

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *Lodz Urban Renewal*
Project Number: *2014-0294*
Country: *Poland*
Project Description: *The project represents a municipal framework loan of the City of Łódź comprising investment schemes in the fields of urban renewal and revitalisation of selected districts.*

EIA required: Framework loan, multi-scheme operation (case by case)

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

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

The project will contribute to the implementation of Integrated Development Strategy for Łódź 2020+, and in particular to the economic and social reactivation of the city centre. The operation will support the City's revitalisation programme. The planned interventions comprise of rehabilitation of building stock, streets, public spaces other amenities as well as redevelopment of brownfields within the defined areas. The programme includes also cultural and social activities aiming at revitalisation and increased attractiveness of the city centre. Supporting social programmes will target selected groups of inhabitants from the neighbourhood. The operation will comprise of a set of relatively small schemes with project cost not exceeding EUR 25m.

The EIB project is expected to contribute inter alia to the following objectives:

- Re-establishment of the importance of the historic centre of the city;
- Social and economic activation of districts aimed at social inclusion;
- Modernisation of the municipal housing stock, including energy efficiency measures;
- Creation of multifunctional, safe public spaces and improvement in public security in the area;
- Redevelopment and regeneration of abandoned areas/spaces (brownfields).

The operation represents a pilot initiative of a challenging and rather sophisticated investment programme in the area of urban renewal and regeneration. In case the initiative proves to be successful and sustainable, the programme could be replicated on a larger scale in Łódź and disseminated across Poland. This would contribute to a faster revitalisation of the city centres with its positive social and economic impacts.

Spatial plans as well as individual interventions are subject to environmental assessment and public consultations.

The City's planning procedures and processes in place for the preparation and implementation of the operation, including public consultation, are deemed acceptable for the EIB financing.

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

Poland has harmonised its environmental legislation according to the environmental standards mandated by relevant EU Directives. Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures are set by Act No. 100/2001. EU requirements for natural reserve areas have been transposed through respective amendments to Act. 114/1992 on Nature and Landscape Protection.

Selected schemes will be based on comprehensive urban development and regeneration strategies and plans. Although the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was not carried out for the Integrated Development Strategy for Łódź 2020+, it was carried out for other spatial and sector plans of the city. The long-term development strategy of Łódź sets the priorities and principles aiming at supporting sustainable development. Investments to be funded by EIB are likely to act as catalysts for significant physical, economic and social development and regeneration. The re-use of currently abandoned sites forms an important element of the urban development strategy within the centre. As regards individual projects, local area plans and sector strategies and plans (e.g. on housing, transport) are in place, e.g. in a form of an integrated urban development plan for specific areas.

The Promoter, City of Łódź appears capable of implementing and operating the planned schemes (expected to be of small to medium size), however, implementation of the investment programme of such a wide scope may bring implementation risks (delays) and eventually some conflicts with local population concerned.

PJ 30.09.2014