

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: COVID19 DISASTER PREVENTION & CLIMATE ADAPTATION
Project Number: 2020-0182
Country: Greece
Project Description: The project is structured as a framework loan that will completely reshape and strengthen the operational and administrative capabilities of the Civil Protection mechanism in Greece. It will significantly upgrade the effectiveness of its intervention for disaster prevention and preparedness, public health, and environmental protection.

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

In order to cope with future crisis and disasters as well as with the current unprecedented health pandemic, the Promoter (General Secretariat of Civil Protection) foresees to implement a large scale investment program in operational and technological infrastructure and equipment. This operation brings together a number of assets that intend to give the General Secretariat of Civil Protection (GSCP) high levels of preparedness and responsiveness.

In this context, this operation project consists of the implementation of state-of-the-art assets, such as vehicles, mobile hospitals, command centres, drones and firefighting helicopters and aircraft, in order to respond to natural or industrial disasters and other emergency situations. Part of this equipment, especially the rapid intervention aviation assets (new firefighting and transport aircrafts and helicopters), the field hospitals and the emergency medical equipment, will be available for the RescEU, the new European Union reserve of civil protection capacities that is included in the upgraded EU Civil Protection Mechanism and has started operating in 2019.

No Environmental Impact Assessment is required for the tentatively proposed schemes of this project, as it does not fall under Annex I or Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. However, the project is a multi-scheme Framework Loan. If any potential future scheme may require EIA, the Promoter will

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 CO₂ e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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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 as transposed into national law.

The investment programme is aiming a) to reduce/mitigate negative impacts of such disasters on the population; b) to improve citizens' safety and security and enhance the country's sustainable development; c) to reduce the immediate mortality and morbidity with a better prepared, well equipped service. Appropriate disaster preparedness also results in more cost-effectiveness and more efficient allocation of humanitarian assistance and a more rapid recovery from the effects of disasters. Preparedness is key for protecting lives and preventing damage.

The project will have a positive net effect on environment in the sense that it will contribute to the fight against the adverse effects of Climate Change.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Natural and man-made disasters raise serious questions in relation to the quality of life of EU citizens, but also pose more specific sectoral challenges in some EU regions, for instance in tourism and agriculture. In 2018 alone, natural disasters killed more than 100 people in Greece. The economic costs are also huge: close to 10 billion EUR in damages were recorded in Europe in 2016. Investing in risk prevention is vital to preserving the capacity for further socio-economic development. It is also more effective than bearing the cost of inaction: for every 1 EUR spent on prevention, 4 EUR or more will be saved on response.

The proposed investment programme will improve citizens' safety and security and enhance the country's sustainable development. Appropriate disaster preparedness also results in more cost-effectiveness and more efficient allocation of humanitarian assistance and a more rapid recovery from the effects of disasters. Preparedness is key for protecting lives and preventing damage.

The components with Climate Action eligibility are new assets, which will cover identified gaps in the Promoters operational capabilities. In this context, they are fully eligible for CA Adaptation.

The GSCP operates the National Crisis and Hazard Management Mechanism (Nat-CHAMM) and it is responsible to design, plan, organize and coordinate actions regarding risk assessment, prevention, preparedness, information and response to natural, technological or other disasters or emergencies, to coordinate rehabilitation operation, to monitor the above actions and to inform the public on these issues.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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 as transposed into national law.

The Promoter shall not commit any EIB funds against schemes that require an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to EU, national and provincial law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority, and having the EIA process successfully completed, including information to and consultation with the public, if and when required by applicable EU legislation.

The Promoter shall store and maintain updated the relevant documents (including environmental studies related to the EIA, the Non-Technical Summaries of the EIAs, and Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents supporting the compliance with the



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EU Habitats and Birds Directives – Form A/B or equivalents) to be provided to the Bank upon request.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Based on the due diligence of the Promoter, the assets to be purchased and the intended type of operations, the project is considered acceptable for the Bank from an environmental and social point of view.