

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	BOLOGNA RESILIENCE URBAN FL
Project Number:	2016-0008
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	Financing of urban infrastructure projects included in the Municipality's 2016-2018 Investment Programme
EIA required:	This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II ("screened in") of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The proposed Framework Loan (FL) concerns the financing of the Municipality of Bologna 2016-2018 Investment programme. The project will include schemes in public building modernisation, urban development, renewal and rehabilitation, sustainable transport, rehabilitation of social housing, parks and public open spaces as well as other municipal infrastructure. Bologna is fully committed to Climate Action, including mitigation and adaptation measures as part of the City Investment Programme. Bologna is also improving its resilience against earthquakes and this is also reflected in its Investment Programme.

The objectives are in line with those included in the City Development Strategy (PSC), approved in 2008. This Strategy was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and the relevant NTS has been provided to the Bank. The PSC is on large measure an aspirational policy document developed through short term sectorial City Operational Plans (POC) and Programmes which together with the Urban Regulation for Buildings (RUE) form the urban regulatory framework and development specifications to implement projects in the City.

The schemes will be located in urbanized and brown field areas included in the local spatial and development plans, for which the relevant SEAs have been also performed.

Relevant environment EU Directives were transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). Individual schemes have to obtain building permission which already takes into account the national environmental legislation. The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good.

The Promoter will be 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 as transposed into national law. The Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS of EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated. However, given the relative small size of the individual schemes and the nature of the sectors concerned, most of the schemes are deemed not to have significant environmental impacts.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Schemes will be located outside protected areas including Natura 2000. Nevertheless, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable) before the Bank funds are allocated.

Overall, the net environmental impact is expected to be positive and the institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. The project's environmental impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable. Potential negative effects (e.g. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

Climate action (mitigation and adaptation) is one of the main drivers in the urban planning and design of projects. The investments are expected to bring a number of positive effects, including energy savings in public buildings (e.g. schools) as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing of windows and other energy efficiency measures. The project also includes pedestrian areas and bicycle paths which contribute also to sustainable mobility.

In addition, Bologna has developed a Climate Adaptation Plan which identifies the main climate risks for the City in (i.e. long drought periods, heat waves, and heavy rainfall and floods), the vulnerable areas and the proposed actions to develop and design projects when located in these areas.

Bologna is also improving its resilience against earthquakes, in particular after the one occurred in 2012 which mainly impacted the western part of the City.

### **Social Assessment**

No separate social impact assessment has been carried out for the project. However, in the context of this FL it is expected that the social impacts of the project will be overall positive justifying the Bank's involvement.

The everyday life for the inhabitants and associated social relations and routines will be improved thanks to improved mobility, rehabilitation of social housing, improved municipal infrastructure, schools, sports facilities, municipal service centres, and other infrastructure for public services.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The proposed schemes included in the FL are in line with the long term City Development Strategy for Bologna. The PSC has undergone a regular public consultation process and all concerned inhabitants of the City have been given the possibility to provide their comments to the draft proposal before it was approved by the City Council in 2008. The PSC is developed through short term sectorial City Operational Plans (POC) and Programmes (i.e. POC on urban infrastructure, POC for urban regeneration) also subject to Public Consultation.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Overall, the net environmental impact is expected to be positive. Bologna is fully committed to Climate Action, including mitigation and adaptation measures as part of the City investment programme. Bologna is also improving its resilience against earthquakes, in particular after the one occurred in 2012 which mainly impacted the western part of the City.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Therefore, given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Bologna, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the FL is acceptable in environmental and social terms.