

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	RCSI EDUCATION & RESEARCH BUILDING
Project Number:	2018-0831
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	The project involves the demolition of an existing building and construction of a new building providing modern teaching and research facilities to support the continuing development of RCSI and its St Stephen's campus in Dublin. The new project will enable the introduction of a new medical curriculum and the use of new pedagogical techniques to improve learning outcomes, create state-of-the-art research laboratories and consolidation of other departments and courses into RCSI's central campus.
EIA required:	to be determined
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the demolition and construction of a new education and research building within the city of Dublin, next to the existing central campus of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI). The new building will provide state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities for RCSI to consolidate its management programme for health professionals as well as enhance its ability to undertake life science and healthcare related research. The new building is expected to provide an increased presence of RCSI within the St Stephen's Green public realm, leading to increased interaction and visibility of RCSI and its activities to the public, especially useful for the promotion of healthy lifestyles and for increased local community engagement.

The new building will complement the existing adjacent structures, including a protected church, and other new buildings developed as part of RCSI's programme to modernise its central campus. The new building will be designed to be a nearly zero energy building (NZEB) and will include many passive design measures in an attempt to significantly reduce its primary energy consumption. Moreover, the design of the new building intends to exceed the NZEB reference building within current Irish building regulations and reduce primary energy consumption by as much as 25%. In addition, the building will seek to use renewable energy sources to deliver onsite energy production reducing its CO2 emissions. A copy of the energy model and on completion a copy of the energy performance certificate will be requested by the EIB.

Universities and higher education facilities of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development covers the project. The promoter has stated that an environmental assessment has been carried out as part of the planning permission

Luxembourg, 5 April 2019

submission. The project is unlikely to require an EIA, however this will be considered during the review of the planning permission documents submitted. Should the competent authority require an EIA for the new building, the promoter shall be required to provide to the EIB the full EIA document.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project's location requires a high standard of design due to its visibility on St Stephen's Green. Further, the new building will be constrained by the locally listed Unitarian Church, which is a protected structure. The design of the new building will enable the church to continue to enjoy its access to natural light and will sympathetically curve around the church building, optimising the development's footprint. The promoter with its architect have worked closely with the local planning authority to ensure such constraints are overcome through high quality design.

The project will also provide facilities to strengthen and enhance the educational and research offer of RCSI enabling the College to attract the best researchers and sustain the world-class research taking place at the College. The outcomes from research at RCSI and its participation in wider research groups has provided significant improvements to healthcare and medical practice in Ireland and through its global alumni network improving healthcare knowledge and patient care around the world.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is enabling RCSI to create state-of-the-art research and teaching facilities complementing the new and renovated facilities of its central Dublin campus. The project is part of an ongoing strategic programme to modernise its teaching and research buildings enabling the enhancement of the learning and working environment for its staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of new materials and technologies, the new building will increase the overall energy efficiency of RCSI's central campus following the demolition of the existing building.

The EIB will request a copy of the full EIA if required by the competent authority or a decision notice not requiring an EIA. Moreover, the EIB will request a copy of the energy model report and the planning permission verifying the acceptance of the building's design for energy efficiency measures to be implemented. In addition, the EIB will request a copy of the Energy Performance Certificate(s) (EPC) or equivalent and a copy of the energy simulations that will be provided on completion of the new building.

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.