

Luxembourg, 21 March 2025

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH LE II</i>	
Project Number:	2024-0780	
Country:	Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia	
Project Description:	The Lending Envelope will support investments in the construction, extension, renovation, and rehabilitation of public higher education and research institution premises in Poland and the Baltic States. It is the second lending envelope of its kind after the successful launch of the Higher Education and Research Lending Envelope in 2023.	
EIA required:	To be determined for each sub-operation	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No	
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes	
(Details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")		

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation is a Lending Envelope (LE) providing support for capital investments in university buildings for academic, research, student residence and sports use as well as the purchase of scientific equipment. The underlying investments aim to enhance and modernise the facilities at Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian public universities through a combination of new construction, renovation, and extension.

University buildings are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though this type of investments may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. For each sub-project benefitting from this LE, a review of the individual investment plan will be conducted during the appraisal. Should a sub-project be subject to screening and/or a full EIA procedure, the Bank will require the Promoter to provide a copy of the screening decision and/or the building permit and a full copy of the EIA, if required. The final beneficiaries will also need to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

The LE expects to support the modernisation and improvement of the university building stock across Poland and the Baltic States, delivering new nearly zero energy buildings (NZEBs) in accordance with respective national standards or renovating existing buildings for improved energy performance and functional use. A review of the greenhouse gas emissions for each university investment plan will take place during the appraisal of the sub-project.

#### Climate Assessment

An assessment for Paris alignment will be performed for each sub-project. Furthermore, each sub-project will be subject to a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and a review of the climate adaptation measures included in the projects' scope.

<sup>1</sup>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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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## **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

Counterparties' alignment with the Paris Agreement will be assessed at the level of each sub-project.

### **Social Assessment**

The LE will provide new and renovated facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments. Additionally, the operation expects to support increased research activity at the universities benefitting from the Programme Loan. This will enable increased access for students to higher education, thus increasing the formation of human capital.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The LE forms part of a strategic effort to modernise and improve the higher education facilities across Polish and the Baltic States, enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of performant materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy performance and efficiency and better prepare the university buildings against future climate risks.

Sustainability proofing conclusion: the sub-projects will be assessed at their individual appraisal to ensure they are carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation. Therefore, sustainability proofing will be concluded during the appraisal of the sub-projects.

Under these conditions, the global authorisation provided by this LE is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.