

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	POLAND REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2017-0081
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The operation will support eligible investment schemes in Polish regions. The programme supports regional development and infrastructure modernization.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation, structured as a set of Framework Loans (each with different region), will support schemes in the sectors of roads, sustainable mobility, culture, health and public buildings included in the investment programmes of Polish regions.

The operation will contribute to the implementation of the National Strategy of Regional Development and in particular to the fostering competitiveness of the regions and strengthening their territorial cohesion. This strategy was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), carried out in May 2010. It concludes that implementation will enhance the functional urban areas in terms of quality of life and economic growth, but inevitably will also involve changes to the landscape and land use. Regions have also adopted their regional development strategies which were subject to SEAs.

The schemes are expected to have a limited temporary impact during the construction phase usually through an increased local traffic and construction and demolition waste generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to a good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority. In the case of road safety and modernisation schemes, the intervention shall be limited to the existing lanes of the roads as well as other existing transport structures, which reduces potential impacts to a minimum. However, the road schemes are expected to have limited residual impact in the operational phase. The rolling stock schemes are expected to have a positive environmental impact by helping the regional railways to maintain modal share. Small infrastructure schemes are not expected to have negative environmental impacts. As far as public buildings are concerned, there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the

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.

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region as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing windows and other energy efficiency measures.

Sustainable mobility, rolling stock acquisition components and energy efficiency measures within the refurbishment of the public buildings will contribute to the Climate Action (mitigation).

Polish regions are impacted by climate change through increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards e.g. droughts, floods, excessive precipitation. While the natural disaster recovery schemes are a necessary reactive instrument that facilitates reconstruction of the infrastructure, more work is needed in the preparation and implementation of systemic adaptation measures.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts, including the increase in the quality of public services available to the inhabitants as a result of the refurbishment and modernisation of hospitals, culture institutions and other public buildings. Furthermore, road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Regional development strategies are normally subject to comprehensive and extensive public consultations. Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoters (Polish regions) will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives, including SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law. In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank before Bank funds are allocated.

For Schemes having a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoters have to provide evidence of the compliance (including screening) with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable) before the Bank funds are allocated. For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoters have to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoters to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed moderate. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Poland, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the FL is acceptable in environmental and social terms.