



Luxembourg, 06/12/2022

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name:	<i>GBS (INVESTEU VD)</i>
Project Number:	<i>20220218</i>
Country:	<i>Germany</i>
Project Description:	The project supports the research and development of exoskeletons and related services, as well as capex and costs related to market access.
EIA required:	No
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ² :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Exoskeletons used in the workplace are referred to as “industrial exoskeletons”. Their purpose is to augment, amplify, or reinforce the performance of a worker’s existing body components — primarily the lower back and the upper extremity (arms and shoulders).

The specific RDI activities included in the project will not have any relevant environmental impact, as they relate to development of software and engineering solutions to be performed in existing facilities without changing their already authorised scope. Therefore, the project activities neither fall under Annex I nor Annex II of the EU EIA Directive 2011/52/EU amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

Climate Assessment

¹ The information contained in the document reflects the requirement related to the environmental, social and climate information to be provided to Investment Committee as required by the Invest EU Regulation and it represents the equivalent of the information required in the template of the InvestEU sustainability proofing summary

² 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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Research and development investment activities, such as those present in this project, neither present significant negative nor positive impacts for climate aspects.

The project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with the Paris Agreement, as defined in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap.

The Promoter is in scope but screened out of the PATH framework as it does not operate in a high emitting sector and is not considered as a highly vulnerable counterpart.

Social Assessment

Exoskeletons can provide support in a variety of situations and applications. They reduce stresses on the physical human skeleton during high-load or high-impact activities, such as heavy lifting or carrying, and thus mitigate the negative effects of strenuous physical labour.

The Company offers Europe's first connected exoskeleton, which self learns to reinforce lifting movements and prevent incorrect posture.

Resulting benefits include:

- Protecting the health of workers and reduce sickness rates;
- Improving job attractiveness and reducing employee turnover; and
- Increasing workforce productivity and operational flexibility.

Exoskeletons have the potential to reduce inequalities in physical strength and endurance in their application in the workplace, which could lead to improved workforce inclusion of physically weaker persons, such as the participation of women in physically intensive occupations and people with disabilities.

TÜV SÜD issued its first certificate for an electric exoskeleton in July 2022, when the Cray X power suit from Augsburg-based manufacturer German Bionic was awarded the "TÜV SÜD Safety Tested" certification mark. The voluntary certification documents that TÜV SÜD has conducted independent third-party testing of the AI-based active exoskeleton and confirms the device's conformity with fundamental technical safety requirements.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The exoskeletons to be developed as part of the project are defined as industrial exoskeletons. The promoter is a registered manufacturer of electronic equipment working in compliance with the Electrical and Electronic Equipment Act (ElektroG) – national law implementing Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive 2012/19/EU.

The promoter is in compliance with the regulations set by the EN ISO 12100 (risk assessment) and CE certification according to the machinery directive 2006/42/EG.

Conclusions and Recommendations



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The project activities neither fall under Annex I nor II of the EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. The promoter complies with all relevant regulations and recommendations related to its business. The project activities expect to enhance the working conditions for employees operating in labour intensive environments, improving worker safety and well-being.

Sustainability proofing conclusion: the project is carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation. Based on the environment, climate and social (ECS) information and based on the review of the likely significant ECS risks and impacts and the mitigation measures and management systems in place, the project is deemed to have low residual ECS risks and impacts. No further sustainability proofing is required.

Therefore, the project is considered acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.