

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	KOSICE REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE II
Project Number:	2014-0632
Country:	Slovakia
Project Description:	Co-financing of a multi-sector investment programme of the Kosice Region in the 2014-2020 EU Programming Period.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

It is deemed that the improvements of infrastructure included in the Region's development strategy and in its investment plan will cater for the modernisation of the Region's basic infrastructure and improving the quality of public services. The investment plan, to be included in the EIB financed operation, includes several components rehabilitation of the regional road network, upgrade/modernisation of public buildings in the area of education, health and social care, culture and tourism- to be implemented in the period 2015-2020. The investment programme is coherent with the Economic and Social Development Program (ESDP) of the region in domains where Kosice Region, as a regional government, has financial and planning responsibility.

The procedures to be applied in assessing the environmental impacts of proposed activities or the impact of strategic documents on environmental protection are part of the Slovak Law no. 24/2006. The competent authority is the Slovak Environmental Inspectorate under the Ministry of Environment. The competent authority is obliged to publish the assessed document, the assessment process and its conclusions (including an NTS) on its web portal (www.enviroportal.sk).

The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the EIA, SEA, Habitats and Birds Directives. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation, in particular in the fields of environment.

Biodiversity Issues

Although there are Natura 2000 sites (Habitats 92/43/EEC and Birds 2009/147/EC Directives) situated in the Kosice Region, the schemes in this operation are expected to be located mainly at a remove from these, within the urban areas of the region. It is expected that very few or no protected sites, including Natura 2000 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 Competent Authority 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 the: rehabilitation of public buildings (including schools and kindergartens); rehabilitation of deprived areas; improvement of urban infrastructure (including social and/or affordable

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.

housing, health facilities, water and sewage, recreational areas, sports facilities); urban transport improvement schemes (including roads, safety measures and environmentally friendly transport), etc. 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 will increase due to the improved infrastructure and services.

Climate Change

The project is expected to moderately contribute to climate change mitigation (through improvement of energy efficiency in buildings and integrated renewal of degraded and deprived urban areas) as well as to climate change adaption (through urban infrastructure and public buildings refurbishment and investments into transport infrastructure and energy-efficient public transport).

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Integrated Regional Operational Plan (IROP) on which the Economic and Social Development Programme for Kosice is funded was subject to SEA process including public consultation – communication will be channelled through public website of the Region and interactively during seminars with public involvement.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The overall environmental and social impact of the FL is positive, with improved environment and quality of life for the people in the Kosice Region, especially in matter of improvement of the regional road network and energy efficiency in buildings. The reconstructed road sections will decrease noise level, dust formation and vibrations; and will bring benefits to the whole society from the environmental aspect.

Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Slovakia and the capacity of the Promoter, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.