

Luxembourg, 18 November 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: CATALUNYA EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE
 Project Number: 2023-0174
 Country: Spain
 Project Description: *Catalunya Education Infrastructure (the "Project") concerns the renovation, extension and new construction of public education facilities in the Autonomous Region of Catalonia (Generalitat de Catalunya - CAT), Spain.*

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Project finances selected education investments implemented by the Autonomous Region of Catalonia (CAT). The Project comprises the new construction, reconstruction, extension, renovation as well as accessibility and safety improvements, in public education facilities of the region.

Schools are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though the Project might be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The EIA Directive Annex II as transposed in the Spanish law in "*Ley 9/2018, de 5 de diciembre, por la que se modifica la Ley 21/2013, de 9 de diciembre*" does not mention schools and the sites are below the threshold of 50 ha for requiring an EIA. All of the sites are part of an approved land use development plan. None of the sub-projects are located within Natura 2000 sites.

By constructing new buildings to replace the existing modular temporary infrastructure and by renovating the existing ones, the Project will help to provide high quality learning and teaching spaces that meet the latest accessibility, safety and thermal comfort standards.

The newly constructed and renovated buildings will comply with relevant Spanish NZEB requirements (CTE DB HE 2019 (RD 732/2019 de 20 de diciembre)). The renovation components will also include works to increase the energy efficiency of the existing facilities. Many of the Project's components will include the installation of renewable energy apparatus. The Climate Adaptation measures include passive solar protections to increase users' indoor comfort.

The Project has been assessed against alignment with the Paris Agreement and is considered to be in line with the carbon reduction and resilience targets.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Most of the financed Project's components will provide new educational infrastructure for the establishments currently housed in temporary modular facilities. All new and renovated infrastructure will accelerate the modernization of the teaching and learning environments, which should result in an improvement in the quality of public education in the region.

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.



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CAT's Department of Education is fully committed to promoting gender equality. To achieve this goal, it incorporates a gender lens into its teacher training and school activities, curriculum and the design of education infrastructure. On the latter, the promoter has developed guidelines for the new construction and renovation of public education infrastructure that take into consideration the gender perspective and provide recommendations about how to design the buildings so that they ensure an equal utilization of the spaces by boys and girls. Complementarily, CAT has also implemented several pedagogical programmes aimed at addressing the gender gaps and fostering more gender-sensitive teaching practices such as COEDUCA'T, STEAMcat, among others.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Project aims at improving the quality of the public education infrastructure in the Autonomous Region of Catalonia and serves the needs of the pupils and local communities. It is expected that the Project will increase the quality of the building stock as well as improve their climate resilience and energy performance.

The institutional capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental and social issues and the procedures concerning the protection of natural areas put in place are deemed satisfactory.

In case an EIA or other environmental related study is requested by the competent authority, the Promoter shall make the relevant documentation available to the EIB.

Upon completion of the work, the Promoter will provide:

- A copy of the building permit for each component, if applicable;
- A copy of the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) for each component, if applicable.

In view of the above, the Project is acceptable for financing by the Bank in environmental and social terms.

The project benefits from financing under the Recovery and Resiliency Fund (RRF) and is expected to ensure that it does no significant harm to any of the six environmental objectives within the meaning of the art. 17 of the Taxonomy Regulation (EU) 2020/852 (the principle of “do no significant harm” (DNSH)). Based on the information provided by the Promoter, a DNSH assessment was carried out for all six environmental objectives, and it was concluded, considering the type of project and its location, that the project does not have significant foreseeable impact on any of the six environmental objectives. Overall, the project complies with the DNSH principle by satisfying the conditions stipulated in the Council Implementing Decision Annex on the approval of the assessment of the recovery and resilience plan for Spain.