



18/08/2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	CANTABRIA PREHISTORIC MUSEUM
Project Number:	20220705
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	The project concerns the construction of the new MUPAC (Museum of Prehistory and Archaeology of Cantabria) in Santander, the capital of the Cantabria region in Spain. In addition to the exhibition area, the building also has a laboratory and other research facilities and will host office space for the regional public administration. Furthermore, it includes the implementation of the MUPAC Digital Plan, aimed at the digitalisation of the caves and the museum collection, and the acquisition of scientific and laboratory equipment.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The project will provide state-of-the-art cultural facilities and office space benefitting visitors, researchers, and public servants. The new MUPAC building is specifically conceived to cater and valorise Cantabria's prehistoric remains and archaeological heritage, incorporating universal accessibility and sustainability criteria in the design requirements. The building, which will provide 21,000 m<sup>2</sup> of new efficient floor space, will turn the current site in the Puertochico area into a new city landmark that will help restructuring the urban fabric of the city centre.

Additionally, the MUPAC is well framed from an urban integrated planning perspective. The project is included in the General Urban Development Plan of the City of Santander (Plan General de Ordenación Urbana - PGS) that was modified in 2019 to qualify the future MUPAC plot as a specific area for Equipment of Public and Social Interest.

The loan will be granted to the Instituto de Finanzas de Cantabria ("ICAF"), a public regional development financial institution, fully owned by the regional government of Cantabria, which will on-lend to the Sociedad Regional Educación, Cultura y Deporte (**SRECD**), a regional public company under the aegis of the Consejería de Universidades, Igualdad, Cultura y Deporte (the Regional Ministry of Culture, Equality, Universities and Sports), which will build, own and operate the financed assets.

### Environmental Assessment

The project is not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (**EIA**) under the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

<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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



The project will have an overall positive impact. It will be a pole of attraction for off-season quality tourism and a new landmark for Santander, improving the built environment through an excellent demonstration of efficient, commensurate and well-integrated architectural design.

The MUPAC building is in line with the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings 2010/31/EU. Therefore, the project is deemed aligned with a low carbon and resilient pathway, consistent with the Paris Agreement goals and principles as defined in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR). In addition, it will have an energy efficiency performance going at least 10% beyond the nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) targets as established in the Spanish Building Codes and it will also be in line with the EU Taxonomy requirements for a Sustainable Contribution to Climate Mitigation, therefore contributing to the Bank's Climate Action objective. The energy efficient design will contribute to reducing energy consumption and subsequent running costs and will have significant annual primary energy savings and a minimal CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. The design also incorporates several adaptation measures such as the choice of the materials for the façade, the use of bioclimatic solutions to facilitate natural ventilation or rainwater management and green roofs that will reduce water consumption by 60% compared to a standard design.

The new museum building is easily accessible by foot, bicycle or public transport. Moreover, a new bus stop in front of the main entrance is included in the scope of the project.

Nevertheless, there will be certain negative impacts during construction that will be short-lived and reversible, and at a level deemed acceptable. Some of the expected negative effects include increased heavy traffic, noise, and dust during construction, which will be alleviated by appropriate mitigation measures concerning site organisation and construction management.

Given the urban nature of the project, there are no Natura 2000 or other protected areas nearby. Therefore, it will not affect to any protected site.

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

The borrower, Instituto de Finanzas de Cantabria (**ICAF**), is a Regional Promotional Bank (RPB) and as such, pursuant to the PATH framework, it is in scope and screened-in the PATH framework, but meets PATH requirements, because, as a financial intermediary, it is not considered high emitting and/or high vulnerability.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The project is deemed aligned with the EIB Gender Equality Strategy and Action Plan and it is labelled with a Significant Gender Tag. The MUPAC exhibition steers out from an androcentric museum narrative and includes a gender perspective both on its discourse and its expository design to uproot the traditional messages associating men to the most important tasks and women to passive ones. This is achieved, for instance, through including in the exposition women, children, and the elderly as key contributors to the Prehistoric society. By disseminating the importance of women's role in history, the project contributes to raise awareness and reduce the gender gap.

Gender has also been taken into consideration in the design of the building by incorporating solutions such as mixed bathrooms and individual cabins. Universal accessibility in the building is guaranteed to all interior and exterior spaces, enhanced with cross-through transparency, clear visibility and adequate lighting that ensure safe public spaces for all.



## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultation is carried out as part of the planning and permitting process.

## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The institutional capacity of the promoter and beneficiary (**SRECD**) to manage environmental, climate and social issues is deemed good.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The project will have an overall positive impact. It will be a pole of attraction for off-season quality tourism and a new landmark for Santander, improving the built environment through an excellent demonstration of efficient, commensurate and well-integrated architectural design. Additionally, the MUPAC is well framed from an urban integrated planning perspective.

The project is not subject to an EIA under the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The construction of the new infrastructure is not expected to generate significant environmental effects and the promoter possesses the appropriate experience and governance systems to deliver the project in accordance with the relevant law requirements.

The borrower will undertake to provide Energy Performance Certificates upon completion of the project, in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU, as well as the air-tightness and thermal integrity tests.

Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.