18 December 2017

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*BILDUNG UND ERHOLUNG INNSBRUCK*
Project Number:	*2017-0537*
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	The project comprises of two components: (i) construction of a new concert hall as venue for concerts, higher music education, a music library, archives and administration, and (ii) replacement of an outdated cable car infrastructure and associated recreational and facilities at Patscherkofel mountain.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is located in the City of Innsbruck, which is the capital of the State of Tyrol (Land Tirol) in western Austria and located in the Inn valley between high mountains. The City has about 132,000 inhabitants (2016) and has an important role as a tourist, cultural, education and economic centre of western Austria.

The project comprises of two components: i) House of Music, and ii) Cable car and associated infrastructure (Patscherkofelbahn). The investments will be implemented and operated by the City of Innsbruck (Promoter) through dedicated subsidiary entities. The proposed investments contribute to urban development of the city in the area of cultural, educational and recreational activities, and are in line with the City´s Development Strategy.

The relevant EU Directives, including EIA 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) and Energy Performance of Buildings (2010/31/EU), have been transposed into national legislation. Both components fall under Annex II of the EU EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU) and were screened out by the environmental competent authority (Land Tirol Environmental Protection Department). Therefore, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was not required and carried out for any of them.

i. House of Music:
New construction of a concert hall (‘Haus der Musik’), which replaces an outdated city auditorium. The new building aims at concentrating all public facilities connected to music (concert hall, university faculties, theatre, library, etc.) in one location as they are currently dispersed throughout the city.

[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 new concert hall represents a replacement of a former building maintaining the same purpose, therefore there was no need for any change to the city planning documents (zoning). Furthermore, there is no significant change on the transport situation as no additional parking was planned. At the preparatory phase, the implementation required a number of building permissions concerning protection and surveys of archaeological monuments and potential relicts on the site. During the demolition and construction phases the building requirements were aiming at preserving the cultural heritage in the area.

The building of the new concert hall has been designed and will be built as a near zero energy building (NZEB) / passive house standard (according to Austrian regulations, OIB). The building has a renewable energy supply component as it will use an underground water stream for heating and cooling. All in all, the concert hall component is envisaged to contribute to the Bank´s Climate Action objectives.

ii. Patscherkofelbahn:
Replacement and improvement of recreational and access infrastructure to the city mountain 'Patscherkofel', which is used all year round, primarily by the local population.

The works consist of the replacement of four outdated cable car lines, including the installation of modern cabins adapted to impaired people, by a single cable car line which will considerably reduce the carbon footprint. The works also comprise the construction of three new station buildings and associated recreational facilities (e.g. restaurant, rescue centre, garage for snow machinery, artificial snow technology, reorganised parking facilities and an improved access road at the ground station), and the reforestation of those areas where the outdated cable car line will be dismantled and not replaced by the new one.

The environmental approval for the cable car component was based on assessment of its environmental impacts (nature, water, soil, air, etc.) however the construction did not required a full EIA since the size of the area concerned was below the limit stablished in the environmental legislation. In addition, the area had been previous used for the same purpose: recreational activities such as skiing and mountaineering.

Final designs include requirements established by the environmental competent authority. The new infrastructure will not be located in any of the protected zones. The competent authorities will monitor closely the implementation as well as future operation of the infrastructure, particularly with regards to possible impacts on nature protected zones in the vicinity areas, water protection area, etc.

Social Assessment

The investments shall enhance attractiveness of the city and contribute to economic development through supporting cultural and recreational activities which will generate new jobs and additional income opportunities for the city as well as other SMEs in the area.

Both investments have been designed taking into account their social and environmental impacts in the affected areas. In case of the new concert hall it will function within the surrounding urbanised area as a welcoming space for gathering people. The space in front of the new concert hall is traditionally used for cultural as well as other public/city events.

Both investments will be accessible by public transport, namely by city bus lines. Skiers can use the buses connecting the city with the base station of the new cable car free of charge. In addition, the new cable car infrastructure will make the city's core recreational area more accessible for the population, e.g. in summer and winter season, improved parking facilities at the base station and modern cabins can be used by elderly and disabled people.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation was carried out intensively by the City administration well ahead already at the planning stage. The City was informing public regularly about the progress of preparation, design (incl. alternatives) and parameters of the chosen option(s). In case of House of Music, the different institutions that should find place in the newly constructed building, were intensively involved since the outset during the feasibility study phase and design. Equally, there was a large working group comprising of local and regional actors during the preparation and design of the new cable car project. During the implementation (construction) the City has been providing photos and videos of the construction sites in real time on its website.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The two investments are located in different parts of the city: the House of Music in a centrally located built-up area and, the cable car and associated infrastructure (Patscherkofelbahn) in the mountainous neighbourhood of the city. None of the investments was identified by the competent environmental authority to be subject to EIA, neither was there any significant impact identified on environmentally protected sites.

The Project (buildings, facilities and cable car infrastructure) has to comply with high environmental standards and will contribute to the improvement of the urban environment in the city centre as well as in nature area in its surrounding. Any potential negative environmental effects such as disturbance during construction should be mitigated by appropriate mitigating measures.

For the House of Music component the Promoter is requested to provide the Bank with energy performance certificate (energy audit) as soon as available after completion including energy consumption during operation.

In conclusion, the overall environmental and social impact of the project is expected to be positive. The investments, undertaken by a very experienced promoter, will contribute to more sustainable urban development and are in line with the Bank's criteria for the urban sector. Therefore, given the nature of the operation and the capacity of the promoter, subject to the condition mentioned above, the Project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from environmental and social point of view.

PJ/SQM/ECSO 15.10.15