

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN UKRAINE
Project Number: 2018-0064
Country: Ukraine
Project Description: The project comprises two components that will actively support the modernisation of the Ukrainian Vocational Education and Training (VET) system. The first component is the EU4Skills programme funded by the European Commission, Germany, Poland and Finland with additional participation by Estonia to be implemented in seven regions: Chernivtsi, Lviv, Mykolaiv, Poltava, Rivne, Vinnytsia and Zaporizhzhia. The second component comprises the establishment of one VET Centre of Excellence (CoE) in up to 10 selected administrative regions (oblasts). The CoEs will be established through new construction or substantial renovation and upgrade of existing VET schools, including on-campus dormitories. The EIB will finance this second component and will be implemented in parallel to the EU4Skills Programme in up to 10 regions not benefitting from the EU4Skills Programme. These regions are: Chernihiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kharkiv, Kyiv City, Odesa, Sumy, Ternopil and Volyn. EIA required: to be confirmed

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the design and construction or deep renovation of up to 13 vocational education and training (VET) centres in Ukraine to create Centres of Excellence (CoE). Moreover, the project will also include reform of the Ukrainian VET system, capacity building for VET centres and smaller renovation interventions in other selected VET centres. The project's implementation is split, with the EIB financing up to 10 new CoEs and leading on their implementation. The other three CoEs as well as the associated reform measures, capacity building and smaller renovation interventions will be implemented in parallel by a combined team comprising KfW and GIZ and funded by the European Commission, Germany, Finland, Poland and in-kind support from Estonia. At completion up to 17 Ukrainian regions are expected to benefit from improvements to their VET infrastructure.

Ukraine has passed a new EIA law in 2017 aligning itself with most of the principles of the EU's EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. Education buildings such as the new or renovated VET centres are not specifically mentioned under Annex I or Annex II,

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 20,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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but could fall under triggers related to urban development under Annex II. However, the decision to require an EIA is dependent on a self-assessment by the developer using an appropriately qualified consultant. The self-assessments for the EIB funded project are not yet complete, as this requires further design development to be carried out. Should an EIA be required, the Promoter shall be required to send a full copy to the EIB.

Within the EIB financed project, the design of the new or renovated CoEs is at a very early stage of development and the EIB is seeking to influence the design so that the new CoEs will be highly energy performing, likely to exceed the energy performance of current Ukrainian building standards. The new CoEs are expected to include some passive design measures in an attempt to reduce their primary energy consumption. Further, the project investments will seek to reduce their energy consumption with the installation of best available energy efficient technologies, potentially including renewable energy apparatus onsite, as well as enhancements to the building fabric. The new CoEs are also expected to attain a form of green building certification targeting the Excellence in Design and Greater Efficiencies (EDGE) certification or similar. This certification aims to reduce carbon emissions in the processing of construction materials as well during the operation of the buildings. During the certification process, an EDGE Adviser will assist the promoter to improve energy efficiency, the use of water resources and promote the use of construction materials with lower embodied carbon. Once the design is complete, a copy of the energy model and on completion of the works a copy of the energy performance certificate will be requested by the EIB.

The new or renovated CoEs will be located within existing VET centre sites either on a vacant plot or for the renovations within an existing building; thus, all of the EIB financed buildings will be contained within an existing authorised land use plan.

Social Assessment, where applicable

There is no involuntary resettlement within the project, though not all sites could be checked due to COVID-19 travel restrictions. However, the project may also seek the improvement of dormitory buildings that are currently in use by students. Careful phasing of the construction works on any dormitories will be necessary to ensure that existing students are able to continue to reside in the accommodation safely during the construction phase.

Many of the locations of the EIB financed CoEs are cities that have welcomed internally displaced people (IDP) caused by the occupation of Ukraine's eastern regions. Many IDPs have been transferred to cities such as Kharkiv, Dnipro and Kyiv; therefore, many young IDPs are likely to benefit from improvements to both student accommodation and increased access to education and training because of the project.

Surveys prior to any demolition and/or deep renovation works will be required to identify potentially harmful materials such as asbestos, PCBs and other pollutants within the soil or building structure and to ensure their safe removal and appropriate disposal in accordance with European best practices.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will provide additional facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments at the VET centres, thus increasing the formation of human capital. These additional facilities will enable the beneficiary CoEs to attract more students back to VET learning pathways, attract higher quality staff and strengthen collaborations with commercial and industrial partners to smooth the transition into employment of their graduates.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The EIB financed project will create up to 10 VET centres of excellence (CoE), in up to 10 Ukrainian regions. The new CoEs will create additional state-of-the-art teaching, learning and practical training facilities. This project forms part of a strategic effort to revitalise and modernise the VET system in Ukraine enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency at the beneficiary VET centres.

Conditions:

- The Promoter shall provide copies of the EIA screening report or the whole EIA where required for the project's components if the affected project component's investment costs for the construction works are included in the disbursement request.
- The Promoter shall confirm that there is no involuntary resettlement at any of the nominated VET centre locations. When displacement cannot be avoided, the Promoter shall comply with the requirements of the EIB Standard of Involuntary Resettlement. To this end, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and, when required, individual Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) shall be developed and implemented in compliance with EIB standards. For sites requiring displacement, due implementation of each RAP shall be required before disbursement for the affected school can be approved.

Undertakings:

- The Promoter shall provide copies of the available energy audits, models, EDGE assessments or other agreed green building assessments as applicable for those completed prior to disbursement on the assessed project component.
- The Promoter on completion of the project shall provide to the Bank copies of the EDGE or other agreed green building certificates as applicable for each affected building component.
- The Promoter on completion of the project shall provide to the Bank copies of the energy performance certificates (EPC) or equivalent for each of the buildings within the project.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing.