



Luxembourg, 15.02.2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EU FUNDS CO-FINANCING 2021-2027 (LT)
Project Number:	2022-0352
Country:	Lithuania
Project Description:	Structural Programme Loan (SPL) which provides co-financing with EU Funds of priority investments in the Republic of Lithuania's Operational Programme for the 2021-2027 programming period.
EIA required:	This is a multi-scheme operation. Some of the schemes may require an EIA under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project will support, through national contribution co-financing, priority multi-sector investments backed by the ERDF, ESF+ and CF funds under the "Programme for the European Union funds' investments in 2021-2027" (Operational Programme) within the framework of the Lithuanian Partnership Agreement 2021-2027. The Project will also support the co-financing of the Just Transition Fund once this axis is approved by the EC.

The Project includes schemes concerning integrated territorial development, energy efficiency and carbon emissions reductions, renewables, RDI, digitalisation, resource efficiency, mobility, SMEs, water/waste, human capital, health/social care, as well as natural resource management and protection. The Project covers the entire country of Lithuania (covering the Central and Western Lithuania Region, and Capital Region).

The SEA Directive 2001/42/EC and EIA Directive 2014/52/EU are transposed into the national legislation of Lithuania. Natura 2000 assessment is integrated into SEA/EIA.

The SEA report of the Operational Programme and the Partnership Agreement² assessed the expected effects arising from the implementation of the Operational Programme on the environment to be overall positive. Any negative environmental consequences are likely to result from the implementation of the measures foreseen in the Operational Programme for the development of water management, energy and connectivity infrastructure.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

² [SPAV ataskaita_final.pdf \(esinvesticijos.lt\)](#)



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As for the underlying projects, in accordance with Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060³, all planned investments falling within the scope of EIA Directive will be subject to an environmental impact assessment or a screening procedure and due consideration will be given to the assessment of alternative solutions based on the requirements laid down in that Directive.

The investment plan has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned with both low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Annex 2) and/or associated guidance and other relevant documents.

Infrastructure investments under the Operational Programme, with an expected life of at least five years, will be subject to climate proofing, which is a process aimed at avoiding the vulnerability of infrastructure to potential long-term climate impacts, while ensuring that the energy efficiency first principle is respected and that the level of greenhouse gas emissions from a project is consistent with the climate neutrality objective by 2050. The climate proofing is to be based on the European Commission's Communication 2021/C 373/01 on Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of Tariffs 2021-2027⁴ and, where appropriate, further relevant guidance.

Furthermore, the 'do no significant harm' (DNSH) principle is applied in the project selection criteria, as per Regulation (EU) 2019/2088⁵ setting out the principle of sustainable investment. In the preparatory phase, every type of action within the Operational Programme was subject to a DNSH assessment in the light of Commission Communication 2021/C 58/01 'Technical guidance on the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility'⁶. At the implementation stage, the DNSH principle is included in the selection criteria and detailed requirements for funding outlined by relevant ministries following the requirements set out in the rules⁷ for the implementation of the Operational Programme.

Finally, the funded activities are consistent with the national adaptation strategy and other climate policy documents in Lithuania.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The Operational Programme generates significant social benefits as it fosters an integrated and inclusive social, economic and environmental development. It supports, among others, improvement of the living and working environment, natural environment protection, disaster resilience and preparedness, as well as physical and digital connectivity. Furthermore, through targeted interventions, it promotes the socio-economic inclusion of marginalised communities, low-income households and disadvantaged groups, including people with special needs, through integrated measures, including housing and social services.

³ Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund and financial rules for those and for the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Instrument for Financial Support for Border Management and Visa Policy (OJ L 231, 30.6.2021, p. 159–706).

⁴ Communication from the European Commission 2021/C 373/01 Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of Tariffs 2021-2027 (OJ C 373, 16.9.2021, p. 1–92).

⁵ Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector (OJ L 317, 9.12.2019, p. 1–16).

⁶ Communication from the European Commission 2021/C 58/01 Technical guidance on the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle in the context of the Recovery and Resilience Facility (OJ C 58, 18.2.2021, p. 1–30).

⁷ [1K-237 On the European Union Funds Investment Programme for 2021-2027 and the Recovery and Resilience... \(e-tar.lt\)](#)



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It fosters equal access to quality and inclusive education and training for all, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care through general and vocational education and training. It promotes equal opportunities, non-discrimination, active participation, and employability. It also aims at strengthening the resilience of the health system, including primary care, and insuring equal access to it.

Finally, it enables inhabitants of the Just Transition territories - carbon intensive districts of Jonova, Mažeikių and Akmenė - to address the social, employment, economic and environmental challenges arising from Lithuania's efforts to achieve the Union's 2030 energy and climate targets and the transition to a climate-neutral economy of the Union by 2050 under the Paris Agreement.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities including the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination have been applied over all successive implementation phases of the Operational Programme - programming, setting up management structure, project selection, and finally monitoring and control functions.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The SEA of the Operational Programme and the Partnership Agreement as well EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes are subject to the public consultations in line with SEA Directive and the EIA Directive, as transposed into national law.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan. The Promoter (Ministry of Finance) will be required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU Directives including, but not limited to, SEA (2001/42/EC), EIA (2014/52/EU amending 2011/92/EU), Habitats (92/43/EEC) and Birds (2009/147/EC) Directives and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), as transposed into national law.

The Promoter shall store and keep all relevant environmental and social documentation relating to the sub-projects updated and available for review at the request of the Bank, including the EIA and its Non-Technical Summary, Nature/Biodiversity Assessments or equivalent documents or other documents supporting compliance with the EU environmental acquis.

In case a scheme of costs of over EUR 25m requires an EIA or an appropriate assessment or equivalent, the Promoter shall submit prior to allocation of the Bank's funds the full EIA report or appropriate assessment to the Bank for publication on its website.

The overall institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues is deemed satisfactory. With the proposed conditions and eligibility criteria in place, this project is considered acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective.