

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: POLISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES II
Project Number: 2015-0477
Country: Poland
Project Description: Financing of tangible and intangible investment costs incurred by institutes and research units belonging to the Polish Academy of Sciences.

EIA required: Multi Investment Scheme - not known at this stage

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Most of the intangible research activities included in the project will be carried out in existing buildings or in new ones located in already approved urban areas, therefore without the need for an EIA. The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and its Annexes I and II do not specifically mention education and research facilities such as those financed by this operation, however, the construction of such buildings falls under the Annex II in respect to urban development and the local competent authority may demand an EIA.

The project is expected to have no impact on Natura 2000 sites (falling under Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC or Birds Directive 79/409/EEC).

Some research institutions carry out scientific experiments with the use of animals. Polish legislation and recommended practices with respect to the application and enforcement of ethical standards in R&D are consistent with best practices in the EU. Concerning the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, Directive 2010/63/EU was adopted on 22 September 2010 and took full effect from 21st October 2014. The revised Directive 86/609/EEC is in application. The principle is to reduce and where possible replace the use of animals used for scientific purposes. Each use of the animals for scientific purpose has to be approved by the authorized bioethical committee. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education hosts the central bioethical committee, which supervises 18 local committees.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Results of conducted research activities are planned to have positive social impact, both regarding cultural heritage (archaeological, literature research) as well as concerning better products and services.

The development of the European knowledge economy depends on scientific outputs, with an important role for basic research. Investing in R&D has an economic pay-off and stimulates the creation of high quality jobs. Therefore, the project is expected to lead to significant social and economic benefits.

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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is a multi-sector/multi-scheme operation focused on R&D undertaken in the Polish Academy of Sciences institutes. The Bank obliges the promoter to comply with relevant environmental legislation. EU directives concerning science, bioethics, animal welfare and particularly the use of animals in experimental research are transposed into Polish law and effective procedures are in place.

The project finances mainly intangible basic research activities (95% of the cost) in different disciplines. R&D has high value for society. It contributes to economic development and the creation of high quality jobs.

Some activities require use of hazardous substances that may have minor negative impacts for which appropriate mitigation measures are planned.

For the capital investment component of the project (5% of cost), planning and environmental regulations may apply for the approval of location, construction and operation permits. Environmental Impact Assessment may be required according to EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as well as Natura 2000 authorisations and the EIB loan conditions and/or undertakings will assure compliance by the promoter.

Overall the project is considered acceptable with minor negative residual environmental impacts and is expected to bring a positive social impact.