



Luxembourg, 07.07.2022

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	SG PAN-EUROPEAN RENEWABLE ENERGY FL
Project Number:	2022-0130
Country:	France, Italy, Regional - EU countries
Project Description:	The project consists of an intermediated loan in support of small to mid-sized renewable energy projects in France and Italy, mainly, and in other EU countries.
EIA required:	Some of the underlying schemes may require an EIA.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation consists of a Framework Loan (FL) to support small/medium-scale renewable energy projects (solar PV plants and onshore wind farms) in Italy. The operation will contribute to EU energy objectives by supporting investments in new renewable energy generation capacity. The investments will generate environmental benefits in terms of reduction of air pollutants and GHG emissions, ultimately helping to mitigate climate change.

The Financial Intermediary (FI) is known to the Bank from previous operations and it has been operating in the renewable energy sector in Italy since 2006. The FI has an adequate Environmental and Social (E&S) management system and capacity to implement the project.

Most of the schemes are expected to fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, requiring the competent authorities to determine whether an EIA is required or not. Most of the individual schemes to be financed are likely to have limited negative environmental impacts and are expected to be mitigated appropriately. In all cases where a formal EIA is required by the competent authority, the FI shall publish the Environmental Impact Study and Non-Technical Summary, or shall require the promoter of the individual scheme to do so.

Should any scheme have a potentially significant negative impact on an area forming part of the EU Natura 2000 network (falling under Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC or Birds Directive 2009/147/EC), the FI will be required to verify that none of the schemes has a significant adverse impact on any of these sites of nature conservation importance.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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Schemes with significant negative impacts on areas with high biodiversity value, nature conservation areas, including bird migration routes, shall not be eligible.

## **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Intermediated lending through Framework Loans is not currently included in the carbon footprint exercise.

## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The FI has in place E&S principles, guidelines and procedures for assessing its clients and transactions, is signatory to the Equator Principles, and is used to following / complying with E&S and H&S (Health and Safety) standards of other International Financial Institutions such as IFC and World Bank. An expert E&S advisory team, with the support of external expertise if required, reviews the compliance with E&S safeguards of all the investments. Moreover, the Promoters behind the sub-projects included in the preliminary pipeline are strong and internationally recognised companies in the renewable energy sector, whose activities include the development, engineering, construction, operation and maintenance of power plants based on renewable sources at global level.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The investments targeted by the operation are expected to have limited social and environmental impacts, if all mitigation measures, assessed by the Bank at sub-project level as part of the allocation approval process, are implemented.

Under the allocation procedures, all underlying sub-projects will be reviewed by the EIB either ex-post for sub-projects with an investment cost below EUR 25m or ex-ante for any sub-project above EUR 25m investment cost. No sub-project will exceed EUR 50m investment cost.

For projects where an EIA is required, the Financial Intermediary will provide the EIA report to the Bank as well as an appropriate assessment report on impacts on Natura 2000 sites (if not part of the EIA report) prior to allocation of the funds. For projects located within or in the immediate surroundings of Natura 2000 areas, protected under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, relevant appropriate assessments pursuant to the Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, will be carried out. Only projects that receive environmental authorisations (where applicable), including opinion from the Competent Authority of no negative impact on any Natura 2000 site, as well as licences (including building permits), and which are in compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and EIB's E&S Standards (where applicable), are eligible for EIB financing.

Under these conditions, the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.