

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: FIERA MILANO EXHIBITION CENTRE
Project Number: 2017-0827
Country: ITALY
Project Description: The project concerns the financing of an investment programme to upgrade and improve the Milan trade fair, exhibition and conference infrastructures.

EIA required: no

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 existing infrastructure of the Milan Trade Fair comprises 345,000 square metres indoor and 60,000 outdoor exhibition spaces and conference infrastructure in the peripheral area of Rho as well as 43,000 square metres in the city centre.

This operation consists of an investment loan to Fondazione Fiera Milano (FFM) the owner of the trade fair's existing infrastructure and facilities, to co-finance their 2018-2020 investment programme. The project will encompass several components including measure to facilitate and optimise logistics and flows of all users as well as safety and security, energy efficiency and renewable energy production, measures to improve operational efficiency (such as the construction of new warehouse, improvement of transport links, etc.) and measures to enhance customer experience.

Relevant environment EU Directives have been transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive). The project mainly concerns the refurbishment and upgrading of existing infrastructure with limited new construction, which is, in any case, occurring within the boundaries of already built-up area. None of the project's components requires an EIA based on the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU) as transposed into the national legislation. However, in the early 2000s the facilities underwent a significant expansion and this led to the freeing-up and requalification of a large portion of the former exhibition space in Milan city centre as well as a vast brownfield remediation and redevelopment operation of an

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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old refinery located in the neighbouring municipality of Rho. In this context, an SEA and an EIA were performed and approved by the Region of Lombardy as the Competent Authority.

In the remediation of the refinery site, there has been a particular emphasis on using the most advanced in-situ bioremediation techniques. The environmental approval granted included mitigation actions to be performed by the promoter, in particular concerning the creation of green areas to compensate for the impacts of construction works.

None of the components of the promoter's 2018-2020 investment programme is expected to have significant impacts on Natura 2000 areas or any other protected sites. On the contrary, the Trade Fair has consistently been an agent for enhanced green areas in urban and peripheral areas. The Trade Fair infrastructure contributes to the restoration and maintenance of green corridors, comprising both pedestrian and cycling paths, among the different parks located within and outside the city limits, some of which are part of the Natura 2000 network. This measure is part of a project promoted by the Municipality of Milan and intended to promote residents' quality of life as well as biodiversity conservation.

The Promoter's 2018-2020 investment programme will also include the installation of solar PV panels on the roofs of parts of the existing buildings as well as a number of energy efficiency measures, among which the improvement of thermal insulation of buildings, the substitution of existing lighting system with LED lights and the upgrading of ventilation and air circulation equipment.

Finally, the digitalisation of car parking management, in particular through the use of electronic payment systems, is expected to reduce CO₂ and PM emissions due to reduced congestion and more efficient management of traffic peaks.

Social Assessment

The Milan Trade Fair plays a crucial role in matching demand and supply of goods and services. The events are one of the main promotion mechanisms for manufacturing and industrial activities, particularly for SMEs who use them as a marketing tool allowing them to expand their client base. In addition to those directly involved, there are a wide range of companies that specialise in providing ancillary services, such as catering, security, transport and logistics, IT solutions, accommodation for exhibitors and visitors, which also benefit from the Trade Fair activities. As such, the Milan Trade Fair generates positive economic and social externalities, in the form of job creation, higher quality of enabling services for businesses and economic activities as well as improvement of the quality of life of residents, through its positive impacts on urban development.

Part of the investments is designed to improve safety and security for employees, workers, exhibitors and visitors. Moreover, employees and workers on the exhibition sites are offered a wide range of training including health and safety, first aid and fire emergency.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The Promoter engaged with the local authorities and relevant stakeholders to ensure the developments were in line with the city's strategic planning objectives and delivered better urban environmental quality to the benefits of residents and visitors. In addition, the SEA and EIA for the expansion implemented in the early 2000s have been subject to public consultation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Equal opportunities and non-discrimination are taken into special consideration by the promoter and these principles are expressed in their Code of Ethics. Fiera Milano SpA, the

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Promoter's subsidiary managing the day-to-day activities of the Trade Fair report on their gender balance across management, professional and support staff.

Another interesting aspect is the commitment of Fiera Milano SpA to achieve quality certifications, in particular the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification for the buildings located on the Rho site, and the Healthy Venue certification for the conference centre in Milan city centre. Part of the investments will be dedicated to actions allowing to achieve these certifications.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project does not entail a significant expansion of the existing capacity and is rather targeted at improving the efficiency of the existing infrastructure and equipment. The project is expected to entail significant positive environmental impacts, particularly on climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation, as well as social impacts through direct and indirect employment generation and increased attractiveness of Milan urban areas for other economic activities.

The promoter's capacity to manage and minimise the remaining impacts is deemed good, thanks to its significant experience in the sector and its well-established facility management system.

None of the project components is expected to require an EIA, construction permits or to significantly affect Natura 2000 or other protected sites.

Against this background, the project is deemed acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.

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