

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *Wirtschaftsfoerderung Brandenburg II*
Project Number: *2012-0437*
Country: *Germany*
Project Description: Framework Loan to finance the Land Brandenburg's contribution to EU- and national grant programmes in Convergence Regions. The EIB loan will target two support schemes of Brandenburg, (i) providing grants to SMEs and Mid-Caps and (ii) providing grants to public beneficiaries for the improvement of the regional economic infrastructure.

EIA required: This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: NO

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

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

The operation is a framework loan to support selected investment programmes under the framework of the federal state Land Brandenburg's "Joint Task for Improvement of Regional Economic Structure" (*Gemeinschaftsaufgabe Verbesserung der regionalen Wirtschaftsstruktur – GRW*) implemented by the promotional bank *InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg* (ILB). All projects will be located in Land Brandenburg of the Federal Republic of Germany which is classified as a Convergence region in the 2007-2013 programming period.

The selected programmes provide grants to development infrastructure of enterprises and municipalities aiming to strengthen the competitiveness and flexibility of the Brandenburg's economy and primarily to create and secure jobs.

Programme selected for EIB financing are devoted to

(i) medium-sized and large enterprises from one of the prioritized clusters (energy, health, ICT, optics, transport/logistics, food, chemistry/plastics, metal and tourism). Typical supported activities are establishment or expansion of facilities, diversification or fundamental change of the production process (particularly when threatened by closure);

(ii) small enterprises if it concerns business start-ups, production, services, crafts or tourism. Activities supported are similar to those above;

(iii) municipalities or municipal special-purpose associations and activities such as development or restoration of industrial and commercial sites; construction, expansion or upgrade of transport connections; energy and water distribution systems, upgrade of state-recognised health and recreation areas and development of tourism products and infrastructure.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Some of the schemes related to municipal infrastructure may fall under Annex II of the 2011/92/EU Directive. Verification of the environmental requirements according to the national legislation is implicitly included in the administrative procedures of the programme manager, *InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg* (ILB), which includes involvement of the relevant and competent environmental authorities before financing of the projects.

Most schemes are expected to be of small or medium size and will in most cases have no measurable negative environmental impact. On the contrary, it is expected that many of the investments in energy, health, ICT and transport will have positive environmental impacts by higher energy performance and by the use of new environmental technologies. Some schemes concerning construction will have negative environmental impacts during the construction period, in the form of increased problems with noise, dust, increased transports, etc. However, once completed, the residual impacts are expected to be neutral or positive.

Should any such scheme have a negative impact on an area forming part of the Natura 2000 network (falling under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC or Birds Directive 79/409/EEC), the Bank would require the promoter to act according to the provisions of the aforementioned Directives as transposed into the national law.

The schemes will mainly have positive social impacts, as the investments are expected to secure existing and create new jobs. Investments in health and transport will improve the general quality of life.