

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GREEK UNIVERSITIES PPP – PROGRAMME LOAN
Project Number:	2020-0504
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	The project comprises the design, construction, financing and operation of student accommodation and other facilities (incl. R&D laboratories) for Greek universities using the PPP (DBFOM) procurement method.
EIA required:	to be confirmed
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	to be confirmed

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This project establishes a programme loan for a pipeline of investments to improve Greek universities. Three sub-projects have been identified and a fourth may be included in the future. Each of the approved sub-projects comprise the design, construction, financing and operation of new university buildings including academic and research facilities as well as student residences. The three universities identified are the University of Crete, the University of Thessaly and the Democritus University of Thrace.

University buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The competent authorities will screen the buildings developed under each sub-project whether an EIA procedure is required or not. The Promoter shall be required to send to the EIB a full copy of the EIA as well as the competent authorities' approvals for each EIA, if required, or the screening out opinions.

The new buildings will be designed and built to Greek nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) standards and are likely to include some passive and active design measures such as the installation of best available energy efficient technologies, onsite renewable energy apparatus and enhancements to the building fabric. The design of the new buildings will be completed and reviewed at Stage II of the EIB's appraisal process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project is located in less developed regions as defined by the EU cohesion policy. Therefore, it is expected to support the strengthening of the EU's economic, social and

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, 02 February 2022

territorial cohesion. The project concerns investments in the accessibility and quality of universities located outside Greece's economic, population and educational hubs of Attica and Central Macedonia, thereby contributing to better-balanced territorial development, counteracting excessive concentration, strengthening secondary growth poles and reducing inequalities between people and between places. Furthermore, the additional student accommodation is expected to provide increased amounts of lower cost accommodation enabling students from lower-income families to access higher education and decreasing living costs for some students in these locations.

The project will provide additional facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments and will also support increased research activity at the beneficiary universities and enable increased access for students to higher education, thus increasing the formation of human capital. These additional facilities will enable the beneficiary universities to expand generating additional employment and attract more students, high calibre staff and researchers and strengthen collaborations with commercial and industrial partners to smooth the transition into employment of their graduates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is enabling at least three Greek universities to create additional state-of-the-art teaching, learning and research facilities as well as student accommodation. The project components form part of a strategic effort to modernise the higher education facilities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency at the beneficiary universities.

Prior to any allocation of EIB funds, the universities shall provide a full copy of the EIA or screening-out decisions for the project buildings and the approval by the relevant competent authority. Moreover, the beneficiaries/borrowers shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Bank, that measures will be included in the design to address the physical climate change risks of extreme heatwaves, intense rainfall events/flooding and drought. Lastly, the beneficiaries shall provide to the EIB a copy of the energy model report or equivalent for the new buildings as well as a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate(s) (EPC) or equivalent on completion of the new buildings.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing.