

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Limerick 2030 Regeneration Programme
Project Number:	2017-0391
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	To partially finance Project Opera, a component of Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) 2030 urban regeneration programme which aims to create 2,300 new jobs in the city centre. The development will also include refurbishment of historic buildings and creation of public space within the project site.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Following directly the objectives of Limerick City and County development strategy, "Limerick 2030", the project involves urban regeneration of a centrally located city block located in Limerick, Ireland. It involves renovation of historic buildings, construction of new buildings, construction of underground car parking and a public square. The objective of the strategy and of the project is to counter the former suburbanization trends and improve the quality of Limerick City centre, through creation of attractive jobs, residential and public areas in the city centre.

The Limerick 2030 Strategy was incorporated in the City Development Plan and this incorporation was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment which resulted in requirement to adequately conserve the architectural heritage of the City.

The project is developed on a vacant site, which was vacated in 2006 by previous developer, who subsequently went into receivership. The City acquired vacated site from national debt restructuring agency NAMA.

At least one building built by the Project will satisfy Bank's requirement for climate action, making contribution to climate change mitigation through construction of Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings.

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 documents for environmental screening were prepared by the Promoter with a view to obtain screening out decision under Annex II. The Competent Authority in this case is the Limerick City and County Council and the analysis of the project is still underway

No components of the project are close to Natura 2000 or other protected sites and the project it is not expected to have significant negative impacts. The flood risk assessment indicated the project is not affected by the risk of flooding.

Social Assessment

The project generates a number of social benefits. It follows directly from the Limerick 2030 strategy of Limerick City and County Council which was developed with a focus on the social issues. Specifically, the Project supports implementation of the strategy by enabling re-use of former brownfield site and countering the former trends of suburbanization by bringing high quality jobs to the city centre and by creating high quality public, pedestrianized space, with linkages to other priority areas of the city, thus improving the quality of life of existing residents.

The Irish Law provides for adequate labour standards and occupational health and safety provisions. This law will apply for the construction and subsequent operation of the project.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The project planning process includes public consultation according to the laws of Ireland which has adequate provision for protection of interest of all involved stakeholders including vulnerable groups.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank will require the Promoter to deliver the final decision of the competent authority enabling the construction of the project before any funds are disbursed towards financing of the project. Should the competent authority decide that the full Environmental Impact Assessment needs to be carried out; the Promoter will be obliged to submit it to the Bank. Therefore, subject to this condition, this operation is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.