

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *BRATISLAVA REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE II*
Project Number: *2016-0843*
Country: *Slovakia*
Project Description: *Multi-sectorial investment programme aimed at improving regional infrastructure of Bratislava Region in the period 2017-2020.*

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 Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This multi-sector Framework Loan operation will support the implementation of the Programme of Economic and Social Development of the region of Bratislava, namely through financing the sustainable mobility and traffic safety improvements in regional roads network, refurbishment of public buildings, primarily in the education, social-care, and culture sectors.

The Programme of Economic and Social Development (PESD) 2014-2020 is an overarching strategy that underpins the investment programme supported by this operation. It has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in 2013. A copy of the Non-Technical Summary of this SEA was published on EIB website. As far as the content of this operation is concerned, the SEA of the PESD concluded that significant environmental impact is not expected.

Some of the schemes in the operation may fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU. However given the project content, none of these schemes is expected to require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Should any scheme included under this operation require an EIA as a result of the decision of the competent authority, the Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU directives.

There are about 41 protected sites that belong to Natura 2000 network in the Region of Bratislava. It is not expected that any of these sites might be affected by any of the schemes potentially included in this operation, since most of the schemes concern refurbishment of public buildings located in urban areas.

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.

Luxembourg, 28.04.2017

The schemes are expected to have a limited temporary impact during the construction phase usually through an increased local traffic and construction and demolition waste generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority. In the case of road safety and modernisation schemes, the intervention shall be limited to the existing lanes of the roads as well as other existing transport structures, which reduces potential impacts to a minimum. However, the road schemes are expected to have limited residual impact in the operational phase. As far as public buildings are concerned, there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the region as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing windows and other energy efficiency measures.

Both sustainable mobility components (extension of bicycle paths) and energy efficiency measures within the refurbishment of the public buildings will contribute to the Climate Action (mitigation).

The Region becomes increasingly aware about its climate risks and vulnerabilities and intends to step up its commitment towards considering adaptation to climate change in its investments and operations. At this stage some initial preparatory work has been completed to that effect, but does not yet translate into schemes that could be financed under this operation.

In the past operation the Bank assisted in the post-flood recovery of some parts of the region. The reconstruction works were reported to be undertaken with the principle of 'building back better' i.e. increasing resilience towards potential future events. Should any of such disaster events happen, the region will be able to use this operation to finance post-disaster recovery phase.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts, including the increase in the quality of public services available to the inhabitants as a result of the refurbishment of public buildings. Furthermore, road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

The European Commission has addressed the Republic of Slovakia with a concern over the equal access of Roma population to the education, in particular at early stages of the education system. Given the content of this operation and the responsibility of the region for the secondary and vocational education, it is unlikely that any scheme would be affected by this infringement. However, the issue will be monitored to ensure that none of the schemes allocated under this operation is affected.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The approvals of the Programme of Economic and Social Development have been preceded by comprehensive consultation with stakeholders and public concerned. Schemes to be implemented under this operation are approved by the Regional Council within the budgetary process and would involve further consultation only if required by the national legislation.

Luxembourg, 28.04.2017

Conclusions and Recommendations

Should any scheme included under this operation require an EIA, it would be subject to the Bank's standard environmental assessment. The Promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including the SEA, EIA, 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. For schemes requiring an EIA that were processed by the competent authority or obtained permits under the EIA law in force before January 2015, a compliance assessment with the EU EIA Directive shall be provided. Should any scheme be located in the Vajnory district, the Promoter shall demonstrate that the relevant applicable Land Use Plan (and its amendments) has been subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment with adequate public consultation. The Promoter shall deliver to the Bank a confirmation or equivalent that the schemes have no significant impact on nature sites of Community Importance or their equivalents, as well as the EIS where applicable. The Promoter should inform the Bank, should any of the schemes be subject to the infringement related to the provision of education to the Roma population.

Under such conditions the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

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