

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	UNIVERSIDAD DE SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA RDI
Project Number:	20120139
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	The project concerns the co-financing of academic research at the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC), the best ranked of the three public universities in Galicia, with two campuses in Santiago de Compostela and Lugo, Spain. The project is fully located in a Convergence Region. The project is expected to generate around 100 national patents and R&D contracts with private and public entities in the order of EUR 40 million in the period 2013-2016 and aims at financing the staff working in academic R&D and innovation activities (personal docente investigador, PDI).
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

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

The R&D activities included in this project will not materially change current R&D practices and will be carried out to a large extent within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. No EIA according to the Directive 2011/92/EC is therefore required.

Some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. Being only small quantities, the promoter has indicated that none of the laboratories falls under the Seveso Directive, and all the laboratories activities are handled according to the operating permits.

The activities of the University and public research organisations relate to environmental issues as well as energy efficiency and renewable energies. The R&D outcome is therefore expected to provide positive results in environmental terms.

Overall, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with positive or neutral impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The R&D activities included in this project will not materially change current R&D practices and will be carried out to a large extent within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the Directive 2011/92/EC is therefore not required.

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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

A part of the R&D activities included in the project relate to Humanities and Social Science, with the aim to perform R&D on the diverse challenges our society is facing.

The clinical trials which are included in the project are performed under regulated and strictly controlled conditions, in existing specialised facilities under the supervision of the competent authorities - EMEA in Europe. The promoter has indicated that recruitment of patients is performed in accordance with the European directive (2001/20/EC) and the Good Clinical Practice Directive (Directive 2005/28/EC).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. Being only small quantities, the promoter has indicated that none of the laboratories falls under the Seveso Directive, and all the laboratories activities are handled according to the operating permits, requiring e.g. the treatment of toxic waste by specialised external companies.

The promoter uses animals for research, safety testing of products where no acceptable alternative methods exist, as animal testing are necessary at pre-clinical stage. Still, the promoter is highly committed to apply the "3R" principle that consists in Replacing animal use by alternative methods when possible, Reducing the number of animals used as much as possible and Refining the testing methods to reduce animals' pain and distress.

Some of the research organisations and facilities are active in the fields of renewable energies and the development of new technologies for energy efficiency. The results of the research performed by these components of the project are expected to have a positive impact on the environment.