

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Berlin Forschung III
Project Number:	2018-0023
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project co-finances the operating expenditures specifically for R&D activities incurred by the beneficiary organisations during 2019. These expenditures cover the salaries of qualified research personnel, in proportion to the time that they dedicate to research. The financing excludes administration costs and other operating expenditures not related to the performance of R&D activities. The project also excludes capital expenditure and all private R&D expenditure by business enterprises.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project co-finances salaries of R&D staff. The included R&D activities will be carried out within existing facilities, making use of existing installations. Such activities create intangible assets (new knowledge and scientific discoveries), which do not fall under the Directive 2011/92/EC as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

#### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Some of the laboratories included in the project handle toxic materials and toxic waste as part of their activities. The promoter has indicated that only one of the laboratories handles such large quantities of dangerous substances that it falls under Directive 2012/18/EU and has the related safety measures implemented. Its compliance is checked by the local competent authorities through regular onsite visits.

The Research Data Centre of the Socio-Economic Panel Study (FDZ-SOEP) at DIW Berlin carries out the largest longitudinal household survey in Germany, the SOEP. Some of the regional data collected is defined as sensitive data and falls under the data protection legislation because it may allow for the identification of individuals within the data set. As required by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) and the corresponding German legislation, the Federal Data Protection Act (BDSG), the FDZ-SOEP anonymises these sensitive data according to well established procedures (e.g. pseudonymisation, reduction of variables) and administers access to anonymised SOEP data for research purposes.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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Depending on the granularity of data required for the research, access to anonymised data is provided through scientific use files, secured remote data access or on-site data access. The principles and processes according to which FDZ-SOEP grants access to the data has been accredited by the German Data Forum (RatSWD), an advisory council to the German federal government consisting of eight elected representatives from social, behavioural and economic research and eight representatives of major data producers.

A very small part of the overall research activities which may involve the use of animals for scientific purposes. On 19 July 2018, the European Commission has started an infringement procedure against Germany being of the opinion that Germany has not transposed some provisions of Directive 2010/63/EU/EU at all and others incorrectly.

Since the EIB only finances such activities subject to the condition that they are in line with the relevant EU Directives, disbursement of EIB resources is therefore conditional on the promoter guaranteeing that such activities are excluded from EIB financing.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The funded activities are expected to bring about positive environmental and societal outcomes in a number of research fields. The project does not cover any major construction works and the handling of dangerous substances is done in compliance with the respective EU directive and controlled by competent authorities. Activities involving live animals for experimental and scientific purposes are excluded from EIB financing because of an ongoing infringement procedure against Germany. Therefore project is acceptable for the Bank's financing with neutral residual impact.