

Luxembourg, 18.11.2025

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: BANSKA BYSTRICA REGIONAL DEV AND JUST TRANSITION

Project Number: 2024-0874

Country: Slovakia

Project Description: The Project aims to support the Banská Bystrica Region, in Slovakia, to deliver coordinated public investments in infrastructure and services that support to transition from a mono-industrial economy to a green, inclusive, and climate-resilient one.

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 supports multi-sector investments aligned with the Banská Bystrica Self-Governing Region Strategic Development Plan (PHSR BBSK 2022-2030) for the period 2022-2030, which defines the vision and priorities for the region's sustainable growth. The Project aims to strengthen the EU's and Banská Bystrica's economic, social and territorial cohesion and a just transition by reducing inequalities among people and among places and improving the quality of life of residents in a territory affected by the phasing out of coal mining.

The EIB support, under the form of a Framework Loan, will include a broad range of schemes related to rehabilitation of transport infrastructure (roads, bridges and roundabouts), as well as improvements of education, social care and culture facilities and support to digitalisation of the regional administration.

The regional development strategy PHSR BBSK 2022-2030 has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)². As far as the content of this operation is concerned, the SEA concluded that significant environmental impact is not expected.

In addition, the Promoter confirmed that none of the schemes is expected to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Should any scheme included under this operation require an EIA as a result of the decision of the competent authority, the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU directives. All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation.

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.

² <https://www.bbsk.sk/phsr-bbsk-2022-2030>



Luxembourg, 18.11.2025

It is not expected that any of the Natura 2000 sites located in the region might be affected by any of the schemes potentially included in this operation, since most of the schemes concern renovation or reconstruction of existing public buildings or transport infrastructure.

The schemes are expected to have a limited temporary impact during the construction phase usually through an increased local traffic and construction and demolition waste generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority.

In the case of transport, the intervention shall be limited to the existing lanes of the roads as well as other existing transport structures, which reduces potential impacts to a minimum. The road schemes are expected to have limited residual impact in the operational phase.

As far as public buildings are concerned, there are several positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the region thanks to insulation of walls and roofs, changing windows and other energy efficiency measures.

Social Assessment

The Project is expected to bring socioeconomic benefits to the territory, population and visitors in terms of improved infrastructure and services in education, social care, culture, transport safety and overall quality of life. The investment schemes supported under the EIB operation shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

In addition, the project pipeline includes measures targeting population at risk of social exclusion such as the elderly, disabled persons and the youth (retirement homes, social care facilities, education and cultural infrastructures open to the public).

More generally, the project will contribute to strengthening secondary growth poles and reducing inequalities between people and between places. It may improve living conditions in the region, as well as strengthening social cohesion.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The public consultation during the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process of the regional development strategy PHSR 2022-2030 has been carried out in line with the SEA Directive. Public consultation of the EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes, if any, will be carried out in line with the EIA Directive and the relevant national law.

The approval of the regional development strategy has been preceded by comprehensive consultation with stakeholders and public concerned. In addition, the selection and prioritisation of schemes to be supported by the EIB is the result of an extensive consultation in all 13 districts of the region that took place in January 2025. Schemes to be implemented under this operation are approved by the regional council within the budgetary process and would involve further consultation only if required by the national legislation.

Deep renovation of public buildings in line with the National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP)'s medium-depth targets (30-60% primary energy savings) is projected to deliver substantial energy reductions.

Luxembourg, 18.11.2025

Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for the Project:

- The Promoter is required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU legislation, mainly SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), EIA Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EU), Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and national legislation.
- Schemes, in relation to which a screening or appropriate assessment of impacts on Natura 2000 sites is carried out, shall be assessed in view of site-specific conservation objectives. For schemes subject to screening/appropriate assessment, the Promoter will inform the Bank about any changes or updates to the conclusions of the screening or appropriate assessment, in view of the site-specific conservation objectives, as defined by the competent authority and reflected in their decision.
- In case a scheme of costs of over EUR 25m requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report and/or an appropriate assessment, the Promoter shall submit the EIA report and/or appropriate assessment to the Bank prior to allocation of the Bank's funds.

Considering the above undertakings, as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and risks, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.