

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	HUNGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES II
Project Number:	2014-0526
Country:	Hungary
Project Description:	2015-2017 expenditures for fundamental research activities by staff of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise	no

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

The project includes salaries of R&D staff. The included R&D activities will be carried out within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. Such activities create intangible assets (new knowledge and scientific discoveries), which do not fall under the Directive 2011/92/EC.

The research done by the different research institutes spans a wide field of different areas and potential environmental issues such as handling of toxic substances and studies with living animals. However the related directives (Seveso; protection of animals) and good principles as well as recommendations such as 3R for experiments with living animals are implemented and externally verified by the competent authorities.

On the other hand, some of the research activities covered by the project relate to subjects concerned with environmental improvements (ecosystems, energy efficiency etc.) and are therefore expected to provide positive environmental effects in several cases.

Overall, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with positive or neutral impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

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Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The HAS gave persuasive demonstration of the fact that the institutions of MTA are operating in conformity with the relevant EU Directives and with Hungarian legislation adopted on the basis of these Directives in respect of social and environmental issues.

In particular some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. The promoter has indicated that all the Institutes follow the national legislation implementing the EU directives.

Some institutes (MTA ATK <http://www.agrar.mta.hu>, MTA KOKI <http://www.koki.hu>, MTA ÖK <http://www.okologia.mta.hu>, MTA SZBK <http://www.szbk.u-szeged.hu>, MTA TTK <http://www.ttk.mta.hu/>) carry out experiments with living animals. The promoter has confirmed that these institutes comply with all relevant legal provisions; notably Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The implementation of the relevant regulations are enforced and controlled by the regional Food Chain Safety and Animal Health Directorates.

Furthermore the institutes are highly committed to applying the “3R” principle that consists in replacing animal use by alternative methods when possible, reducing the number of animals used as much as possible and refining the testing methods to reduce animals’ pain and distress. All MTA institutions where researchers make experiments on animals have a Code of Ethics on animal testing and their own Institutional Animal Welfare Committee, which – beside its application approval duty mentioned above - monitors their compliance with the rules during the implementation of the approved animal experiments.

The Hungarian Academy of Sciences runs an Inter-Section Committee on Animal Experiments of the Section of Agricultural Sciences, the Section of Medical Sciences, and the Section of Biological Sciences.