



Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	MALTA EU FUNDS 2021-2027
Project Number:	2023-0584
Country:	Malta
Project Description:	The Project will co-finance small projects under Malta's programmes for the period 2021-2027 under the Cohesion Fund, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF) and Just Transition Fund (JTF)
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 ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The Project is structured as a multi-sector Structural Programme Loan (SPL, a form of Framework Loan) in support of the following three programmes for the 2021-2027 programming period, under the approved Partnership Agreement between the Republic of Malta and the European Commission:

- CCI 2021MT16FFPR001 - Towards a smarter, well connected and resilient economy, a greener environment and an integrated society
- CCI 2021MT05SFPR001- Fostering the socioeconomic wellbeing of society through the creation of opportunities for all and investment in human resources and skills
- CCI 2021MT14MFPR001 - EMFAF Programme: Fostering socio-economic growth and environmentally Sustainable blue investment in Maltese Fisheries and Aquaculture

The EIB loan will support Malta State budget contribution.

The investment is plan-led and contributes to all five policy objectives of the 2021-2027 EU Cohesion policy: smarter Europe, greener Europe, more connected Europe, more social Europe and Europe closer to citizens.

The share of planned investments should reach 18% in Education and Training, 16% in Urban development, 15% in Health, 10% in SME and Transport sectors respectively, 8% in Electronic communications infrastructure, and smaller investment shares in Water, wastewater and waste management, Renewable energy sources, Waste management, R&D and natural resources.

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.



The SEA reports of the three programmes contain the assessment of the expected environmental effects arising from the implementation, as well as measures envisaged to prevent or reduce 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) 2021/1060², 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.

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 throughout 2021-2027 programmes as pointed out in the 2021-2027 Partnership Agreement of Malta.

Finally, the funded activities are consistent with the national development strategic framework, including strategies and other policy documents related to climate, R&I, Education, Employment, transport, environment/biodiversity, public health, etc.

Social Assessment

The implementation of the programmes shall comply with Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of 24 June 2021 laying down common provisions on the above-mentioned 2021-2027 EU funds, including respecting the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities.

In addition, the investment schemes supported under all specific objectives of the programmes shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion and non-discrimination.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The SEAs of the programmes and the Partnership Agreement as well EIAs of the relevant underlying schemes are subject to the public consultations in line with the SEA Directive and the EIA Directive and relevant national legislation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for this Project:

- The Promoter 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 or an appropriate assessment or equivalent, the Promoter shall submit prior to allocation of the Bank’s funds the full EIA report or appropriate assessment to the Bank.

² 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).



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.