

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	LOGEMENT DES MIGRANTS
Project Number:	2015 0687
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project includes the rehabilitation of buildings to provide temporary accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees within the national plan "Response to migration challenges" ¹ as well as for some categories of socially vulnerable persons ² .
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened by the Competent Authority.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation includes the rehabilitation of buildings (e.g., accommodation centers, shared flats, single occupancy flats, night-shelters, etc.) to provide temporary accommodation in France for asylum seekers, refugees as well as for some categories of socially vulnerable persons.

Schemes will be located in urbanised areas and included in the local spatial and development plans for which the relevant Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) have been performed in line with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC. Accommodation for asylum seekers and refugees located in urban degraded areas will be assessed on case by case bases.

Relevant EU Directives were transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The Competent Authority is the Ministry of Environment through the Regional Offices in each Department.

Rehabilitation schemes will include small works (e.g. walls to divide apartments, upgrading of sanitary facilities, etc.) with minimal impact on environment.

Given the scope of this operation and sector included (housing), it is likely that most of the schemes will not be subject to full EIA. It is expected that most of them will fall under the Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, requiring the Competent Authority to screen them. In addition, most of the schemes will be located outside protected areas, including Natura 2000.

Social Assessment

France adopted on 15 July 2015 the law on "Asylum Reform" which brings about a comprehensive reform of the French asylum procedure, transposes the provisions of the Directive 2013/32/EU on common procedures for granting and withdrawing international protection (recast) and the Directive 2013/33/EU laying down standards for the reception of applicants for international protection (recast).

Among other measures, the reform establishes that all asylum seekers³ have access to temporary accommodation (CADA, ATSA and HUDA centres)⁴. In addition, the asylum seekers have access to a medical insurance and an allowance. However, these benefits could be diminished or even lost if the person refuses or leaves the accommodation offered by the OFII⁵.

¹ « Répondre au défi des migrations »

² Socially vulnerable persons as people under social distress taking from unemployment, misery, crime, single mothers, homeless persons, isolated persons, etc.

³ Persons who have applied for asylum under the procedures established in Directive 2013/32/EU

⁴ CADA (Centre d'Accueil de Demandeurs d'Asile), ATSA (Accueil Temporaire Service d'Asile) and HUDA (Hébergement d'Urgence des Demandeurs d'Asile) are managed by ADOMA will be financed within this operation.

⁵ OFII (Office Française de l'Immigration et de l'Intégration) is responsible for providing accommodation and allowance to asylum seekers. OFII requests ADOMA the accommodation taking into account the special reception needs for vulnerable persons.

France will strengthen the mechanism dedicated to the identification and care of vulnerable groups and persons⁶ with special reception needs (e.g. medical). In practice, places in CADA temporary accommodation centres are mostly allocated to the most vulnerable asylum seekers.

The Promoter (ADOMA) counts with qualified professional staff (e.g. social workers) in their facilities providing support to integrate asylum seekers and refugees in the local social context (e.g. schooling for children, administrative, social, medical support, etc.).

The rehabilitation of existing facilities will be in line with acceptable national technical standards. The project is expected to contribute to alleviating the situation of the asylum seekers arriving in France. In addition, the project is also expected to alleviate the shortages in France's temporary accommodation supply also for other users as refugees and some categories of socially vulnerable persons (e.g. as people under social distress taking from unemployment, misery, crime, single mothers, homeless persons, isolated persons, etc.) .

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Meetings with project-affected people and civil society organisations as well as public administrations, including local authorities will be held as needed to promote harmonious relationships between local communities and accommodation centres.

Concerning the reception process for asylum seekers, shortening the timing to register and assess the applications and provide accommodation is a priority. To accelerate the procedure, the "single window" will be introduced, placing relevant services (OFII and the Préfecture⁷) in the same building.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project's environmental impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable. The project should bring about environmental benefits and it should contribute to climate change mitigation by reducing the energy consumption through energy efficiency measures implemented in rehabilitated buildings (e.g. insulation of walls and roofs, changing of windows, etc.). The project has no particular residual impacts apart from those expected from the rehabilitation of buildings.

It is expected that the operation will result in a significant number of positive social externalities (e.g. better integration of asylum seekers and refugees in the local social context, and improvement of urban environment through the provision of temporary accommodation also to some categories of socially vulnerable persons), justifying the Bank's involvement.

The Promoter is required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2011/92/EU) and subsequent amendments (e.g.: 2014/52/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives. The Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS of EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank before the Bank funds are allocated. In addition, the Competent Authority has to provide evidence of the compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable) before the Bank funds are allocated.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter (ADOMA) to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good and therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.

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⁶ Vulnerable groups and persons such as minors, unaccompanied minors, disabled people, elderly people, pregnant women, single parents with minor children, victims of human trafficking, persons with serious illnesses, persons with mental disorders and persons who have been subjected to torture, rape or other serious forms of psychological, physical or sexual violence, such as victims of female genital mutilation.

⁷ The « Préfecture » is under the Ministry of Interior. Each "Préfecture" is responsible of assessing the asylum applications in their Department.