

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *BOURGOGNE-FRANCHE-COMTE INVESTMENT PROGRAMME*
Project Number: *2021-0094*
Country: *France*
Project Description: *Prêt-cadre pour le financement du plan d'accélération de l'investissement du Région Bourgogne-Franche-Comté afin d'atténuer des effets de la crise COVID-19 sur les plans social et économique.*

EIA required: This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation, structured as a Framework Loan, will support the medium-term response to the COVID-19 crisis in the French Region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté. Measures in support of an accelerated recovery are bundled under a dedicated investment programme named "PAIR"². The Promoter has presented a tentative pipeline of schemes, assessed on a preliminary basis as eligible and Paris Aligned, sufficient to absorb the entire loan amount with total estimated costs of approximately EUR 300m. In general, it is expected that the operation will contribute to fostering competitiveness of the region and strengthen territorial cohesion.

The share of planned investments by sector should approximately reach 39% in Integrated Territorial Development, 38% in Energy and 23% for SME support. Tentative schemes under integrated territorial development include rehabilitation of brownfields, (re-)development of public space in line with the regional development strategy (SRADDET 2050), circular economy projects, climate adaptation measures, and investments in support of the digital transition. Energy related schemes consist of energy efficiency renovation of buildings, solar energy and hydrogen projects. SME support in the form of investment grants and equity participation aims to accelerate decarbonisation, maintain the economic fabric of local businesses, increase resilience and stimulate social entrepreneurship.

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.

² [Plan d'accélération de l'investissement régional](#)

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The investment programme is expected to bring socioeconomic benefits to the Regions' population and visitors in terms of improved infrastructure and services in education, healthcare, culture, sports, tourism, and a more resilient fabric of local businesses creating sustainable employment. Several investments will also have a positive environmental impact, such as air quality, biodiversity and climate change adaptation.

The PAIR investment programme supported under this operation is fully aligned with the Regional Development Strategy³, which was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. The regional development strategy is supplemented by sector plans, such as economic development, tourism, digitalisation, energy and environment.

Schemes financed under this operation will be mainly of small size (mainly project cost less than EUR 25m) and are not expected to have significant negative environmental or social impacts. However, some schemes could have limited temporary environmental impacts during the construction phase. Environmental impacts during construction may come from increased local traffic through traffic-related air pollution, exhaust gas and noise emissions, and generation of construction and demolition noise, dust, waste and vibration. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority.

Schemes related to Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, including energy savings in buildings, and production of renewable energy (photovoltaic solar panels) are expected, by their nature, to generate positive effects and contribute to Climate Action. Energy efficiency schemes will contribute to the EU energy and climate objectives and support the implementation of the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD) and the Energy Efficiency Directive (EED).

Schemes aiming to reduce disaster risk and increase preparedness regarding drought, heat and floods underline the adaptation efforts of the region and contribute the Climate Action as well. Schemes related to brownfield rehabilitation, circular economy and restoring of biodiversity contribute to Environmental Sustainability.

In view of the nature of the schemes supported in the sub-operations, the application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures and protected sites may be relevant for very few of the schemes to be proposed. In such case, the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC), Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law.

Social Assessment

Sustained investments from public entities will help to mitigate the economic contraction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and related negative (social) effects. Some schemes in relation to digitalisation and social entrepreneurship will be of particular benefit to vulnerable groups.

More generally, the project will contribute to strengthening secondary growth poles and reducing inequalities between people and between places. It will improve living conditions in the region, as well as strengthening socio-economic prosperity.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

³ [SRADDET Bourgogne-Franche-Comté "ici 2050"](#), approved by the regional council on 16 September 2020.

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Stakeholder consultations, in particular the population, are usually done by the region and public entities implementing some of the schemes either for the strategies (open meetings, contributions through internet) and for the projects (local consultations and other stakeholders), whether it is an obligation or not.

Some legal strategic documents, such as the regional development strategy, are subject to public consultation either as part of the plan preparation or a strategic environmental assessment (SEA).

Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

N/A.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC), Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law. The Promoter undertakes not to commit any EIB funds to sub-projects that require an EIA, biodiversity assessment, River Basin Management Plan amendment, Flood Risk Management Plan or other assessment required by EU and national law without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority and having the relevant documentation made available to the public.

The Promoter shall store and keep all relevant environmental and social documentation relating to the sub-projects updated and available for review at the request of the Bank, including EIA including Non-Technical Summary, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents or other documents supporting compliance with the EU environmental acquis.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in France, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Programme is acceptable in environmental and social terms.