

Luxembourg, 05/01/2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TYCHY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2022-0468
Country:	POLAND
Project Description:	<p>The Project will support several eligible municipal investment schemes carried out by the City of Tychy (Poland). It will focus on urban development and infrastructure modernization.</p> <p>The loan will be signed under the Programme Loan Silesia Sustainable Development Programme (2021-0206).</p>
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation is structured as a municipal framework loan that will support implementation of the multi-annual investment programme of the City of Tychy in the period 2022-2027. Tychy has about 118 thousand inhabitants and is located in Silesia region in southern Poland.

The EIB loan will support modernisation of public infrastructure and services, and integrated urban development, particularly through investments in the areas of public infrastructure (i.e. municipal housing, public building renovation and open-air public spaces), environmental protection (i.e. green-blue infrastructure, parks and water management), urban transport and mobility (i.e. rehabilitation of urban roads, bicycle and pedestrian network infrastructure), as well as energy efficiency (i.e. public building modernisation, public lighting, renewables).

This is a multi-scheme framework loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), and in such cases the promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the EIA Directive. Relevant EU Directives have been transposed into the national legislation (EIA Directive, SEA Directive, Birds and Habitat Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive).

The Polish EIA law, which is compliant with EU Directives, is the Act of 2008 on access to information about the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessments (O.J. 2018 no 199 item 1227) and entered into force in November 2008. According to the Act, the Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for urban roads of national significance is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection (RDEP) after consultation with the Regional Sanitary Inspectorate.

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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For other urban projects (i.e. other urban roads, urban renewal, etc.) the Competent Authority is the Municipality of Tychy. The competent authority for Natura 2000 areas is the corresponding "Voivodeship's Regional Inspector for Environmental Protection".

The Promoter acknowledges climate risks as described in the City's draft Adaptation Plan to Climate Change 2030, which is currently being updated and will be approved by the City Council in due course. The plan addresses local climate change issues and sets out the vision and specific objectives to be achieved through adaptation actions in the four most sensitive sectors/ areas of the city: public health, energy, transport, and water management. The adaptation plan is linked to the documents dedicated to adaptation to climate change at international, EU, national and regional levels. Concrete climate adaptation measures form part of the City's strategy, implementation as well as construction standards. Therefore, the Promoter's capacity to manage climate risks is deemed satisfactory.

The Development Strategy of the City of Tychy's objective regarding low-GHG-emissions as well as the "Program of environmental protection for the City of Tychy for the years 2022 - 2025 with a perspective until 2029" include several measures dedicated to achieving reduction of air pollution, aiming at carbon neutrality while affecting the city's energy systems, industry and transport. The energy efficiency schemes of the operation are adhering to this strategic objective resulting in significant social and environmental benefits particularly, improving the quality of air and thus the quality of life of the citizens.

At construction stage, the Project will increase noise levels, and will impact water and air quality. Adequate mitigating measures will be considered in the designs such as drainage systems, management of earthworks, reinstatement of damaged vegetation with local species and wildlife protection with underpasses. If felling of trees is required in any of the schemes, they will be protected in appropriate manner and tree clearance will be conducted outside the nesting season. Overall, the project's impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

At operation, most of the rehabilitation of urban roads projects aim at reducing noise and emissions from motor vehicles. Moreover, climate adaptation measures included in the investments, such as water reservoirs, water fountains, use of permeable surfaces, green roofs and corridors, greenspaces, are expected to have a positive environmental impact for the City and improve the quality of life of the inhabitants.

Investments will be eligible for EIB financing only if they are aligned with the Paris Agreement goals and principles as defined in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR). All building renovation and modernisation schemes are in line with the EU Directive on the Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU. Given all this, the Operation will have a positive overall impact.

The EIB Project is expected to bring savings in operational costs and contributing to the reduction of local emissions through energy efficiency measures in public lighting and public buildings. Against this background, the project is expected to entail a positive contribution to the Bank's efforts in combatting Climate Change.

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. The operation is expected to increase the quality of public spaces and services available to the inhabitants. Investments in public transport services and infrastructure, such as bicycle lanes, will promote sustainable mobility and along with construction and reconstruction of pavements and pedestrian paths will decrease dependency on individual passenger cars, promote physical activity and enhance safety of citizens. Improved quality of schools, playgrounds, sports and social care facilities will contribute to the overall quality of life and social inclusion. New capacities in public education and care facilities will provide for the targeted population in need and allow more parents to return to economic activity.

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Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The individual investments are expected to form part of urban development plans for which public consultation has been carried out. The draft Adaptation Plan for Climate Change for the City of Tychy, which is currently developed and is going to be approved by the City, has been under public consultation, ensuring a broad participation of stakeholders and the public opinion. The public consultation that has been carried out is expected to ensure the social acceptability of the plan and the reduction of conflicts in the implementation of adaptation actions.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

A management system for public green areas was introduced in 2019 and has been amended recently in 2022. The City has a “Strategy for Solving Social Problems 2021-2027+” that addresses social issues. Overall, the capacity of the Promoter to manage and monitor the environmental, social and climate related issues is deemed good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter will be required to act 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. In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the EIAs to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated. For Schemes having a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance (including screening) with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable) before the Bank funds are allocated. For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated.

Upon the Bank’s request, the Promoter will be requested to provide selected Energy Performance Certificates and/or relevant Energy Audits obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU during project implementation or after completion of works.

The overall environmental and social impact of the Project is expected to be positive, with improved environment and citizens’ quality of life, especially through improved quality of public infrastructure, amenities and spaces, and energy efficiency in street lighting and public buildings (contributing also to climate change mitigation). Potential negative effects (e.g. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

The capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. Therefore, subject to the conditions mentioned above, this operation is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.