**A close-up of a logo

Description automatically generated**

**DIGITAL, INNOVATION, AND GREEN TECHNOLOGY PROJECT   
(DIGIT PROJECT)**

**A blue text on a black background

Description automatically generatedA blue and black text on a black background

Description automatically generatedA logo with green and yellow colors

Description automatically generated**

**REPUBLIC OF CROATIA**

**MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, EDUCATION AND YOUTH**

Donje Svetice 38, Zagreb 10 000, Croatia

**DIGITAL, INNOVATION, AND GREEN TECHNOLOGY PROJECT (DIGIT PROJECT)**

IBRD LOAN NO. 9558-HR

PROJECT ID: P180755



**ANNEX VII. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS UNDER THE CHALLENGE PROGRAM**

CALL REFERENCE NUMBER: DIGIT.2.1.02

May 2025

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE (SIMPLIFIED)**

Note: The applicant is not required to sumbit the Environmental and Social Screening Questionnaire (ESSQ) during the initial project proposal submission (Stage 1 – Concept note). If a project successfully passes the administrative, eligibility and quality checks, the applicant will then be requested to complete and submit the ESSQ to provide additional details about the project and its activities. This request will specify a timeframe within which the completed ESSQ must be submitted.

This form is to be used by the applicant to screen for the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of a proposed project. It will help the MSEY/PIU in establishing an appropriate E&S risk rating for these projects and specifying the type of environmental and social assessment required, including specific instruments/plans. Use of this form will allow the MSEY/PIU to form an initial view of the potential risks and impacts of a project*.* ***It is not a substitute for project-specific E&S assessments or specific mitigation plans.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the project:** |  |
| **Name of the Applicant:** |  |
| **Estimated investment:** |  |
| **Start/Completion date:** |  |
| **Brief description of the project activities (describe project features and location, type of research):**  *Annexes for all additional information can be supplemented if necessary (for example maps with the geographical location of the project, graphic representation of the project, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) of hazardous substances and materials), technical specifications of the equipment)* |  |
| **Summary of Environmental and Social risks**  *(applicant’s self assessment):* |  |

