



Luxembourg, 13 December 2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH LENDING ENVELOPE
Project Number:	2023-0394
Country:	Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia
Project Description:	The lending envelope concerns financing the construction, extension, renovation and rehabilitation of higher-level education institutions in Poland and the Baltic States.
EIA required:	To be determined for each sub-project.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The operation is a lending envelope providing support for capital investments in university buildings for academic, research, student residence and sports use plus the purchase of scientific equipment. The underlying investments aim to enhance and modernise the facilities at Polish, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian public universities through a combination of new construction, renovation, extension, refurbishment or restoration.

University buildings of this kind are not specifically mentioned in the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, though the Project may be covered by Annex II of the Directive in relation to urban development. For each sub-project benefitting from this programme loan, a review of the individual investment plan will be conducted during appraisal. Should a sub-project be subject to screening and/or a full EIA procedure, the Bank will require the promoter to provide a copy of the screening decision and/or the building permit and a full copy of the EIA, if required. The final beneficiaries will also need to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, and Birds Directive 2009/147/EC.

The lending envelope expects to support the modernisation and improvement of the university building stock across Poland and the Baltic States, delivering new nearly zero energy buildings (NZEBs) in accordance with respective national standards or renovating existing buildings for improved energy performance and functional use. Where such investments will take place, the Bank will require that promoters provide a copy of the energy performance assessment at the design and completion stage, a copy of the final energy performance certificate and that promoters undertake enhanced commissioning tests in accordance with EU regulation 2021/2139 when needed. A review of the greenhouse gas emissions for each university investment plan will take place during the appraisal of the sub-project.

Furthermore, each sub-project will be subject to a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and a review of the climate adaptation measures included the projects' scope employed as part of the sub-project investments.

<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.



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Sub-projects will be assessed for alignment with the Paris Agreement during their appraisal.

The compliance of the borrowers with the PATH framework will be assessed during the appraisal of sub-projects.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The LE will provide new and renovated facilities to modernise the teaching and learning environments and expects to support increased research activity at the universities benefitting from the programme loan enabling increased access for students to higher education, thus increasing the formation of human capital.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The LE forms part of a strategic effort to modernise and improve the higher education facilities across Polish and the Baltic States, and public universities enhancing the working environment for staff and students alike. Due to the investment and use of performant materials and technologies, the new and renovated buildings will increase the overall energy performance and efficiency and better prepare the university buildings against future climate risks.

The Bank will appraise the capacity of the promoter of each sub operation to ensure compliance with national and European environmental legislation and require the promoters to act according to the provisions of the beforementioned law. The beneficiaries will be required to comply with the Bank's environmental and social standards, as defined in the finance contracts to be signed with EIB.

Under these conditions, the operation is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.