

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: SLOVAKIA TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK FACILITY 2014-2020
Project Number: 2014-0465
Country: Slovakia
Project Description: Co-financing of investments in the transport sector under Slovakia's Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure and the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) in the 2014-2020 period.

EIA required: Yes. This is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an environmental impact assessment (EIA).

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

The Project consists of two parts: (i) a Structural Programme Loan (SPL) that will co-finance investments in the transport sector under the Operational Programme Integrated Infrastructure (OPII); and (ii) co-financing the national contribution to the Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) for the period 2014-2020. Transport projects will be located both on and off the Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) across road, railway, public transport and water infrastructure.

A strategic environmental assessment (SEA) was carried out on the OPII in accordance with Directive 2001/42/EC. The Ministry of Environment recommended the approval of OPII in April 2014 with conditions.

The project is likely to include transport schemes that will be subject to environmental impact assessment (EIA) falling under either Annex I or Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU. For medium and large schemes the Bank will undertake further review at allocation stage. Any project scheme requiring an EIA shall provide the associated non-technical summary (NTS) to the Bank, prior to any Bank funds being allocated. For any scheme identified to impact on a Nature conservation area, as defined by the Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directives (2009/147/EC), shall provide to the Bank any associated screening decision, appropriate assessment, any proposed mitigation and compensation measures, and environmental decision from the competent authority.

Subject to further environmental assessment of the individual transport schemes the project is acceptable in relation to environmental and social issues.

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

Environmental Assessment

Compliance with applicable Environmental Legislation

Slovakia has harmonised its environmental legislation with the relevant EU Directives including the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

The current Slovak legislation for environmental assessment is Act No. 24/2006 Coll. that entered into force in February 2006. In 2014 the Act was amended as a result of the infringement opened by the European Commission against the Slovak Republic in 2013 (Infringement No. 2013/2034). The amended Act was adopted by the Slovak Parliament and came into force in January 2015. It is applicable to all projects for which authorisation procedures had not yet been completed at that date.

Environmental Impacts

The planned investments of OPIL were designed to target Europe 2020 strategy priorities covering smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. An SEA was undertaken for OPIL in accordance with Act No. 24/2006 Coll. and the SEA Directive. The SEA considered the state of land use, expected cumulative and synergic environmental impacts with emphasis on protected areas and health of population. The assessment also addressed compliance with other strategic studies at the level of cross-border, regional and national level. The Ministry of Environment recommended the approval of OPIL in the Final Statement issued in April 2014, subject to conditions. These covered measures to eliminate and/or reduce adverse impacts of the strategic document covering, not exclusively, considerations related to human environments, heritage, flora, fauna, water, waste, air quality and noise.

Biodiversity Issues

The SEA for OPIL also considered the potential impact of the strategy on nature conservation areas as defined along the Natura 2000 network with an approximate width of 1 km. The network incorporates Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA) under the Birds Directive. The analysis, at the level of SEA, concluded that the OPIL will most likely not have a significant negative impact on concerned protected sites and integrity of the Natura 2000 network.

Climate Change

At the strategy level, OPIL and CEF are designed to promote more sustainable projects and consider the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. A national climate adaptation strategy was approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic in 2014 (Government Resolution No. 148/2014). Further climate change mitigation and adaptation measures may be further defined at the individual scheme level.

Social Assessment

Social aspects will be reviewed at scheme allocation stage. The individual schemes shall comply with relevant European Directives related to health and safety of workers during construction and operation, noise and air quality.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The OPIL was subject to stakeholder engagement according to Regulation (EU) 1303/2013 including with representatives of government ministries and agencies, non-governmental organisations and associations of villages, towns and cities. The environment report of OPIL was subject to public notification and consultation in December 2013 prior to governmental approval. Depending on level of environmental assessment, individual schemes may require public and stakeholder consultation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Managing Authority performs administrative verification of environmental sustainability of the projects with other reviews performed by the final beneficiaries. A number of common indicators related to environment will be collected and reported on at the OPII level including savings in production of PM10, CO₂ and NO₂ emissions. The individual scheme development, zoning and building permits will stipulate any required monitoring of environmental impacts prior to, during and post construction.