

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Espoo Rehabilitation Hospital
Project Number:	2012-0597
Country:	Finland
Project Description:	The construction of a new hospital focusing on rehabilitation and long-term care in Espoo, Finland.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Hospitals are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment, though they may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The actual project concerns the construction of a new hospital on an existing and operational hospital compound. Since the foreseen construction works are fully covered by an approved land use plan, the promoter confirmed in writing that the project does not require an environmental impact as per the national Land Use and Building Act (132/1999) that is aligned with the Directive 2011/92/EU.

Overall, the creation of a new state-of-the-art facility will improve hygiene and safety conditions and will allow the promoter to apply the most stringent statutory and technical conditions. By offering accessible and universal care to the population, the project also includes beneficial elements in terms of social cohesion and protection.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered acceptable with minor negative residual impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project covers construction works within an urbanized area and within an already approved urban development plan. The new hospital will be erected in a plot neighbouring a protected landscape area and the need to harmonise the aesthetics of the building with the surroundings has emerged. The relevant recommendations have been incorporated in the actual planning and will be part of the technical tendering requirements. The scopes of the works have been discussed with the competent authorities who have concluded that an EIA is not required.

Social assessment

The hospital will provide care to the local population with a focus on elderly patients, a particularly weak segment of the population with regards to the need of and access to healthcare. By shortening hospital stays, optimising rehabilitation processes and establishing better coordination with territorial services, the project shortens the time spent in hospital and institutionalised care. Due to a faster reintegration of patients in the own environment at home, the project offers an element of social integration and protection.