

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | RURAL FIBRE NETWORK POLAND |
| Project Number: | 2019-0087 |
| Country: | Poland |
| Project Description: | The project concerns the rollout of a fibre to the home (FTTH) access network based on a passive optical network (PON) architecture in rural areas of central and northeastern Poland and will pass around 530 000 households, and 1 400 school sites. |
| EIA required: | no |
| Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ : | no |

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The deployment of the fibre network covered by the project will be mostly based on existing infrastructures (more than 90% of the network), so it will not require a relevant amount of construction works. For the small part of the network requiring civil works, the potential environmental impact will be limited in time and related to minor disturbances such as noise and dust, which will be mitigated appropriately.

The promoter is not expecting to require civil works in the small number of cases where it has to deploy the network in Natura 2000 sites. In this case, according to the Polish regulation, the type of network covered by the project is considered a telecommunications infrastructure with negligible impact. In general, the only requirement is to inform of the works, confirming the negligible impact and apply for a certificate to the body responsible for monitoring the Natura 2000 sites, which is the corresponding Regional Directorate for Environmental Protection.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft 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.

Luxembourg, 12 December 2019

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will also have indirect positive environmental and social impacts because very high-speed broadband access networks enable videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-administration and teleworking. These solutions improve significantly the attractiveness of the less densely populated areas that the project is targeting in terms of job opportunities and quality of life. In addition, they may contribute to the reduction of personal transportation needs and therefore of road traffic and pollution.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during construction, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. Hence, the project is deemed environmentally acceptable for EIB financing.