

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	WROCLAW SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	20200684
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The project consist of a multi-annual municipal investment programme of the City of Wroclaw in Poland. The EIB framework loan will support improvements in the energy efficiency, environment, urban transport networks and mobility, education and sport facilities, cultural and other urban infrastructure and services.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation, structured as a Framework Loan, supporting the implementation of the Multi-annual Investment Plan of the City of Wroclaw. The operation will contribute to the modernisation of public infrastructure and services, and integrated urban development, particularly through investments dedicated to air quality and energy efficiency, modernisation of public buildings and public spaces, urban transport infrastructure and mobility, education, health and social care, as well as environmental and green infrastructure. Energy efficiency measures (replacement of heating systems in multi-family residential buildings represent a priority component of this operation.

The Polish EIA law, which is compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008 (Act on Providing Information on the Environment and Environmental Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessment). According to the Act, the Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for urban roads of national significance is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection (RDEP) after consultation with the Regional Sanitary Inspectorate. For other urban projects (i.e. other urban roads, urban renewal, etc.) the Competent Authority is the Mayor of the City.

The competent authority for Natura 2000 areas is the corresponding "Voivodship's Regional Director for Environmental Protection". Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, some schemes may be located in the vicinity of Natura 2000 areas, thus requiring EIA screening procedure.

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, 24.02.21

In 2019, the City Council approved the City's Climate Change Adaptation Plan until 2030². The plan aims at adapting the City of Wrocław to climate change, reducing its vulnerability to extreme events and enhancing its capacity to deal with the effects of these phenomena and their side-effects. The main strategic objective of the Plan is to adapt the City to climate change in accordance with the idea of sustainable development of "3Z" (in English: healthy, green, satisfied). This will be achieved through a number of mutually coordinated adaptation actions aimed at increasing the city's resilience to current and future climate threats. In total 21 adaptation actions have been planned, including information, education, organisational and technical actions. The most important technical actions include those related to the construction and development of blue and green infrastructure, including the development of existing networks of spatially and functionally linked natural and semi-natural areas, covering all possible forms of greenery arranged and not arranged, with particular emphasis on micro-retention facilities.

Investments in public buildings primarily comprise rehabilitation and modernisation, rather than new construction, thus many of the schemes are not likely to fall under the Annex I or Annex II (screened in) of the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU). This is also to be the case for some new construction schemes localised in urban areas (e.g. kindergarten and sport halls for schools). In cases where EIA is to be required (e.g. mostly schemes concerning construction of urban roads), the Promoter will be requested to provide the EIA to the EIB before the funds are allocated.

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 because of the refurbishment and modernisation of schools, social care facilities and other public buildings. Particularly the component dedicated to replacement of heating systems in multi-family residential buildings will contribute to enhanced quality of living conditions of the residents and social inclusion. Modernisation of public transport will enhance attractiveness and improve quality of sustainable mobility in the city. Furthermore, road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Adaptation Plan for Climate Change for the City of Wrocław was verified by ensuring a broad participation of stakeholders and the public opinion. Public consultation is expected to ensure the social acceptability of the Plan and the reduction of conflicts in the implementation of adaptation actions.

The Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) being developed or to be developed will take into consideration the applicable requirements of the EIA Directive in terms of public consultation and stakeholder engagement. The results of the public consultation will be incorporated into the ESIA documents, which will be provided to the Bank.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Promoter's management and governance systems are of high quality confirmed by its past activities and initiatives as well as through the previous EIB operations. Environmental and social sustainability considerations are essential for the City's strategic and operational objectives. Project related environmental and social risks are envisaged to be managed well.

² Wrocław Climate Change Adaptation Plan to 2030 was adopted by resolution No. XIII/342/19 of the Wrocław City Council of 5 September 2019.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The City of Wroclaw is a public entity endorsing and applying the ESG principles as defined by the EIB in a satisfactory way. Environmental and social objectives are at the core of investments included in the EIB Project to be implemented, embedded in the procedure and relationships with citizens, employees, suppliers, clients and wider communities within the city at large.

Given that enhancement of environment is a primary objective of most of the investment schemes, the EIB Project is deemed to bring significant positive environmental impacts in a limited contextual risk. Improved air quality, reduction of pollution, energy savings, greenery and other environmental adaptation measures represent tangible environmental improvements.

Investments in municipal residential buildings, other public buildings and services, as well as public spaces will bring positive social benefits such as improved quality of infrastructure and services, enhanced access for parents (mainly mothers) to labour market with more places in kindergartens, social inclusion provided by improved public spaces and sport facilities.

The Promoter 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 projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the EIAs to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated. 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 promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated.

The capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. Therefore, subject to the conditions mentioned above, this operation is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.