



Luxembourg, 13.05.2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *WFR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FL*
 Project Number: *2018-0657*
 Country: *Poland*
 Project Description: Framework loan to regional development agency aimed at supporting sustainable urban development in Wielkopolska Region in Poland.

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 to a region-owned entity, will finance new eligible schemes in the sector of urban development in Wielkopolska (an EIB Cohesion Priority region). The Borrower/Promoter is the Region's promotional institution Wielkopolski Fundusz Rozwoju sp. z o.o. "WFR".

The Project will support the implementation of the Wielkopolska Regional Development Strategy 2030 ("the Strategy"), which is the current planning document for the region. As such, the Project aims to improve the competitiveness and attractiveness of the Region's settlements, as well as to strengthen the Region's social and economic potential by financing investments that address the negative impact of demographic processes; tackle social disintegration and regional identity, develop social and cultural capital; improve living conditions; and address territorial inequalities.

The Strategy was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), issued and adopted by Wielkopolska Region in January 2020.

Concretely, the schemes under the Project are expected to support regeneration of degraded areas, provision of urban amenities, protection of historic monuments as well as improvements to public spaces, cultural infrastructure, digital infrastructure, business environment and urban

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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mobility. The schemes in which the Promoter will invest will be consistent with the existing and relevant urban planning and urban development strategies and follow an integrated approach to spatial development.

The Project is expected to have a positive impact on climate change mitigation stemming from building rehabilitation – installation of renewable energy generation capacity, reduced energy usage of existing buildings to be refurbished and redeveloped - and potentially urban mobility improvements that support the enhanced attractiveness of alternative sustainable mobility modes to the car. Schemes aiming to reduce disaster risk and increase preparedness regarding drought, heat and floods underline the adaptation efforts of the region and contribute to Climate Action as well. Schemes related to brownfield rehabilitation, circular economy and preservation of biodiversity contribute to Environmental Sustainability.

Schemes financed under this operation will be mainly of small size (project cost less than EUR 25 million) 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 (air pollution, exhaust gas and noise emissions) and generation of construction and demolition noise, waste and vibration.

These direct impacts shall be mitigated by adhering to good industry practice, following environmental management and conservation plans, and by carrying out the recommendations of the relevant competent authority. Depending on the type, characteristics and size of schemes, EIA may be required.

Relevant environment EU Directives have been transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). Some of the underlying investments may fall under Annex I or II of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending Directive 2011/92/EU), requiring a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or EIA screening by the competent authority on the basis of Annex III to determine the need for a full EIA. As the investments will be located in already urbanised areas, significant impacts on protected sites, including Natura 2000 areas, cannot be excluded but are deemed unlikely.

Social Assessment, where applicable

There are issues concerning degraded industrial and post-industrial sites and urban centres deteriorating in terms of their cultural, educational, recreational and economic functions/offers to citizens and businesses. The Project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts. These may include urban residents enjoying improved overall quality of life through better services, amenities and urban environment quality. Businesses may enjoy increased business confidence outlook stemming from improvements in the urban environment and infrastructure. This, along with the more direct economic effect of increased construction and refurbishment activities resulting from the investments, are expected to have an indirect but positive effect on job creation and private investment.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Schemes promoted by a municipality will be included in the approved urban planning of the concerned municipalities, as well as regional spatial planning framework, which will have been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) according to the Polish legislation.



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The Wielkopolska Strategy 2030 and its SEA² were subject to comprehensive and extensive public consultations. Individual schemes may be subject to public consultation in line with EU environmental law.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The environmental compliance of schemes financed under this Programme will be established in the building permit process and verified before EIB funds can be used for the schemes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter shall procure that schemes are implemented 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, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Project is acceptable in environmental and social terms.

² Available at: https://bip.umww.pl/artykuly/2826147/pliki/20200703150636_prognozastrategia203020.01.2020.pdf (accessed December 2021)