

Luxembourg, 11.08.2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: *ERDF CO-FINANCING CATALUNYA 2021-2027*  
 Project Number: *2023-0034*  
 Country: *Spain*  
 Project Description: *Co-Financing of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the 2021-2027 EU programming period*

EIA required: *yes*

The Project is a multi-scheme Structural Programme Loan (a type of Framework Loan); some individual underlying schemes may require an EIA.

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: *no*

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Project will support priority multi-sector investments included in the ERDF Operational Programme (OP) of the Autonomous Community of Catalunya, under the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027. The Project will comprise schemes originated under the ERDF OP with EIB supporting the contribution of the regional budget of Catalunya alongside private and other public co-financing obligations.

The shares of planned investments should reach approximately 52% in research development, innovation and digitalisation, 22% in natural resource use, management and protection, 12% in energy, 8% in integrated territorial development, 5% in health and 1% in sustainable transport.

The SEA of the ERDF OP contains assessment of the expected environmental effects arising from the implementation of the ERDF OP, as well as measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or compensate any possible negative effects on the environment.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation.

In accordance with Article 73 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060<sup>2</sup>, all planned investments falling within the scope of the 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.

Furthermore, infrastructure investments under the Project, with an expected duration of at least five years, will be subject to climate proofing, which is a process aimed at avoiding the

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings

<sup>2</sup> 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).



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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 Commission Notice 2021/C 373/01 on Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027<sup>3</sup> and, where appropriate, further relevant guidance.

The Project 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.

The DNSH (“do no significant harm”) principle is applied under the ERDF OP as set out in the preamble to the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027.

Finally, the funded activities are consistent with the national and regional adaptation strategies and other climate policy documents related to environment/biodiversity, public health, transport, etc.

### **Social Assessment**

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities have been applied over all successive phases of the ERDF OP programming and in setting up the management structure. They shall also be applied during implementation – project selection, award, and in the monitoring and control functions. In addition, the investment schemes supported under all specific objectives of the ERDF OP shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

The public consultation during the SEA process of the ERDF OP has been carried out in line with the SEA Directive. Public consultation of the EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes, if any, will be carried out in line with the EIA Directive, as transposed into national law.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The following undertakings will be required for the Project:

- The Promoter (Autonomous Community of Catalunya) is required to act according to the provisions of the relevant EU legislation, mainly SEA Directive (2001/42/EC), EIA Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EU), Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) and Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), and national legislation.
- In case a scheme of costs of over EUR 25m requires an EIA report and/or an appropriate assessment, the Promoter shall submit prior to allocation of the Bank’s funds the EIA report and/or appropriate assessment to the Bank.
- The Promoter will inform the Bank about the fulfilment of the pending enabling conditions for ERDF projects under specific objectives:
  - 2.4 “promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention and resilience”, and

<sup>3</sup> Commission Notice 2021/C 373/01 Technical Guidelines on the climate proofing of infrastructure in the period 2021-2027 (OJ C 373, 16.9.2021, p. 1–92).



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- 2.5 “promoting access to water and sustainable water management”.

Taking into account the contractual undertakings associated with the Project, as well as the capacity of the Promoter and the systems in place to manage environmental and social impacts and risks, the Project is acceptable for the Bank’s financing in environmental and social terms.