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Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Rzeszow Municipal Infrastructure III
Project Number:	2022-0272
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The Project is a multi-sector Framework Loan operation to finance the multi-year investment programme of the City of Rzeszow
EIA required:	Some 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 project, structured as a Framework Loan, will finance construction of municipal infrastructure on the territory of the City of Rzeszow

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation

The Promoter is obliged 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. The compliance with EU legislation is also included in the project undertakings and will be verified at allocation stage. The project supports implementation of the "Development Strategy of the City of Rzeszow until 2025".

None of the schemes included in the pipeline fall under Annex I of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. Some of the schemes though, may fall under Annex II of EIA Directive. Should any scheme under this framework loan fall under Annex II and be "screened in" by the Competent Authority, the Promoter shall deliver the full EIA report to the Bank before the Bank funds are allocated.

For any scheme with a significant or likely effect on the environment, the Competent Authority is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in the Podkarpackie region. The Mayor of Rzeszow is responsible for smaller projects, falling outside Annex I and II of Directive 2011/92/EU with no need for EIA and no impacts on habitats.

Environmental Impacts

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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Potential impacts of the schemes will be assessed by the Competent Authority in the permitting process and will be assessed by the Bank when the schemes are submitted for allocation under the Framework Loan. Schemes financed under this operation will be mainly of small size (project cost less than EUR 25m) and not expected to have significant negative environmental or social impacts.

However, some schemes could have limited temporary environmental impacts during the construction phase. These impacts may come from increased local traffic through traffic-related air pollution, exhaust gas and noise emissions, and generation of construction and demolition noise, waste and vibration. Special mitigation measures will be applied in line with the relevant legislation. The sustainable transport and social infrastructure projects are expected to foster a more compact and balanced development of urban areas and ultimately help avoid urban sprawl and associated negative environmental effects such as land take and increased emission from traffic.

Location, Natura 2000 and Biodiversity issues

Given the nature of the project, with schemes located in a consolidated urban environment, no impacts on Natura 2000 or other protected sites are expected. Nevertheless, compliance with the Birds and Habitats Directives will be further checked during the appraisal of individual schemes at the allocation stage

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project will support investments in infrastructure in connection with the adoption of the Temporary Protection Directive, which was triggered for the first time by the European Council to offer quick and effective assistance to people fleeing the war in Ukraine. The Temporary Protection Directive (2001/55/EC) gives beneficiaries the right to access housing, employment, social welfare, medical care, education and access to the asylum procedure.

In response to the Ukrainian conflict and in support to the implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, the project aims at providing adequate infrastructure, particularly in the education sector but also potential investments in vital urban infrastructure, urban regeneration, green spaces and sports/cultural facilities. All these investments are expected to have a positive contribution in the wellbeing and social inclusion of refugees and host communities.

Any potential refugee and asylum seeker accommodation facilities, which are restricted to or exclude persons from specified national, ethnic or religious groups, or other types of segregation and/or discrimination are not eligible. Reception centres, if any, have to meet the requirements of the EU Receptions Conditions Directive (2013/33/EU).

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public engagement and consultations are integrated in all steps of all strategic and/or sectorial planning both in term of spatial development as well as in terms of social aspects. Each municipality is required by law to carry out these consultations in case of their spatial development plans as well as in case their sectoral strategies

Governance

The Promoter have demonstrated sufficient ability to manage E&S risks and ensure adherence to all applicable Directives for the expected Project and its respective schemes.



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Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to allocation of EIB funds against any specific scheme, the Promoter is to provide to the Bank the confirmation that schemes comply with relevant provisions of the environmental EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives. In addition, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the full EIA reports to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated. For schemes falling under Annex II and “screened out” by the Competent Authority based on Annex III criteria, the Promoter shall deliver a copy of the respective decision, before the Bank funds are allocated.

The Promoter will undertake that schemes, if applicable, are in line with the EU Directive 2013/33/EU of The European Parliament and of The Council of 26 June 2013 laying down the standards for the reception of asylum seekers including freedom of movement, families, vulnerable groups, medical screening, health care, schooling, education and vocational training.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter is deemed satisfactory since it has established solid procedures to manage environmental and social issues. Therefore, given the type of operation, and subject to the conditions mentioned above, the FL is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms