

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	MARIBOR-SENTILJ RAIL TRACK MODERNISATION
Project Number:	20200533
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	Upgrade and modernisation of an about 17km rail track on the Maribor-Sentilj national border section
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project was categorised as point 10(c) of Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU and therefore was subject to screening. Following the screening, the need for a full EIA was identified. The EIA was completed in 2019. On the 13th June 2019, the Slovenian Environment Agency of the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning issued an environmental consent.

As the project is located close to the Slovenian/Austrian border, the Competent Authority in the Republic of Austria, Federal Ministry for Sustainability and Tourism, was notified of it. Following this consultation it has been concluded that no further cross-border environmental impact assessment procedure was necessary for the planned works and that the notification phase was sufficient.

The modernised railway Maribor-Sentilj national border section will mostly stay on the same alignment as the existing railway; however, about 20% will be on a different alignment, which will include a new railway tunnel and a new railway viaduct.

The EIA identified the main environmental impacts as:

- Noise;
- Contamination of surface and ground water;
- Vibration;

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.

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and suggested the following mitigation measures:

- Noise protection barriers in certain noise sensitive areas;
- Protection of surface and ground water;
- Protection against vibration.

The environmental consent was issued on the 13th June 2019.

Natura 2000 sites

The alignment Maribor-Sentilj national border section does not cross any Natura 2000 sites. However, it does border the Natura 2000 area of Drava (SI5000011).

Following an appropriate assessment, as required by Article 6(3) of the Habitats directive 92/43/EEC, the competent authority, responsible for monitoring the Natura 2000 sites, stated in the declaration issued on 13 June 2019 that with the implementation of mitigation measures – which include 12km of anti-noise barriers, construction of a new underground waste water collector - the project does not have significant impacts on the Natura 2000 sites crossed by or adjacent to the project area.

Social Assessment

Some buildings close to the existing railway line will be demolished to allow for the future double tracking of the railway.

Some of these buildings are being used as residences (owner-occupied and tenants) for about 32 people. The people living in these buildings will need to be resettled. The resettlement is subject to rules on compensation according to the national legislation.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The estimated annual absolute emissions of the project in a standard year of operation is 45,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. The estimated emissions savings are 9,000 tonnes of CO₂ equivalent per year. This reduction also takes into consideration the estimated future reduction of road freight due to its transfer to rail.

The boundaries of the CO₂ emission assessment are the ca. 17 km of railway line on the Maribor-Sentilj national border section and the competing part of the road network, for both the baseline and the absolute emission calculations.

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

An EIA was carried out for the modernisation and double tracking project of the ca. 17 km railway section Maribor-Sentilj national border.

Following the EIA procedure, the competent authority issued a development consent, which identifies mitigation measures for environmental impacts during construction and operations.



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Based on the results of an appropriate assessment, the competent authority responsible for Natura 2000 sites declared that the project does not have significant impacts on the Natura 2000 site crossed by or adjacent to the project area.

The project's residual negative environmental impacts during construction and operation are limited and partly offset by the expected modal shift facilitated by the investment.

The project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.