

13/01/2026

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GRAZ STRASSENBAHN BETRIEBSHOF SUED
Project Number:	2024-0770
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	The Project includes i) the purchase of up to 49 trams (approx. 34m long), and ii) the extension of an existing tramway maintenance depot at Steyrergasse as well as a storage area at Auer Welsbach Gasse, adding capacity to accommodate another 40 trams and expanding the repair and maintenance workshop

E&S Risk Categorisation:	Medium risk
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Moderate/limited adverse environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks. Competent authorities have determined that the preparation of an EIA/ESIA report is not required. Moderate E&S risk due to the soil decontamination activities.

Environmental Assessment

Neither the manufacturing of trams nor the construction of storage at the existing logistics center at the Auer Welsbach Gasse street fall within the scope of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. Therefore, no EIA is required for these components. The building permit for the small storage area was given in April 2025.

Any change or extension of depots does fall within the scope of Annex II of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, and the Member States shall determine through either a case-by-case examination or thresholds/criteria set by the Member State whether the project shall be made subject to an EIA, while considering the criteria listed in annex III of the Directive. The Austrian Government has published in an Annex to the national EIA legislation a set of criteria and thresholds to screen projects. In accordance with this Annex, the Competent Authority opined in March 2025 that the new depot financed under this operation does not require an EIA, referring the location and scope of the Project. The approval for the construction by the city was given in November 2024, and the final building permit is expected to be received in 2026.

The existing depot is built on the site of the former gas production facility that was bombed at the end of the Second World War and is a designated contaminated site. The primary concern is chemical contamination, especially from tar and tar oils. Extensive studies have been done and approximately up to 7 meter deep the soil needs to be excavated and decontaminated before construction of the depot extension can start. In June 2022, the Competent Authority (Land

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.



Steiermark) issued a permit for the decontamination of the site, outlining conditions for the decontamination works, and in accordance with the National legislation on contaminated sites and water protection (Wasserrechtsgesetz, transposing the EU Water Framework Directive). The removal will be managed by a government owned company tasked with remediating contaminated sites across Austria. Decontamination is expected to start at the beginning of 2026, and decontaminated soil will be moved to specialized treatment facilities and certified hazardous waste landfills.

The enlargement of the depot at Steyrergasse, the storage area at Auer Welsbach Gasse and purchase of new rolling stock will maintain and improve the quality of public transport service to citizens. By this means, public transport will remain competitive compared to private cars with the associated positive benefits in terms of the environmental and economic sustainability of the city.

The environmental risks linked to the required decontamination of the site are well mitigated by measures included in the permit and the involvement of competent authorities. The remainder of the environmental impacts due to the project are assessed to be minor, temporary and related to the interventions inside the designated depot land. To reduce noise and vibration impacts of tramway services in Graz, with its many narrow streets, the new trams will have noise and vibration reducing features such as bogies that minimize track noise and improve ride smoothness.

The depot is located fully inside the urban area and does not come close to any Natura 2000 area, which are at minimum 4 km away.

Climate Assessment

Climate change mitigation:

According to the Annexes of the Climate Bank Roadmap, the Project it is expected to provide a 100% substantial contribution to Climate Mitigation.

Climate change adaptation:

The residual physical climate risk of the Project is low. Therefore, the Project is also Paris aligned with regards to climate adaptation.

Paris Alignment of projects:

The project includes investments to maintain and improve public transport services in Graz, contributing to climate mitigation. Furthermore, the new depot has considered resilient to climate risks. The city of Graz has a Climate Adaptation Action Plan, published in 2022, and in line with this plan the new depot hall will feature a green roof spanning roughly 10,000 m², designed to provide natural cooling throughout the summer. In addition, the new depot includes specific design features given it lies within the 300-year flood-prone zone. Therefore, the project is deemed Paris aligned and in accordance with the policies set out in the Bank's Climate Bank Roadmap.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Project was not subject to an EIA and did not require public consultation. Information about the design and time schedule was however widely distributed to adjacent neighbourhoods. Prior to issuing the building permit, it is expected that a public hearing will be conducted by the Land Styermark.



Conclusions and Recommendations

The impacts during construction are minimized through appropriate mitigation measures, and as part of the project a designated contaminated site will undergo remediation. The negative environmental and social impacts during operation are not expected to be significant while producing significant positive impacts to the citizens of Graz. Overall, the project is expected to have a positive environmental impact.

Environmental and Social Conditions

The Promoter will submit to the Bank the building permit for the extension of the Styrergasse depot, as soon as available, and prior to the start of the construction works associated with this component.

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