

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CYPRUS INSTITUTE FOR NEUROLOGY AND GENETICS R&D
Project Number: 2016-0037
Country: Cyprus
Project Description: The project involves extension construction, equipment purchase as well as intangible cost of research activities of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project involves extension construction, purchasing of equipment, as well as the intangible costs of research activities of the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics.

Hospitals and medical research institutes are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The foreseen construction works will be carried out on the present site of the Institute, in close connection with the existing building. Considering the size, location and extension of the foreseen construction, the promoter does not expect that an EIA will be requested for any of the works envisaged in the project. As the project is at an early stage of development, the relevant permits have not been issued yet. The Finance Contract will include an undertaking that the promoter shall make the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) available to the Bank should an Environmental Impact Assessment be undertaken. 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) however the promoter will be required to provide information about impacts on Natura 2000 areas and due authorisations by competent authorities. The same is true for the cultural heritage issues.

Cypriot legislation and recommended practices with respect to the application and enforcement of ethical standards in research are consistent with best practices in the EU. In 2013, the Cyprus Law incorporated the EU Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union of 22 September 2010 on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. A national committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes is established to give advice to the competent authority (the Cyprus Veterinary Services) and animal-welfare bodies.

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.

Luxembourg, 21 November 2016

As usual in case of health care and medical R&D activity, the Institute's operational activity faces the issues of dealing with hazardous medical waste. CING demonstrates high awareness of this issue. The Institute has developed a Dangerous Substances and Waste Management Guide, which describes the process used for the disposal of hazardous waste. Moreover, CING is in agreement with a company for the collection and proper disposal of hazardous/toxic waste. This company is approved by the Department of Environment, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment.

The promoter pays attention to its energy policy. The existing premises have positively passed an energy audit in 2011. The new building will be developed according to the EU directives requirements regarding the energy performance of buildings, and specific targets for the energy efficiency will be set to be met by the proposed project. Among other solutions (double wall, insulating materials), the newly constructed facilities will be equipped in the Building Management System, coordinating energy distribution and balancing it throughout the building and photovoltaic panels.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The following patients' associations have been consulted in the decision making process regarding this project: 1) Muscular Dystrophy Association of Cyprus and 2) Pancyprrian Antianaemic Association.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Through the proposed investments (refurbishment of old premises, equipment purchase, reconfiguration of health care services delivery and intensification of R&D activities), the project enables the introduction of higher quality medical treatment and rehabilitation for patients. Moreover, the refurbishment of the existing building and construction of the modern, dedicated facility will improve safety and working conditions for the staff.

The project also includes medical R&D activities (40% of the total cost). Investing in medical research contributes to better health care services delivery resulting in improved health status of the population. It further adds to the economy and stimulates the creation of high quality jobs. Successful investments in medical R&D lead to practical applications of scientific discoveries which, in turn, lead to more effective prevention measures, new diagnostic tests and innovative therapies, especially important in the case of rare diseases. All necessary consent forms exist and the users of CING services are asked to complete and sign them, where applicable.

The Cypriot legal framework regarding the conduction of clinical trials, and, more widely, research activities with participation of patients incorporates the provisions of Directive 2001/20/EC of the European Parliament as amended. The conduct of any clinical trial and research activity with participation of patients has to be communicated to, and approved by, the Cyprus National Bioethics Committee, the Cyprus Drug Council, the Office of the Commissioner for Personal Data Protection and the management of the Institution in which the Clinical Trial is taking place.

It has to be mentioned that the Cypriot population is in particular need of both health care services being provided by the Cypriot Institute of Neurology and Genetics as well as its results of its R&D activities. Inhabitants of the island suffer from particularly high frequency of neurologic and genetic diseases, just to mention thalassemia, Friedreich's ataxia, familial amyloid polyneuropathy (Portuguese type), G-6-PD deficiency, GM1 gangliosidosis, maple syrup urine disease, glutaric aciduria type I and galactosaemia (and this list is much longer). Therefore, the project is expected to lead to significant social benefits.

Luxembourg, 21 November 2016

Conclusions and Recommendations

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered acceptable with minor negative residual impacts and is expected to bring a positive social impact.

The Finance Contract will include an undertaking that the promoter shall make the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) available to the Bank should an Environmental Impact Assessment be undertaken. Similarly, should the relevant authorities express their opinion about impacts on Natura 2000 areas and cultural heritage issues, sharing this information will be a contractual obligation.