

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Slovenia EU Funds 2007-2013
Project Number:	2012-0504
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	The operation, structured as a multi-sectoral Structural Programme Loan (SPL), will support the implementation of Slovenia's 2007-2013 National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF), through the co-financing of three Operational Programmes; OP Strengthening Regional Development Potentials, OP Human Resources Development; OP Environment and Transport Infrastructure Development.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan operation. Some of the schemes will fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank the NTS of EIAs, where applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The operation is a multi-sector multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan that will finance three Operational Programmes (OPs) within the Slovenian National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) for the period 2007-2013. As the three OPs cover most sectors in the society, the impacts from the entire NSRF will be diverse to the nature and the scope. Each priority in the OPs has got its own particular environmental and social impacts. Given the relative small size of most of the individual schemes and the nature of some of the sectors concerned, most of these schemes are not considered to have significant measurable environmental impacts.

The larger infrastructure schemes, particularly under the two Operational Programmes, OP Strengthening Regional Development Potentials and OP Environment and Transport Infrastructure Development, are expected to have major environmental impacts. The schemes to improve water and water treatment and waste management are deemed to have large positive net benefits to the environment, such as improved waste management, reduced residual waste amounts to landfills, increased recycling of waste, increased degree of composting of biological waste, improved wastewater treatment and reduced discharges of pollution to the recipients. The large schemes in the road and rail sector are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the schemes are completed it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

A large part of the Structural Programme Loan will address areas where Slovenia need to develop the country in order to meet the goals defined in the context of strategic documents: foremost the Slovenian Development Strategy.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Slovenia, the Structural Programme Loan is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the operation is positive, with improved environment and in particular social and economic conditions for the inhabitants in Slovenia

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Operation Programmes OP Strengthening Regional Development Potentials and OP Environment and Transport Infrastructure Development were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, in accordance with the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The SEA concludes that key environmental issues are:

- Air quality, to which the rapidly growing road transport contributes (both transit and commuter) and intensive, inefficient use of energy
- The quality and availability of water, especially water resources due to the lack of drainage and waste water treatment, interventions in the areas of aquifers and watercourses and irrational use of water resources
- intensive land use and the associated increase in risk to aquatic resources on landscape and soil conservation
- accumulation of municipal waste by the increase in waste flows and inefficient waste management system (lack of sound landfill space, a small share of separately collected waste)

The SEA was carried out and completed in 2007, including the compulsory public consultation. Due to the nature of the OPs, which developed over a number of years, not all of the schemes had been fully defined and very limited scheme-specific information was available at that time.

Should any scheme included under this Structural Programme Loan require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard review of the non-technical summary of the EIA. The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEA, EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the fields of environment. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank a confirmation or equivalent that the schemes have no significant impact on nature sites of Community Importance or their equivalents, as well as the NTS of EIAs where applicable.

Some of the schemes in the operation may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Furthermore, some of the schemes in the programme may have an impact on protected sites and the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

No negative social impacts are foreseen, on the contrary it is expected that the social impacts of the project will be overall positive. The everyday life for the inhabitants and associated social relations and routines will be improved thanks to improved mobility, improved public infrastructure, social facilities and better employment opportunities.