

Luxembourg, 24.07.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>WDP SOLAR PV AND EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE LOAN</i>
Project Number:	<i>2024-0288</i>
Country:	<i>Regional – EU countries, Romania</i>
Project Description:	<i>Investments in rooftop solar PV and battery storage systems, and EV charging infrastructure to be installed in the warehouses of WDP.</i>

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project is a Framework Loan (FL) that will fund the Promoter’s investments in rooftop solar photovoltaic (PV) and battery storage systems, and EV charging stations in its logistic centres, located mainly in Romania and other EU countries. The underlying schemes are expected to have installed capacities of up to c. 20 MW_p, depending on the rooftop area available to install the solar PV panels.

The environmental and social due diligence has focused on the Promoter’s capacity and capability to implement the programme in line with the EIB environmental and social standards, as well as on the environmental and social impacts of the underlying schemes. The Bank has assessed that the schemes will comply with the Bank’s standards, in particular with regard to health, safety and security, and resource efficiency and pollution prevention. The Promoter has in place an environmental management system which is considered adequate. Based on this assessment, the environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed good.

Given the small size of the schemes and their location on already built-up areas, it is unlikely that there would be any schemes where an EIA would be required.

In the unlikely case an EIA is required, the Bank will require the Promoter to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the project (including EIA screening decisions, environmental studies, environmental monitoring reports or equivalent documents) supporting the compliance with the EIA Directive and national environmental regulations, and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.

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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EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty (WDP NEDERLAND NV) is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is neither considered high emitting nor high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Recent reports are pointing out the possibility of the use of forced labour in the supply chain of solar PV panels. The Promoter will be required to make reasonable efforts to assess and address the risk of forced labour, including throughout the solar PV supply chains, as foreseen by the EIB E&S Standards. The Borrower has a Code of Conduct/Ethics in place, rejecting the use of any form of forced or compulsory labour, applicable inter alia to the supply chain of the underlying solar PV projects.

The Promoter will undertake reasonable efforts to mitigate against the risk of forced labour in the solar PV supply chain, including enhanced due diligence where practically achievable. The Promoter will be required to pass down to its suppliers the requirement to avoid forced labour in the solar PV supply chain.

Although the Project – an intermediated operation – is not included in the Carbon Footprint Exercise, the Bank has estimated that the Project will save around 88 900 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank has reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the Promoter, including its organisation, processes and procedures, and deemed them to be acceptable. Based on the information available at this stage, the Project is not expected to have negative impacts that cannot be adequately mitigated, provided that the Promoter implements the conditions in the relevant permits.

The Promoter will fulfil the following undertakings:

1. The Promoter shall store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the Project (including EIA screening decisions, environmental studies, environmental monitoring reports or equivalent documents), and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.
2. For schemes requiring an EIA, the Promoter should send the Bank a link to the location copy of where the Environmental Decision(s) (or equivalent) and Environmental Impact Assessment Study (EIS) are published.
3. Only schemes that receive environmental authorisations (where applicable), including opinion from the Competent Authority of no negative impact on any Natura 2000 site, and which are in compliance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and EIB's E&S Standards (where applicable), are eligible for EIB financing.
4. Schemes with significant negative impacts on a nature conservation site shall not be eligible.
5. The Promoter undertakes to perform – on a best effort basis – supply chain due diligence to mitigate the risk of forced labour in the PV supply chain of the projects. As part of this due diligence, the Promoter shall aim to obtain a complete mapping of the supply chain of the PV module manufacturers reaching the level of silicon/polysilicon suppliers. In any case, the Promoter shall aim to obtain signed declarations by the PV module manufacturers concerning the origin of the components used in the PV modules. The Promoter shall pass down to its suppliers the requirement to avoid forced labour.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable in E&S terms.