Hungary's preparedness and response efforts in the fight against COVID-19.

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 project consists of financing investments of the National Healthcare Service Center of Hungary (ÁEEK), aimed at implementing the measures to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency and improve the future pandemic preparedness of the Country. The project focuses on financing the shortages in the healthcare services and supplies of critical drugs, consumables and equipment during the period whilst the pandemic or health emergency status for COVID-19 is maintained by the Country and the WHO.

Due to the nature of the investments (in particular purchase of equipment, devices, one modular mobile facility, drugs and consumables, etc.) and if properly managed (proper decommissioning / discharge of materials), it is unlikely that the project will have significant negative impact on the environment. The investment components specifically relate to the COVID-19 emergency response and future preparedness, and they will mainly concern operational expenses and installation of equipment in the premises of, or directly in existing facilities, already authorised for the same purpose. Therefore, 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). In the case such type of works should imply significant infrastructural interventions in any facility concerned, the EIB will ask for copies of the necessary permits and/or screening decisions by the relevant competent authorities.

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, 21/08/2020

Should then an EIA be required for any of such schemes, the promoter shall be requested to send a full copy to the EIB.

Social Assessment

By financing the shortages in the healthcare services during the period of an epidemic, the project ensures the medical treatment of the affected population while reducing the negative impacts on the society.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project consists of financing investments of the National Healthcare Service Center of Hungary (ÁEEK), aimed at implementing the measures to respond to the COVID-19 health emergency and improve the future pandemic preparedness of the Country. Such measures are part of the overall response put in place by the Hungarian Government to fight and contain the COVID-19 outbreak and its consequences.

The investment will mainly cover both operational expenditures for consumables and drugs, as well as capital costs related to medical equipment and a modular mobile facility. As such, it is not expected that an EIA will be required for any of the schemes. In consideration of the fact that the project shall cover the entire population of the Country, the EIB expects the investment will have a positive social impact.

Undertakings:

- the promoter undertakes to inform the Bank's services about any significant environmental issue that might emerge in relation to any health infrastructure schemes and any possible related EIA requirement from the competent authority;
- the promoter undertakes to ensure that the implementation of the project schemes will be done in accordance with the Bank's environmental and social policy and standards.

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