

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: FRENCH ANIMAL HEALTH R&D INVESTMENTS
Project Number: 2017-0188
Country: France
Project Description: Investment to support R&D of a robust portfolio of next generation innovative products, addressing global animal health issues, to support Virbac's organic growth and international expansion.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment

The promoter's investments concern research, development and innovation activities that will be in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors. These activities are not listed in any of the annexes of the EU Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU. Furthermore, the project will be carried out in existing facilities already authorised for similar activities and volumes that do not require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the relevant EU Directives. Therefore an EIA is not required.

The research activities proposed in the project aim to create new therapeutic strategies improving animal health care quality and thus, the project, if successful, is expected to bring positive social and economic impacts. The promoter acts in accordance with relevant local legislation regarding the protection of animals used for scientific purposes.

Overall, the project can therefore be classified as acceptable with positive or no residual impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter complies with the strict regulations governing the veterinary world and is subject to regular audits from the competent authorities. The company's operations themselves guarantee strict quality requirements (compliance with Good Manufacturing Practices and with Good Laboratory Practices). In addition, the promoter has launched lean manufacturing and continuous improvement projects, designed to steadily reduce waste and optimise their use of resources.

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.



The promoter has defined a set of KPIs / benchmarks according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which are assured by external auditors.

Social Assessment

The proposed transaction will help the promoter to increase and accelerate the company's investments in strategically key and innovative R&D activities. The R&D project, if successful, is expected to help to introduce novel treatment options for several animal health issues with important unmet medical needs and business opportunities. Indirectly, the investment in this project will create novel employment opportunities for highly skilled R&D personnel.

Other Environmental Aspects

The promoter uses animals for research and safety testing of products – where no acceptable alternative methods exist, as animal testing is necessary at pre-clinical stage. Further, the promoter is highly committed to apply the “3R” principle that consists of: Replacing animal use by alternative methods when possible, Reducing the number of animals used as much as possible and Refining the testing methods to reduce animals' pain and distress.

Furthermore the promoter acts in accordance with the EU Directive 2010/63/EU regarding animal testing.