

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	Walbrzych Urban Revitalization
Project Number:	2018-0047
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The project will support eligible investment schemes in the City of Walbrzych, focusing mainly on revitalization of urban areas, energy efficiency measures and other infrastructure schemes.
EIA required:	Multiple-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive and may be screened in.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation is classified as a municipal framework loan (FL). The EIB financing will support implementation of a development strategy of the City of Walbrzych in south-western Poland with about 115 thousand inhabitants. It will comprise schemes dedicated mainly to urban renewal, renovation of social housing, public space, culture, tourism and other public infrastructure and services.

The project is in line with the Walbrzych development strategy (not subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment) and the Urban Revitalization Strategy approved for the period of 2016 to 2025. All of the individual projects will be located within the city boundaries of Walbrzych.

The Polish EIA law, which is compliant with EU Directives, entered into force in November 2008 (Act on Providing Information on the Environment and Environmental Protection, Public Participation in Environmental Protection and on Environmental Impact Assessment). According to the Act, the Competent Authority issuing environmental permits for urban roads of national significance is the Regional Director for Environmental Protection (RDEP) after consultation with the Regional Sanitary Inspectorate. For other urban projects (i.e. other urban roads, urban renewal, etc.) the Competent Authority is the Mayor of the City.

The competent authority for Natura 2000 areas is the corresponding “Voivodship’s” Regional Director for Environmental Protection. Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is possible that some infrastructure schemes will be located near Natura 2000 areas

<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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(PLH020038 Góry Kamienne and PLB020010 SUDETY WAŁBRZYSKO-KAMIENNOGÓRSKIE), thus requiring screening procedure. However, at this stage there were no identified projects located in Natura 2000 zones.

Given the scope of this operation and sectors included, it is likely that some infrastructure schemes fall under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU, Annex II. Should any scheme under this FL fall under Annex II and be “screened in” by the Competent Authority, the Promoter shall deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the Bank funds are allocated.

At construction stage, the Project is expected to increase noise levels, and may affect water and air quality. Adequate mitigating measures will be considered in the designs such as drainage systems, management of earthworks and reinstatement of damaged vegetation with local species and wildlife protection with underpasses or rehabilitation of existing structures for the road projects. Felling of trees is required in some schemes, trees will be protected in appropriate manner and tree clearance will be conducted outside the nesting season. Overall, the project’s impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level, which is deemed acceptable.

At operation stage, main impacts will be related to noise and emissions from motor vehicle traffic linked to road projects. Special mitigation measures may be proposed in line with legal emission thresholds including the construction of noise barriers or fences where needed. Severance will be solved with animal underpasses and repair of affected animal paths.

The project will comprise revitalization (physical renovation, combined with a set of supporting activities aimed at local population and businesses) of degraded urban areas, renovation of public buildings, renovation of public space (streets and squares located in historic central areas, subject to revitalization) as well as other investments included in the development strategy of the City.

### **Social Assessment**

The City development strategy is a public document subject to extensive public consultations and approvals. It is generally deemed that the overall social impacts of the FL is positive, with improved quality of life for the inhabitants of Walbrzych.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The consultation process is embedded in the Planning process and procedures (Law on planning and spatial management – official journal, 2015.22 of 27.03.2003).

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The individual project building permits will stipulate monitoring of environmental requirements prior to, during, and post construction.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Promoter 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 laws. In projects where applicable, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the NTS of EIAs to the Bank before Bank funds are disbursed.



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For Schemes having a potential impact on protected areas including Natura 2000 sites, the Promoter has to provide evidence of the compliance (including screening) with the Habitats and Birds Directives (if applicable). 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 disbursed.

The overall environmental and social impact of the project is expected to be positive, with improved environment and citizens' quality of life, especially in matter of improvement of the public transport system, urban road network, and energy efficiency in buildings (contributing also to the climate mitigation objectives of the Bank). Potential negative effects (e.g. dust and noise during construction) will be alleviated by implementing effective mitigation measures.

The institutional capacity of the promoter (City of Walbrzych) to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed adequate. Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental and social terms.

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