



Luxembourg, 22 November 2024

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

<b>Project Name:</b>	POLISH NATIONAL SCIENCE CENTRE
<b>Project Number:</b>	2021-0105
<b>Country:</b>	Poland
<b>Project Description:</b>	The project finances R&D projects procured on a competitive basis by the National Science Centre (NSC) in 2021-2023. NSC is headquartered in Krakow and finances excellent, early-stage research projects carried out across all regions in Poland.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Project Completion.**

The Project concerned financing intangible basic and applied research activities and related costs including some research material and equipment. The included R&D activities were carried out within existing facilities, making use of existing installation and within already authorised scope. The intangible assets created (i.e. new knowledge and scientific discoveries) do not fall under the Directive 2011/92 as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Part of NCS's funding is allocated to climate action and environmental sustainability related research including a variety of topics concerning climate adaptation, climate mitigation and environmental protection. Based on the information provided by the Promoter, it is estimated that EUR 21.3 m (2.3%) of the Project's funding contributed to the Bank's Climate Action & Environmental Sustainability objective.

NSC is committed to promoting equal opportunities for both men and women in view of achieving gender parity in the long-term, and has implemented several measures to achieve this goal, most importantly the extension of female applicants' eligibility window by 18 months per child, so that the lack of scientific results during parental leave does not penalize women's chances to be awarded with grants enabling excellent research careers.

NSC continues to achieve almost gender parity in funding when it comes to grants for early-stage researchers, such as PhD scholarships (ETUDIA grants, 47% women) or Post-doc grants (SONATA grants, 47% women). By contrast, women are a small minority of advanced grant holders, such as the MAESTRO grant for established researchers (13% women), mirroring career patterns observed all across Europe. These challenges notwithstanding, NSC was able to increase the share of funded projects led by women from 42.6% in 2020 to 44.3% in 2023, and the share of funding received by women from 38% in 2020 to 42% in 2023.

#### Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the Promoter that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.