

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	AZ Sint-Maarten Hospital Mechelen
Project Number:	20110634
Country:	Belgium
Project Description:	Construction of a building for a general hospital on a new site in the city of Mechelen merging 3 existing hospitals.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

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

Hospitals are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92 on Environmental Impact Assessment, though the project may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. It is foreseen to erect the new hospital on a greenfield site which is currently used as farmland wherefore the relevant land use plan needed to be adapted accordingly. This process started in 2007 and included a public consultation and an environmental assessment. The final land use plan was approved without requesting an EIA through the competent authority.

The environmental sustainability of the final building will be verified by an external body according to the international well accepted standards of BREEAM (target: very good). This includes an assessment of the energy performance and the promoter requested the planners to undercut the relevant national standards by at least 20%.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project covers construction works close to an urbanized area. No significant impact is expected on the environment. A detailed environmental assessment has been carried out during the approval process of the relevant land use plan. The relevant recommendations have been incorporated in the actual planning.

Overall, the creation of new state-of-the-art facilities will improve hygiene and safety conditions and will allow the Promoter to apply the most stringent statutory and technical conditions. A further positive impact will be reduction of traffic in the densely populated inner city of Mechelen and a reduction of the internal traffic between the three existing sites. Therefore PJ expects that the project will have a positive residual impact.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

To enable the construction of the hospital on a site currently used for farming, the relevant land use plan (Regional Spatial Implementation Plan (GRUP)) needed a revision. According to national legislation, such a change requires a public consultation mostly through information meetings. As an outcome, certain conditions in respect to the sound protection of the neighbouring areas and the discharge of rainwater have to be considered in the planning. Additional requirements may be set up within the approval process of the relevant building permit. Due to the fact that a small part of the site belongs to a neighbouring commune, the final documentation has been approved by the municipality of Mechelen as well as by the relevant bodies in Sint-Katelinjne-Waver.