

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SZCZECIN MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE VI
Project Number:	2019-0121
Country:	<i>Poland</i>
Project Description:	The project consists of a multi-annual municipal investment programme of the city of Szczecin in Poland. The EIB framework loan will support improvements in the urban transport networks and mobility, education and sports facilities, culture, energy efficiency, environment, social housing and other urban infrastructure and services.
EIA required:	This is multi-scheme Framework Loan operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II ("screened in") of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Background

The operation is structured as a municipal framework loan (FL) supporting the implementation of the investment programme of the city of Szczecin in Poland in the period 2019-2024. The investments supported by the EIB are in line with the strategic and conceptual documents of the city and the metropolitan area.

Szczecin has a population of over 400,000 inhabitants ranking it the 7th largest city in Poland. The city is the capital of the West Pomeranian Voivodship (Województwo Zachodniopomorskie) in the North-West Poland located 12 km from the German border and about 60 km from the Baltic Sea

The City has already identified an indicative pipeline of investment schemes and the EIB loan will finance investments in urban mobility, education and sports facilities, culture, environment, energy efficiency, social housing, public spaces and other public infrastructure and services.

The operation will comprise mostly small (below EUR 25m) and medium size schemes (EUR 25m – 50m). However, the Promoter has already identified three (3) investments with total project cost exceeding the threshold of EUR 50m, which will need to be appraised separately by the Bank prior to financing under this framework loan operation.

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.

Environmental Assessment

All investment schemes will be located within the city boundaries and will support the implementation of the City's Development Strategy for the horizon until 2025. Strategic Environmental Assessment of the strategy has not been carried out, given the generic character of the document, which is in line with the national law. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II ("screened in") of the EIA Directive, and in such cases the promoter will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives.

In 2019, the City Council approved the City's Adaptation Plan for Climate Change. The document contains recommendations related to the procedures for preparing the city for natural disasters and providing for actions to reduce their effects.

Relevant environment EU Directives have been transposed into national legislation (SEA Directive, EIA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directives, Energy Performance of Buildings Directive).

The competent environmental authority for projects promoted by the City of Szczecin is an environmental department of the appropriate level (depending on the type of project) at the city, county or region. Sub-national environmental authorities in Poland act as competent authorities in charge of impact assessments carried out in accordance with the Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedures, in line with the requirements of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU (amending 2011/92/EU) as transposed into the national legislation, and issue opinions on environmental impact assessments of plans and programmes (identifying and assessing impacts of a project, plan or programme on humans, nature, built environment and natural resources). The City itself is deemed to be competent in preparing the projects for the impact assessment and effectively carrying out any mitigation measures.

Regarding investments related to urban transport infrastructure, significant positive effects are expected in terms of accessibility of the city, particularly for commuting workers, quality and comfort of urban public transport and connection between different transport modes, efficient management of traffic flows in the city, cost and energy savings, as well as positive environmental effects (decrease in CO₂ emissions). Therefore, this framework loan has elements that support climate action through investments in public transport and mobility solutions.

For investments concerning public buildings and municipal housing there are a number of positive effects expected, including energy savings in buildings owned by the municipalities as a result of insulation of walls and roofs, changing of windows and other energy efficiency measures.

Some of the investment will concern water reservoirs and storm water drainage contributing to the City's Adaptation Plan for Climate Change and addressing the identified threat of sudden urban floods and storm.

The construction/reconstruction works are expected to have some minor negative impacts during the construction/implementation period. Once the works are completed, it is generally expected that the overall net environmental impact will be positive.

Social Assessment

Although no separate social impact assessment has been carried out, it is deemed that the overall social impact of the framework loan will be positive. This assumption is based on the expected results of the programme representing new, rehabilitated and extension of public buildings (schools, sport facilities, municipal housing); improvement of urban infrastructure (including public spaces, parks and green areas) and urban transport schemes (urban roads, tram tracks, railway stations, multi-modal transport centres).

The city has experienced urban sprawl in the past, which partially continues. The population has been slightly declining and the demographic development is accompanied with structural changes (ageing, immigration). Further development is conditioned by adjustment of public infrastructure particularly through enhanced environmentally friendly accessibility and attractiveness of the city centre for residents, workers, visitors as well as business.

Sustainable urban transport, high quality and modern education, sport facilities and leisure areas together with improved quality of public spaces are considered as means to achieve the City's strategic development goals.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultation with local government units, public institutions and professionals bodies, as well as public participation, was carried out during the preparation of the City's Development Strategy, which was adopted in 2011 and which will be evaluated in 2019. Large schemes with total cost exceeding EUR 50m, that will be appraised by the Bank separately, will require individual public consultation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Prior to disbursement against any specific scheme, the Promoter shall provide to the Bank documentary 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. Should any scheme under this operation fall under the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU Annex II and be "screened in" by the Competent Authority, or fall under Annex I, the Promoter shall deliver the EIAs to the Bank, if applicable, before the respective Bank funds are disbursed.

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

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