

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME LOAN AUSTRIA
Project Number:	2021-0036
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Programme Loan to support small to medium sized energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other climate action projects in Austria. Sub-operations will be intermediated framework loans to eligible Financial Intermediaries. Some projects will be located in convergence regions.
EIA required:	Some projects in the sub-operations could require an EIA.
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

The proposed operation consists of a Programme Loan ("PL") to support EUR 300m loans for small to medium size renewable energy ("RE") projects and energy efficiency ("EE") projects predominantly in Austria. The operation presents an opportunity to support Austria in the energy transition to a decarbonised economy, as it has a 100% climate action component.

The PL is expected to encompass 3-5 sub-operations that will be structured as Framework Loans (FL), focusing primarily on sustainable energy, through acceptable Financial Intermediaries (FI), i.e. Banks, which will on lend to final beneficiaries.

The operation would contribute to EU energy objectives by supporting investments in renewable energy generation capacity and energy efficiency projects. The investments will generate environmental benefits, in terms of reduction of air pollutants and GHG emissions and supporting better health through improving air quality. In addition, some of the investments may also be located in convergence regions.

Some underlying investments of the sub-operations will likely fall under Annex II of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. In these cases, the Bank will require the FIs to ensure that final beneficiaries act according to the provisions of the aforementioned Directive as transposed into national law. Should the relevant competent authority screen in an investment project, the FIs shall deliver to the Bank a copy of the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and EIA

<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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documents to be published by the Bank, or provide a website link to the location where the EIA is published. If a project is screened out, then, according to the EIA Directive, this should also be made public, stating the reasons for not requiring such an assessment.

For projects located within or in the immediate surroundings of Natura 2000 areas, protected under Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, relevant appropriate assessments pursuant to Article 6.3 of Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC will be carried out.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

Each sub-operation will be subject to individual appraisal and approval. During sub-operation appraisal, it will be confirmed that the FIs have fully understood the Bank's E&S requirements and are willing and capable to fully implement them. In order to strengthen the coordination and accountability aspects, the FIs will be required to designate a responsible expert, who will oversee all the environmental and social aspects of the investments. A separate ESDS will be produced per sub-operation.

The following loan disbursement conditions and undertakings will be included in the sub-operations' legal documentation:

- The legal documentation to be concluded between the FIs and the Bank shall include an obligation on the FIs to ensure that all projects comply with national and European legislation (where applicable), as well as the Bank's Environmental and Social standards.
- Where relevant, the FIs shall obtain written confirmation from the competent authority that the investment will not have any significant negative impact on sites of nature conservation importance, including sites protected under the "Habitats" and "Birds" Directives (92/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC respectively) and the associated Natura 2000 network.

In view of the above findings and conditions, the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.