

Luxembourg, 14.12.2022

# **Environmental and Social Data Sheet**

#### Overview

Project Name: EU CO-FINANCING ANDALUCIA 2021-2027

Project Number: 2021-0714 Country: Spain

Project Description: Co-financing investment schemes supported by European

Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Funds Plus (ESF+) in Andalusia, as well as the Andalusia-dedicated part of the Just Transition Fund (JTF), within the

Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027.

EIA required: Yes

The Project is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan (a type of Framework Loan); some individual underlying

schemes may require an EIA.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: No

### **Environmental and Social Assessment**

#### **Environmental Assessment**

The Project will support priority multisector investments included in the Andalusian ERDF and ESF+ Operational Programmes (OPs) for the 2021-2027 programming period, as well as the Andalusia-dedicated part of the state level Just Transition Fund (JTF) OP, under the forthcoming Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027. The Project will comprise schemes originated under the OPs with EIB supporting the Andalusian regional budget contribution alongside private and other public co-financing obligations.

The shares of planned investments should reach approximately 29% in education and training, 18% in research development, innovation and digitalisation investments, 12% in health, 11% in integrated territorial development, 10% in sustainable transport, and between 5% and 8% each in energy; natural resource use, management and protection; and SMEs.

The SEA reports of the ERDF  $OP^2$  and the Just Transition  $OP^3$  contain assessment of the expected environmental effects arising from the implementation of the OPs, as well as measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as far as possible, offset any significant negative effects on the environment. No SEA is deemed necessary for the actions supported by the ESF+.

<sup>&</sup>lt;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 CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> <u>SEA ERDF OP 2021-2027</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> SEA JT OP 2021-2027



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All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation and all relevant key documents will be published in line with the EIB's Disclosure Policy.

In particular, in accordance with Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060<sup>4</sup>, all planned investments falling within the scope of the EIA Directive will be subject to an environmental impact assessment or a screening procedure and due consideration will be given to the assessment of alternative solutions based on the requirements laid down in that Directive.

The investment plan has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Annex 2) and/or associated guidance and other relevant documents.

Infrastructure investments under the Project, with an expected duration of at least five years, will be subject to climate proofing, which is a process aimed at avoiding the vulnerability of infrastructure to potential long-term climate impacts, while ensuring that the energy efficiency first principle is respected and that the level of greenhouse gas emissions from a project is consistent with the climate neutrality objective by 2050. The climate proofing is to be based on the European Commission's Communication 2021/C 373/01 on Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of Tariffs 2021-2027<sup>5</sup> and, where appropriate, further relevant guidance.

Furthermore, the 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle is applied in the project selection criteria, as per Regulation (EU) 2019/2088<sup>6</sup> setting out the principle of sustainable investment. At the programme level, all planned activities of the ERDF OP passed the ex-ante evaluation of conformity with the DNSH principle and are therefore deemed aligned with the six environmental and climate objectives of the EU taxonomy.<sup>7</sup> At the underlying investment level, the DNSH principle is to be assessed in the light of Commission Communication 2021/C 58/01 'Technical guidance on the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility'<sup>8</sup> and, where appropriate, further relevant guidance. For the OP of the JTF, too, all individual operations shall be assessed for their compliance with the DNSH principle, as confirmed by SEA of the JTF OP and the related Non-Technical Summary.<sup>9</sup>

Finally, the funded activities are consistent with the national and regional adaptation strategies and other climate policy documents related to transport, environment/biodiversity, public health, etc.

### Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project generates significant social benefits as it fosters an integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development. It supports, among others, improvement of the living and working environment, natural environment and biodiversity protection, as well as

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159–706).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Communication from the European Commission 2021/C 373/01 Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of Tariffs 2021-2027 (OJ C 373, 16.9.2021, p. 1–92).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (OJ L 317, 9.12.2019, p. 1–16).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> As stated in the published Non-Technical Summary of the SEA published on 19 October 2022 on the CAA website.

Sommunication from the European Commission 2021/C 58/01 Technical guidance on the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ C 58, 18.2.2021, p. 1–30).

 $<sup>{\</sup>color{blue}9~ \underline{https://www.transicionjusta.gob.es/Quienes\_somos/Participacion\_publica/common/RESUMEN\%20EAE\_PFTJ.pdf}$ 



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physical and digital connectivity. Furthermore, through targeted interventions, the Project promotes the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs.

It fosters equal access to quality and inclusive education and training, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training to tertiary level, as well as adult education and training, including facilitating learning mobility for all and accessibility for persons with disabilities. It promotes equal opportunities, non-discrimination, active participation, and employability. It aims at adaptation of workers, enterprises and entrepreneurs to change and active and healthy ageing and a healthy and well-adapted working environment that manages health risks.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities including the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination have been applied over all successive phases of the OPs implementation - programming, setting up of the management structure, project selection, and finally monitoring and control functions.

# **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The SEA of the OPs and the Partnership Agreement as well EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes are subject to the public consultations in line with the SEA Directive and the EIA Directive, as transposed into national law.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Project is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan. The promoter (regional Economics and Finance ministry) 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.

The promoter shall store and keep all relevant environmental and social documentation relating to the sub-projects updated and available for review at the request of the Bank, including the EIA and its Non-Technical Summary, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents or other documents supporting compliance with the EU environmental acquis.

In case a scheme requires an EIA or an appropriate assessment or equivalent, the promoter shall submit prior to allocation of the Bank's funds the full EIA report or appropriate assessment to the Bank for publication on its website.

The overall institutional capacity of the promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. With the proposed conditions and eligibility criteria in place, this project is considered acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.