

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	POLAND SCIENCE & RESEARCH NATIONAL CENTRES II
Project Number:	2013-0173
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The purpose of the project is to finance the operations of the National Science Centre (NSC) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD) in 2013 and 2014. The NSC procures and finances basic research projects (Stages 1-2 on the EIB R&D Scale) while the NCRD procures and finances applied research and development projects (Stages 3-6 on the EIB R&D Scale). The projects will be implemented by research teams based at public scientific institutes, universities and business enterprises (the latter for NCRD only) located in all regions of the country.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

The project will finance mainly basic research, applied and industrial R&D and innovation activities most of it without impact on the environment. For the industrial R&D and innovation activities that may have minor negative impacts appropriate mitigation measures are planned. Some of the project R&D activities aim at improving the environmental characteristics of goods and services, others concern research in environmental sciences and the operations of environmental research institutes are also included. Overall the project is considered acceptable with minor negative residual impacts.

The construction of buildings is not foreseen within the project but Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for any for new installations funded by the promoter and where project activities will be carried out shall be provided to the Bank.

The environmental capability of the promoter assessed by the Bank from the previous and similar operation is considered satisfactory. The Bank had requested the promoter to comply with relevant environmental legislation and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education has provided a written statement confirming that Poland has adopted environmental legislation in line with the standards mandated by the relevant EU directives. EU directives concerning science, bioethics, animal welfare and particularly the use of animals in experimental research are fully transposed into Polish law and effective procedures are in place. Compliance with legislation will continue to be required and monitored for the current project.

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project concerns mostly investments in research and development that will be carried out in existing facilities without changing their already authorised scope.

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.

Financed from the EU Operational Programme Infrastructure and Environment and therefore not directly included in the project there will be some new R&D infrastructures such as laboratories where project activities will be carried out. It will be an EIB information requirement that for any installation funded by the NSC or NCRD requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) shall be provided to the Bank to be made public, either on the Bank's projects website or by a link to the website of the promoter. The promoter has confirmed that for its construction projects the provisions of the Act of 3rd October 2008 on Environmental Impact Assessment and Dissemination of Information on Environment and its Protection, apply and are adhered to.

All research projects to be financed by both the promoter (National Centre for Science and the National Centre for Research Development) involving the use of animals have to obtain the approval of the relevant bioethical committees.

The scientific personnel carrying out the R&D projects and working in research institutes which are financed with the investment can be exposed to a variety of occupational risks, including biohazards in case of biotechnology and biomedical laboratories. The health and safety measures will be applied according to the national legislation, which is in line with EU legislation in this area.