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Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GREECE RESEARCH CENTRES SUPPORT
Project Number:	2020-0858
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	The project supports the construction, renovation and modernisation of research and development (R&D) infrastructure and the provision of significant investment in scientific equipment at four prominent Greek research centres.

EIA required: to be confirmed

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the new construction, restoration, renovation and modernisation including the purchase of scientific equipment for four publicly funded Greek research centres of national importance. The investments will take place in multiple locations primarily in Athens but also in Patras and Xanthi.

Research and development buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by Directive2014/52/EU, though the project may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. Greek legislation contains three thresholds that may cause urban development to require a form of EIA. There are also three levels of EIA study depending on the potential impacts noted as category A1, category A2 or category B. The majority of the project investments are expected to fall below the lower threshold, therefore neither requiring a screening opinion nor a category B EIA study (the lowest level). Two project components are reported as exceeding one of the thresholds, therefore will require screening. Should the project be screened in, the Promoter shall send a copy of the EIA study performed and the screening opinion to the EIB.

The new buildings will be designed to be nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) and will include some passive design measures in an attempt to significantly reduce their primary energy consumption. The research centres benefiting from the investments have also stated a willingness to go beyond the Greek NZEB level to achieve a higher energy performance rating. Further, the restoration of one building in Xanthi and the renovation of other buildings

[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.

in Athens will seek to modernise and enhance the research space as well as improve the energy performance of these buildings. Moreover, the project investments will seek to reduce their energy consumption with the installation of best available energy efficient technologies, including renewable energy apparatus onsite, in once case the installation of an alternative fuel cell, and enhancements to the building fabric. Overall, the project is expected to achieve a net reduction in energy consumption thus reducing GHG missions due to the energy efficiency and renewable energy apparatus investments made across the four research centres included. The Promoter shall send a copy of the energy model or assessment at the design stage and a copy of the energy performance certificate upon completion to the EIB. The Promoter shall also send a copy of the commissioning tests for air tightness and thermal integrity for new buildings exceeding 5 000m^2.

Furthermore, the research centres will include measures and installations that will reduce water consumption and/or to collect rainwater for reuse in the building (such as toilet flushing) or for irrigating external landscaped areas.

The project has been assessed for Paris aligned and is considered to be aligned due to measures to reduce energy consumption and GHG emissions and the measures introduced to reduce water consumption as well as measures addressing potential future physical climate change risks.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will provide additional facilities to strengthen and enhance the research and development infrastructure within the Attica, Western Greece and Eastern Macedonia and Thrace regions in Greece, thus increasing the formation of human capital.

These additional facilities and equipment will enable the four research centres implementing the project to attract higher calibre researchers and professors to sustain the excellent research taking place within their respective scientific fields. The research centres work in diverse scientific fields such as information and computing technologies, the biomedical and associated sciences. The new infrastructures will support and enable continuing efforts for novel and innovative solutions and treatments for cancer care, supporting Greece's capacity to work with highly contagious pathogens and support new start-ups in these scientific fields creating better employment. Therefore, the new facilities will enable Greece, Europe and beyond through its cooperation networks to add to and enhance the body of scientific knowledge and application in technological developments for wider benefits in society.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is enabling four Greek national research centres to create additional state-of-the-art research, development and innovation facilities. The project components form part of a strategic effort to modernise the research facilities enhancing the working environment for their research and technical staff. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency of the research facilities.

Conditions:

- The Promoter shall send a copy of the screening opinion and supporting EIA study where requested by the competent authority.
- The research centres shall demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Bank, that measures will be included in the design to address the current and future physical climate change risks of extreme temperature events (heatwaves), intense rainfall

events/flooding or other risks identified in the Regional Climate Adaptation Plans. The estimated investment costs for adaptation measures should be reported to the Bank.

Undertakings:

- The Promoter shall send a copy of the energy model or energy assessment report or equivalent to the satisfaction of the Bank for the new buildings. In addition, the Promoter shall send a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate(s) (EPC) or equivalent upon on completion of all of the new and renovated buildings;
- The Promoter shall also send a copy of the commissioning tests for air tightness and thermal integrity for new buildings exceeding 5 000m^2;
- The Promoter shall send a copy of the self-certifying reports confirming each research centre's adherence to meeting the do no significant harm requirements of the Commission Delegated Regulation 2021/2139.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing.