

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

(Further guidance is contained in the Environmental and Social Practices Handbook)

Overview

Project Name:	<i>Helsinki Urban Development</i>
Project Number:	<i>2012-0203</i>
Country:	<i>Finland</i>
Project Description:	Regeneration of former port and harbour areas into central mixed use urban neighbourhoods for residential and business purposes
EIA required:	Multi-scheme operation, part of the schemes require an EIA
Project included in	
Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	NO

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

Relevant EU Directives were transposed into national/regional legislation (EIA-Directive, Birds and Habitat Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The selected sub-projects are based on comprehensive urban regeneration and development plans.

Whilst there may be some minor detrimental impact during construction/implementation of the schemes, significant positive net environmental social and economic externalities are expected to result from implementing the sub-projects of key municipal infrastructure and facilities. The promoter is considered competent and has extensive experience in implementing comparable construction projects; a well-established system of urban renewal and development plans with integrated environmental impact assessments is in place. The project will contribute considerably to urban renewal and transformation by converting former inner city port and harbour areas into mixed-use urban neighbourhoods meeting the demands of a growing population and expanding economic activities. Thus the need for Greenfield developments will be reduced.

Helsinki is a signatory of the Covenant of Mayors (2009) and has thereby formalised its commitment to meet or exceed the EU objective of reducing its CO₂ emissions by at least 20 % by 2020 (CO₂ emission per capita (t) in 2009: 5.4).

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) in line with the EU Directive 2001/42/EC have been carried out on both the level of local urban development plans and the overall land use plan for Helsinki. EIAs were carried out as integral part of the local area plans for the five project areas, including mitigation measures and public consultation. The local area development plans were approved between 2006 and 2012.

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.