### 1. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING QUESTIONNAIRE

| No. | Screening Questionnaire | Yes | No | Not known | Not applicable | Additional Clarifications |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | Is the project listed in the WB exclusion list (section 1.2. Ineligible activities of the Annex I. Conditions for the preparation and implementation of projects within the DIGIT Project? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Will the implementation of project include civil works? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify what type of works, e.g construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, adaptation)* |
| 3. | Will the implementation of project include infrastructure equipping? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify the equipment)* |
| 4. | Will the implementation of project activities include generation of hazardous waste (for example hazardous medical waste, radioactive waste, e-waste, asbestos...)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify what types of waste are generated and describe activities that generate those type of waste, describe waste management system in place/ planned for those types of waste and how the principles of circular economy are taken into account)* |
| 5. | Will the implementation of project activities include the generation of significant amount of non- hazardous waste (for example construction waste)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify what types of waste are generated and describe activities that generate those types of waste, describe waste management system in place/ planned for those types of waste and how the principles of circular economy are taken into account)* |
| 6. | Will the implementation of the project activities use hazardous substances[[1]](#footnote-2) and materials (including radioactive materials)[[2]](#endnote-2)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify which hazardous substance /material is used and in which activity)* |
| 7. | Will there be a procurement of equipment containing hazardous substances? (electrical and electronic equipment for research, medicine, biomedicine…)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify which equipment)* |
| 8. | Is the procurement of equipment that emits ionizing radiation planned? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify which equipment)* |
| 9. | Is research on human or animal tissues planned? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe in more detail)* |
| 10. | Will the planned project activities include laboratory research (for example biochemical laboratory, chemical, IT lab, medical laboratories, pharmaceutical…)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe what type of research and laboratories)* |
| 11. | Is research on pathogenic organisms planned as part of the implementation of project activities? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe in more detail)* |
| 12. | Will the planned project activities include laboratory research in biosafety laboratories? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify which level of biosafety lab and describe research in more detail)* |
| 13. | Will the project activities produce emissions to air (e.g. dust, air pollutants, greenhouse-gases emissions, etc.)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe in more detail)* |
| 14. | Will the project activities produce excessive noise and vibrations? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe in more detail)* |
| 15. | Is research/sampling from areas protected by the Nature Protection Act planned as part of the implementation of project activities?[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify protected area and describe the research in more detail, if permission / confirmation regarding interventions in protected areas has been obtained from the competent authority please attach it in the Annex.)* |
| 16. | Are civil works planned in the areas protected by the Nature Protection Act? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify protected area)* |
| 17. | Is research/sampling from areas of ecological network planned as part of the implementation of project activities? [[4]](#footnote-4) |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify ecological area and describe the research in more detail, if permission / confirmation regarding interventions in area of ecological network has been obtained from the competent authority please attach it in the Annex.)* |
| 18. | Are civil works planned in the areas of ecological network? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES name the area, if preliminary assessment of acceptability for the ecological network area has been obtained from the competent authority please attach it in the Annex.)* |
| 19. | Is research on protected plant and animal species planned as part of the implementation of project activities? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify which species and describe the research in more detail)* |
| 20. | Is the activity likely to negatively impact biodiversity or sensitive natural areas,? |  |  |  |  | *If yes, please elaborate* |
| 21. | Is the activity likely to negatively impact environmental components: air quality (indoors, outdoors), water quality (surface and groundwater), soil, etc.? |  |  |  |  | *If yes, please elaborate* |
| 22. | Does the project require EIA/ Screening on the need for Environmental Impact Assessment?[[5]](#footnote-5) |  |  |  |  | *(if YES has the Study/Elaboration been developed? If so, attach in Annex opinion/decision from the Ministry in charge of environmental protection that the project is acceptable for environment / or that EIA is not needed.)* |
| 23. | Are there notable occupational health and safety (OHS) risks related to any of the project phases (including risks for pregnant employees, etc.)? |  |  |  |  | *If yes, please elaborate.* |
| 24. | Are there considerable community health and safety (CHS) risks related to any of the project phases? |  |  |  |  | *If yes, please elaborate.* |
| 25. | Are there any considerable risks for environment or human health related to the post-funding phase?. |  |  |  |  | *If yes, please elaborate* |
| 26. | Do the project /research activities include devices, data centres, networks etc. which require significant energy consumption? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES please specify and describe energy consumption and the measures that are or will be in place in order to improve energy efficiency)* |
| 27. | Do the project /research activities include devices, data centres, networks, cooling/heating etc. which require significant water consumption? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES please specify and describe water consumption and measures that are or will be in place in order to improve water use efficiency)* |
| 28. | Have the potential social impacts of the project results been considered? What impacts have been identified? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify the social impact concerning each project result)* |
| 29. | Are there areas within or around the project location which are densely populated or built-up, that could be affected by the project? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES briefly describe the surrounding)* |
| 30. | Are there any routes or facilities on or around the project location which are used by the public for access to recreation or other facilities, which could be affected by the project? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 31. | Are there existing land uses within or around the project location e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining or quarrying that could be affected by the project? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify the land uses)* |
| 32. | Is the project located within or in the vicinity of any known cultural heritage site or is project located in protected cultural and historical area? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify the protected cultural heritage site/area)* |
| 33. | Will the project impact archaeological or cultural heritage sites? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 34. | Have the potential social impacts of the project results been considered? What impacts have been identified? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES specify the social impact concerning each project result: e.g. project/research activities require collection and transfer of personal information and data; project/research activities will obtain consent prior to data collection; project/research activities require direct engagement and/or interaction with vulnerable groups (i.e., children, poor households, people with disability, the elderly); etc. ), potential impacts on livelihoods (i.e., job lossess, acquisition and restrictions on use of properties, etc.)* |
| 35. | Does the project involve the development or upgrade of AI? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES answer questiones 36. to 41.)* |
| 36. | What types of personal data does the AI collect, and how is it stored and protected? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 37. | Does data collection include diverse representation to reduce biases? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 38. | Is user consent required before data is collected and processed? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 39. | Does the AI system comply with relevant data protection regulations (e.g. GDPR, etc.)? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 40. | How long is user data retained? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 41. | Can individuals request deletion of their data? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES describe briefly)* |
| 42. | Please list the potential stakeholders based on potential direct and indirect social impacts. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 43. | Have the stakeholders (especially those under potential direct impact) been informed and engaged in the process of defining the project? |  |  |  |  | *(if YES list the stakeholders)* |
| 44. | Please explain the method(s) of information dissemination which has been used in the process of informing the stakeholders. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 45. | Please explain the method(s) of stakeholder engagement which has been used. |  |  |  |  |  |
| 46. | Has the project reached the consent of the stakeholders related to its definition, considering the potential social impacts? |  |  |  |  |  |
| 47. | Is any field work planned as part of the project activities? |  |  |  |  | *(If YES, please specify the type, location, and purpose of the field work.)* |

**2. SCREENING REPORT (the applicant does not fill out, this is part of eligibility check)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Categorization of the Risk** | **Low Risk** | **Low Risk** | **Moderate Risk** | **Substantial Risk** | **High Risk** |
| The applicant needs to prepare: | The applicant needs to prepare: | The applicant needs to prepare: | Project is not eligible for funding. | Project is not eligible for funding. |
| N/A (OHS plan prepared in line with the national legislation - Law on OHS) | ESCOP | ESMP Checklist  ESMP/CHMP |  |  |
| Environmental impacts identified (short description and note on significance) |  |  |  |  |  |
| Social impacts identified (short description and note on significance): |  |  |  |  |  |
| List of instruments to be prepared |  |  |  |  |  |
| Required permits |  |  |  |  |  |
| Additional comments: |  |  |  | In case of substantial risk, project is not eligible for funding. | In case of high risk, project is not eligible for funding. |

1. Substances and materials that are explosive and/or flammable (gases, liquids and solids), toxic to people and animals, radioactive, oxidizing, corrosive, carcinogenic, teratogenic, hazardous to environment [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. https://bioportal.hr/gis/

   strict reserve, national park, special reserve, nature park, regional park, natural monument, significant landscape, forest park and monument of park architecture (strogi rezervat, nacionalni park, posebni rezervat, park prirode, regionalni park, spomenik prirode, značajni krajobraz, park-šuma te spomenik parkovne arhitekture) [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://bioportal.hr/gis/>

   Ecological Network Natura 2000: Areas under the Habitats Directive and Areas under the Birds Directive (Područja prema Direktivi o staništima te Područja prema Direktivi o pticama) [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. If the project activity is listed in Annex I., II. or III. of Ordinance on environmental impact assessment (OG 61/14, 3/17) – Uredba o procjeni utjecaja na okoliš (NN 61/14, 3/17); Prilog I., II. ili III. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)