

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GOTHENBURG MUNICIPAL INVESTMENTS
Project Number:	2016-0549
Country:	Sweden
Project Description:	The project concerns the financing of investment schemes forming part of the City of Gothenburg's four-year investment programme from 2017 to 2021 under a municipal Framework Loan. The project is expected to comprise small to medium sized schemes in the fields of housing, public buildings, transport, water and energy and other municipal infrastructure, although provision is also made for the possible inclusion of large schemes under the allocation procedures.
EIA required:	This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive and have to be screened by the Competent Authority.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Competent Authority in Gothenburg is the County Administrative Board of Västra Götaland (Länsstyrelsen i Västra Götaland), which is in charge of protected sites, including Natura 2000, and EIAs as well as of the whole environmental permitting process. The City has a well-established system of comprehensive multi-sector spatial development plans with integrated strategic environmental assessment.

For investments in construction, reconstruction and/or renovation of public buildings and municipal rental housing there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the municipalities as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing of windows and other energy efficiency measures. New housing schemes aim at achieving an energy consumption of 60 kWh/m²/year, and public buildings 45 kWh/m²/year which is below the relevant Swedish building code target of 80 kWh/m²/year for the Gothenburg region.

The construction/reconstruction works are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the works are completed, it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

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.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some infrastructure schemes will fall under the EIA Directive 2014/92/EU (amending 2011/92/EU), either under Annex I or Annex II. Should any scheme under this operation fall under Annex II and be “screened in” by the Competent Authority, or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the respective Bank funds are allocated. However, given the relatively small size of the individual schemes, the location, duration of the works and the nature of the sectors concerned, most of the schemes are deemed unlikely to have significant environmental impacts.

Biodiversity Issues

Although there are Natura 2000 sites (Habitats 92/43/EEC and Birds 2009/147/EC Directives) situated within the municipal boundaries of Gothenburg, the schemes in this operation are expected to be located in urban territory only. It is expected that no protected sites, including Natura 2000 sites, will be affected by any of the schemes in the operation. However, should any scheme have a potential significant impact on a protected site, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the relevant Directives before the Bank funds are allocated.

Social Assessment

Although no separate social impact assessment has been carried out, it is deemed that the overall social impact of the framework loan will be positive given that it will result in: new and rehabilitated public buildings (including schools and kindergartens); improvement of urban infrastructure (including affordable housing, educational facilities); urban transport improvement schemes (including environmental and mobility improvements), etc.

Gothenburg is experiencing changes in demography and is in need of attracting businesses. New or reconstructed public buildings, schools and pre-schools as well as improved transport infrastructure will serve to attain these goals since the quality of residents’ everyday life and convenience of conducting business, social relations and routines, will increase due to the improved municipal infrastructure and services.

Climate Change

This framework loan has elements that support climate action through energy efficient public buildings. The share of the investments supporting climate action is estimated at 35%.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation with local government units, public institutions and professionals bodies, as well as public participation, was carried out as part of the SEA process during the preparation of the City Master Plan. The current City Master Plan was adopted in 2009.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The institutional capacity of the promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed very good. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA, nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Sweden and the capacity of the Promoter, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.