



## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	CYPRUS EDUCATION MODERNIZATION INVESTMENT PLAN
Project Number:	2024-0887
Country:	Cyprus
Project Description:	The Project seeks to modernize and enhance the public-school estate in Cyprus by improving learning environments through the construction of new schools, expansion of existing facilities, and renovation of buildings, including the integration of energy efficiency measures. It encompasses investments across pre-primary, primary, secondary, and vocational education. Overall, the Project will result in the improvement of more than 140,000 square metres of new and renovated educational space.

E&S Risk Categorisation:	Low risk
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project is considered to have a low E&S risk because the Project's investments are not subject to an EIA, have a low climate risk taking into account climate adaptation measures included in the design and present low social risks.

#### Environmental Assessment

This Project is a multi-component investment loan comprising the construction and renovation of school buildings and associated improvements to enhance and modernise primary, secondary and vocational schools including facilities for young people with learning and physical disabilities.

School and educational buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned 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. In Cypriot legislation that transposes the EIA Directives, referring specifically to its Annex II, projects listed under urban development would be subject to screening. However, there is neither specific mentioning of projects related to the construction of schools nor is there a defined threshold, therefore this project is not subject to screening.

<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.



The Promoter has confirmed that the Project components are neither located in a Natura 2000 sites nor in other designated or protected sites.

## **Climate Assessment**

### ***Climate change mitigation:***

The new buildings will be designed and built to meet Cyprus's nearly zero energy buildings (NZEB) standards and are expected to exceed those requirements meeting the Bank's requirements for contribution to climate action. For the schools with new buildings over 5,000m<sup>2</sup>, the Promoter will be required to perform air tightness and thermal integrity tests. The design is planned to include some passive and active design measures such as the installation of best available energy-efficient technologies, onsite renewable energy apparatus and enhancements to the building fabric and facades. Of the buildings being renovated, they too are seeking energy efficiency improvements, so the EIB will require the Promoter to provide a copy of the energy performance certificate (EPC) or equivalent for all new and renovated buildings on completion.

### ***Paris Alignment of projects:***

The Project investments include measures to adapt the buildings to future physical climate change vulnerabilities including increased temperatures and potential flooding. The Project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals.

## **Social Assessment**

The Project does not have any significant negative social impacts, as the Promoter is expected to carry out the implementation in compliance with applicable Cypriot labour and social legislation.

The Project comprises investments in pre-primary schools and primary schools which will provide all-day places for pupils who want or need extended supervision and support. Besides being associated with better educational outcomes for the students, pre-primary schools and the extended afternoon lessons in all day schools allow parents, and in particular mothers, to better align childcare with (near) full employment.

The Project comprises investments in pre-primary schools and primary schools which will provide all-day places for pupils who want or need extended supervision and support. Besides being associated with better educational outcomes for the students, pre-primary schools and the extended afternoon lessons in all day schools (currently three additional periods in the afternoon until 4p.m. on four days a week) allow parents to better align childcare with (near) full-time employment. Given the significant gender inequality with regard to parents' weekly hours spent caring for or educating their own children (30 hours for women compared to 18 hours for men in Cyprus), the additional places in pre-primary schools and all-day schools are expected to primarily benefit the (near) full-time employment opportunities of women.



Source: Indicator: On average, how many hours per week are you involved in caring for and/or educating your children outside of paid work? (mean hours, 18+ population) | Gender Statistics Database | European Institute for Gender Equality (latest available data 2016).

#### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project will provide additional facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments and will also promote the formation of human capital in Cyprus.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project components form part of a strategic effort to modernise the school education facilities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency at the school infrastructure estate.

#### Environmental and Social Conditions

- The Promoter commits to designing and constructing the new buildings to achieve an energy performance rating of 10% better than the minimum "A" rating benchmark in accordance with the Cypriot energy performance regulation.
- The Promoter shall perform air tightness tests and thermal integrity tests for the new buildings over 5,000m<sup>2</sup> and shall provide to the Bank evidence of the completed tests upon completion.
- The Promoter shall provide to the Bank a copy of the energy performance certificate (EPC) or equivalent for the new and renovated buildings upon their completion.

Based on the information available and with appropriate conditions and monitoring, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.