

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Bucharest Polytechnic University
Project Number: 2017-0262
Country: Romania
Project Description: Financing investments of Bucharest Polytechnic University. The investment concerns building of research and teaching facilities for the Faculty of Aerospace Engineering and the Faculty of Applied Chemistry and Materials Science.

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 purpose of the project is to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of teaching, learning and research at the Polytechnic University of Bucharest (Universitatea Politehnica din Bucuresti, UPB). The project will finance the new construction of a standalone building to house three faculties currently located on the historic Polizu campus. The aim is to regroup the facilities located at Polizu to the Noua Local Campus and to upgrade the facilities to a standard on which they can best support the teaching, learning and research activities of an excellent university.

Universities and Scientific institutions of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (if applicable, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU), though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. If any of these subprojects requires an EIA, the Promoter shall make the Environmental Impact Study/Statement (EIS) available to the EIB.

The project will comply with NZEB regulations concerning the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (2010/31/EU). The works will reduce energy consumption and lower CO₂ emissions compared to the business-as-usual scenario. The project therefore contributes to mitigating climate change by improving the energy efficiency of public buildings. Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing with a minor negative residual impact.

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.

Luxembourg, 5 February 2019

The project is located in an urban developed area. The project will have an impact on the environment during construction and project operation. All construction works will be implemented within or close to the existing university campus and within an approved urban development plan.

At construction stage, the project will increase noise and vibration levels, and will impact air quality. Adequate mitigation measures will be considered together with the enforcement of good construction practices. The project's impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

At operation stage, the NZEB building will have a positive impact on environment, reducing energy consumption and therefore contribute to mitigating climate change. Energy efficiency measures will be the main focus of the modernisation measures planned. In addition, Romania has transposed the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD, 2010/31/EU), which will be applied by the Promoter, guaranteeing energy savings during operation.

The body responsible for implementing EPBD and NZEB standards is the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Administration (Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale și Administrației Publice). Which prepared first National Plan in 2014. It contains numerical definitions of NZEBs and timeframe for implementation. According to the last amendment of the Law 372/2005 on energy performance on buildings new National Plan is going to be made on the basis of local plans which are now supposed to be prepared by municipalities to increase number of NZEBs locally.

In Romania the national plan to increase the number of NZEBs (July 2014) includes nonbinding limitations on the primary energy from conventional sources in NZEBs for residential, office, educational and health care buildings:

Climate Zone	Residential Buildings [from 31 December 2020]		Non-residential [from 31 December 2018; (values from 2021)]		
	SFB	MFB	Office Buildings	Educational Buildings	Health Care Buildings
	(kWh/sqm/year)				
I	98	93	50 (45)	100 (92)	79 (76)
II	111	100	57	120 (115)²	97
III	145	111	69	136	115
IV	189	127	89 (83)	172 (170)	149 (142)
V	217	135	98 (89)	192 (185)	174 (167)

Once completed, the promoter shall make the Energy Performance certificate for the building available to the EIB.

² 120: before 31.12.2018; (115): before 31.12.2020

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Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the relative scale, location and nature of the new building in built-up urban areas, all of the schemes are deemed not to have any significant negative environmental impact.

The overall environmental and social impact of the project is expected to be positive. The energy efficiency measures will contribute to reducing energy consumption and subsequent running costs for the tenants. Therefore, the socio-economic benefits in terms of urban development, energy efficiency and climate change mitigation are expected to be positive.

The promoter is considered capable to select the best project complying with the Bank's specific procedures and eligibility criteria, in particular regarding the environmental protection aspects.

With the proposed conditions and eligibility criteria in place, this project is considered to be acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental perspective.