

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>COLLECTIVITES FRANCE VS COVID19 BOUCHES DU RHONE</i>
Project Number:	2020-0540
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	<i>Financement des besoins d'investissement complémentaires du département des Bouches du Rhône afin d'atténuer des effets de la crise covid 19 sur les plans sanitaire, social et économique – prêt-cadre sous prêt-programme COLLECTIVITES France VS COVID-19 (2020-0318)</i>
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation, structured as a Framework Loan, will support (i) the short-term emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis, including the purchase of medical and non-medical equipment, operational expenditures and health infrastructure light adaptations, and (ii) schemes included in the multi-annual investment plan of the department Bouches-du-Rhône. Eligible investments will help to sustain public investment and thereby reduce the risk related to a major economic downturn with related negative social effects caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The schemes related to the COVID-19 emergency response will mainly concern investments in activities that are expected to be carried out in existing facilities already authorised for the same purpose. Therefore, it is not expected that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU will be required for any of those schemes.

Other schemes and sectors to be covered by the Framework Loan include: (i) infrastructure related to sustainable mobility, aiming to improve the attractiveness of public transport, cycling and use of electric vehicles, (ii) equipment and works supporting prevention and preparedness in relation to climate-related risks such as forest fire, drought and flash floods (iii) renewable energy and energy efficiency in public buildings, and (iv) other municipal investments such as digitalisation and better accessibility for people with reduced mobility in order to comply with new norms. These schemes will be implemented directly by the department or supported via grants to municipalities and other public entities.

Luxembourg, 3rd December 2020

In general, it is expected that the operation will contribute to fostering competitiveness of the department and strengthen territorial cohesion.

Investment shall align with relevant spatial strategies (urban, regional), sector-specific strategies (mobility, digitalisation) and transversal strategies (climate, sustainable development). This can consist of a wide range of public infrastructure.

Schemes financed under this operation will be mainly of small size (mainly project cost less than EUR 25m) and are not expected to have significant negative environmental or social impacts.

However, some schemes could have limited temporary environmental impacts during the construction phase. Environmental impacts during construction may come from increased local traffic through traffic-related air pollution, exhaust gas and noise emissions, and generation of construction and demolition noise, dust, waste and vibration. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority.

Potential schemes related to sustainable mobility are expected to have a positive environmental impact by helping to maintain modal share, encourage cycling and support electrification of private transport, thereby contributing to Climate Action. Schemes related to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, including energy savings in buildings, and production of renewable energy (photovoltaic solar panels) are also expected, by their nature, to generate positive effects and contribute to Climate Action. Schemes aiming to reduce disaster risk and increase preparedness regarding forest fires and floods underline the adaptation efforts of the department and contribute the Climate Action as well.

In view of the nature of the schemes supported in the sub-operations, the application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures and protected sites may be relevant for very few of the schemes to be proposed. In such case, 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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Sustained investments from public entities will help to mitigate the anticipated economic contraction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related negative (social) effects. Some schemes in relation to digitalisation and accessibility of public buildings will be of particular benefit to vulnerable groups.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder consultations, in particular the population, are usually done by the department and municipalities implementing some of the schemes either for the strategies (open meetings, contributions through internet) and for the projects (local consultations and other stakeholders), whether it is an obligation or not.

Some legal strategic documents, such as the urban planning, the territorial strategy and the mobility plan, are subject to public consultation either as part of the plan preparation or a strategic environmental assessment (SEA).

Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

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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 and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law. the Promoter undertakes not to commit any EIB funds to sub-projects that require an EIA, biodiversity assessment, River Basin Management Plan amendment, Flood Risk Management Plan or other assessment required by EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority and having the relevant documentation made available to the public.

The Promoter shall store and keep all relevant environmental and social documentation relating to the sub-projects updated and available for review at the request of the Bank, including EIA including Non-Technical Summary, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents or other documents supporting compliance with the EU environmental acquis.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in France, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Programme is acceptable in environmental and social terms.