



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Project Name:	BELFIUS SMART CITIES AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2013-0308
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	The Project involves the financing through an Intermediated Framework Loan of a series of municipal investments around the notion of "Sustainable Development" and "Smart Cities" in Belgium, notably in the sectors of Urban Regeneration, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Mobility.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The operation was structured as an intermediated Framework Loan (FL), where the investments were part of the new investment programme - Smart Cities and Sustainable Development – launched by Belfius in mid-2014. The Promoter and intermediated Bank was Belfius, however the programme was aimed at targeting municipalities and public utilities as final beneficiaries.

The FL included 59 small and medium size schemes (individual cost below EUR 50 m), notably in the sectors of Urban Regeneration, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and Sustainable Mobility.

Schemes ranged from the regeneration of city centres and the transformation of the hearts of villages to the renovation of schools and cultural and sports centres, the construction of rest and care homes, and the centralisation of administrative and emergency services in new smart and sustainable buildings. In addition, they included the creation of cycle and pedestrian paths and other road upgrades contributing to road safety. Most of the projects financed combined energy efficiency and renewable energy measures with sustainable mobility and urban development.

The Promoter was not to commit any EIB funds against sub-projects that required a full EIA or appropriate assessment according to EU and national law before receiving the consent from the competent authority, and the Non-Technical Summary of the final EIA having been made available to the public.

At completion stage, the Promoter confirmed none of the 59 schemes were subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment nor required an appropriate assessment under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Therefore, the environmental conditions were complied with, and there are no further environmental or social issues to be reported on.

#### Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on reports provided by Belfius during construction and at completion stage, EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line with the EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.