

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: PARDUBICE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE III  
 Project Number: 2013-0417  
 Country: CZECH REPUBLIC  
 Project Description: A multi-sector framework facility for financing investment schemes within the Regional Investment Programme.

EIA required: This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.

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

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

The Region's strategic document "Regional Development Strategy" (RDS) was approved in 2011. It was also subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and received a favourable opinion from the Ministry of Environment. The RDS document together with results of the environmental assessments is published on the Region's website.

(<http://www.pardubickykraj.cz/rozvoj-kraje>)

The SEA document identifies environmentally sensitive areas requiring higher attention and main sources of environmental risks in the region. The document further proposes some measures which should contribute to the enhanced environmental protection (of nature and population). The proposed measures have been in principle integrated into the Regional Development Strategy.

Most of the schemes financed under this EIB operation will benefit from the EU Funds available under the regional or national Operational Programmes (OPs) in the 2007-2013 period and potentially in the next 2014-2020 period. OPs documents are mandatorily subject to the strategic environmental assessment, reviewed by the Bank and publicly available.

Although transport investments normally having some negative environmental impacts, the investments proposed in the Region's strategy are those contributing to the environmental mitigants (e.g. city by-passes). Most of the transport projects envisaged under the operation comprise modernisation or rehabilitation of existing roads, and these should bring overall positive environmental benefits through reducing transit traffic, reducing congestion, air and noise pollution, and increasing road safety. Some minor environmental impact is expected during the construction phase of investments.

Likewise, investments in public buildings (schools, hospitals and social care facilities) primarily comprise rehabilitation and modernisation, rather than new construction. These improvements should lead to improvements in energy efficiency as well as increasing the area and quality of the services provided.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental issues in the programme is deemed satisfactory.

<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.

## Environmental and Social Assessment

### Environmental Assessment

- The Pardubice Region is located in the East of Bohemia having the area of 4,519 km<sup>2</sup> (5.7% of the CR's area) ranking the Region fifth smallest among the Regions of the CR (14 in total). Agricultural land represents 60.2% of the total area, with arable land making 43.8% of agricultural land (continuously decreasing). The Region's population was 516,411 as at 31 December 2011, which is 4.9% of the Czech Republic's total population (10.278m). The region is divided in 4 districts and 451 municipalities. In the Region's capital Pardubice, there live 17.4% of the population of the Region.
- It is deemed that the improvements of infrastructure included in the Region's Development Strategy and in its investment plan will cater for the modernisation of the Region's basic infrastructure and improving the quality of public services. The investment plan, to be included in the EIB financed operation, includes several components - rehabilitation of the regional road network, upgrade/modernisation of public buildings in the area of education, health and social care, culture and tourism, energy efficiency measures and environment - to be implemented in the period 2012-2016, with the horizon to 2020. The investment programme is a coherent and target-based development plan including investments in domains where Pardubice Region, as a regional government, has financial and planning responsibility.
- The SEA assessment concluded in October 2011 took into account requirements given by the legislative framework (the Czech Act no. 100/2001 Coll. on environmental impact assessment) as well as by national or regional environmental concepts and regulations in the area of emissions, climate, water, waste, public health, preservation of nature and landscape, bio-diversity, etc.
- In Pardubice Region there are a number of sites benefiting from the environmental protection (protected territories or national parks, 3 bird areas, 3 natural reservations or natural heritage sites). The SEA identifies main sources of environmental conflicts due to the investment activity. However, due to the absence of concrete investment sub-projects during the assessment, the SEA requires that environmental impacts as well as potential impacts on NATURA 2000 sites are to be assessed for each investment sub-project individually (as required by law).
- 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.
- Information on EIAs or NATURA 2000 assessment in the Czech Republic are published on a central address: <http://eia.cenia.cz/eia/index.php>
- 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 regional infrastructure, schools, health and social care facilities and other infrastructure for public services.