

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | BARCELONA RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITY II |
| Project Number: | 2024-0483 |
| Country: | Spain |
| Project Description: | Framework Loan (FL) to support the multi-sector investment programme of the City of Barcelona in Spain, as well as the implementation of its urban development and climate city strategies ("Project"). The Project includes, among others, investments in urban renewal and regeneration, including green areas and open spaces, public buildings, sustainable mobility, and the water sector. |
| Environmental and Social Categorisation: | Low risk |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : | No |

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project covers a multi-sector and multi-scheme operation addressing urban development, regeneration and renewal with the new construction, refurbishment, and upgrade of urban infrastructure, comprising cultural facilities, social facilities (schools, kindergartens, cultural facilities, etc.), sport and recreation facilities as well as other public buildings (administrative buildings, markets, etc.). It also includes investments in flood protection, open spaces and green areas, sustainable mobility, modernisation of urban roads, Renewable Energy (RE) and Energy Efficiency (EE), EE public lighting and IT Systems.

The schemes covered by this Project mirror the key priorities of Barcelona's urban development strategies, including the City Climate Plan (2018-2030). In addition, schemes are in line with the Spatial Development Plan of Barcelona (Plan General Metropolitano de Barcelona – PGM-76) as amended.

All the schemes will be implemented within the City of Barcelona. The selected locations are all in urbanised areas and not inside or near any Natura 2000 or protected zones. Some of the Project's underlying investments may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the Directive 2014/52/EU, potentially requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) based on the competent authority screening on the basis of the related Annex III criteria. In addition, the schemes included in the Project and as relevant, will have to comply with the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU (EPBD) and the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD) as transposed into the Spanish legislation.

During construction, the main Project's impacts are expected to be related to disruptions because of traffic, noise, vibration, and dust. These impacts are expected to be short-lived and reversible. Impacts are expected to be addressed through environmental management and monitoring plans. Finally, during operation, the Project is expected to bring positive effects on environment and climate action, including the resilience of the city to climate change and overall, the quality of life of its residents.

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.

Climate Assessment

Climate change mitigation:

The Project includes Renewable Energy measures and Energy Efficiency upgrades in public buildings, and sustainable mobility schemes which contribute to climate mitigation and environmental sustainability (ES).

Climate change adaptation:

The Project also includes flood protection schemes as well as green areas and parks which contribute to climate adaptation and ES.

Paris Alignment of projects:

Investments under this Project will be eligible for EIB financing only if they are aligned with the Paris Agreement (PA). In this regard, 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.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty for this operation is the City of Barcelona, a sub-sovereign public authority (SSPA) out of the scope of the Paris Agreement Alignment's assessment as per PATH procedure Manual.

Social Assessment

The schemes covered by this Project mirror the objectives of the City Urban Development Strategies, which aim at integrated, sustainable, mixed and inclusive planning.

In addition, this Project considers the social dimension in the core of designs and implementation. Municipal Regulations and Design Instructions take particular attention to accessibility, gender equality as well as inclusion of vulnerable users and promotion of local economies and tourism.

It is to be noted that among the sectoral plans under which the urban regeneration schemes were developed is the so-called Plan de Barris (Neighbourhoods Plan). This Plan addresses the most vulnerable city neighbourhoods, taking into consideration social inequalities as well as other social and economic indicators.

Furthermore, Barcelona has strong capacity and resources devoted to address gender equality and integrate the gender perspective in its green transition. The gender mainstreaming in Barcelona covers municipal strategies and technical urban guidelines, including public participation processes aiming at developing and implementing gender inclusive projects. The latter ensures that both genders benefit equally from public infrastructure and public facilities, given thorough attention to the most vulnerable users. These facts are expected to have a direct and positive impact in the projects implemented by the Municipality under this operation and thus, to help to reduce the existing gender gap.

Therefore, the Project's overall social benefit is expected to be positive resulting from the implementation of individual schemes with a high social and economic impact given their potential to provide better quality infrastructure and services and more liveable and socially inclusive neighbourhoods. Wider social-economic benefits may be expected such as induced investment, employment effects and productivity impacts resulting from the improvement of public infrastructure and services.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The individual investments are expected to form part of urban development strategies and plans for which public consultation is carried out. The consultation process is also embedded in the planning and project design process followed by the Municipality (e.g. Ley de Arquitectura).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Based on the due diligence process and the previous implementation and monitoring experience with Barcelona, the institutional capacity of the promoter to manage and monitor the environmental and social issues is deemed as very good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Municipality of Barcelona is a very experienced and capable promoter able to manage the environmental and social issues of all the schemes included in this project. In addition, Barcelona has a strong climate governance, which guarantees that climate principles are well rooted and integrated across the Municipality, and reflected in the city investment plans.

The overall environmental and social benefits of the project are expected to be very good, with improved environment and quality of life for people living and visiting the city. Furthermore, the Project is expected to contribute to climate action and environmental sustainability through relevant technical measures that will be incorporated in the project designs.

Environmental and Social Conditions

In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver to the Bank before the Bank funds are allocated, the EIA report and the evidence of the 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.

Based on the information available and with appropriate conditions and monitoring, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.