

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BBVA LOAN FOR SMES & GREEN INITIATIVES
Project Number:	2021-0074
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	Loan for financing SMEs or Mid-Caps and climate change initiatives.

EIA required: no

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 will support the sustainability and climate action strategy of the financial intermediary (as well as the financing of SMEs & Midcaps affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic). A share of the investments, estimated at 50%, is expected to comply with the EIB's climate action guidelines, namely energy efficiency and renewable energy eligibility criteria.

The three climate action subsectors targeted by the FI are: 1) The energy rehabilitation of residential buildings in Spain by "comunidades de propietarios" (Home-owners associations, HOA); 2) Financing high-performing newly-built residential buildings which meet EIB's requirements; 3) Investments by SMEs & Midcaps for energy efficiency improvements in existing industrial facilities and on-site renewable energy installations.

All projects will be related to improvements to the building envelope, building systems or industrial processes, resulting in energy savings comparing to the baseline scenario. New construction projects will have energy performance levels better than the NZEB requirements as defined in the national regulations. At the construction stage, the project implementation may lead to increased noise, increased traffic or/and disruptions in traffic and high vibration levels, and may impact groundwater and air quality. The project's impact at construction stage will be temporary and reversible, at a level, which is deemed acceptable.

The expected primary energy savings as compared to the baseline scenario are estimated at 376.700 MWh/year, corresponding to 93,387 ton/y CO₂ savings.

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.

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Spain, as the EU Member State, has harmonised its environmental legislation with the relevant EU Directives: EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and with the EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2018/844/EU).

However, the project does not require an EIA, as it does not fall under Annex II of EIA directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU. The project will comply with the Energy Performance Building Directive as transposed by the national legislations.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the location, size and nature of the project in built-up urban areas, any negative environmental impacts are expected to be mitigated. The promoters are deemed to have sound environmental and social capabilities. The project will contribute to climate change mitigation (i.e. energy efficiency) by supporting the renovation of existing building, the development of nearly zero-energy building and energy investments by SMEs & MidCaps in Spain.

The Bank will impose to the Promoter the following undertakings:

- Energy savings need to be documented either through an energy audit, a building energy performance certificate before and after in the case of renovation works, or any other transparent and proportionate method acceptable to the Bank.

The project is therefore considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.