Project Name:	STAEDTISCHE INFRASTRUKTUR GRAZ
Project Number:	2014-0215
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Multi-sector investment programme in urban infrastructure in the City of Graz, capital of Styria, in the years 2014 to 2018 in the fields of education and sports facilities, social housing, cultural heritage, energy networks, water and sanitation and waste management.
EIA required:	multiple scheme operation, some sub-projects may require an EIA

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: no

Overview

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

The multi-scheme project is expected to significantly contribute to sustainable urban development. Important environmental and socio-economic benefits in terms of urban regeneration and development are expected to result from the multi-sector municipal infrastructure schemes. The public urban infrastructure investments to be financed will be part of detailed local urban regeneration and development concepts and plans. Strategic environmental assessments have been carried out as part of urban development plans which will set the general context for the investments. The plans include extensive public participation which should ensure that investments respond to local needs.

Positive net environmental benefits are expected. Retrofitted social housing will lead to a considerable reduction of energy consumption. New construction of social housing will be implemented at high energy performance with low energy consumption. Brownfield sites will be re-used with a decontamination assessment, where needed, forming part of preparatory local plans. Public school buildings will achieve high energy efficiency standards and may achieve Passivhausstandard where possible. Any environmental effects such as disturbances during civil work constructions should be mitigated by appropriate measures. Therefore the operation is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental perspective.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Relevant EU Directives were transposed into national legislation (EIA Directive, Birds and Habitat Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The municipal infrastructure investments to be financed under the operation have to comply with high environmental standards and will significantly contribute to the improvement of the urban environment. The promoter is well experienced in implementing comparable investments. The initial EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings (EPBD) and the parts relevant to the project of the Directive's recast (2010/31/EU) have been transposed. Energy Performance Certificates will be issued after completion. For schemes either requiring a full environmental impact assessment (EIA) or with a risk of significant effects on a site of nature conservation importance (if any), the final beneficiaries of the individual sub-projects shall submit to the Bank the non-technical summary of the EIA and the confirmation by the Competent Authority that an appropriate assessment was carried out according Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive prior to the use of funds.

PJ/ECSO 26.08.14