



Luxembourg, 13 July 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: ITALIAN UNIVERSITIES PROGRAMME LOAN
 Project Number: 2022-0103
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: The Project concerns the construction, renovation, refurbishment, restoration and/or extension of academic, research and associated higher education infrastructure, including sports facilities and student residences. The programme loan will support the co-financing of capital investments in Italian public universities, who are also beneficiaries of capital grants from the Ministry of Universities and Research.

EIA required: to be determined

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 programme loan providing a global authorisation to support the co-financing of capital investments in university buildings for academic, research, student residence and sports use plus the purchase of scientific equipment. The Project investments aim to enhance and modernise the facilities at Italian public universities through a combination of new construction, renovation, extension, refurbishment or restoration.

University buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though the Project may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. In Italy, there is a threshold of 40,000m² for the site for urban development projects to surpass before being subject to screening; the threshold is halved if the site is wholly or partially within a protected natural site. As the beneficiary universities and their investment plans are not yet defined it is difficult to ascertain whether the project is subject to screening and/or requires an EIA. For each sub-project benefitting from this programme loan, a review of the individual investment plan will be conducted during its appraisal. Should a sub-project be subject to screening and/or a full EIA procedure, the Bank will require the promoter to provide a copy of the screening opinion and/or the building permit and a full copy of the EIA if required.

The programme loan expects to support the modernisation and improvement of the university building stock across Italy, delivering new nearly zero energy buildings (NZEBs) in accordance

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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with Italian standards or renovating existing buildings for improved energy performance and functional use. Where such investments will take place, the Bank will require that promoters provide a copy of the energy performance assessment at design and completion stage, a copy of the final energy performance certificate and that promoters undertake enhanced commissioning tests in accordance with EU regulation 2021/2139.

A review of the greenhouse gas emissions for each university investment plan will take place during the appraisal of the sub-project. Furthermore, each sub-project will be subject to a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and the identification of climate adaptation measures employed as part of the sub-project investments. Therefore, the Project has been assessed for alignment to the Paris Agreement and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals. Subsequent sub-projects will also be assessed for alignment with the Paris Agreement during their appraisal.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project expects to support Italian public universities with a target to empower women in promoting gender equality, especially in senior management positions and decision-making bodies. Moreover, through their gender equality plans, aim to improve woman's safety and well-being within their campus premises. The promoters will be asked to provide the Bank with a copy of their annual reporting on gender equality and associated monitoring indicators.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will provide new and renovated facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments and expects to support increased research activity at the universities benefitting from the programme loan enabling increased access for students to higher education, thus increasing the formation of human capital.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project forms part of a strategic effort to modernise and improve the higher education facilities across Italian public universities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy performance and efficiency and better prepare the university buildings against future climate risks.

The Bank will require that promoters:

- Provide evidence of the screening opinion and/or a copy of the building permit and a fully copy of the EIA if required;
- Provide a copy of the annual gender equality reporting with associated monitoring indicators;
- Provide a copy of the energy performance assessment at design and completion stage;
- Provide a copy of the final energy performance certificate at completion; and
- Undertake enhanced commissioning tests in accordance with EU regulation 2021/2139 and provide a copy of the certificate.

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.