

Luxembourg, 12 July 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: Helsinki Laakso Hospital
 Project Number: 2022-0092
 Country: Finland
 Project Description: The project involves the rehabilitation and significant extension of a psychiatric and somatic hospital in the Laakso area of Helsinki, with the aim to transfer a significant portion of the related care to one integrated hospital site. The project will be jointly implemented by the wellbeing joint authority for Helsinki and Uusimaa (HUS-yhtymä) and the City of Helsinki.

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 concerns the rehabilitation and substantial enlargement of an existing psychiatric hospital to consolidate a wide range of psychiatric, neurologic, somatic and geriatric care within an integrated hospital site. Hospitals and related facilities are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), though the project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. In the case of urban development, the Directive has been transposed in the national legislation with regard to the establishment of land use plans. The underlying land use plan was approved by the City of Helsinki 19 Jan 2022. This decision was followed by an appeal which was withdrawn at the Administrative Court and the plan received full legal force in June 2022. Following the approval of the land use plan, all relevant building permits were issued without requesting an EIA.

The new and rehabilitated buildings comply with the local normative regarding the Energy Performance of buildings and therefore the project is in line with the Paris Agreement. In addition, the new building fulfils the first two substantial contribution criteria of the delegated act in respect to the EU Taxonomy for the construction sector (performance less than 10% of NZEB, air-tightness and thermal integrity). According to 2022 Guidance Note on the Eligibility of Projects and Investments, the project cost qualifies under the Bank's cross-sector eligibility "Climate Action, Mitigation - Energy Efficiency".

Conclusions and Recommendations

As the project covers construction works within or close to the existing hospital, no significant impact is expected on the environment. Overall, the new and rehabilitated buildings will improve hygiene and safety conditions and will allow the promoter to apply better stringent statutory and technical conditions. By enabling better coordination between the different departments of the hospital, the project will enable the introduction of better and more cost-effective methods for medical treatment and includes beneficial elements in terms of social cohesion and protection.

In light of the above, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing.

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.