

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Örebro Municipal Investments
Project Number: 2013-0631
Country: Sweden
Project Description: The project concerns the financing of around 40 small to medium sized investment schemes in the fields of municipal housing, education, and childcare as well as in other municipal infrastructure such as parks, bicycle lanes and water treatment infrastructure. The project forms part of the Municipality of Örebro's four-year investment programme from 2014 to 2017.

EIA required: No

This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened by the Competent Authority. Should any scheme be screened in, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

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

Given the relative small size of the individual schemes and the nature of the sectors concerned, most of the schemes are deemed not to have significant environmental impacts.

In case of investments in reconstruction and/or renovation of public buildings and municipal rental housing, there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the municipalities as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing of windows and other energy efficiency measures.

The traffic schemes, mainly an extension of the cycling network will in general improve mobility and promote non-motorist forms of transport.

The reconstruction works are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the works are completed it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

The biggest social impact will be obtained from the municipal housing schemes. The loan will support the construction of new housing units for rent and the renovation of existing housing units for rent in a city that suffers from a housing deficit. The shortage of affordable rental housing is in particular felt by young people. The investments in affordable housing will not resolve the housing shortage, but it will alleviate the most urgent needs.

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.

The Municipality's investments in sewerage, water and wastewater treatment will have an overall positive impact on the environment. The investments in nitrogen removal will further reduce the discharge of nitrogen to Lake Hjälmaren, an inland lake that currently suffers from eutrophication. As Lake Hjälmaren is located in the river basin connected to the Baltic Sea, the investment will help to reduce the nitrogen load to the Baltic Sea.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Örebro, the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental terms.

The net environmental and social impact of the Örebro Municipal Investment operation is positive, with improved environment and in particular social conditions for the inhabitants in the Municipality of Örebro.

Should any scheme be screened in for EIA, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Örebro Municipal Investments programme 2014-2017 results from the Örebro Urban Master Plan 2010, for which an SEA was carried out, consulted and approved by the Competent Authority in 2010. The municipal assembly did in May 2014 approve an updated version of the Urban Master Plan.

The improvements of infrastructure included in this programme will cater to the modernisation of the city's basic infrastructure and the improvement in the quality of public services. The plan includes several components – renovation and energy efficiency measures in existing municipal housing and the construction of new municipal rental housing, school upgrading, kindergartens and infrastructure for water and waste water treatment - to be implemented over the next four years. The investment programme is a coherent and target-based development plan including investments in domains where Örebro, as a local government, has financial and planning responsibility.

Should any scheme included under this Framework Loan require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard review of the non-technical summary of the EIA. The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the, EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives and relevant sector directives applicable to the individual schemes. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank a confirmation or equivalent by the competent authority that the schemes have no significant impact on nature sites of Community Importance or their equivalents, as well as the NTS of EIAs where applicable.

Some of the schemes in the operation fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and therefore will be subject of screening by the competent authority. Furthermore, should any schemes in the programme have an impact on protected sites, the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

It is expected that the social impacts of the project will be overall positive. The everyday life for the inhabitants and associated social relations and routines will be improved thanks to improved mobility, improved municipal infrastructure, new and renovated municipal rental housing, new and renovated kindergartens and schools and other infrastructure for public services.

The competent authorities in Örebro have put in place relevant procedures concerning EIA and nature protection. The institutional capacity of the Municipality of Örebro to deal with environmental and social issues is deemed to be acceptable.