

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>SOUTH-MORAVIA REGIONAL INFRA III</i>
Project Number:	<i>2017-1000</i>
Country:	<i>Czech Republic</i>
Project Description:	<i>The Project, structured as a Framework Loan, comprises the schemes implemented under the investment programme of the Region of South-Moravia that will improve the regional infrastructure, in the sectors of transport, health and social care.</i>
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Few of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex II of the EIA Directive. This will be determined and monitored during implementation.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The proposed operation will mainly concern 15 investment sub-projects with total estimated costs of approximately CZK 1.5bn (EUR 59m) in the transport, social and health care sectors. Some of the schemes will be co-financed with ESIF (Integrated Regional Operational Programme) and from the Region's own budget.

The investment programme is expected to bring economic benefits to the region in terms of improved intra-regional connectivity with an impact on road safety and reduced traffic congestion. Further improvements are expected in the delivery of public services, mainly in health and social care, due to construction of new public buildings with an impact on the quality of life and life expectancy.

The programme will contribute a) to the implementation of the South Moravian Regional Development Strategy 2020 and will thus help to achieve the objectives of improving accessibility and transport system in the region and enhancing quality of life of inhabitants through upgrading of public infrastructure in the health and social care sectors; and b) to the implementation of the Regional Development Plan (RDP). The RDP is a rolling plan and is available for the 2018-2021 period focusing on completion of infrastructure, on ensuring the quality of life of the population, on solving environmental problems and on competitive enterprise. The RDP 2018-2021 has been assessed as a concept, and an SEA statement was issued on 4th January 2018. The main guarantor of this conceptual document is the Regional Development Department. All SEA and EIA process documents including NTSS are published online².

In view of the nature of the projects involved in the operation, the application of EIA procedures can be relevant for transport-related projects. The transport investments are due

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.

² https://portal.cenia.cz/eiasea/detail/SEA_JHM024K.

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to be implemented within the framework of the Integrated Regional Operational Programme (ESIF).

Protected sites in the region are expected to be affected by few projects. 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. 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 region as a result of the application of the NZEB (Nearly zero-energy buildings) standard. Energy efficiency measures within the construction of new public buildings will contribute to Climate Action (mitigation).

Czech Republic's regions are impacted by climate change through increasing frequency and intensity of natural hazards e.g. droughts, floods, excessive precipitation.

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 construction of new or the refurbishment of public buildings in the health and social sector. Furthermore, road safety improvements are expected to result in reduced number of accidents in the concerned areas.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The regional development strategy 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 (South-Moravian region) 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 required to deliver the Non-Technical Summaries 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 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 Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Czech Republic, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the framework loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.