

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	POLAND UNIVERSITY RESEARCH SUPPORT III
Project Number:	2014-0691
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The objective is to promote economic and social development by producing new knowledge and innovative technologies, methodologies and products. The project concerns basic R&D activities undertaken in public universities and public scientific institutes in 2015 and 2016. The tangible element finances capital investments in enabling research infrastructures and scientific equipment. The intangible element finances the core scientific activities undertaken by the researchers employed by the public universities and institutes.
EIA required:	Multi Investment Scheme - not known at this stage
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	No

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

The project is a multi-sector/multi-scheme operation focused on R&D undertaken in public universities and scientific institutes. The Bank obliges the promoter to comply with relevant environmental legislation. EU directives concerning science, bioethics, animal welfare and particularly the use of animals in experimental research are transposed into Polish law and effective procedures are in place.

The project finances mainly intangible basic research activities (80% of the cost) in different disciplines. R&D has high value for society. It contributes to economic development and the creation of high quality jobs.

Some activities require use of hazardous substances that may have minor negative impacts for which appropriate mitigation measures are planned. For the capital investment component of the project (20% of cost), planning and environmental regulations may apply for the approval of location, construction and operation permits. Environmental Impact Assessment may be required according to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

The promoter undertakes to submit to the Bank the NTS (Non-Technical Summary) of the Environmental Impact Assessment as per Directive 2011/92/EU for any capital investments of the project requiring an EIA, prior to the utilisation of the Bank's funds for the specific parts of the project.

Overall the project is expected to bring a positive social impact.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Most of the intangible research activities will be carried out in existing buildings or in new ones in already approved urban areas, therefore without the need for an EIA. The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and its Annexes I and II do not specifically mention education and research facilities such as financed by this operation, however, the construction of such buildings falls under the Annex II in respect to urban development and the local competent authority may demand an EIA. The promoter undertakes to submit the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) – that is satisfactory to the Bank services – of any construction components of the project that require an EIA, before the utilisation of the respective Bank's funds.

The project is expected to have no impact on Natura 2000 sites (falling under Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC or Birds Directive 79/409/EEC) but the promoter will be required to provide information about impacts on Natura 2000 areas and due authorisations by competent authorities.

Some research institutions carry out scientific experiments with the use of animals. Polish legislation and recommended practices with respect to the application and enforcement of ethical standards in R&D are consistent with best practices in the EU. Concerning the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, Directive 2010/63/EU was adopted on 22 September 2010 and took full effect from 21st October 2014. The revised Directive 86/609/EEC is in application. The principle is to reduce and where possible replace the use of animals used for scientific purposes. Each use of the animals for scientific purpose has to be approved by the authorized bioethical committee. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education hosts the central bioethical committee, which supervises 18 local committees.

Overall the project is considered acceptable with minor negative residual impacts.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The development of the European knowledge economy depends on scientific outputs, with an important role for basic research. Investing in R&D has an economic pay-off and stimulates the creation of high quality jobs. Therefore, the project is expected to lead to significant social and economic benefits

PJ/ECSO 16.06.15