

Luxembourg, 12 February 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ITALIAN NATIONAL STRATEGIC HUB PPP
Project Number:	2022-0524
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project relates to the deployment, under a public private partnership, of a digital cloud infrastructure for the Italian public administration. The cloud infrastructure will consist of the fitting out of 4 interconnected Tier III and Tier IV Data Centres (DC) in Italy, 2 located in the north and 2 data centres located in the centre of the country.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will be implemented in dedicated spaces located within already existing datacentres. The promoter will rent the space in those data centres which are owned by one of the consortium companies. The fitting out with IT equipment of existing data centre facilities does not fall under Annex I and II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, therefore the project is not subject to an EIA screening or an EIA procedure.

Three of the four Data Centre's in which the project will be hosted have registered for the European Code of Conduct for Energy Efficiency in Data Centres, the 4th one is expected to request it once the full certification process has been completed.

Telecommunication infrastructure (including Data Centres) are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios (such as the e-government solutions hosted by the project) leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy. Not being a hyperscale Data Centre, the project fulfils the Paris Alignment criteria as set out in the EIB's CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

The GHG emissions of the project fall below the threshold, as the absolute emissions during a normal year of operation have been calculated to be around 10 kT CO₂.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Data Centres have the 14001 certifications and an ISO 50001 certified energy management system. Furthermore, the promoter will engage in establishing an

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.



Luxembourg, 12 February 2024

ISO 14064-compliant “Sustainability Report” in order to have evidence of emission reduction trends. The promoter also aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

The IT systems financed by the Bank are expected to stimulate a broader digitalisation of the public sectors in the country, which will generate wide-ranging socio-economic benefits. E-government promotes citizens’ interactions with public administration, enhances awareness of citizens toward government programs, improves the transparency of public decisions, and increases public service efficiency.

During operation, the main environmental impact is related to the demand of electrical power required to operate the IT equipment and the related cooling capacity. The IT solutions that will be hosted in the project are currently hosted in different IT centres throughout the country and managed by the different public authorities. The bundling of all these IT solutions under one more efficient infrastructure will lead to overall energy efficiency improvements.

PATH:

The promoter and final beneficiary is a multi-shareholder SPV and therefore out of scope of the PATH framework.

The loan will be provided through 3 Financial Intermediaries. In line with the guidelines, the below is therefore referring to the 3 Borrowers.

UC

UniCredit Group is considered to meet the PATH requirements and no additional contractual undertakings are expected to be required at this stage. It already publishes dedicated reporting in line with TCFD recommendations, whereby it illustrates that UniCredit is a financial intermediary committed to reducing its environmental footprint. Furthermore, UniCredit supports the targets of the Paris Agreement and is committed to support the transition and as part of its net zero commitment to become a net zero bank on own emissions by 2030 and on financed emission by 2050. UniCredit has already published 4 sectors targets (Oil and gas, power generation, automotive and steel) and are currently assessing transition plans and next material sectors.

ISP

ISP is considered to meet the PATH requirements and no additional contractual undertakings are expected to be required at this stage. It already publishes dedicated reporting in line with TCFD recommendations, whereby it illustrates that: i) ISP is a financial intermediary committed to reducing its environmental footprint. The climate change strategy foresees reaching net zero emissions by 2050, and already over the course of 2012-2021, ISP reduced its emissions by c. 60% (equivalent to 159kt of CO₂) and increased its purchases of renewable energy by c. 85% ii) ISP’s corporate responsibility and lending activity contributes to combating the impact of climate change. ISP is committed to financing the transition to a sustainable and green economy.

CDP

According to the PATH framework, the engagement with CDP, as an NPI, will consist of dialogue and knowledge exchange on Paris alignment and climate policies.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project will be implemented in dedicated spaces (or buildings) within already existing datacentres (DC’s). The four DC’s are expected to follow the European Code of Conduct. The promoter follows best environmental practices and certifications.



Luxembourg, 12 February 2024

Under these conditions, the project is considered to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.