

Luxembourg, 20.09.2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>ERDF-ESF CO-FINANCING EXTREMADURA 2021-2027</i>
Project Number:	<i>2022-0273</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	<i>The operation will co-finance investment schemes supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Funds Plus (ESF+) in Extremadura.</i>
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 ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project will support priority multi-sector investments included in the ERDF and ESF+ Operational Programmes (OPs) of Extremadura for the 2021-2027 programming period, under the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027. The Project will comprise schemes originated under the OPs with EIB supporting the contribution of the regional budget of Extremadura alongside private and other public co-financing obligations.

The shares of planned investments should reach approximately 27% in education and training, 19% in research development, innovation and digitalisation investments, 7% in health, 19% in integrated territorial development, and 13% in SME support. The remaining 15% is distributed across the objectives: energy (3%); natural resource use, management and protection (4%); water, wastewater and waste management (5%); and sustainable transport (3%).

The SEA report of the OP of the ERDF² contains assessment of the expected environmental effects arising from the implementation of the OP, as well as measures envisaged to prevent or reduce any possible negative effects on the environment. No SEA is deemed necessary for the OP of the ESF+.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation.

¹ 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.

² [Estudio Ambiental Estratégico Programa FEDER de Extremadura 2021-2027 \(juntaex.es\)](https://www.juntaex.es/estudio-ambiental-estrategico-programa-feder-de-extremadura-2021-2027)



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In accordance with Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060³, 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 Project 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.

Furthermore, 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 reducing 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 2021-2027⁴ and, where appropriate, further relevant guidance.

The DNSH (“Do no significant harm”) principle is applied under the Project as set out in the preamble to the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027.

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 Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities have been applied over all successive phases of programming OPs and in setting up the management structure. They shall also be applied during implementation – project selection, award, and in the monitoring and control functions. In addition, the investment schemes supported under all specific objectives of both OPs shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination.

Investments supported by the ESF+ will pursue the objectives of (i) Employment, adaptability, entrepreneurship and the social economy, (ii) Education and training, (iii) Social inclusion and fight against poverty, (iv) Youth employment, and (v) the Child guarantee.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The SEA of the ERDF OP 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.

³ 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).

⁴ 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).



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Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for this Project:

- The Promoter (Autonomous Community of Extremadura) will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), EIA Directive (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and with the national legislation.
- In case a scheme of costs of over EUR 25m 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.
- The Promoter shall inform the Bank about the fulfilment of the pending enabling conditions for ERDF projects under the specific objectives:
 - 2.4 promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience
 - 2.5 promoting access to water and sustainable water management
 - 2.6 promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy, and
 - 3.1 developing and enhancing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the Project, as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and risks, the Project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.