

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	<i>EU-Funds Co-financing Cantabria</i>
Project Number:	<i>2013-0175</i>
Country:	<i>Spain</i>
Project Description:	Co-financing of priority investments within the scope of the 2007-2013 ERDF and EAFRD programmes for Cantabria. The proposed Structural Programme Loan will support the Spanish Autonomous Community of Cantabria for the implementation of the Regional Operational Programme and the Rural Development Programme in line with National Strategic Reference Framework and Strategic Guidelines for Rural Land Management for Cantabria. The programmes strategies focus on increasing the regional competitiveness whilst enhancing natural resources and promoting territorial balance.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive and be screened in. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank the NTS of EIAs, where applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

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

The Regional Operational and the Rural Development programmes, ROP and RDP respectively, involve a large number of schemes in different sectors and different locations in Cantabria. ROP priority axis 1 included in the Project involves immaterial investments in research and development that will always have neutral or positive effects on the environment. ICT schemes will decrease the digital gap existing between urban and rural areas having positive social impacts.

The RDP aims at enhancing natural resources, restoring agriculture and forestland, and increasing rural areas economic diversity. Thus, the schemes will have a positive effect on both the environment and the society of the region hence they promote territorial balance.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Cantabria, this Structural Programme Loan is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the Project is positive, and it is expected that improves the environmental and social conditions for the inhabitants of Cantabria.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

The Cantabria Regional Operation and Rural Development Programmes (ROP and RDP 2007-2013) were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, in accordance with the EU SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. The SEAs were drawn up in such a way that for each expenditure category the environmental impact was assessed. For the monitoring of the ROP, approximately 10 environmental indicators were defined for the 10 expenditure categories with larger environmental impact. The SEAs were carried out and completed in 2007, including the compulsory public consultation for both programmes. The ROP unique priority axis included in the Project will have limited effects in the construction of broadband and R&D infrastructures. These effects will be monitored and mitigated. The RDP will have positive effects on both the environment and the social fabric of rural areas.

Should any scheme included under this Project require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard review and publication of the non-technical summary of the EIA. The Promoter will be required to act in accordance with 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 envisaged, on the contrary it is expected that the overall social impacts of the Project will be positive. The everyday life of the inhabitants in rural areas and associated social relations and routines will be improved thanks to the schemes targeting these areas.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Project is not included - the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.