

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Institute of Science and Technology AT 2
Project Number:	2012-0487
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Extension of the new campus of the Austrian Institute of Science and Technology, specialised in fundamental research, by additional laboratory buildings and facilities.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	No

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

Scientific Institutions of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, though the project may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The foreseen construction works will all be carried out on the existing site in close connection with the existing buildings. Therefore no significant impact is expected on the environment and the promoter confirmed that no EIA has been requested from the competent authority.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

As the project covers works close to the existing facility on an existing campus, no significant impact is expected on the environment. In respect to the design and energy consumption of the buildings, the Promoter applies better stringent statutory and technical conditions than legally required.

Some of the laboratories included in the project are dedicated to experimental research on animals. Austria has passed strict legislation to protect animals used in experimental research and also actively promotes alternatives to avoid such experiments. The promoter is a public institution reporting about all his activities to the public and therefore intends to follow best national and international practice in this respect. The principles and procedures are specified in the Law on Experiments on Animals (Tierversuchsgesetz TVG, 1989). Thereafter all experiments require a dedicated approval process through an established and independent National Ethics Committee.

According to this law, all scientists working with animals are obliged to protect the life and promote the well-being of these animals. Ethics committees at different levels of the science system are in charge with ensuring that the legal provisions concerning the licensing of animal tests contained in the Law are adhered and monitored. The published ethical guidelines conform to highest standards and are consistent with best-practice standards applied in the EU.

The new facilities will allow the Promoter to conduct biomedical research work in line with highest hygiene and safety conditions while energy efficiency measures are an integral part of the final design. Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with minor residual impacts.