

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	POLAND SCIENCE & RESEARCH NATIONAL CENTRES III
Project Number:	20150180
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The Project concerns Research, Development and Innovation activities (RDI) to be supported by grants launched by two public agencies, the National Centre for Science (NCS) and the National Centre for Research and Development (NCRD). The research teams to be supported work in public scientific institutes, universities and also business enterprises (the latter for NCRD only) in all territory of Poland.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

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

The project will consist mainly on basic research, applied and industrial R&D and innovation activities most of it without impact on the environment. The Bank requests the promoter to comply with relevant environmental legislation and Poland has adopted environmental legislation in line with the standards mandated by the relevant EU directives. Those concerning science, bioethics, animal welfare and particularly the use of animals in experimental research are fully transposed into Polish law. Effective procedures are in place to ensure their respect during the project's preparation, implementation and operation phases.

The project's research activities are expected to be carried out in existing facilities already used for similar activities, and would therefore not require an EIA according to the Directive 2011/92/EU. Animal testing activities will be performed in line with EU Directive 2010/63/EU.

For the included industrial R&D and innovation activities that may have minor negative impacts, appropriate mitigation measures are planned. Some of the project R&D activities will aim at improving the environmental characteristics of goods and services, others concern research in environmental sciences, and the operations of environmental research institutes are also included. Overall the project is considered acceptable with minor negative residual impacts. The environmental capability of the promoter assessed by the Bank from the previous and similar operation is considered satisfactory. The project is acceptable for the Bank's financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Act on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes entered into force in Poland in May 2015 and adjusted Polish law to EU directives on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. The Directive requires EU member states to reduce animal testing, replace them in all possible cases with alternative methods and to improve the welfare of laboratory animals including conditions of their breeding, transport and research methods. The new rules allow for the experiments on animals only under strictly defined purposes and provided the precise requirements are fulfilled.

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 proposals for NCS and NCRD funding involving experimental research being conducted on animals should contain a declaration by the Principal Investigator stating that consent of the National Ethical Committee for Experiments on Animals will be required. If the project is effectively qualified for funding it is the host institution's responsibility to make sure that such consent will be obtained.

The scientific personnel carrying out the R&D projects and working in research institutes which are financed with the investment can be exposed to a variety of occupational risks, including biohazards in case of biotechnology and biomedical laboratories. The health and safety measures will be applied according to the national legislation, which is in line with EU legislation in this area.

It will be an EIB information requirement that if any research scheme funded by the NSC or NCRD under the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, then its Non-Technical Summary (NTS) shall be provided to the Bank. The NTS will be made public, either on the Bank's projects website or by a link to the website of the promoter. The promoter has also confirmed that for its construction projects the provisions of the Act of 3rd October 2008 on Environmental Impact Assessment and Dissemination of Information on Environment and its Protection apply and are adhered to.