European Investment Bank

Luxembourg, 11 September 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TUUSULA EDUCATION INFRASTRUCTURE
Project Number:	2023-0578
Country:	Finland
Project Description:	The Project concerns the investment in three new campuses (Riihikallio, Rykmentinpuisto, Lahela) for pre-primary, primary and secondary education.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]:	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project comprises the construction of three new educational campuses for the Municipality of Tuusula, Finland. It also includes the demolition works of a building and the façade renovation of a sports facility in one of the plots. The new buildings pursue high environmental standards and the Project will provide quality learning and teaching spaces that meet the current safety, accessibility and thermal comfort standards.

Construction of educational facilities are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive, though the Project is covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. The national legislation does not contain a complete reference to the type of projects falling under Annex II of the Directive and a case-by-case analysis is performed for projects that are likely to have a significant environmental impact. The Promoter has confirmed the two project components are located in areas that are covered by approved land use plans. The urban planning for the area where the third component will be located is in progress. None of the plots is located within Natura 2000 sites. Building permits have been granted for the two components, and the Promoter undertakes to provide to the Bank the building permit for the third component, when available.

The new buildings will have improved energy efficiency compared to the nearly zero energy building (nZEB) defined by the national measures implementing the Directive 2010/31/EU. The expected primary energy use will be at least 15% lower compared to the baseline set by the national energy regulation, through the use of heat recovery ventilation and air-conditioning systems, the extensive coverage of the energy and heating demand by renewable energy sources and the district heating systems, as well as the implementation of a highly insulated building envelope. Upon completion, the Promoter shall provide to the Bank a copy of the final energy performance certificates, evidence of the commissioning tests for airtightness and thermal integrity of the building envelopes, and the calculation of the life-cycle Global Warming Potential (GWP) of the buildings resulting from the construction.

[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.

Furthermore, the Promoter has identified climate change risks and is applying measures to increase the resilience of the buildings and adjacent areas. These climate adaptation measures address localised flooding and heatwave risks by introducing stormwater management requirements and solutions that reduce the heat island effect. The Project is assessed as Paris Agreement aligned towards low-carbon and climate-resilient development and meets the criteria set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap 2021-2025.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Two of the Project components are targeting 4 out of 5 stars in the RTS environmental classification tool, which is a Finnish certification programme aiming to ensure the developments' environmental sustainability and improve the indoor climate. Moreover, the Project will support the action plans for the realisation of the Municipality's Climate Programme 2023-2025 which puts an emphasis on the carbon emissions and green infrastructure. Reduction of both operational emissions and embodied carbon is promoted through the delivery of energy-efficient buildings and the integration of circular economy strategies, including reduction, reuse and recycling of construction waste, and use of low-carbon materials.

The Promoter is also incorporating the social responsibility perspective into the design, as equality for all students is incentivised with quality weightings in the procurement documents. The design should ensure that the activities of the pupils in need of special support have been seamlessly integrated with other students' activities without exclusions and that the solutions do not distinguish between students with different skills.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The construction of the new infrastructure is not expected to generate significant environmental effects and the Promoter possesses the appropriate experience and governance systems to deliver the Project in accordance with the relevant law requirements. The construction impacts of noise, dust and disruption will be managed during the implementation period by the contractors employed for the construction activities.

Positive impacts are expected due to the elevated Promoter's ambitions in terms of energy efficiency, leading to reduced operational GHG emissions compared to the national standards, and the integration of incentives to lower the embodied carbon of the buildings during their life cycle. The Promoter undertakes to provide copies of the final energy performance certificates, the building envelope tests, the life-cycle GWP calculations, and the RTS certificates.

In light of the above, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.