

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CORK COUNTY COUNCIL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
Project Number: 2018-0464
Country: Ireland
Project Description: This proposed multi-sector Framework Loan operation will part finance the implementation of Cork County Council's multi-annual multi-sector investment programme. The Project chiefly aims to address integrated urban development of the towns, upgrade of social and cultural facilities, improvements in sustainable urban mobility and environmental measures such as groundwater and flood protection.

EIA required: This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

This proposed multi-sector Framework Loan operation will part finance the implementation of Cork County Council's multi-annual multi-sector investment programme. The Project chiefly aims to address integrated urban development of the towns, upgrade of social and cultural facilities, improvements in sustainable urban mobility and environmental measures, such as groundwater and flood protection. There is a mainly rehabilitation and reorientation approach addressing (often listed) buildings, public realm/soft mobility in towns, technical infrastructure, cultural heritage sites, greenways, public parks, etc.

The operation will contribute to the implementation of the Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020 and its successor. This Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Cork County and was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The tentatively proposed schemes are expected to have a limited temporary impact during the construction phase usually through increased local traffic and construction and demolition waste generated. These impacts could be mitigated by adhering to good practice and by following the recommendations of the competent authority.

The energy efficient refurbishment of public buildings, greenways (cycleways) and smaller mitigation measures such as installation of electrical charging points in towns, along with the intention to implement adaptation measures, can contribute to climate action

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mitigation/adaptation. As far as any new town centre public buildings are concerned, these will align with Nearly Zero-Energy Buildings (NZEB) standards.

Some components of the Project may interact with protected sites. However, the goals of these components are to be seen as positive for the sites in raising awareness through enabling appropriate and safe public access. In general, due to the focus on rehabilitation, the majority of tentative schemes are not expected to have negative environmental impacts - in several cases they are expected to introduce positive environmental aspects in the course of their rehabilitation, such as new natural drainage and infiltration systems, water harvesting, etc.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Project is expected to bring a number of positive social impacts, including an increase in the quality of public and cultural services available to the inhabitants as a result of new cultural facilities and public amenities, preservation of heritage objects, improvement of urban public realms and health benefits via improved soft mobility.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The County Development Plan 2014-2020 was subject to comprehensive and extensive public consultations. Individual schemes may also be subject to public consultation in line with the EIA law.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Promoter (Cork County Council) 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) and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as transposed into national law.

Prior to allocation of EIB funds against any specific scheme, the Promoter is to provide to the Bank the evidence that schemes comply with relevant provisions of the environmental EU Directives, including EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives as transposed into the national law. In addition, the Promoter will be requested to deliver the EIAs (if applicable) to the Bank before the use of Bank funds. As regards energy performance of residential buildings, where applicable, Energy Performance Certificates will be issued after completion. Selected Energy Performance Certificates obtained in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU will be submitted to the Bank, if applicable, upon request. The Promoter shall verify the compliance of the schemes with the relevant and applicable rules of the European Union legislation.

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 allocated.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed good. Given the nature of the operation and the procedures concerning EIA and nature protection put in place by the competent authorities in Ireland, subject to the conditions mentioned above, the Framework Loan is acceptable in environmental and social terms.