

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TALLINN SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2021-0479
Country:	Estonia
Project Description:	The Project is a multi-sector Framework Loan operation to finance the multi-year investment programme of the City of Tallinn.
EIA required:	This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II (“screened in”) of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project will contribute to the multi-sector, multi-scheme investment programme of the City of Tallinn in Estonia in the period 2021-2026. Investments to be supported by the EIB are in line with the City’s strategic planning and development policies such as the *Tallinn 2035 Development Strategy* and the *Tallinn Climate Neutral – Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030*.

The investment programme will contribute to foster integrated sustainable urban renewal and development. Eligible investments will include: public buildings, sustainable urban mobility, energy efficiency improvements and regenerating and upgrading open public spaces and green areas, waste and water infrastructure.

Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II (“screened in”) of the EIA Directive, and in such cases the promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive).

Sub-national environmental authorities in Estonia act as competent authorities in charge of impact assessments carried out in accordance with the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures, in line with the requirements of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU) as transposed into the national legislation, and issue opinions on environmental impact assessments of plans and programmes. The City itself is deemed to be competent in preparing the projects for the impact assessment and effectively carrying out any mitigation measures.

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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The investment programme will contribute to foster integrated sustainable urban renewal and development. Eligible investments will include: public buildings (renovation of schools, vocational schools and social housing) and sustainable urban mobility (upgrading of bike paths and pedestrian roads) are expected to contribute to climate mitigation, and upgrading open public spaces, green areas (parks and public squares) and municipal infrastructure (waste management centres and stormwater networks). The waste management centres and stormwater networks are expected to contribute to environmental sustainability objectives of the transition to the circular economy and water.

The investments will be implemented in highly urbanized areas, outside the vicinity of protected areas, such as Natura 2000.

In July 2021, the City Council approved the *Tallinn Climate Neutral – Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan 2030*.

The document contains recommendations for climate mitigation and climate adaptation measures and actions. The adaptation aspect of this action plan is to recommend how to prepare the City for climate change, reduce its vulnerability to climatic phenomena and increase the potential to cope with the effects of these phenomena.

Investments will be eligible for EIB financing only if they are aligned with Paris Agreement.

The construction/reconstruction works are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the works are completed, it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Although no separate social impact assessment has been carried out, it is deemed that the overall social impact of the framework loan will be positive considering sustainable urban mobility, high quality and modern education and housing and improved quality of public spaces.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The individual investments are expected to form part of urban development plans for which public consultation is carried out.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The institutional capacity of the promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to disbursement against any specific scheme, the Promoter is to provide to the Bank the evidence that schemes comply with relevant provisions of the environmental EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives as transposed into the national law. In addition, the Promoter will be requested to deliver EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank before the Bank funds are disbursed. Upon the Bank's request, the Promoter will be requested to provide selected Energy Performance Certificates obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU during implementation or after completion of works.

Overall, the net environmental impact is expected to be positive. In addition, the Project should bring about social benefits by helping improve the quality of building stock as well as the quality of life of residents. The investments to be financed will contribute to the improvement of the urban environment.



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The institutional capacity of the promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.