

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *EU FUNDS CO-FINANCING 2014-2020 (GR)*
 Project Number: *2014-0286*
 Country: *Greece*
 Project Description: *This multi-sector Structural Programme Loan will cater to the recovery and sustainable development of the Greek economy through support to selected priority axes of the Operational Programmes under the Greek Partnership Agreement 2014-2020 (PA 2014-2020). The project will co-finance investment schemes in the sectors of RDI, ICT, transport, water, solid waste, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban regeneration, health, education, public administration and culture.*

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 I 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: no

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

The project will support the Partnership Agreement (PA) and selected investments of its (OPs), namely: four thematic Operational Programmes: (i) Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation; (ii) Transport infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development; (iii) Human Resources Development -- Education and Lifelong Learning and (ii) Reforming public sector; and thirteen regional Operational Programmes, structured territorially in accordance with NUTS II and co-financed by ERDF and the ESF: (i) East Macedonia and Thrace; (ii) Central Macedonia; (iii) Thessaly; (iv) Ipiros; (v) Western Greece; (vi) Western Macedonia; (vii) Central Greece; (viii) Peloponnese; (ix) Ionian Islands; (x) Northern Aegean; (xi) Crete; (xii) Attica; and (xiii) Southern Aegean.

The Operational Programmes were approved by the Greek Government and have been submitted to the European Commission for approval. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out for the Operational Programmes, apart from OP Technical Assistance, OP Human Resources Development -- Education and Lifelong Learning and OP Reforming public sector which are exempted.

The public consultations for the SEAs are currently on-going lasting a month; The SEAs have not identified any significant effect on the environment of other countries. The Bank follows closely the procedure, and the Promoter will inform the Bank on the outcome of the procedure and how any issues raised are addressed.

Some infrastructure schemes under this Structural Programme Loan are expected to fall under the EIA Directive, either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this Structural Program Loan (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.

Overall, the environmental and social impact is expected to be positive. It's expected that the investments under the present SPL will contribute to: (i) a knowledge-intensive and internationally competitive economy; (ii) effective education and vocational training systems contribution to the development of human capital and qualified employment; (iii) a clean and

diverse natural environment and efficient use of resources; (iv) sustainable infrastructure, for economic and social development; and (v) enhancing institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration and local self-government.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Legal Framework

Greece, 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. 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 Assessment

The intervention financed by the Bank will focus on the following sectors: RDI, ICT, transport, water, solid waste, energy efficiency and renewable energy, urban regeneration, health, education, public administration and culture. The OPs implementation is expected to generate several positive effects on different sectors of the environment, while for any negative effects mitigation measures are proposed. For instance; the OP Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation aims to increase competitiveness and productivity, enhancing green development. It's expected that the use of innovative technologies in waste water treatment and depollution, increase of energy efficiency will have positive impact to climate, biodiversity, soil and water quality. However, productive activities, depending on the sector and location, may also entail negative impact, such as increase of energy demand and noise pollution. The OP's SEA proposes mitigation measures for the negative impact, while the net outcome of the OP implementation is expected to be positive in environmental terms.

The OP Transport infrastructure, Environment and Sustainable Development will have positive impact to the air quality and biodiversity, due to investments in sustainable transport means and to management of protected areas, including Natura2000. At the same time, the OP implementation may generate direct or indirect negative effects, however minor. The SEA addresses those issues with measures to avoid or mitigate them.

The implementation of Regional Operational Programmes is expected to generate significant positive externalities on the environment, such as biodiversity, cultural and natural landscape protection, improvement of water and soil quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation. The negative effects will be limited in time and space and the majority of them can be addressed at project level.

With regard to social impact, there will be no negative impact on human health or welfare. On the contrary, the implementation of the plans will facilitate the advancement of social development in Greece, to decrease the high unemployment.

Institutional Capacity of the Promoter

The experience from the previous programming period 2007-2013 showed that all projects financed by the EIB and falling under the EU EIA Directive and "screened in" for EIA were managed in line with the requirements under the Directive and the national legislative framework. The Bank received all necessary documents relating to the EIA process and concerned protected areas under Natura 2000. The Technical Advisory Services detached by the Bank have performed several on the spot visits to projects, resulting in recommendations on the implementation of projects.