

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	EPIC BROADBAND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2019-0399
Country:	CYPRUS
Project Description:	The project relates to the roll-out of a fixed Very High Capacity (VHC) broadband access network in Cyprus, based on fibre to the home (FTTH) technology. With this project, the promoter plans to cover residential living units located both in high-densely populated areas as well as in less-densely populated areas, and will cover a significant part of the households in the country. The project includes the roll-out of the fibre network, including the related investments in the backbone network and IT systems.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	no
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The deployment of the fibre network covered by the project will be mostly based on existing infrastructures such as ducts and poles, so it will not require intense construction works. For the 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.

There is also a limited number of street cabinets required for the termination of the last mile fibre cables. They will be installed at suitable locations close to existing backbone networks to reach the different housing areas with the least possible civil works efforts.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 17 September 2020

The project is not expected to require any civil works in Natura 2000 sites.

### **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 covered 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 the reform of road traffic and pollution.

The promoter has established an Occupational Health and Safety Management System for all its activities in accordance with BS OHSAS 18001:2007, a British standard that provides a framework to identify, control and decrease the risks associated with health and safety within the workplace. It includes a Fire Safety Policy to protect the workplace and people in it from the hazard of fire, particularly dangerous in this southern area of Europe. The policy is supported by fire procedures and drills.

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### **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.