

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Lahti Urban Infrastructure
Project Number: 2013-0247
Country: Finland
Project Description: The project concerns the financing of multi-sectoral investment schemes forming part of the Municipality's four-year investment programme from 2013 to 2016. The project is expected to comprise some 30 small to medium sized schemes in the fields of municipal infrastructure, mobility measures, education and sport, social and health infrastructure, district heating and water management and will benefit the City of Lahti in the Päijät Tavastia Region in Southern Finland.

EIA required: no

This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened by the Competent Authority. Should any scheme be screened in, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Given the relative small size of the individual schemes and the nature of the sectors concerned, most of the schemes are deemed not to have significant measurable environmental impacts.

In case of investments in reconstruction and/or renovation of public buildings, there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the municipalities or the province, as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing windows and other energy efficiency measures.

The transport schemes, mainly new renovation of streets and improving transport infrastructure will reduce travelling times and vehicle operating costs and will in general promote public transport. The reconstruction works are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the works are completed it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in the Päijät Tavastia region the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the Lahti Urban Infrastructure operation is positive, with improved environment and in particular social conditions for the inhabitants in the City of Lahti.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

It is deemed that the improvements of infrastructure included in the City's four-year investment programme from 2013 to 2016 will cater for the modernisation of the city's basic infrastructure and improving the quality of public services. The plan includes several components - street refurbishment, street lightening, new biking routes, parks and greeneries, sporting facilities, ski tracks, school upgrading, renovation of hospitals, kindergartens and senior homes, new cables in the power network, a biogas facility in the wastewater treatment plant, waste collection facilities and a biogas unit in the waste treatment plant - to be implemented over the next four years. The investment programme is a coherent and target-based development plan including investments in domains where Lahti, as a local government, has financial and planning responsibility.

Lahti is the regional capital of the Päijänne Tavastia region. It is situated on a bay at the southern end of lake Vesijärvi about 100 kilometres north-east of the capital Helsinki. The city has 103,000 inhabitants (May 2013) which makes it the ninth biggest city in Finland and sixth biggest urban area in the country. The surface of the City is 154.58 km², out of which 135.05 km² land and the remaining part is lakes. Lahti is the youngest city in Finland and was mainly formed after WWII, receiving a lot of migrants from other parts of Finland. Lahti and the surrounding area has, due its favourable location in Finland, become a hub for light industry and logistics.

Should any scheme included under this Framework Loan require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard review of the non-technical summary of the EIA. The Promoter will be required to act according to 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 fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Furthermore, but very unlikely, will any schemes in the programme may have an impact on protected sites as all schemes are located within the already built and developed urban territory and no protected sites are in the vicinity of the schemes. Nevertheless, the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

No negative social impacts are foreseen, on the contrary it is expected that the social impacts of the project will be overall positive. The everyday life for the inhabitants and associated social relations and routines will be improved thanks to improved mobility, improved municipal infrastructure, new health centres, hospitals, schools, sports facilities, municipal service centres, civil protection and other infrastructure for public services.