



Luxembourg, 17 April 2023

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	Cork Business School
Project Number:	2021-0091
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	The Project concerns the construction of a new 15 000m <sup>2</sup> Business School at University College Cork (UCC) in the centre of the city of Cork in southern Ireland. The Project will support the consolidation of the Business School departments into one site in modern facilities to enhance the teaching and learning environment.
EIA required:	To be determined
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>2</sup> :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project comprises the demolition of an existing former builder’s yard and construction of a new Business School in the city centre of Cork. The new Business School will create a consolidated location for the various departments of the Business School and helping to regenerate an underused site in the city.

Universities and research facilities of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development covers the project. The new building is subject to a screening process and confirmation by the competent authority. Should the competent authority require an EIA report for the new building, the Promoter shall be required to provide to the EIB the full EIA report for review.

<sup>1</sup> 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

<sup>2</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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The Promoter has confirmed that should asbestos or other harmful substances be encountered during the demolition works, they will be removed and disposed of using appropriate measures in accordance with national and European legislation.

### **Climate Assessment**

Cork has developed a climate adaptation plan identifying risks and vulnerabilities for the city with regard to future physical climate change. The Promoter has followed a design approach that addresses the identified risks and vulnerabilities apparent at the proposed location, notably the risk of flooding and the design will also include measures to counter the effects of increasing temperatures through use of higher performing insulation materials as well as reducing water consumption through the installation of low flow sanitary devices.

The new building will complement the existing adjacent structures, respecting and in compliance with the agreed UCC campus masterplan. The new building will be designed to be a nearly zero energy building (NZEB) with an enhanced design brief to produce onsite renewable energy to offset almost all of its energy consumption and reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The new building will include many passive design measures in an attempt to reduce significantly its primary energy consumption. Moreover, the design of the new building intends to exceed the NZEB reference building within current Irish building regulations and reduce primary energy consumption potentially by more than 10%. In addition, the promoter is targeting a BREEAM Excellent certificate and a BER rating of A2 for the new building. A copy of the energy model and on completion a copy of the energy performance certificate will be requested by the EIB.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap.

### **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

The counterparty University College Cork is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting sector.

### **Social Assessment**

The Project does not have any significant negative social impacts. The Promoter is considered to have the experience, capability and capacity to deliver the Project successfully. The Promoter also has the necessary processes and procedures in place to ensure that they perform their duties concerning health and safety, the environment and ensuring the Project delivers on its commitments to climate and social aspects.

The Project is a key part of improving the university's academic and research infrastructure by providing modern learning and working environments for their students and staff specifically within the Business School. In addition, the Project is expected to generate positive social impacts through improved knowledge production and dissemination through the outputs of the research activity of the university with more opportunities for collaboration with commercial and industrial partners.



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## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Promoter already possess ISO 50001 accreditation for energy management of its campuses and intends to achieve ISO 46001 accreditation for water efficiency.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Project concerns the construction of a new building to house the University's Business School providing modern teaching, research and learning environments consolidating the principal Business School departments into one location. The Promoter possesses the appropriate experience and governance systems to deliver the Project in accordance with national and European legislation.

The Project will be implemented using high environmental standards as the new construction intends to follow many best practices in terms of energy efficiency, climate adaptation, use of construction materials and resource use including minimising water consumption and waste.

The Promoter will be required to provide the following information undertakings: a copy of the energy assessment prior to construction and a copy of the building permit. If an EIA report is required for the building, the Promoter shall send to the Bank a copy of the EIA report for review. In addition, the Promoter shall provide to the Bank on completion evidence of the completed air-tightness test and either evidence of managing the quality of construction or completion of a thermal integrity test, as well as a copy of the energy performance certificate and a copy of the BREEAM certification.

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

In the light of the above, the Project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental, climate and social terms.