

Luxembourg, 04.07.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Grenoble Metropole Urban Regeneration
Project Number:	20230786
Country:	France
Project Description:	Project structured as a multi-sector Framework Loan to co-finance selected schemes from the 2021-2030 Pluriannual Investment Plan of Grenoble-Alpes Metropole and its Development and Climate Strategies.
EIA required:	This is a multi-sector and multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II (“screened in”) of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project is structured as a multi-sector Framework Loan (FL) to be implemented by the Grenoble-Alpes Metropole (GAM) as Promoter.

Eligible sectors under the FL cover sanitation (e.g. wastewater treatment, sustainable mobility, urban renewal and regeneration including green areas and green corridors, renewable energy (RE), notably biomass, district heating and energy efficiency (EE) in residential buildings/individual homes.

The selected sectors mirror the key priorities of the GAM's 2021-2023 Pluriannual Investment Plan (PPI), which ambition is to address climate change, biodiversity protection and carbon neutrality for the area/communes forming part of Grenoble-Alpes Metropole, where all the schemes are located. The PPI forms part of the 2020-2030 Metropolitan Climate, Air, Energy Plan, which is complemented, among others, by the Energy Master Plan 2030, the Canopée Plan, the Sustainable Mobility Plan 2030, and the Sanitation Master Plan, among other GAM' sectoral development strategies.

Furthermore, the selected schemes will be aligned with the Intercommunal Local Urban Plan (Plan Local d'Urbanisme Intercommunal - PLUI) that was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), performed in line with the SEA EU Directive 2001/42/CE.

Some of the underlying schemes may fall under the Annex I or Annex II (“screened in”) of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, therefore, requiring a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or EIA screening by the competent authority based on related Annex III to determine the need for a full EIA. All schemes are expected to be located in urbanised areas, not inside or near any Natura 2000 or other protected zones.

During construction, the expected impacts are those related to disruptions in traffic conditions, noise, vibration, and dust. These impacts are expected to be short-lived and reversible. They will be addressed through the correspondent environmental management and monitoring plans. Once completed, this Project is expected to contribute to enhancing the metropolitan area's resilience to climate change and the quality of its environment.

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.



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Finally, investments under this FL will be eligible for EIB financing only if they are aligned with the Paris Agreement (PA). Therefore, the Project is deemed aligned both, against low carbon and resilience goals, as set out in the PA and in the EIB Climate Bank Roadmap. Moreover, the Project contributes to the Bank's objectives for Climate Action (CA) and Environmental Sustainability (ES) as it includes climate adaptation schemes (e.g. green areas and sanitation schemes), climate mitigation schemes e.g. (those in the EE, RE and sustainable mobility sectors and schemes contributing to ES (e.g. sanitation).

Social Assessment

As mentioned above, the schemes covered by this Project mirror the objectives of the GAM's 2021-2023 PPI, which is not only striving for carbon neutrality but also to ensure the principles of solidarity and social justice within the GAM's territory as well as the necessary economic development and provision of services to the residents. Furthermore, the schemes aim to strengthen the territory's economic dynamism, territorial social cohesion, and quality of life.

Therefore, the Project's overall social benefits are expected to be positive, resulting from the implementation of individual schemes with a high social and economic impact, which will contribute to improving the residents' quality of life.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The proposed schemes are derived from the metropolitan strategies and plans, for which the Grenoble-Alpes Metropole conducts public consultation and inquiry, mostly through on-line IT tools but also in public presentations and meetings. In addition, the schemes subject to EIA are subject to individual public consultation, as part of the EIA process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Based on the due diligence performed for this Project as well as on the good track monitoring record from the implementation of previous EIB projects with the same Promoter, the Grenoble Alpes Metropole is deemed as having very good institutional capacity to manage and monitor the environmental and social issues of this Project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Grenoble Alpes Metropole is a very experienced and capable Promoter. Its capacity is deemed as very good capacity to manage the environmental and social issues of this Project.

The Project's overall environmental and social benefits are expected to be very good, with an improved environment and quality of life for people living and visiting Grenoble-Alpes Metropole. Furthermore, the Project is expected to contribute to climate action and environmental sustainability through specific measures addressing the sectors covered by the Project, notably green areas, sanitation (e.g. wastewater treatment), RE, EE and sustainable mobility.

Where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver to the Bank and, before the Bank funds are allocated, the EIA report and the evidence of compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the WFD, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated.

Upon the Bank's request, the Promoter will be requested to provide selected Energy Performance Certificates obtained in line with the applicable national and EU legislation on the energy performance for buildings.

Therefore, given the nature of the operation and subject to the conditions stated above, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.