

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	AZ GO HOSPITAL KNOKKE-HEIST
Project Number:	20130059
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	The construction of a new hospital with 270 beds in Knokke-Heist replacing the existing building and enabling the consolidation of services from Blankenberge into a new purpose built facility.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	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 a greenfield site next to a major road, therefore no significant impact is expected on the environment. The building permit has been granted without the need for an EIA by the local competent authority.

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. Environmental issues basically relating to the water, traffic and the treatment of the soil affected by the construction works have been handled in the environmental permit which is an integral part of the building permit. The relevant conditions have been fully incorporated in the final planning.

Being a major source of traffic, the new hospital will be erected next to a major road whose overall use will not increase significantly considering the additional traffic generated by the hospital. A suitable access to the site for cars, pedestrians and cyclists has been incorporated in the planning.

Social assessment

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