

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>CYPRUS EU FUNDS CO-FINANCING 2014-2020</i>	
Project Number:	<i>2015-0152</i>	
Country:	<i>Cyprus</i>	
Project Description:	<i>The project, structured as a multi-sector Structural Programme Loan (SPL), will support the implementation of the Cypriote Partnership Agreement (PA) through the Operational Programme (OP) "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development", and the Operational Programme "Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion" in the period 2014-2020</i>	
EIA required:		yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :		no

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

The project, structured as a multi-sector Structural Programme Loan (SPL), will support the implementation of the Cypriote Partnership Agreement (PA) through the Operational Programme (OP) "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development", and the Operational Programme "Employment, Human Resources and Social Cohesion" in the period 2014-2020. The interventions financed by the Bank will focus on the following sectors: transport, energy, environment, health, R&D infrastructure, nature protection, social infrastructure, improvement of training and access to employment, ICT, urban regeneration, water and waste.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out for the OP "Competitiveness and Sustainable Development".

Some infrastructure schemes under this Structural Programme Loan are expected to fall under the EIA Directive, either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this Structural Program Loan (SPL) fall under Annex II and be "screened in" by the Competent Authority, or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated. The SEA contains appropriate conditions for each axis and/or measure.

Overall, the environmental and social impact is expected to be positive. It's expected that the investments under the present SPL will also contribute to:

- Reduction of greenhouse emissions;
- Increase of renewable energy sources;
- Sustainable management and efficient use of water resources and implementation of the water directive;
- Protection and restoration of biodiversity and upgrading of Natura 2000;
- Improvement of Trans European transport network and of urban mobility;
- Mitigate the crisis impact on the most vulnerable groups;
- Increase employment especially for the youth;
- Developing human capital and increase participation in Life Long Learning (LLL) and Vocational Education and Training (VET).

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

Legal Framework

Cyprus, as an EU Member State, has harmonised its environmental legislation in line with the relevant EU Directives, the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 2009/147/EEC. Projects that will receive environmental permits after the enactment of the new Directive on EIA in 2017 will fall under the new EU Directive.

Environmental Assessment

The intervention financed by the Bank will focus on the following sectors: transport, energy, environment, health, R&D infrastructure, nature protection, social infrastructure, improvement of training and access to employment, ICT, urban regeneration, water and waste. The OP will have positive impact on biodiversity, soil water, air, climate, population, human health, cultural heritage and landscape, while there will be no impact on fauna, flora and in transboundary areas. It should be noted that no negative impact in any of the environmental aspects examined was identified. In short, the implementation of the OP has a positive impact on the environment. For instance:

- Axis 1: it is expected that the interventions will improve the public e-services, therefore reducing the transport time for citizens and improve the air quality.
- Axis 2: The use of Renewable Energy Resources and the energy efficiency measures will contribute to decrease of energy cost and consumption and will have a positive impact to the population.
- Axis 3: the integrated management of Natura 2000 areas will enhance the biodiversity, while the integrated management of waste water and solid waste will significantly improve the environmental quality.
- Axis 4: The upgrade of Lemessos port and the improvement of mobility will improve the landscape and enhance the quality of life.
- Axis 5: interventions will support the social inclusion and poverty reduction.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The public consultation of the SEA lasted 35 days (published on 6/6/2014) and no comments were received from the public.

Institutional Capacity of the Promoter

The experience from the previous programming period 2007-2013 showed that all projects financed by the EIB and falling under the EU EIA Directive and “screened in” for EIA were managed in line with the requirements under the Directive and the national legislative framework. In previous operations, the institutional capacity to manage environmental and social issues has been deemed to be acceptable.

The Promoter’s overall institutional capacity to manage social and environmental risks within the framework of this operation is therefore considered to be satisfactory.