



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 26/06/2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	LITPOL LINK INTERCONNECTOR
Project Number:	2014-0100
Country:	Lithuania
Project Description:	<i>The Project consists of the Lithuanian part of the asynchronous interconnector Lithuania-Poland, known as LitPol Link, and the associated reinforcement of the Lithuania network. LitPol Link comprises the construction of a 500 MW back-to-back station at Alytus in south-western Lithuania and the erection of a double-circuit 400 kV OHL from Alytus to Elk in north-eastern Poland. The route length of the OHL is 163 km, of which 51 km will be erected in Lithuania from Alytus to the Polish border. The associated network reinforcement encompasses the construction of a 53-km long, double-circuit 330 kV OHL connecting Alytus to Kruonis.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The Project was implemented according to the original scope and the measures foreseen in the EIAs for avoiding, mitigating and compensating the environmental and social impacts of the Project have been carried out as planned. The route and the design of the OHLs was chosen to cause minimal damage to forest and wetland vegetation. Tree cutting, when it was unavoidable, was carried out outside of the breeding season. Vegetation coverings that were impacted were restored based on former plant diversity principles. A specific monitoring programme carried out in coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency confirmed the successful re-vegetation of the impacted areas, including absence of significant changes in the composition of the original flora.

Flight diverters (1362 rotating reflectors and 1662 painted springs) have been installed on certain sections of the OHLs for improving wires visibility and preventing birds' mortality due to collision. A specific monitoring programme confirmed the effectiveness of this measure for preventing birds' mortality and rated the OHL's threats to birds as not significant. At completion, the actual noise level at the boundary of the back-to back station was above the noise level simulated at design stage and slightly above the national hygiene standards. This was mitigated by installing noise reduction walls between the six single-phase units of the converter transformers.

Compensations for the right of way of the OHL and for crop destruction and other impacts during construction were paid to landowners. Negotiations with landowners for the right of way of the OHL Alytus-Kruonis took longer than expected but were successfully completed in March 2015.

There is no change in the carbon footprint of the Project calculated at appraisal.



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 26/06/2020

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on reports provided by the promoter during construction, EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line/ with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.