

Luxembourg, 21 September 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EDUCATION GIRONDE
Project Number:	2021-0448
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project involves the new construction and reconstruction or renovation of colleges (lower secondary schools) in the Gironde department in France over the period 2021-2026.
EIA required:	to be determined
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project finances selected education investments implemented by the Department of Gironde and comprises of new construction and reconstruction or rehabilitation of eight lower secondary schools. Schools are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though the project might be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The Promoter has provided screening-out decisions by the Competent Authority for two sub-projects. Moreover, one facility is located within the urban development zone (ZAC) of Saint-Jean Belcier, Bordeaux, for which the EIA has been approved in 2014 and a voluntary preliminary public consultation related to an update on certain areas within the ZAC took place in February 2021. The consultation file concludes that no adverse impact is expected due to the proposed changes.

Overall, the Promoter has already obtained building permits for three sub-projects. In case an EIA will be requested by the Competent Authority during the building permit application for the remaining sub-projects, the Promoter undertakes to provide the EIA for publication. None of the sub-projects is located within Natura 2000 sites.

For Le Haillan college, the Promoter has received a derogation from the New Aquitaine Regional Directorate for the Environment, Planning and Housing regarding the prohibitions to the destruction of protected animal species and their habitats requiring the implementation of specific measures to reduce impact on specific fauna and flora species. The Promoter undertakes to provide a copy of the reporting documentation that will be submitted to the Competent Authority.

The net primary energy demand of all new and reconstructed buildings is anticipated to be at least 20% lower than the relevant NZEB requirements (Réglementation Thermique RT2012). Moreover, the Promoter reported that works will include soil decontamination measures in the

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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Belcier and the Merignac colleges. Furthermore, the Promoter has identified climate change risks and is applying measures to improve the resilience of the buildings. These climate adaptation measures address localised flooding and heatwave risks by handling rain- and storm-water flows, reducing the building envelope's heat transfer coefficient and optimizing solar gains. The project is considered to be consistent with the Paris Agreement pathways towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

Through the replacement of ageing educational facilities that are not fit for purpose and the construction of new colleges that meet high environmental standards the project will provide better quality learning and teaching spaces that meet the current safety, accessibility and thermal comfort standards.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Promoter will procure the design and construction of certain sub-projects by the Global Performance Contract ("marché global de performance") setting specific standards and performance objectives during the construction and operation phases, including the allocation by the main contractor of a minimum percentage of works to Small-Medium Enterprises (SME), thus allowing the smaller firms to participate in larger-scale projects and enabling more inclusive growth.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter has prepared the Environmental and Technical Recommendations Book ("cahier des recommandations environnementales et techniques" - CRET) defining specific requirements for the design and the construction of colleges. The CRET addresses the environmental challenges by providing specific guidelines regarding, amongst others, the bioclimatic design, the thermal comfort, the building materials, the energy performance and the integration of renewable energy apparatus. Moreover, for the operation of its estate, the Department has been implementing Energy Performance Contracts to achieve the intermediate targets for 2023 for i) reduction in gas and electricity consumption by 10% each, ii) electricity supply from 100% renewable energy. Lastly, the Promoter is in the process of implementing the ISO 50 001 certification approach related to the energy management system of the colleges, enabling the continuous improvement of energy performance during the buildings' lifecycle.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project aims at improving the quality of the education infrastructure serving the needs of the students and local communities. It is expected that the project will increase the quality of the building stock and improve their climate change resilience and energy performance. The Bank shall request the Promoter to provide a copy of the pending energy studies for the sub-projects at the permitting stage as well as copy of the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) or equivalent at the construction completion stage.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues and the procedures concerning the EIA screening and the protection of natural areas that are put in place by the Competent Authority are deemed satisfactory. The Promoter undertakes to inform the Bank of any developments with regard to the environmental approvals or updates and screening-out decisions, where applicable.

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.