

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	POLAND SOCIAL AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2016-0743
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	Programme Loan aimed at financing social and affordable housing projects in different municipalities in Poland
EIA required:	Sub Operations (individual projects) under the Programme Loan may require EIAs and this will be verified during the individual appraisal of these projects.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Programme Loan is a loan facility to which eligible social and affordable housing providers in Poland may apply for the part funding of their investment programmes in the country.

Environmental Assessment

The Act on Providing Information on the Environment and Environmental Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessment, which is compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008. The Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for the schemes under the Sub Operations will be the relevant Regional Environmental Protection Departments. These Departments will also be the Competent Authority for Natura 2000 areas.

The Sub Operations (projects) under the Programme Loan will be located in several locations in Poland, which are yet to be confirmed. Given the scope of the Programme Loan, an EIA under may be required for some of the underlying housing schemes – this will be verified either during the appraisal of the Sub Operations and confirmed during the allocation of funds to the actual housing schemes. The schemes are unlikely to be located in or have a significant impact on Natura 2000 areas but the promoter will be required to inform the Bank if this is the case. It is expected that the environmental impact of the housing schemes at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, and at a level deemed acceptable. The individual project building permits will stipulate monitoring of environmental requirements prior to, during and post construction.

Potential negative effects (i.e. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures (i.e. drainage systems, reinstatement of damaged vegetation with local species). Construction works include the implementation of energy efficiency measures and therefore, the investments are expected to bring a number of positive effects in this regard.

Luxembourg, 22nd February, 2017

Social Assessment, where applicable

No separate social assessment has been carried out for this project. However, the investment in social housing will improve social inclusion by helping lower the income barrier to living in urban areas, where affordability is a significant issue. The Project should lead to a continued improvement in the level of integration of lower income groups subject to the appropriate design and layout of the individual investments.

It shall be verified as to whether any resettlement or expropriation is to be carried out during the appraisal of the Sub Operations.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Consultation process is embedded in the Planning process and procedures, therefore it is anticipated that the housing schemes will have been the subject of engagement and public scrutiny, either directly or indirectly.

Conclusions and Recommendations

It is expected that the net environmental and social impact of the Programme Loan will be positive. The provision of social and affordable housing in urban areas will promote greater social inclusion by lessening the significance of income as a determinant of where people may choose to live. The concentration of housing within urban areas is also anticipated to reduce the land consumption of residential development and promote more sustainable patterns of mobility. Potential negative impacts are expected to be mainly confined to the construction phase and therefore temporary and mitigated by appropriate measures. A fuller appreciation of the potential impacts will be carried out during the appraisal of the Sub Operations.

The Promoters will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2011/92/EU) and subsequent amendments (e.g. 2014/52/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives as transposed into national law. Regarding project schemes that are deemed to require an EIA, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated. Therefore, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the project is acceptable to the Bank in environmental and social terms.