

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

(Further guidance is contained in the Environmental and Social Practices Handbook)

Overview

Project Name:	SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN GREECE
Project Number:	2020-0177
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	Framework Loan for supporting local governments in multi-sector investments aiming sustainable development of urban areas
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened in.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project (this operation) comprises a loan to the “Consignment Deposits and Loans Fund” (CDLF) in order to leverage its funds to support investments in sustainable urban development in cities across Greece. CDLF is going to channel its funds to final beneficiaries, which are expected to be municipalities, municipal enterprises and other institutions responsible for the provision of public services.

The Project Promoter is the Ministry of Interior who launches call for project proposals and selects investments (schemes) to be financed by the CDLF. Ministry of Interior will be responsible for the general coordination of the investment programme, investment selection process and monitoring of the investments. The technical appraisal of individual projects (eligibility, scope of intervention etc.) will be performed centrally by dedicated teams established within the Ministry of Interior following the launching of calls for proposals, while financing shall be executed by CDLF. Investments to be financed by CDLF will be subject to EIB ex-post approval according to Framework Loan procedures.

Eligible investments will include: integrated and energy efficient water and wastewater management, solid waste management, urban-rural connectivity, urban renewal, re-utilisation of public buildings, smart city management including measures to improve public health safety against Covid-19 and anti-seismic protection in public buildings in particular schools.

Investments are considered essential in the national and regional policy framework, being identified as priority areas in the EU Partnership Agreement and the Operational Programmes. All projects to be supported will be in accordance with the applicable urban

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, 17 December 2020

development strategies. For each Operational Programme as well as National and Regional Water Management, Flood Management and Waste Management Plans, the relevant Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out in line with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC.

Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into the national legislation (EIA Directive, Birds and Habitat Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The investments will comply with environmental standards and energy efficient (re)construction will lead to low energy consumption in building stock.

Social Assessment, where applicable

No separate social impact assessment has been carried out for the Project. However, in the context of this FL it is expected that the social impacts of the project will be overall positive, supporting the Bank's involvement.

Municipalities define their urban regeneration strategies through the delimitation of urban renewal areas using different instruments. The interventions to be financed by CDLF include the rehabilitation of public spaces, public buildings, as well as actions related to promotion of culture and economic activities, which are expected to result in an increased quality of life for residents as well as increased attractiveness for businesses and tourists.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The individual investments are expected to form part of urban development plans for which public consultation is carried out.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to disbursement against any specific scheme, the Promoter is to provide to the Bank the evidence that schemes comply with relevant provisions of the environmental EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives as transposed into the national law. In addition, the Promoter will be requested to deliver EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank before the Bank funds are disbursed. Upon the Bank's request, the Promoter will be requested to provide selected Energy Performance Certificates obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU during implementation or after completion of works.

Overall, the net environmental impact is expected to be positive. In addition, the Project should bring about social benefits by regenerating affected urban areas and helping to improve the quality of building stock as well as the quality of life of residents. The investments to be financed will significantly contribute to the improvement of the urban environment.

The institutional capacity of the promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.