

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ROMANIA RURAL DEVELOPMENT EU COFINANCING 2014-20
Project Number:	2015-0714
Country:	Romania
Project Description:	Support to selected measures of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 for Romania.
EIA required:	The project is a multi-scheme Framework Loan, some individual investments may require EIA
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	n/a

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project is structured as a framework loan from the EIB to the Government of Romania, in support of the national public contribution to the financing of Romania's 2014-2020 Rural Development Programme (RDP). The Project will support eight RDP measures in total. These are primarily designed to deliver investment support to the development of private sector productive assets and public sector infrastructure, business diversification, rural services, afforestation and local areas development. Measures delivering horizontal support to such investments through the provision of training, advisory and support services are also included in the Project.

The Project is expected to deliver multiple environmental benefits, including reductions in adverse impacts on land and water from agricultural activity and increased resource and energy efficiency in agricultural, forest and food production. The programme is also expected to contribute to EU environmental policy objectives in the field of soil and water management, biodiversity and climate change.

Romania has identified restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems in agriculture and forestry as the main priority area for its 2014-2020 RDP. In addition: (i) social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas, and (ii) farm viability, competitiveness and sustainable forest management are significant programme priorities that are supported under the Project. Further, as part of the required process of ex-ante evaluation of the RDP development, a comprehensive Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was conducted during 2014-2015 and the RDP adjusted to reflect the recommendations of the SEA.

In the Romania-EU Partnership Agreement for the 2014-2020 programming period, the RDP was aligned with Romanian commitments in the sphere of the environment and makes considerable contributions, alongside regional development and cohesion funding to thematic

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, 27 April 2018

objectives that cover social inclusion, climate change adaptation and environment and resource efficiency.

All investments envisaged under the RDP are subject to applicable EU environmental and social regulations. As such, certain project activities may require an EIA, subject to the determination of the competent authority, in accordance with the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), even though such directives may not yet have been fully transposed into national legislation. Furthermore, where an action may affect a Natura 2000 site, as designated according to Habitats or Birds Directives (1992/43/EEC and 2009/147/EC respectively), the Bank requires the Promoter to follow the directives' procedures.

As the project is a multi-scheme framework loan, data available ex-ante is insufficient to conduct a detailed carbon footprint calculation, although investments foreseen under the project, such as afforestation and orchard development, manure management and energy efficiency, will act to mitigate emissions caused by project supported investments in machinery and equipment.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

During the preparation of the 2014-2020 RDP, public consultation and stakeholder engagement were conducted in line with the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 240/2014 on the European code of conduct on partnership in the framework of the European Structural and Investment Funds, meaning engaging relevant public, private and NGO partners at each stage of the planning process, from needs identification through allocation of funding to determining the composition of the monitoring committee for the programme.

The process is documented in the text of the RDP itself, as well as in supporting documentation, including the Strategic Environmental Assessment, conducted as part of the RDP's preparation.

Stakeholder engagement is an important principle of rural development programming. For this reason, the establishment and operation of National Rural Networks (NRN) are supported under RDPs to increase the involvement of stakeholders in RDP implementation and inform the public and potential beneficiaries on rural development issues and funding opportunities. In Romania the NRN is open to all public institutions, stakeholder organisations, community groups and interested individuals. By end 2017 this comprised over 400 legal entities, nearly 1,500 Romanian individuals and nearly 150 international groups and observers. These members are invited to an annual National NRN Conference and are represented by a National Coordination Committee, thematic sub-committees and a Network Support Unit within the Managing Authority at central and regional levels.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter undertakes not to commit any EIB funds to sub-projects that require an EIA, biodiversity assessment, River Basin Management Plan amendment, Flood Risk Management Plan or other assessment required by EU legislation without, prior to commitment, receiving consent from the competent authority and having the relevant documentation made available to the public.

The Promoter shall store and keep all documentation relating to the sub-projects updated and available for review at the request of the Bank, including the following:

Luxembourg, 27 April 2018

- whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required in accordance with the EU EIA directive, including in relation to land re-parcelling initiatives; and the Non-Technical Summary of EIAs that have been carried out;
- whether an Appropriate Assessment is required under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives; and the forms A or B (or equivalent), where applicable;
- agricultural action programme measures in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs), River Basin Management plans and Flood Risk Management plans, where applicable, as required by the Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive and the Flood Risk Directive respectively.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the Project as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and issues, the Project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.