

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	PPC DISTRIBUTION VIII
Project Number:	2020-0365
Country:	Greece
Project Description:	Multi-component investment programme covering the period 2021-2023 aimed at renovating and reinforcing the electricity distribution network in Greece. The programme consists of a large number of medium voltage and low voltage electricity distribution schemes geographically dispersed throughout peninsular and insular Greece.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	yes

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

### Environmental and Social Assessment

The Programme encompasses a large number of medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) electricity distribution schemes, including 6,600 km of new and 7,600 km of refurbished MV and LV network, as well as automation components and advanced metering infrastructure, geographically dispersed throughout the country.

The electricity distribution schemes of the Programme do not meet the minimum thresholds for EIA screening set out in national legislation as per provision of Article 4(3) of Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Therefore, none of these schemes requires an EIA. Environmental analyses, as appropriate, may however be carried out for some schemes in the context of the permitting process.

The electricity distribution schemes will be screened with respect to the need for appropriate assessment under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Given the characteristics and the typical impacts of the programme schemes and considering the promoter's planning policy of avoiding crossing Natura 2000 sites, the promoter at this stage expects that only a limited number of schemes will be screened in for an Appropriate Assessment.

The programme has the potential for some low to moderate environmental and social impacts. These include disturbance during construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and noise nuisance during operation. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers, special waste collection procedures and other. A dedicated unit in the promoter's organisational structure is

<sup>1</sup> Only projects that meet the scope, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 20,000 tonsCO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonsCO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 23 September 2020

responsible for monitoring environmental issues related to network operation, maintenance and projects implementation.

Regarding the advanced metering infrastructure, the main impacts of the project are the electromagnetic radiation resulting from the communication means used for collecting the information from the advanced meters and the disposal of the existing meters that are being replaced. The telecommunication system will use mobile wireless technology. Assessments of advanced meter systems in other countries have found radiation exposures that are small in relation to the limits in the ICNIRP guidelines (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection). Regarding the disposal process of the meters, it will be done in line with the national legislation.

The environmental and social due diligence has followed the investment programme lending approach according to the EIB's procedures and standards. The due diligence focused on the promoter's capacity and capability to implement the investment programme in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements. Based on this assessment the environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed to be good.

#### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Promoter processes personal data according to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and national legislation.

#### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The source of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for the programme is the ohmic losses of the new network equipment being installed. At programme completion, the corresponding absolute emissions are estimated at 74.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. These absolute emissions are however, offset by the reduction of system losses enabled by the programme in comparison to the do-nothing alternative. Therefore, at completion, the Project is expected to lead to a net reduction of 31.5 kt CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the promoter including its organisation, processes and procedures, and deemed them to be good. Based on the information available, the investment programme is acceptable for Bank financing from an environmental and social perspective under the following conditions:

- The promoter undertakes to ensure that all programme components will undergo a biodiversity screening in accordance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives. Should a component have a potential impact on a site of nature conservation, the undertaking is extended to inform the relevant authority and implement the procedures under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- The promoter undertakes to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the project and which support the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority) and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.