

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES AUSTRIA |
| Project Number: | 2018-0878 |
| Country: | Austria |
| Project Description: | Intermediated Financing of Primary Health Centres (Primärversorgungseinheiten) in Austria. |
| EIA required: | to be confirmed |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise: | no |

Environmental and Social Assessment

It is foreseen to establish up to 175 Primary Health Care Centres (PHC) throughout Austria during 2016 to 2026, with 14 PHCs established to date (2019). These Health Care Centres – rather small sized buildings with about 600 and 1,200 m² GFA - will be established through a combination of newly constructed buildings and the rehabilitation and adaptation of existing facilities. The individual PHC will be usually set up under the responsibility of a private entity and managed by one or more practical physician as an SME or Association under Private Law. The Bank project will support via the FIs the construction or rehabilitation of the remaining 157 PHCs to be setup during 2019 to 2026.

Given the relatively small scale, location and nature of the works, the Promoter does not expect any of the interventions to have any significant environmental impacts. Although such buildings are not explicitly mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, the projects fall under Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. Therefore, it is up to the competent authorities at the planning/consent stage to consider whether a specific building will require a full environmental impact assessment. Should the competent environmental authority require an EIA, the Bank will oblige the promoter to provide a copy of the whole EIA document and this will be included as a condition for funding those affected interventions.

While the new buildings will be built in line with one of the highest standards in respect to Energy Efficiency within the EU, the rehabilitation and adaptation of existing buildings includes generally an improvement of the Energy Efficiency level. Therefore an initial 1.6% Climate Action indicator has been considered due the energy improvements through the rehabilitation of existing buildings only. Based on the energy certificates being collected through the FIs, the actual share will be calculated at PCR stage.

The project is expected to have positive social impacts. By consolidating primary healthcare delivery in new centres distributed throughout the country according to the needs of the population, the project is addressing important factors such as the rise of multiple morbidities or chronic diseases of an ageing population, avoiding rapidly increasing costs of hospital centred healthcare delivery models and an increased shortage of health workforce.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project foresees the provision of up to 175 primary healthcare centres through the construction of new and the rehabilitation and adaptation of existing facilities. By improving the access to primary healthcare and enabling a better cooperation of the various medical specialities, it is expected that the project will have a positive social impact.

The Bank will ask for a copy of any EIA documents required by the relevant competent authorities as a condition for disbursement for the relevant subproject and copies of the relevant energy certificates of the rehabilitated buildings.

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

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