

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	University of Latvia Research and Study Centre
Project Number:	2016-0695
Country:	Latvia
Project Description:	The project finances the second phase of the University of Latvia's campus development plan. As a result of the project two new buildings will be constructed to house many departments now located in different parts of Riga.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will support construction of two new buildings to the brand new university campus in Tornakalns district located across the river from the historical centre of Riga. As a result of the project majority of the University activities will be accommodated in the new central campus. Overall, the project targets to improve the working conditions of the students, researchers and staff as well as facilitate better collaboration opportunities between different faculties. Additionally, the efficiency of the University's real estate stock is improved.

Universities and scientific institutions of this kind 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 buildings included to the project are the second and third building built to the campus, the first being already completed and operational since 2015. According to the Promoter an EIA is not required for neither of the consecutive buildings, since all the necessary aspects have been taken into account either in the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of the amendments to Riga territory plan for 2006-2018 or during the master planning phase of the Tornakalns administrative centre covered by Riga City Council binding regulation No. 63 of 13 April 2010 "Binding Regulation for the Use and Construction of Tornakalns Administrative Centre Territory".

In respect to Energy Performance the Promoter will implement several measures to support energy efficiency of the new buildings including but not limited to renewable energy, recyclable façade panels and façade cladding and rainwater collection and retention system.

The location of the site is historically significant. The Tornakalns campus sits on the historical fortification of Cobron. New construction is estimated to be located in the area of the fortification's moat. Prior to construction an archaeological research will be carried on the site under the control of the authority responsible for the heritage protection.

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the project covers construction works in an urban area close to existing facilities, no significant impact is expected on the environment. The project aims at consolidating all the activities on to one unified campus area with improved efficiency and safety of the real estate stock. In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered acceptable for financing by the Bank.