

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Flanders Urban Social Housing IV
Project Number:	2013-0066
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	Urban regeneration schemes under the Flanders social housing programme in various locations in the region. Investment programme 2012-2013.
EIA required:	multi-scheme operation, some schemes may require an EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

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

Relevant EU Directives were transposed into nation/regional legislation (EIA Directive, Birds and Habitat Directive, Energy Performance Directive). The housing schemes to be financed will be part of urban renewal concepts and urban development plans. Strategic Environmental Assessments are carried as part of urban development plans at local level which will set the general context for housing schemes.

Important socio-economic benefits in terms of urban renewal and regeneration and energy efficiency are expected to result from implementing the social housing investments: Positive net environmental benefits are expected by bringing back into use Brownfield and under-used sites to expand the social housing stock throughout the Flanders region. High energy efficient new construction will lead to low energy consumption in housing. As regards retrofitting, the project will lead to a considerable reduction of energy consumption of the housing stock. To conclude: the investments will contribute to more sustainable urban development.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

For schemes either requiring an EIA or affecting a natural protected area (if any) the Promoter will be obliged by the Bank to submit the non-technical summary of the EIA or to demonstrate a proper clearance of the affection prior to the use of funds. However, given the small to medium scale, the location and nature of the social housing schemes it is unlikely that an Environmental Impact Assessment as defined under the EU Directive 2011/92/EU would be required in most cases.

The social housing schemes to be financed under the project have to comply with high environmental standards and will significantly contribute to the improvement of the urban environment. The initial EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) and the parts relevant to the project of the Directive's recast (2010/31/EU) have been implemented into regional legislation. For the schemes energy assessments and calculations will be carried out with Energy Performance Certificates issued after completion.

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.

Luxembourg, 29 November 2013

The project will contribute to an improvement of the living conditions of the low income population and a regeneration of deprived local communities; important socio-economic benefits in terms of urban renewal and regeneration are expected. The project will lead to a considerable reduction of energy consumption of the housing.

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