Luxembourg, 03 September 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*SCIENTIFIC INFRA PLATFORM (O-ZIP) (SPL-20140375)*
Project Number:	*2021-0458*
Country:	*Croatia*
Project Description:	*The project proposal includes the reconstruction of the existing Rudjer Boskovic Institute (RBI) facilities in Zagreb and Sibenik, at the Research Station Martinska including construction of new research facilities in Zagreb, the acquisition of equipment necessary for scientific research and a reorganisation of the institute in 4 operational platforms.*

EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the reconstruction and upgrading of existing RBI facilities for research and development (R&D), the construction of new R&D facilities and the purchase and installation of R&D equipment. While most of the infrastructure works are concentrated in RBI's complex in Zagreb, the project also contemplates the modernisation of a small R&D outpost in Sibenik (Martinska station).

Research institutes and related facilities, equipment upgrades and modernisation are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development covers the project facilities. The project has been screened out for an EIA by the competent authority for both sites.

Considering that none of the project facilities is located in Natura 2000 sites, the risk for potential negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites, species and habitats could be considered negligible.

RBI's main complex is located in the historic urban ensemble of the City of Zagreb, which is a protected cultural monument registered in the Register of Cultural Property. Consequently, special building conditions have been defined for the project by the Office for Protection of

[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.

Cultural and Natural Heritage of the City of Zagreb. These conditions have been reflected in the corresponding building permits.

Energy consumption for all new buildings is expected to stand well below the NZEB threshold established by national norms regulations, and the renovation and rehabilitation of existing buildings contemplates measures to improve their energy efficiency.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Overall, social and environmental impacts of the project are expected to be positive, as it will equip RBI with state-of-the-art equipment and facilities to conduct R&D activities of national and regional strategic interest, with the potential to generate social benefits. Further, new premises developed under the project are expected to achieve energy consumption levels well below the national norms, contributing to the wider climate change mitigation efforts of the Croatian government. Finally, the rehabilitation of existing facilities will improve their accessibility for persons with disabilities, bring them back to compliance with national health and safety standards, improve their energy efficiency and restore their architectural value.

The Promoter shall provide the EIB the final Energy Performance Certificates of the sub-projects at completion of the project.

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