

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND GALWAY CAMPUS
Project Number:	2014-0640
Country:	<i>Ireland</i>
Project Description:	The project will consist of the construction of the new Human Biology Building (HBB) and of two Student Accommodation Residences and of the refurbishment of a building for the Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance (CDTP). The aim is to concentrate in the HBB related disciplines with a more efficient use of the space, to double the Campus accommodation capacity and to provide dedicated spaces to the CDTP faculties by refurbishing an 1800s industrial protected building.
EIA required:	pending decision
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project will consist of the construction of the new Human Biology Building (HBB) and of two Student Accommodation Residences and the refurbishment of a 1800s industrial protected building to host the Centre for Drama, Theatre & Performance (CDTP).

The promoter cannot exclude that an EIA will be requested for any subproject where the relevant permits are not issued yet. Although the project concerns greenfield and brownfield components, the promoter doesn't expect to meet significant issues to comply with the applicable national Environmental Legislation (Planning and Development Act, 2000) and with the EU Council Directive 2011/92/EU.

The CDTP building is a structure listed on the planning authority's Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and that the planning authority considers to be of special interest from an architectural and historical point of view. This structure is protected under the Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

The approved design foresees the possibility to restore the original situation of the building with deconstruction activities.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The purpose of the project is to increase the relevance and quality of teaching, learning and academic research capacity at the National University of Ireland Galway (NUI Galway) by increasing and improving the overall quality of the existing academic space. The project will contribute to human capital formation and Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) capabilities in Ireland and in the EU.

The benefits of the project derive from the increased scope in achieving well-trained undergraduate and postgraduate students, an expanded research capacity with a focus on applicability of results, and a sustainable and value-driven contribution towards economic development. The additional students' accommodation space meets the increasing demand facilitating the students' mobility.

All the animal work carried out by the Research team going into the Human Biology Building is on a non-profit making basis. All the studies are ethically evaluated by the Animal Care and Research Ethics Committee (ACREC) of National University of Ireland, Galway.

Regarding the legislation and licencing, all the studies are run under the licence by the Irish Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) and are run accordance with European Union Directive 2010/63/EU and S.I. No. 543 of 2012.

The Promoter's Energy Policy aims at promoting the concept of energy efficiency and implementing a programme of continuous improvement of energy efficiency. The NUI Galway energy management system is certified ISO 50001.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project covers Universities and Research Facilities of a kind which are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended, though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. 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 requested for any of the project components.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered acceptable for the Bank's financing.