

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: NAHVERKEHR GRAZ

Project Number: 20120657

Country: Austria

Project Description: Upgrade and extension of tram infrastructure, rolling stock and busses.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: no

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

This operation finances 45 new tram rolling stock, 42 new buses as well as modernisation and a 500 meter extension of tram tracks in the city of Graz in Austria. The investments are part of the cities strategy to increase the market share of public transport.

The construction of tram rolling stock and buses will take place in the manufacturers' plants and does not fall within the scope of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The modernisation and extension of tram infrastructure does fall within the scope of Annex II of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, and therefore the Member States shall determine through either a case-by-case examination or thresholds/criteria set by the Member State whether the project shall be made subject to an assessment. The Austrian Government has determined in an annex to the national EIA legislation, published in 2000, a set of criteria and thresholds. In accordance to this annex, none of the items financed under this operation require an EIA and therefore no EIA has been done. The project is located fully inside the urban area and within existing road corridors and does not come close to any Natura 2000 area.

The project is expected to contribute to an overall improvement of the urban environment by encouraging the use of public transport, also partially reducing private car usage. Some additional positive impacts will derive from the operation of new vehicles with better environmental performances.

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The investments are part of the Mobility strategy for 2020 of the city of Graz, approved by the city council in 2012, and the related City Development plan (Stadtentwicklungsplan), approved in February 2013. The city is developing a Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance to Directive 2001/42/EEC, for some areas of the City Development plan but these are not related to the transport projects financed under this project.

Due to the nature of the investments, modernization of existing tracks and purchase of rolling stock and buses, the adverse impacts on the environment are minimal. Dismissed trams and buses may be scrapped, and if that is the case it recovering and recycling of usable components will follow relevant national environmental legislation.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The only investment that may have some environmental impacts is the 500 meter extension of line 7. This extension crosses the university and hospital area and is fully realized inside an existing road corridor. Environmental impacts are therefore deemed to be limited. Noise and vibration abatement measures will be implemented where necessary. The track extension crosses a water creek and therefore local flooding guidelines (HQ300) have been taken into account in the design. The city of Graz and the region (Steiermark) have signed a mobility agreement with the University and Hospital of Graz, in which all parties agree to promote environmental friendly transport in and around the University and Hospital. The extension of line 7 implements this objective, by improving the accessibility of the area by tram. The mobility agreement also includes other measures to promote environmental friendly transport, in particular for pedestrians and bicyclers.

No Natura 2000 areas are defined within the city of Graz. The closest Natura 2000 area is about 10 km away (Flaumeichenwälder im Grazer Bergland). Consequently, no impact of these investments on Natura 2000 can be expected.