

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BIALYSTOK MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE III
Project Number:	2015-0255
Country:	POLAND
Project Description:	The operation structured as a Structural Programme Loan, is located in the city of Bialystok. The programme comprises operations in urban roads, intermodal transport centre, social housing, social facilities and health infrastructure.
EIA required:	Some schemes likely to require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	To be Determined

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

73% of the investments concerns urban roads and facilities for public transport (a multimodal interchange centre), the remaining 27% urban regeneration and revitalisation, education and cultural facilities, social housing including thermo-modernisation in public buildings. The schemes are part of the City Development Strategy (Urban Development Strategy for 2011-2020 for which a Strategic Environmental Assessment was undertaken and approved in June 2010).

Schemes submitted for allocation may require an EIA under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU including public participation, and/or have impacts on Natura 2000 sites or protected species outside these. The Promoter is required to act according to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directives and verify the compliance of each scheme with the relevant and applicable rules of the EU directives. The Promoter shall not commit the Bank's funds to against any scheme that requires an EIA or biodiversity assessment according to EU and National law without receiving consent from the competent authority. The NTS of EIAs and Environmental Decisions, including formulations similar to Form A/B, will be received and checked at allocation stage. The Promoter shall maintain the relevant documents updated and ready for submission to the Bank upon request.

At appraisal stage, the Promoter has indicated that about half of the proposed schemes (33 out of 65) have undergone some assessment resulting in either a screening out decision or requiring an E.I.A. The Promoter has also indicated that none of the schemes are expected to

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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have an impact on a Natura 2000 site. The Bank will still require updated information from the Promoter for each scheme prior to allocation.

The Bank shall assess the suitability of the individual schemes for inclusion in the Bank's Carbon Footprint Exercise at appraisal stage.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed to be good, and the Project is acceptable to the Bank from an environmental and social standpoint, subject to the above requirements. The Bank has completed a similar operation with the Promoter (Bialystok Municipal Infrastructure II) and the Promoter is known to the Bank.

General compliance with environmental legislation

The Promoter - the City of Bialystok - is obliged to follow EU and national legislation on the environmental impact of projects. This includes the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC, the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC, and the national Regulation of the Council of Ministers of 9 November 2010 on projects likely to have significant impacts on the environment (published in the Official Gazette U. 2016, position 71), which is fully compliant with EU legislation. The Promoter is expected to apply the legislation on all schemes submitted for allocation. The compliance with EU legislation is also included in the project undertakings and will be verified at allocation stage.

Competent authority

The competent authority for environmental assessments is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection in Bialystok. For any scheme with a significant or likely effect on the environment, the responsible entity in the City, with support from the Department of Environmental Protection and Agriculture, prepares an environmental information sheet and submits it to the competent authority for initial assessment. This includes a 3-week public consultation. The competent authority then takes a decision whether an EIA is required or not, sets out the scope for the EIA, and eventually approves the completed EIA and issues the Environmental Decision. The Mayor of the City Bialystok is responsible for smaller projects falling outside Annex I and II of Directive 2011/92/EU with no need for EIA and no impacts on habitats.

Social Assessment

The schemes are generally expected to bring positive social benefits through improved public facilities and physical environment for the citizens. Some of the investments in road infrastructure will move long-distance traffic out of the city centre to the ring road and hence also improve the urban environment.

Further, as there are a number of schemes that may have an impact on citizens and users of the facilities during project implementation (e.g. upgrading of public buildings and urban spaces), the Bank will assess this at allocation stage.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Not applicable.

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Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The City has a documented development strategy. This strategy has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment, during which public consultation took place. The schemes proposed under this Structural Programme Loan are in line with the City's development strategy. At allocation stage, for projects for which an EIA is required, the Bank shall confirm that public consultation has taken place in the context of the EIA process.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Some of the proposed schemes on the framework loan will improve the thermal insulation of public buildings. This should result in a reduction of energy requirements for these buildings.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The institutional capacity, procedures and experience of the Promoter to manage environmental and social issues is deemed to be good, and the operation is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social standpoint.

No project conditions are required. The requirements to environmental and social matters are included in the project undertakings and will be verified at allocation stage.