

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ALAVA SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2009-0523
Country:	SPAIN
Project Description:	Financing of investments in the areas of environmental protection, social and urban infrastructure and e-government in the Basque Historical Territory of Alava.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	NO

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

The current framework loan is comprised of a series of smaller schemes in the Historical Territory of Alava in the fields of urban infrastructure, water and waste schemes, construction or enhancement of public and catalogued private buildings, natural resources enhancement and other measures to provoke a positive impact on the environment as well as aiming at the territorial balance of Alava's activity.

As a Member State, Spain has transposed the relevant EU Directives concerning the environmental impact of projects (i.e. Directive 2001/42/EC on the Strategic Environmental Assessment, EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 79/409/EEC) and, accordingly, the Promoter will implement all the schemes under this Framework Loan in compliance with EU and national environmental legislation. The Basque Country issued an Environmental Law, Ley 3/98 that obliged to conduct a "joint impact" evaluation of programmes and plans EVEN before the SEA Directive came into force. The SEA elaboration is regulated by the Regional Decree 3/1998.

Some schemes fall under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (water, waste, forest and other schemes), according to which the competent authority (in this case the Environmental Service of the Diputación Foral de Alava-DFA) decides whether an EIA will be required on a case by case basis depending on the size and location of the development. Given the relative small size of the individual schemes, most of the schemes are deemed not to have significant measurable environmental impacts. In fact, the rehabilitation of public buildings is expected to reduce the negative impact on the environment. Additionally, a number of schemes include the expansion of green areas, improvement of water sanitation and upgrading of forest areas, which will contribute positively to the environment

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The DFA is a signatory of the Aalborg Charter and it aims at promoting the development of Local Agendas in all municipalities. Up to the date, 39 out 55 municipalities, the most populated ones, have developed their Local Agendas. The remaining smaller municipalities have already initiated or are elaborating them.

The development of the sub-projects to be financed under the current framework loan is under the Strategic Sustainable Plan of the Historical Territory of Alava 2011-2015 in May 2011.

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.

In the case of urban infrastructure schemes, the Competent Authority in line with Annex II of EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU is responsible to determine, on a case-by-case basis, whether an EIA should be carried out. The DFA, through its Service of Environment is the competent authority and will decide on the necessity of EIAs based on the Regional Law 3/1998 and the consequent directives updates enforced in the national legislation. The list of sub-projects to be financed under the framework loan will be assessed and approved at allocation stage. However, given the nature and scale of potential sub-projects, it is unlikely that EIAs will be necessary.

The Strategic Sustainable Plan of the Historical Territory of Alava 2011-2015 and the Plan Mugarri for Renewal Sources Energy were not subject to SEA due to the nature of these plans, more policy oriented. Other plans resulting on concrete schemes such as Waste and Water plans were subject to SEA as required by the current regional and national legislation.

Overall, the sub-projects to be financed will contribute to the Historical Territory of Alava to reduce energy emissions (in line with Local Agendas and Renewal Sources Energy Plan-Mugarri Plan) as such the rehabilitation of existing public and catalogued private buildings is expected to reduce the existing negative impacts on the environment. Moreover, the sustainable use of natural resource will contribute positively to the enhancement of environment, by the better care of forests.