European Investment Bank

12.05.25

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GRUNDLAGENFORSCHUNG IST AUSTRIA 3
Project Number:	2024-0353
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	The Project consists of extending existing infrastructure of the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA) in Klosterneuburg, Austria. The Project will create seven new interconnected buildings that will house laboratories, researcher offices, learning centres and communal areas, a new maintenance and storage facility, and a new kindergarten.

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 is a multi-component investment loan comprising the third construction phase of the ISTA campus. This third phase includes the new construction of research and education facilities, enabling the ISTA to develop and expand their activities. Educational buildings are not specifically listed in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, though the Project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The Austrian EIA Act 20002 defines a threshold where a project falling under the definition of urban development would be subject to screening or an EIA. As the Project is included in the site development and urban development plan, an EIA is not required.

The Project components are designed to meet Austrian energy performance standards for new construction and meet OIB Guideline 6, which defines the NZEB standard in Austria.

National and regional strategies identify physical climate change risks and potential impacts on buildings. The Promoter has confirmed that the region’s strategies to increase infrastructure’s resilience will be applied to the Project: measures including sun-shading and water retention will be included in the design to address current and future physical climate change risks such as increasing temperatures, decreasing rainfall and more frequent high intensity rainfall.

The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be i) aligned with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (CBR), see Annex 2, Table D: Buildings and ii) the Project has a climate-resilient design.

[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.

PATH Assessment

The Borrower is a Corporate Entity, is in scope of the PATH framework. The counterparty is screened out as it does not operate in a high-emitting sector and is not considered a highly vulnerable counterpart.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will provide modern education facilities to enhance the teaching and learning environment through the implementation of energy efficient building infrastructure.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project forms part of a strategic effort to increase the capacity ISTA's education and research-related facilities, enhancing and expanding the working and learning environment for both staff and students. The new building designs incorporate energy efficient methods to improve the overall energy efficiency of the campus.

Undertakings

- Copy of building permits for each building, once obtained.
- Copy of Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs) for all new, renovated and reconstructed buildings upon completion.
- Copy of air tightness tests and thermal integrity tests for all new buildings > 5 000 m2. The thermal integrity test can be replaced by evidence of robust and traceable quality control system.

In the light of the above, the Project is therefore considered to be acceptable in E&S terms for the Bank's financing.