

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ISTRA CAMPING SITE MODERNISATION
Project Number:	2018-0358
Country:	Croatia
Project Description:	The project concerns the modernisation of existing 'Sunny' Camping Istra. The investments will be located in the municipality of Funtana, Istria. The investment loan focuses on the reconstruction and upgrading of older tourist infrastructure into modern holiday facilities, as well as the development of new tourism infrastructure
EIA required:	No. (Annex II, screened out)
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the modernisation and upgrade of the existing 'Sunny' Camping Istra. The current campsite, which extends over a large area of over 35 hectares, will be redeveloped to include a mix of pitches, tents and mobile homes. Both tents and mobile homes will range from standard to luxury. The modernisation of the camping will also entail the (re-)construction of a central building for the provision of different services, a central 'piazza', a thematic island, pools area, bars and restaurants and sport playgrounds.

Croatia has duly transposed the EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), SEA (Directive 2001/42/EC), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives. The implementation of the EIA and SEA directives is mainly regulated by the Environmental Protection Act (Official Gazette No. 110/07), the Regulation on environmental impact assessment (Official Gazette No. 64/08, 67/09) and the Regulation on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes (Official Gazette. No. 64/08).

The site renovation complies with city of Funtana's urban development plans for which an SEA has been conducted. Tourism projects fall under Annex II of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, and the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MEE) needs to screen the project and determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required or not.

The Directorate for Environmental Assessment and Sustainable Waste Management of MEE provided a letter (CASE 03/17 UP/I 08/198; REF. NO:517-06-2-1-1-18-13) confirming that both an ad-hoc EIA and a Natura 2000 assessment was not required because the works will only be located on a site already operated as tourist resort.

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 20,000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

The project's impacts at the construction stage are expected to be short-lived and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable. Construction waste management is provided for in the contracts with the different construction companies operating on the site so as to encourage waste sorting.

Social Assessment

The project is deemed to have positive effects on local employment, since the vast majority of the total permanent staff on the Funtana site comes from the surrounding areas. The upgrading of the camping site is also expected to contribute to the repositioning of the region as a higher-end tourism destination. This in turn will benefit tourism-related economic activities, such as local tour operators, restaurants and shops. Valamar does not plan to adopt an all-inclusive business model, thereby encouraging synergies with existing local economic activities.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The project of upgrading of Valamar's campsite in Funtana has been presented during a public hearing at the municipality.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter's capacity to manage environmental and social impacts of their activities is deemed good. Valamar implements a wide array of corporate responsibility programmes and has received several awards such as Sustainable Hotel Certificates and the Travelife Gold Award for a number of their properties. Moreover, 80% of their camping resorts and 63% of their hotels are ISO 14001 certified.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is not expected to have major negative environmental impacts and the promoter's capacity to manage and minimise the remaining impacts through its management system is deemed good. By contrast, the project is expected to entail significant positive impacts on local employment both directly, through the recruitment of additional staff, and indirectly, generating synergies with existing tourism-related economic activities.

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

PJ/SQM/EC SO