

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: TELEKOM SLOVENIJE FIBRE ROLLOUT EXTENSION
Project Number: 2019-0665
Country: Slovenia
Project Description: The project concerns the roll-out of a broadband fibre access network in Slovenia. The investments will lead to a significant increase in coverage with very high capacity networks. The project will enable a significant uplift of the broadband service offering up to Gigabit speeds in the concerned areas.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the deployment of a fibre access network partly in urban and partly in rural areas of Slovenia. The network cables will be deployed either alongside roads in underground ducting systems or on poles. The excavation material will be used to fill in again the trench and thus limit the amount of building waste. There is also a need for a limited number of cabinets, which are required for the handling of the fibre cables. They will be installed at suitable street side locations making reuse of already existing installations for the copper access network.

The project does not fall under the Annexes of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. However before the construction work can start, a permit from the competent authorities is required, which verifies the environmental impact of the cable routes and may request mitigation measures such as a re-routing or additional protection measures and suitable reinstatement works.

The new network will make as much as possible use of existing elements of the copper access network such as cabinets, facilities, ducts and poles, thereby limiting the residual environmental effects, apart from disturbances during the construction phase.

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.

Luxembourg, 23 September 2020

Generally, the promoter aims in its operations at high standards in accordance with latest safety and occupational health principles. Therefore, the company has invested into an environmental management system according to ISO 14001 as well as into an energy management system according to ISO 50001. The rollout is carried out in close cooperation with relevant authorities for Natura 2000 and the protection of cultural heritage to limit the impact and avoid delays.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The wide spread availability of broadband networks particularly in more rural areas is one of the key enabling technologies helping to improve the sustainability of the society through digital solutions such as e-government, smart business applications and also tele-working. The project will also provide backhaul capacity to mobile sites, to allow for the full exploitation of (5G) mobile data services.

The migration from the old copper network to the new fibre network will also help to mitigate the impact of lightning strikes and increase the network availability and quality.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The provision of a reliable high quality broadband infrastructure is important for the widespread use of internet-based services such as e-government, e-learning, teleworking or online banking. The promoter's existing infrastructure in Slovenia is not able to provide latest gigabit services. Therefore, the project will have a strong contribution to the overall social sustainability particularly of the rural areas.

The project itself is profiting from existing infrastructures of the copper network and this will limit the environmental impact during the construction period.

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.