

Luxembourg, 20 July 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES IV</i>
Project Number:	<i>2021-0104</i>
Country:	<i>Poland</i>
Project Description:	The Project concerns the financing of the fundamental scientific activities of the institutes belonging to the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2021-2022.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation finances investments in intangible assets, that is, scientific knowledge generated through scientific activities of the research institutes belonging to the Polish Academy of Sciences. Due to the nature of the operation (financing mainly salaries of R&D staff), it does not fall under the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The institutes conduct research on various fields, from science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and medical sciences to humanities and social sciences. Some of the research activities may involve the use of small amounts of harmful substances, whereas others carry out scientific research making use of animals. The Promoter stated towards the EIB that the beneficiaries comply with all relevant legal provisions, notably Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes transposed into the relevant Polish legislation. This is the Bank's fourth operation financing research activities of the Polish Academy of Sciences and their institutes. Based on the previous operations, the implementation of the project has been successful with no issues related to the implementation of the EU directives and legislation regarding the environment, the use of animals for scientific purposes and the application of ethical principles in good scientific conduct.

Some of the institutes, such as the Institute of Oceanology, the Institute for Nature Conservation and the Institute of Dendrology, perform research activities that enlarge our understanding of the sources and impacts of the Climate Crisis and human activities on humans, animals, and plants. This knowledge is an important enabler of climate action and the sustainable use and management of the environment. Therefore, the project is expected to have a positive impact on Climate & Environmental Sustainability action (climate

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.

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adaptation, sustainable use and protection of water and the marine environment, circular economy, pollution prevention, the protection and restoration of biodiversity).

The PAS is aware of the underrepresentation of women in its governing bodies and among its research staff, whose activities are financed by the Project. The PAS is actively taking measures to address this challenge and to gradually reduce this gender gap. The PAS was able to increase the share of women in its General Assembly from a very low 4% to a still low, but much improved, 16% during the past 7 years. This was achieved, for example, by the setting up of nomination committees which actively look for female candidates for posts and whose members are sensitised to take into consideration in their nominations the competitive disadvantaged faced by female scientists with regard to the scientific outputs achieved by a certain age. Due to these, the share of women in the PAS' governing bodies and among its research staff is expected to further increase. In order to measure the achievement of these outcomes, the borrower will report on the following:

- The share of women among the staff of PAS research institutes;
- The share of women among the members of the PAS General Assembly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project finances investments in intangible assets, i.e. basic research activities that are not expected to have significant negative impact on the environment. Instead, part of the research activities are expected to provide some positive social and environmental benefits.

In light of the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.