

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Bialystok Municipal Infrastructure II
Project Number:	2010-0230
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The operation, structured as a Framework Loan, is located in the city of Białystok. The programme comprises small, medium and large-sized investment schemes in the sectors of urban road networks (including a traffic management centre), rolling stock (renewal of bus fleet) and scientific research and development (construction of Science and Technology Park).

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion:

Poland, as a Member State, is required to follow the relevant EU legislation in relation to the environmental impact of projects (namely SEA, EIA, Habitat/Natura 2000 and Birds Directives). In application of EU requirements, the City of Białystok had an Urban Development Strategy for 2011-2020 with the SEA done and approved in June 2010.

The new Polish EIA law, which is fully compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008. Some of the schemes in this operation fell under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and hence competent authorities decided on a case-by-case basis whether a full EIA was to be carried out or not, including public consultation.

A total of 14 road schemes were included in the project. A full appraisal of five of the larger road sections was done under a separate operation (Serapis # 2013-0046). The road schemes involved the construction and reconstruction of five roads on the local network scattered throughout the City. Each scheme was less than 5.2 km in length however three of them (Construction of the extension of Gen. Wł. Andersa, Reconstruction of ul. Gen. Wł. Andersa and Reconstruction of ul. Gen. F. Kleeberga) are part of the northern ring road of the City, which is c.a 12.2km length and, therefore fell under Annex I of EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The other two schemes (Reconstruction of section of ul. Ciołkowskiego and Construction of extension ul. Piastowskiej) fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive and have been screened in by the competent authority. Consequently full EIAs were carried out for the five schemes, including public consultation. The EISs (Environmental Impact Statements) have been provided to the Bank.

The Promoter provided evidence of compliance with the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directives (79/409/EEC). Schemes were not close to Natura 2000 areas and no impacts were recorded on Natura 2000 sites. The Science and Technology Park (BSTP) fell under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Notwithstanding, the BSTP was screened in and a full EIA was carried out in keeping with the updated Polish Law and a NTS was provided. The Environmental permit for the BSTP was approved in June 2009 by the City of Białystok.

For all the schemes, the works were carried out with the use of technologies which minimises the potential impact to the environment and the residents. In addition, a number of technical and organizational measures aimed at minimising the impacts have been taken into consideration during the construction phase. Particularly, for the selected road schemes, they include the construction of noise barriers and fauna migration structures as well as biologic revitalization and monitoring measures.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental issues in the programme was satisfactory.

Whilst there may be some minor detrimental impact during the construction/implementation of certain schemes, the objective is that the net environmental and social impact of the programme as a whole should be positive. The whole project is expected to generate benefits in terms of mobility, especially by the construction of the traffic management centre, promotion of other sustainable modes as cycling and upgrading of public transport services in the city thanks to construction of bus lanes and bus fleet renewal. The project is also expected to contribute to enhancing the general quality of life and competitiveness of the city thanks to the Science and Technology Park.

Considering the above, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, site visits by the EIB team during Construction that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.