

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	University of Limerick
Project Number:	2013-0027
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	University of Limerick (UL) capex programme including a medical research institute and several research buildings
EIA required:	Certain sub-projects might fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and could be subject to EIA. If the EIA is required by the competent authority, the respective promoter should make the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental Impact Analysis (EIA) available to the EIB prior to the Bank's funding being used.

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

The University of Limerick currently owns and operates a number of academic and service buildings, as well as student residences, on its South and North Bank Campuses. The Council Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) does not specifically mention education activities. However, in a case of urban development, Annex II of the EIA Directive could apply. Two of the sub-projects, City Centre Academic Buildings and City Centre Student Residences will be situated in the in the area of future urban regeneration. An EIA might be required in that context. If required, the Promoter should provide all the related information to the Bank, including the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the assessment.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The University of Limerick, located in Plassey on the River Shannon, is a relatively new institution, established in 1972. Most of the university buildings have been built constructed after that, the strongest expansion being since 2000. The campus of over 133 hectares situates about 5 km form the city centre of Limerick. Today 80 % of the site is green-field area consisting of riparian woodland, meadows and lawns. The two parts of the Campus are connected by two bridges, one for vehicles and the other for pedestrians. The South Bank Campus is well connected to the city by public transport, and there is no through traffic in the Campus.

The river corridor is part of the Lower Shannon Special Area of Conservation and is protected. Green zones and flood barriers are left between the river and the buildings. The level of outside sports areas (football and rugby pitches) has been raised 2.4 metres above the average water level. All existing and new buildings are much above that and have no flood risk.

EIA

The need for an EIA has been checked for each sub-project as a part of the Statutory Approval process. The procedures applied are in compliance with the Irish and EU environmental legislation.

Two sub-projects, City Centre Academic Buildings and City Centre Student Residences will be situated in the in the area of future urban regeneration. The area is brownfield area where some of the buildings will be demolished and replaced by new ones, and some of the buildings will be refurbished. The environmental issues will be dealt during the statutory planning and permission process.

There are no listed buildings included in the project.

Laboratories

The university laboratories, both existing and the ones to be constructed, meet national and EU regulations and norms. The University of Limerick Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) policy associated with the risks of working with GMOs, Biological activities, hazards and wastes are included in the University Safety Statement and/or the Departmental Local Safety Statements and Safety Operating Procedures. The University does not carry out animal testing at any of its facilities.

Energy Efficiency

About 43% of energy savings will be realised through the insulation reinforcement for projects that are going to be renovated or constructed. New constructions follow the new standards of energy efficiency on an acceptable level.

CO2 Emissions

The anticipated carbon emissions at the end of the investment projects were estimated by the promoter to be maintained at current 2012 levels measured on campus. The new facilities will create additional CO2 emissions that will be compensated by the reduction of emissions of the refurbished buildings.

Energy efficiency, savings and research

The university has introduced recently a comprehensive energy measuring system that provides on-line information from each building and unit of the campus for the Facility Management and for the end users of the spaces. Research on energy has already been in the programme of the university and it will be further reinforced as the new Bernal Research Building will house new Energy and Sustainable Environment research teams.

City Campus

The future City Campus refurbishment, as part of the Limerick Urban development and regeneration, will be challenging and difficult to carry out as the regenerated site has not been originally planned for education purposes. The cost for this operation may thus turn out to be considerably higher than anticipated.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement are integral phase of the processes used for the development of new building projects. The guidelines for the consultation process were approved by the UL Governing Authority in September 27, 2011.

The Promoter ensures compliance with national and European environmental and nature regulations and facilitates the access by the public to environmentally relevant information in accordance with the Bank's Transparency Policy.