

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	EU FUNDS CO-FINANCING 2014-2020 (PL)
Project Number:	2014-0033
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Co-Financing with EU Structural and Investment Funds of priority investments in the Republic of Poland in the 2014-2020 programming period. The Structural Programme Loan will support schemes under the Smart Development, Knowledge, Education and Development, Digital Poland and Eastern Poland Operational Programmes
EIA required:	yes  This is multi-scheme multi-sector Structural Programme Loan operation which falls under the SEA Directive. An SEA is required. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex 1 or Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened by the Competent Authority. Should any scheme fall under Annex I or be “screened in” under Annex II, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated
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 project, configured as a Structural Programme Loan, will support selected priorities from 2014-2020 Partnership Agreement (PA) and investments from four of the Polish national Operational Programmes (OPs): (i) Smart Development; (ii) Digital Poland (iii) Knowledge Education and Development, and (iv) Eastern Poland. The interventions will focus on the following sectors; research, and development and innovation directed to private sector, SMEs, clusters of enterprises and universities, Information and communication technologies, including the development of e-government and e-commerce, education and knowledge economy, especially vocational training and higher education to facilitate the access to employment, and integrated urban projects in cities located in Eastern Poland. The Operational Programme for Eastern Poland includes a major project; the Eastern Poland trans-regional railway.

The financed OPs, currently under the negotiation process, are subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. Currently the SEAs, including the public consultation, are under preparation, and, the Polish government will deliver them when all OPs are approved at the end of 2014.

Some large infrastructure schemes, such as the Eastern Poland trans-regional railway, are expected to fall under the EIA Directive, either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this SPL fall under Annex II and be “screened in” by the Competent Authority, or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated. The SEA contains appropriate conditions for each axis and/or measure.

<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.

Overall, the environmental and social impact is expected to be positive. The Structural Programme Loan is in line with the Europe 2020 Strategy and with the Poland 2020 National Reform Programme, and will contribute to the four objectives outlines in the Partnership Agreement:

- (i) Favourable environment for entrepreneurship and innovation
- (ii) Social cohesion and economic activity
- (iii) Network infrastructure for growth and employment
- (iv) Environmental and resource efficiency

Given the nature of the operation and the monitoring requirements under the SEA, the EIA and nature protection measures put in place by the Competent Authorities; the Structural Programme Loan is acceptable in environmental terms. The overall net environmental and social impact of the Structural Programme Loan is positive, with improved environment and the Polish citizens' quality of life.

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

### **Legal Framework**

Poland, as an EU Member State, has harmonised its environmental legislation in line with the relevant EU Directives, the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and the Habitats and Birds Directives 2009/147/EC. The EU Directive on EIA has been transposed in Poland law through the Act of 3 October 2008 on the provision of information on the environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment (Journal of Laws No. 199, item 1227, as amended). In addition, the Polish government approved the Act of 13 April 2007 on preventing the damages to nature and their compensation (Journal of Laws No. 75, item 493, as amended). Projects that will receive environmental permits after the enactment of the new Directive on EIA in 2017, will fall under the new EU Directive.

### **Environmental and Social Assessment**

The Operational Programmes included in the project are subject to SEA, including an assessment in the meaning of Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive. The SEA will be delivered when the operational programmes are finalised and approved at the end of 2014. However, it is expected that the objectives and the development priorities will generate more positive than negative effects, in particular positive social effects

The Smart Development OP will focus on R+D and innovation schemes, targeting the private sector. This will enhance Poland's competitiveness and will provide more and better jobs. The Digital Poland OP will promote the ICT access and use, delivering fast internet and improving e-government and e-commerce. It will thus save resources that can be used in value added activity. Knowledge, Education and Development OP will help to adapt the education and vocational training to the new Polish economic conditions. It will improve young and long-term unemployed people's employability generating significantly positive social effects.

Eastern Poland OP will support the least developed Polish region in the developing of its economic tissue. In addition, some investments will be dedicated to improve the sustainability and attraction of Eastern Poland cities.

Environmental protection and climate change are horizontal themes the activities related to those issues are well-specified in the measures of the priority axes described above.

### **Institutional Capacity of the Promoter**

The Promoter has shown a sufficient capacity to manage the complex setup necessary for a sound implementation of all aspects concerned including environmental ones.