

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	FIRA DE BARCELONA EXTENSION & UPGRADE
Project Number:	2019-0278
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	The project comprises the extension of a trade fair site aiming to reach high-energy efficiency standards.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project involves the extension of one of the two Fira de Barcelona trade fair sites (Gran Via site), which comprises the construction of a new pavilion, smart developments, climate mitigation and adaptation measures; and circular economy improvements. It is expected that the new pavilion will add 91,500 square metres to the existing 240,000 square metres in the Gran Via site.

The Gran Via site's extension, located in the Municipality of Hospitalet de Llobregat, was launched with an agreement signed by all participating local and regional authorities (i.e. Fira, Regional Government, the Barcelona Metropolitan area, the Chamber of Commerce, the Diputació de Barcelona and the municipalities of Hospitalet de Llobregat and Barcelona). This decision entailed the partial modification of the existing local Master Plan, which was approved in July 2019, with widespread political support given the economic impact that the extension of the Gran Via site is expected to have on the local and regional economy.

The extension of the Gran Via site will meet national and EU environmental standards and will contribute to maintaining and improving the quality of the built environment. The project incorporates energy efficiency measures, thus supporting climate change objectives of the EU.

Spain, as an EU Member State, has harmonised its environmental legislation with the relevant EU Directives: EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the 2011/92/EU, SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, Birds Directive 2009/147/EC and Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 2010/31/EU. None of the project components require an EIA based on the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU as transposed into the national legislation. The project does not require a SEA per se as the entire project is part of a General Urban Plan, which has undergone a SEA.

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.

The trade fair venue is located in a built urban area, and therefore, not inside or near a Natura 2000 area and there will be no impacts on any protected site.

It is foreseen that the project's environmental impact at the construction stage will be short-lived and reversible, and at a level deemed acceptable. Some of the expected negative effects include traffic and dust during construction, which will be alleviated by appropriate site organisation and construction management. Pollutants from heating systems, industrial processes and waste management will be mitigated through the use of proven technologies and compliance with national legislation. At operation stage, the Project is expected to meet high energy efficiency standards.

Social Assessment, where applicable

There is no separate social impact assessment for the project. However, the overall social impact of the project is considered to be positive given that trade fair activities are an important economic engine for businesses and related productive sectors and play an important role in supporting innovation, technological development and business competitiveness. The Project is expected to contribute to urban regeneration and renewal and to have a positive impact, particularly in relation to job creation and the development of high-value-added activities as well to the local and regional economies.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The consultation process in Spain is embedded in the planning process (article 133.2 Law 39/2015 on the Common Administrative Process of the Public Administration and Order PRE/1590/2016 that gives instructions to enable public participation). Therefore, this operation is subject to stakeholder engagement and public scrutiny.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Project is expected to act as an agent for urban development and regeneration and it is embedded in the partial modification to the existing local Master Plan. The area surrounding the Gran Via site is experiencing rapid urban transformation; it is becoming a key business centre and one of the most important economic poles in the Barcelona Metropolitan area. Its location is close to two large commercial areas, office buildings, and between two consolidated districts that join Barcelona and Hospitalet de Llobregat. The Regional Government moved recently part of its offices near the site, which forms the so-called Administrative Campus, hosting more than 3,000 civil servants. This accelerated the completion of the recently inaugurated metro line 9, which connects the Gran Via site with the city and the airport. Opposite to it, a large urban development project for residential and tertiary use consisting of the redevelopment of more than one million square meters and the construction of more than 10,000 housing units will take place in the next years.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is expected to entail significant positive environmental impacts, particularly on climate change mitigation, as well as social impacts through direct and indirect employment generation by bringing the site to new economic and productive uses.

The project does not require an EIA and does not affect Natura 2000 or other protected sites.

The promoter's capacity to manage the identified environmental impacts is deemed good, thanks to its significant experience in the sector and its well-established facility management system.

The Promoter shall ensure that the buildings comply with the NZEB requirements as defined in the Spanish building code (CTE 2019- December 2019) and with the energy levels described in the technical conditions for the corresponding type of building and climatic zone.

Against this background, the project is deemed acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.