

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ZLIN REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE III
Project Number:	2014-0007
Country:	Czech Republic
Project Description:	A multi-sector framework facility for financing investment schemes within the Region's 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 ¹ :	No

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

The schemes financed under this operation are implemented within the framework of the Regional Development Strategy (2009-2020) and Regional Development Programme of the Zlín Region territory for 2013-2016. Both the Strategy and the Programme were subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment, consulted with the public and approved by the competent authorities.

Most of the schemes financed under this EIB operation will also 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 are subject to the strategic environmental assessment, which for 2007-2013 programming period was completed, consulted with the public and approved by the competent authorities.

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 reduced transit traffic, reduced congestion, air and noise pollution, and increased road safety. Some minor environmental impacts are expected during the construction phase of investments.

Likewise, investments in public buildings (schools, hospitals and social care facilities) primarily comprise the rehabilitation and modernisation, rather than any 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.

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEA, EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives as well as any applicable sector Directives. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank a confirmation or equivalent by the competent authority that the schemes have no likely significant impact on nature sites of Community Importance, as well as the NTS of EIAs where applicable. The Promoter shall not commit the Bank's funds until the relevant consent has been issued by the competent authority.

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

Environmental Assessment

- The Zlín Region, one of fourteen self-administrative regions in the Czech Republic (CR) is located in the east of the CR, bordering with South-Moravia Region in the southwest, Olomouc Region in the northwest, Moravia-Silesia Region in the northern part and with Slovakia in the west. It is the fourth smallest Region within an area of 3,963 km², a population of 587,000 inhabitants (as of September 2013).
- The project comprises improvements of infrastructure included in the Region's Development Strategy, Regional Development Programme and in its multi-annual investment plan, that will cater for the modernisation of the Region's basic infrastructure and improve 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 wider perspective up to 2020. The investment programme is a coherent and target-based development plan including investments in domains where the Zlín Region, as a regional government, has financial and planning responsibility.
- The Region's strategic long-term document "Regional Development Strategy" (RDS) for the period 2009-2020 was approved in 2009. For implementation a mid-term document "Regional Development Programme of the Zlín Region territory for 2013-2016" was adopted in 2013. Both documents were subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) involving public and received a favourable opinion from the Ministry of Environment, acting as a competent authority for strategic documents of the Czech regions. The Region's strategic documents together with results of the environmental assessments are published on the Region's website: (<http://www.kr-zlinsky.cz/zakladni-koncepcni-strategicke-dokumenty-cl-668.html>)
- The SEA documents identify environmentally sensitive areas, sectorally and territorially, requiring higher attention and main sources of environmental risks in the region. The SEA document further proposes measures which will contribute to enhanced environmental protection (of nature and population). The proposed measures have been integrated into the Regional Development Strategy and Regional Development Programme.
- 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 the Zlín Region there are a relatively large number of areas/sites benefiting from the environmental protection (protected territories or national parks, bird areas, natural reservations or natural heritage sites). The SEA identified 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 concluded 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 at permitting stage).
- 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.

Public Consultation

All programmes which serve for the development of the territory of the Zlín Region, indicated above, were subject to public consultation prior to their final approval.