



Luxembourg, 21.08.23
Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet¹

Overview

Project Name:	GROPYUS (IEU GT)
Project Number:	20220629
Country:	Germany, Austria
Project Description:	The proposed EIB loan aims to finance the RDI activities of Gropyus in Europe over a three-year period (2023 - 2025), which are expected to further support the growth and innovativeness of the Company. Their R&D activities focus on the development of efficient manufacturing and construction technologies for sustainable, multi-storey apartment blocks using wooden modules pre-fabricated in an automated factory.

EIA required: no

Invest EU sustainability proofing required yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise²: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment:

The project concerns the R&D activities of the promoter and have the primary aim to develop new technologies to make timber-based sustainable multi-storey apartment buildings affordable and/or commercially competitive. The promoter intends for example to highly automate the manufacturing of its prefabricated building modules in the medium term and to fully digitalise the construction supply chain.

The R&D activities included in the project do not fall under any Annex of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU; moreover, they will be carried out in existing facilities that will not change their scope due to the project. The output of the investment programme, if successful, is associated with several environmental and climate benefits in the medium term through the implementation of the promoter's buildings. First, the buildings are sustainable as primarily based on timber as construction material. Wood is a renewable construction material and hence the apartment blocks will have very low embedded greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions if compared to traditional concrete and steel based construction technologies. Second, the buildings will have a high energy efficiency and hence further contribute to GHG avoidance. Third, one of the project's aims is to make sustainable housing more affordable and while striving for a high resource efficiency.

The residual environmental project risks are deemed low.

¹ 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

² 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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Climate Assessment

The project's activities are fully aligned with the Paris Agreement on climate change according to the Bank's definition (Annex B of the climate bank roadmap). The promoter's buildings will in line with the climate mitigation substantial contribution criteria for the 'construction of new buildings' as defined in the EU taxonomy for sustainable finance.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The parent company of the counterparty – Gropyus AG - is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting and not high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter commits to high level ESG targets including business ethics and compliance. The company adheres to legal requirements with regards to anti-money laundering, anti-bribery and anti-corruption laws and regulation. Respective compliance policies are in finalization stage and should be implemented shortly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the above, the project's direct environmental impact is expected to be very limited, whereas the results from the R&D activities are likely to contribute to the implementation of affordable and sustainable timber based multi-storey apartment buildings, which have the potential to reduce among others the specific carbon footprint of the construction sector.

Therefore, the project is considered acceptable for Bank financing in environmental and social terms.

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