

Luxembourg, 05.11.2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ARAGON COFINANCING ERDF-ESF-JTF 2021-2027
Project Number:	2022-0350
Country:	Spain
Project Description:	Co-financing of investment schemes supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and the Just Transition Fund (JTF) in Aragón within the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027 ("the Project").
EIA required:	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 a multi-sector investment Framework Loan in support of the Aragón Autonomous Region (Comunidad Autónoma de Aragón – CAA), supported by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programme, the European Social Fund plus (ESF+) Programme and the Just Transition Fund (JTF) Programme within the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027. The Project will comprise schemes originated under these three programmes with EIB supporting the regional budget contribution to these schemes.

The share of the planned investments should reach approximately 59% for innovation, digital and human capital, 20% in sustainable energy and natural resources, 14% for sustainable cities and regions, and 7% for support to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the regional ERDF programme and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Spanish national Programme for the JTF contain an assessment of the expected environmental effects arising from the implementation of each of the programmes, as well as measures envisaged to prevent, reduce or compensate any possible negative effects on the environment.

All schemes must be implemented in compliance with the EU and national environmental legislation. Some schemes may eventually fall under Annex I or Annex II of the EIA Directive and the Promoter would be required to act according to the Directive, with specific requirements towards the EIB noted below.

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.



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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 under the ERDF programme, as well as the JTF as set out in the preamble to the Spanish Partnership Agreement 2021-2027.

Finally, the funded activities are consistent with the national and regional adaptation strategies.

Social Assessment

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the United Nations Convention on Persons with Disabilities have been applied over all successive phases of the programming of the three EU programmes (ERDF, ESF+ and JTF) and in setting up their management structure. They shall also be applied during implementation – project selection, award, and in the monitoring and control functions. In addition, the investment schemes supported under all specific objectives of these Operational Programmes shall comply with the principles of gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination.

In particular, schemes under the ESF+ foster education, training, and lifelong learning, and hence support implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. The schemes under the JTF will support inter alia retraining, upskilling and job counselling measures to enable the inhabitants of the province of Teruel, which has been hit by the recent closure of coal mines and coal-fired power plants, to address the social, employment, economic and environmental impacts of the transition to a low-carbon economy in Aragón.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The public consultations during the SEA processes of the regional ERDF programme and of the Spanish JTF Programme have been carried out as required by the SEA Directive. The Promoter (Autonomous Region of Aragón) is required to carry out any public consultation related to EIAs of relevant underlying schemes in line with the EIA Directive and relevant national legislation.

The Promoter supports public consultation and participation also through meetings and other events. Stakeholders and local communities can contribute to the preparation and implementation of investment schemes according to the relevant administrative framework. The website of the Autonomous Region of Aragón provides up-to-date information about funded schemes. The Promoter makes available direct contact channels to citizens and stakeholders.²

Conclusions and Recommendations

The following undertakings will be required for the Project:

- The Promoter (Autonomous Region of Aragón) 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.

² See, for example, the participation link at <https://www.aragon.es/-/programa-operativo-fondo-europeo-de-desarrollo-regional-aragon-2014-20-1#anchor4>



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- Schemes in relation to which a screening or appropriate assessment of impacts on Natura 2000 sites is carried out, are assessed in view of site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs).
- In case a scheme of costs of over EUR 40m requires an EIA and/or an appropriate assessment, the Promoter shall submit the EIA report and/or appropriate assessment to the Bank prior to allocation of the Bank's funds.