

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CHISINAU ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Project Number: 2014-0161

Country: Moldova

Project Description: The operation is a framework loan (FL) in support of sustainable energy efficiency improvements targeting public buildings in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova. Part of the allocations under the FL have already been identified ex ante through advisory support and consists of the refurbishment of 22 public buildings. The remainder of the pipeline of allocations will be further developed by the Municipality of Chisinau, the promoter, with advisory support and may also include residential buildings.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is related to improving the thermal insulation of public buildings as well as other building-related energy efficiency measures including boiler replacement, solar hot water and rooftop solar power generation, relighting, etc. in Chisinau. Due to the project, energy consumption for e.g. heating purposes will be reduced by around 50%.

The loan will be conditional to ex-post verification by independent experts on the achieved energy savings. Temporary nuisance due to the construction works (dust, noise, traffic disruption) are mitigated through appropriate site organisation and construction management. Due to the nature of the investment no significant negative environmental impacts are expected.

The estimated emissions savings are around 9,500 t of CO₂ equivalent per year. This emission reduction has been calculated based on the expected annual thermal & electrical energy savings after the implementation of the project.

Social Assessment

No special social risks are anticipated for this project. On the contrary, the project is expected to bring about considerable positive social benefits related to the gains in energy efficiency and associated decrease in energy costs as well as improved comfort.

The Republic of Moldova has ratified the ILO Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) in 2010, which is reflected in local health and safety legislation.

Visits to building sites in Chisinau showed the proper implementation of satisfactory health and safety standards.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The operation will support the reduction of energy consumption in public buildings. Thus, it will reduce atmospheric pollution related to the production of heat (SO₂, NO_x and particulates) and will help mitigate climate change by avoiding associated CO₂ emissions. Given the scale, location and nature of the sub-projects in built-up urban areas, there are no significant environmental or social risks expected.

The promoter will ensure that after the thermal refurbishment, energy performance certificates will be issued by independent accredited experts in accordance with the national legislation and the methodology to be prepared by the Technical Assistance supporting this operation.

Based on the above it is concluded that this operation is acceptable to the Bank from an environmental and social point of view.

The promoter will have to ensure that EIB Environmental and Social Guidelines will be followed for and during the implementation of the subprojects, especially in regard to safety and EIA obligations.