



Luxembourg, 2 December 2025

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	<i>CONNECTED SCHOOLS IN SERBIA</i>
Project Number:	<i>20170979</i>
Country:	<i>Serbia</i>
Project Description:	The operation support the national digital education investment programme (Connected Schools) in Serbia. The project will finance the continuous professional development (training) of teachers in digital skills, the provision of new digital equipment, the upgrade of the academic data network and central locations, and the rollout of Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN).

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The Connected Schools in Serbia Project was designed to modernize the country's education system by introducing digital infrastructure and tools into existing school facilities. From the outset, the environmental and social risks were assessed as low, given that the project involved only the installation of ICT equipment and cabling within authorized school premises, without any new construction or land acquisition. Consequently, no Environmental Impact Assessment was required under EU Directive 2014/52/EU, and this conclusion remained valid throughout implementation.

All works were confined to indoor spaces, and no significant environmental incidents were reported. The Promoter adhered to the measures identified at appraisal, including the careful selection and installation of WLAN equipment to minimize electromagnetic field exposure. Waste from packaging and obsolete equipment was managed in line with national regulations, and no hazardous materials were involved in the process.

On the social side, the Project delivered benefits by improving access to digital learning resources across Serbia. The Promoter stated that Compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) was ensured, with clear protocols for handling personal data. Labour standards were respected throughout procurement and installation phases, supported by contractual clauses aligned with EIB requirements. No grievances or adverse social impacts were recorded.

Monitoring and reporting obligations were met through regular progress reports and a comprehensive Project Completion Report. Technical Assistance played a key role in verifying compliance and supporting the Promoter in implementing best practices for ICT-based monitoring systems. These systems ensured transparency and efficiency in managing the rollout of WLAN and IT equipment.

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs



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Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the Promoter, site visits by the EIB team and inputs provided by Technical Advisers during Construction and initial operation that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.