

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	MONTENEGRO EDUCATION PROGRAMME
Project Number:	20180231
Country:	Montenegro
Project Description:	Construction and/or renovation of public education infrastructure including kindergartens, elementary (primary) schools, gymnasium (secondary) schools and vocational education schools. The project also includes provision of new ICT equipment and furniture for schools and specific equipment for vocational schools.
EIA required:	To be confirmed
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the development and improvement of learning spaces through the construction of three new primary (elementary) schools, a new secondary (gymnasium) school and the renovation of three kindergartens. The project will also include a number of renovation interventions at vocational education and training (VET) schools that includes improvements to safety, functionality and energy efficiency of the school facilities.

One of the new primary schools will be built on land occupied by a former factory in Podgorica, whilst the other new schools will be constructed on pre-identified plots of land forming part of agreed urban development plans in Podgorica. The renovation works at the kindergartens and VET schools will take place within the existing buildings. Montenegro does not have any Natura 2000 sites and none of the schools will be located within any environmentally protected areas.

The design of the new schools will seek to have an energy performance significantly lower than current building regulations in Montenegro based on the climatic zone location of the new buildings. Furthermore, the renovation works will include significant investments that will modernise internal spaces enhancing the learning environment, improve the building fabric, fenestration and insulation properties, replace obsolete heating and ventilation systems and thus improve the energy efficiency of the buildings. In addition, the investments will seek to improve accessibility across these schools for children with disabilities.

Schools and education facilities of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the Montenegrin law on EIA, as would also be the case within the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. However, school and education facilities may require an EIA under the Montenegrin law in relation to urban development, as is the case under Annex II of the EU's EIA Directive. All projects are fully covered by an approved land use or urban development plan. The promoter has stated that they believe an EIA will be needed for all of the new

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schools involving new construction works as well as the three renovated kindergartens. If the competent authority requires an EIA for the new construction works as well as the renovations of the kindergartens, the promoter shall be required to provide to the EIB the full EIA document.

Social Assessment, where applicable

Participation of ethnic minority and vulnerable groups within the education system is improving in Montenegro. Over the last decade, the government is making progress on raising the level of participation at the pre-primary level. The project will be providing additional spaces by expanding three existing kindergartens, which will complement the government's efforts to increase participation.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Within Montenegro's current law on Environment Impact Assessment and Spatial Planning and Construction of Structures, public engagement during the decision making process of approving an EIA or for providing development consent is secured. The competent authorities responsible for making a decision on the approval of the EIA or development consent are obliged to ensure that the public are informed and have the ability to contribute their opinion about the development. The requirement of the law is in alignment with current EU legislation. The project is at an early stage of design development with no public consultation being required to take place at the time of the Bank's appraisal.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project aims at increasing access for children to quality early childhood care and education in pre-primary facilities and improve conditions for better learning outcomes of students of primary and (general and vocational) secondary education schools. By upgrading facilities and service delivery in vocational education and training, the project contributes to improve youth employability. Without the project, the expansion and improvement of education services in Montenegro would be slower, many of those needing education services would not have access to them and the impact would be less than with the quality improvements that will result from the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is enabling the Republic of Montenegro to create, extend and modernise a number of kindergartens, primary, secondary and VET schools in various municipalities in the country. The project will contribute to the enhancement of learning environments and improve the working environment for teachers and staff alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy efficiency of the school infrastructure.

The EIB will request a copy of the full EIA should one be required for any of the investment components, this has been identified as a condition to the first disbursement. In addition, the EIB will request that copies of the energy audits or models before and after construction completion as well as copies of the Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) or equivalent on completion of all of the project components.

In light of the above, the overall environmental and social rating of the project is therefore considered to be acceptable for the Bank's financing.