

Luxembourg, 27 September 2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Ostrava – Cultural Infrastructure Development	
Project Number:	2021-0740	
Country:	Czech Republic	
Project Description:	The Project concerns the construction of a new concert hall and the refurbishment of the existing House of Culture in Ostrava city in the Czech Republic	
EIA required:	No	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	No	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project concerns construction of a new concert hall with 1,300 seats and the refurbishment of the existing House of Culture to provide additional 475 seats.

The Project was assessed by a competent authority, Regional Authority of the Moravia-Silesia Region – Environment and Agriculture Department in January 2021 with regards to its environmental impact (EIA as per Czech Act no. 100/2001 Col.) and potential impact on NATURA 2000 sites (as per Czech Act no. 114/1992 Col.). These environmental assessments form an integral part of the building permit process in the Czech Republic.

In its official conclusion, under the reference MSK 4150/2021, ŽPZ/1595/2021/Huj, 208.1 S10 N of 18 January 2021, the competent authority concluded that the assessed project is not subject to the EIA assessment, and that it cannot have a significant impact on any sites of nature conservation importance.

The EIB Project will have an impact on the environment both during construction and operation. At construction stage, it will increase noise levels as well as traffic serving the construction site, and it will impact water and air quality. Adequate mitigating measures will be applied to reduce the impact during the construction in the neighbourhood, with regards to the organisation of the heavy traffic and earthworks, noise cancellation barriers and other measures of organisation of the construction site. Overall, the Project's impact at the construction stage will be time-limited and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

At operation stage, environmental impacts will not be significantly higher than during the operation of the current House of Culture prior the implementation. The Project shall bring reduction of energy consumption (within the refurbished House of Culture) and use of renewable energy sources for heating and cooling. Number of climate adaptation measures will be applied; the Project will contribute to the ecological stability and permeability of the surfaces, and to flood and erosion protection. Innovative methods of savings and reuse of various resources (electricity and water) shall bring additional quantifiable savings, maintenance of the public space and green areas will be more environmentally sustainable with additional biodiversity and native ecosystems planted in the concerned area and adjacent public park.

The EIB Project is expected to bring reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and contributing to a more sustainable use of resources in public buildings, and thus to bring savings in operational costs.



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Against this background, the Project is expected to entail a positive contribution to the Bank's efforts in combatting Climate Change.

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

No specific social assessment has been carried out by the Promoter. However, for the implementation phase (construction) requirements with regards social inclusions have been incorporated in public tender documentation.

- i) Working conditions of employees: The contracting authority requires the tenderer to ensure legal employment, decent working conditions with an adequate level of occupational safety for all persons involved in the performance of the subject matter of the public contract in the performance of the subject matter of the contract;
- ii) Employment of people disadvantaged in the labour market: The contracting authority calls for a minimum of ten (10) persons from socially excluded localities, unskilled or low-skilled persons, persons aged over 55, persons with disabilities or graduates of a vocational school in the field to acquire the necessary experience be involved in the performance of the public contract throughout its implementation.

Additional requirements are linked to preferred treatment of small and medium sized entrepreneurs as subcontractors with regards to payments and to environment (see below).

Additional measures of social inclusion, particularly in relation to employment and accessibility of socially disadvantaged and disabled persons, will be set for operation and design of the cultural programme.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The project intent was in consideration since 2015. It was subject to a consultation with a professional as well as wider public. In 2018-2019, an international architectural competition for the design of the new concert hall was organised. The winning design together with all the other proposals was presented in a public exhibition organised by the City of Ostrava accompanied by a discussion with the public. Presentation of the project intent, the construction of a new concert hall in Ostrava, was part of the City's information campaign at local, regional and national level, including international events (e.g. trade fairs). Communication via public websites (a project dedicated website was established) and social media/networks was part of the City's communication strategy which allowed for a wider public engagement. Feedback, particularly related to the integration and interconnection of the concert hall and the House of Culture with the surrounding public space and the adjacent municipal park, was incorporated to the Project final design.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Project is in line with the City of Ostrava's Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan SECAP (2030). The newly constructed concert hall is designed as highly energy efficient building and one of the key objectives of the refurbishment of the existing House of Culture is also energy efficiency. The Project Promoter proposed a number of climate mitigation measures through application of energy efficiency measures, utilisation of renewable sources of energy and intelligent building energy management systems, as well as adaptation measures against identified climate risks, and environmental sustainability measures including water management systems, waste management and biodiversity measures. Despite the fact that the efficiency of these measures is partly limited due to its design (case of the new construction) and due to its historic protection (case of the existing building of the House of Culture), the combined effect is expected to bring energy savings (and cost). Therefore, the Project shall contribute to the objectives of the City's Adaptation Strategy to 2030 and in particular to the City's ambition to reduce CO2 emissions by 55% by 2030.



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## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is considered Paris aligned and consistent with the Climate Bank Roadmap as it concerns the construction of new construction of a concert hall in line with carbon-neutral strategies and it is expected to comply with national energy standards defined by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The Project has been designed as to maximise possible energy savings in the two buildings, the new concert hall and the refurbished House of Culture, and it is expected to contribute to reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Climate adaptation measures will be applied and the Project will contribute to environmental sustainability and biodiversity.

According to the EIB experience, investments in cultural facilities promote the revitalisation of inner cities, as they have direct and indirect social and economic benefits. Cultural facilities contribute to generating creative output, employment and local tax revenue. They have an educational role and can contribute to skills development as well as to inclusive societies. They can also support the well-being and health of cultural participants. Investments in the renovation of the local patrimony have a key role in preserving cultural venues for future generations. Public support for this type of investment reduces barriers to entry, participation and consumption in the cultural market. Thus, contributing towards intra-generational equity and social inclusion. This is particularly relevant in this city and region with long-term structural social and economic problems.

There are no particular negative social impacts anticipated in association with the Project. Positive social benefits of the Project are associated primarily with the enhanced quality of a cultural venue which can organise higher quality music and other art performances for a larger audience, as well as widening of activities dedicated to education of wider public and children in particular, having long term positive impacts on comprehensive education and development of children and youth.

Based on the above, the project is acceptable for financing in environmental and social terms.