

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME |
| Project Number: | 2017-0545 |
| Country: | Ireland |
| Project Description: | This Framework Loan operation will finance the implementation of Fingal County Council's multi-year multi-sector investment programme. |
| 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 Framework Loans will support eligible schemes in the sectors of culture, heritage and tourism, environment, and urban economic development infrastructure. Investments in road safety/sustainable mobility, as well as small urban development schemes are also foreseen.

The operation will contribute to the implementation of the *Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023*, which seeks to support the sustainable and balanced long term development of the County. This strategy was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

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. Small infrastructure schemes are not expected to have negative environmental impacts.

Road safety and sustainable mobility schemes are expected to have limited residual impact in the operational phase. As far as new public buildings are concerned, these are expected to align with Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standards coming into force.

Sustainable mobility components as part of roads improvements and cycleways provision will contribute to Climate Action (mitigation).

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.

Luxembourg, 1st December 2017

Some components of the Project will interact with NATURA 2000 sites. However, the goals of these components are to be seen as positive for the sites - enhance biodiversity and/or public access by bikes.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts, including the increase in the quality of public and cultural services available to the inhabitants as a result of new cultural facilities and public amenities, refurbishment of heritage objects, improvement of urban public realms and health benefits via improved cycleways provision. Furthermore, sustainable mobility improvements should improve user experience and road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Fingal Development Plan 2017-2023 was 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 Promoter (Fingal County Council) 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) and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation. In schemes, where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of Environment Impact Assessments (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) upon request before the Bank funds are allocated. For schemes triggering art. 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance with the WFD before the Bank funds are allocated. There are gaps in the adaption of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) in Ireland whereby some sites have not yet received national designation status, nor had the status of their habitats/species improved. For the remaining nationally designated sites, not all have the required conservation objectives and conservation measures. Where this is a material issue, the Promoter will be required to demonstrate that the scheme has no negative impact.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Ireland, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.