

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SERBIAN EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE FL
Project Number:	2021-0535
Country:	Serbia
Project Description:	The project consists of construction, renovation and equipping of education facilities in Serbia. The preliminary list of schemes concerns mainly regional centres, offering vocational training and adult education aligned with the labour market needs. However, given that the proposed operation is a framework loan, the final scope will only be known at allocation stage and, therefore, the project could also include investments in pre-primary, primary and secondary general education..

EIA required: to be confirmed

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 project is a framework loan comprising multiple schemes that are at different stages of design maturity. The proposed schemes for inclusion in the project involve new construction, reconstruction and/or renovation of education buildings. The project also includes the purchase and installation of new equipment, including simulators for vocational education and training programmes.

Schools and related education facilities are not specifically mentioned in Serbia's 2004 EIA law, but may fall under Annex II of the 2004 law in relation to urban development depending on its location and amount of car parking. The project's education infrastructure is therefore subject to screening for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) by the competent authorities. If the project was located within the EU, it would be subject to the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU and may fall under Annex II where in general the education facilities would require screening for an EIA or fall below the threshold for screening given the parameters of the investments. In case the competent authority assesses the project to be subject to an EIA, the Promoter shall provide a copy of the full EIA to the EIB prior the commencement of the works for the affected school or education facility.

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.

Luxembourg, 04 October 2022

The Promoter confirmed that the schools and education facilities will be developed on sites within an approved land use plan. None of the project schemes are to be located within Natura 2000 sites. The Promoter shall make available the relevant building permits once obtained.

In respect to energy efficiency, the Promoter has in place a strategy that combines the use and installation of the best available technologies and renewable energy apparatus, which intend to exceed the national building codes energy performance requirements by 20% or more for new constructions. Similarly, in schemes comprising renovations, the Promoter will renovate the education buildings to achieve an improvement of two energy performance levels or to achieve a level B within the Serbian energy performance rating grades. The Promoter shall provide a copy of the design stage Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), energy model simulation or energy performance audit or equivalent obtained in line with the Serbian guidelines for energy performance in buildings. These guidelines are in principle aligned with the requirements of EU Directive 2010/31/EU demonstrating a significant improvement to the energy performance of the existing buildings to be financed.

The Promoter confirmed that none of the education buildings to be financed are in flood risk zones, though an undertaking will be included for the Promoter to provide a confirmation and perform a climate risk and vulnerability assessment to be presented to the Bank at the time of allocation. Thus, the Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned.

Social Assessment

Based on the information provided to the Bank, the potential schemes are not likely to require any land acquisition and result in involuntary resettlement. Should the need for land acquisition and any involuntary resettlement in relation to a scheme under the Framework Loan arise, the relevant Bank standards will apply.

The project will support the modernisation of the teaching and learning environment at the regional training centres, which will provide VET and adult education relevant to the labour market. Therefore, it is expected to contribute to the improvement of human capital and to promote a faster integration of students into the world of work.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Positive social and environmental outcomes are expected because of the Project especially in respect to an improved energy efficiency of the education building estate and for a safer and healthier learning environment for students.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Positive social and environmental outcomes are expected as a result of the project by means of constructing and/or renovating education buildings with high energy efficiency and providing a safer and healthier environment for students and education staff.

The Promoter shall provide to the EIB a copy of the energy model simulation or energy performance audit or equivalent for the design stage for each school. In addition, the promoter shall provide a copy of the Energy Performance Certificates or equivalent of all the project schemes at completion of the project, as well as proof of certification where obtained by the promoter. In case the competent authority requests an EIA, the Promoter shall make the whole EIA document available to the EIB before construction of the affected school.

Luxembourg, 04 October 2022

Conditions

For each allocation:

- Prior to allocation, the promoter shall provide evidence satisfactory to the Bank that the necessary environmental permits are in place as well as any screening decision(s) issued by the Competent;
- If required by the Competent Authority, a copy of the full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) shall be provided to the Bank;
- The Promoter shall provide written confirmation if land acquisition has been required and that no involuntary resettlement is caused by the scheme's implementation;
- Prior to the allocation stage and the first disbursement for any scheme comprising new construction, reconstruction or renovation works, the Promoter shall provide a copy of the design stage Energy Performance Certificate (EPC), energy model simulation or energy performance audit or equivalent obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU;
- Prior to the allocation stage and the first disbursement for any scheme comprising construction and/or renovation works, the Promoter shall provide a copy of a form of climate risk and vulnerability assessment satisfactory to the Bank for the scheme to be allocated.

Undertakings

- The Promoter shall ensure that adequate environmental, social, health and safety management plans, defined according to the legal requirements and related documents, are implemented and monitored during the construction of the project and will notify the EIB of any unexpected environmental impacts or incidents during the works.
- The Promoter shall provide to the Bank a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) or equivalent upon completion of each scheme that comprises construction and/or renovation works.
- The Promoter shall provide the Bank with information on a quarterly basis.

In light of the above, the Project is considered acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.