



Luxembourg, 24 July 2024

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	IMMUNOLOGY RESEARCH CENTRE
Project Number:	20230785
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	The Project involves establishing a new medical research institute focused on immunology and a renovation of an office building with a focus on improving its energy performance.

EIA required: no

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

The project involves the construction of a new biomedical research centre, the Caixa Research Institute, in Barcelona, Spain. The research centre will be dedicated to interdisciplinary, systemic understanding of immunology, covering the evolving needs of the health scientific community. The centre will be located in the campus shared with the CosmoCaixa Science Museum and in the close vicinity of the Vall d'Hebron University Hospital. The centre is planned to be well embedded in the local scientific ecosystem, including the collaboration with the four medical research facilities established by the Foundation in the city as well as the EU funded Barcelona Supercomputing Centre.

It will provide roughly 23 000 m<sup>2</sup> of research and administrative space located in a building exceeding the requirements of national regulations transposing European Performance of Buildings Directive.

#### Environmental Assessment

The plot of land concerned by the Project, a brownfield site, is covered by urban development plan of city of Barcelona. The Promoter has filed a request to modify the plan to accommodate the Project. The competent authorities have determined that the Project will not have a significant impact on the surrounding areas, including Parc de Collserola bordering the plot, a Natura 2000 site, and that the strategic environmental assessment is not required. The process of the modification of the urban development plan was positively concluded.

The Project does not fall under either Annex 1 or Annex 2 of national regulations transposing EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, therefore does not require an EIA.

<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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## **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

The counterparty is in-scope and screened-in in the PATH framework. The counterparty has agreed to develop its decarbonisation plan and publicly disclose a new or updated alignment plan within 18 months from the signature of the Finance Contract.

## **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

As is the case for the construction of new buildings, public consultation has been carried out as part of the urban planning process in conformity with the relevant national legislation. The public consultation processes in the framework of the change of the urban development plan have been positively concluded.

## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The building is well connected to the city and easily reachable by foot, by bicycle and by public transportation.

There will be certain negative impacts during the construction of the Project components that will be short-lived and reversible, and at a level deemed acceptable. Some of the expected negative effects include increased heavy traffic, noise, and dust during construction, which will be alleviated by appropriate mitigation measures concerning site organisation and construction management. Overall, the Project's impact at the construction stage will be time-limited and reversible, at a level which is deemed acceptable.

The capacity of the Promoter to manage the environmental, social and climate-related issues is deemed good.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Project is considered Paris aligned and consistent with the Climate Bank Roadmap as it concerns the construction of a new building that is in line with carbon-neutral strategies. It is expected to exceed the requirements set out by the national energy standards as defined by the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EPBD). The Project has been designed to maximise possible energy savings in the building and is expected to contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions. Climate adaptation measures will be applied, and the Project will contribute to climate adaptation and environmental sustainability. The construction of the new infrastructure is not expected to generate significant environmental effects and the Promoter is considered to have the capacity to deliver the Project in accordance with the relevant law requirements.

The Promoter will undertake to provide Energy Performance Certificate upon completion of the Project, in line with the EU Directive 2010/31/EU, as well as the air-tightness and thermal integrity tests.

Therefore, subject to the conditions described above, the Project is acceptable for the Bank in environmental, climate and social terms.