

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS II
Project Number:	2014-0303
Country:	Cyprus
Project Description:	Extension and modernization of the University of Cyprus (UCY) facilities, including (i) construction of new infrastructure at the main Athalassa Campus, (ii) renovation and upgrading of the Academia Campus and improvement of its energy efficiency and anti-seismic features and (iii) renovation and upgrading of existing off-campus facilities of the Shakoleion Education Health Centre.
EIA required:	yes (PV plant only)
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Education buildings are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The foreseen construction works will all be carried out on the existing site within or in close connection with the existing buildings and all the works are covered by an existing urban development plan. The promoter confirmed that consequently the relevant building permits shall be issued without EIA screening by the competent authority.

The new buildings of this project shall comply with the European Directive 2010/31 on energy performance, requiring Member States to ensure that after 31 December 2018 new constructions owned by public authorities are nearly zero-energy buildings. To this end, a 10MW photovoltaic plant will be constructed, which requires an EIA. The EIA for the photovoltaic park has been approved by the authorities in April 2012 but the final building consent is still pending.

In the light of the above, the project is eligible for the Bank's financing as regards environmental considerations.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

A ministerial approval has been issued in the early 90's for the development of the Athalassa campus. The environmental impact assessment was carried out in 1997 and its recommendations are part of the Master Plan (MP) for the development of the campus. The MP is updated regularly in order to comply with evolving University needs, environmental legislation etc., and is developed and implemented by independent and experienced consultants.

As the new buildings are close to the existing facilities and similar in nature, further changes to the local character of the landscape are limited.

The new facilities at the Athalassa campus will increase traffic around the campus. However, less commuting between the existing buildings that are scattered all over Nicosia shall have a compensatory effect.

CO₂ emissions will be reduced by the modernization of the Academia campus and Shakoleion Education Health Centre that will improve energy and safety conditions, and allows the Promoter to apply stringent statutory and technical conditions. The University aims to transform the Athalassa campus into a net-zero energy facility, implying zero CO₂ emissions.

The University of Cyprus fosters environmental awareness and sustainable development. As regards waste disposal, the University acts in an environmental responsible manner. Recyclable materials such as paper, plastic, glass, ink cartridges, old cell phones, batteries etc are being collected separately. The University also strictly adheres to EU and national legislation regarding handling of chemical waste and other dangerous substances.