

Luxembourg, 18 December 2020

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: IE HIGHER EDUCATION & DIGITALISATION  
Project Number: 2017-0560  
Country: Spain  
Project Description: The project comprises the Promoter's investments in software and digitalization development, the fit-out and equipping of a new university campus, the modernization and rehabilitation of existing facilities that will be used for teaching, research, offices and student accommodation in Spain.

EIA required: To be confirmed

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no  
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

This project includes investments in digitalization and development of online and e-learning platforms, plus interventions in the promoter's estate in two different locations in Spain (Madrid and Segovia). The interventions in Madrid include the improvement of some of IE's existing facilities, mainly aimed at obtaining energy and water consumption savings and improving air quality and the fitting out of their new Learning Tower. In Segovia, there are plans to restore and rehabilitate protected buildings and their surrounding areas whose designs are focused on reducing energy consumption and enhancing the value of urban heritage that was in poor condition.

University facilities of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though may fall under Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development.

The Promoter confirms that the competent authorities do not require an EIA for the issuance of building permits for these sub-projects. However, since the building permits for some of them are still pending, it remains possible that some of these sub-projects could be screened in. If any of the remaining sub-projects require an EIA, the Promoter shall make the relevant documentation available to the EIB.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

A great effort has been made to improve the energy efficiency of the installations, achieving energy savings of between 2% and 5% in most of the buildings involved. One of the protected facilities in Segovia is planned to be designed with almost zero energy consumption and the possibility of using geothermal energy.

The digitisation activity that will be developed in this project will have a positive social impact by improving and widening the accessibility of students to online programmes.

The project includes the restoration of 12,000 m<sup>2</sup> of a parkland in Segovia adjacent to the IE campus. Among the actions contemplated is the recovery of the old morphology of the irrigation system, restoring the historical agricultural use of the land with native vegetation and rehabilitating the existing “alberca” (small reservoir) to store water.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

As the project concerns construction and refurbishment works in an urban area within or close to the existing facilities, no significant impact is expected on the environment. Positive social and environmental outcomes are expected as a result of the project especially in respect to an improved energy efficiency of the building estate, for a safer and healthier learning environment for students and staff, and for the enhancement of cultural heritage.

The EIB will stipulate that a copy of the full EIA be made available for any of the buildings that trigger the need for an EIA. Furthermore, the promoter shall provide the EIB the Energy Performance Certificates of the sub-projects at completion of the project.

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.