

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *CEPS TRANSMISSION GRID III*
Project Number: *2020-0432*
Country: *Czech Republic*
Project Description: *Multi component investment programme covering the period 2020-2024 aimed at reinforcing the electricity transmission infrastructure of the Czech Republic.*

EIA required: yes, for the following sub-projects:

- Dětmarovice substation
- V415/495 Chodov - Čechy Střed, 400 kV overhead line, double circuit, 37 km
- V450/428 Výškov – Babylon, 400 kV overhead line, double circuit, 73 km
- V487/488 Vítkov – Verněřov, 400 kV overhead line, double circuit, 80 km

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project is an electricity transmission programme that comprises multiple sub-projects involving new and refurbished/upgraded transmission lines and substations with operating voltages up 400 kV.

Environmental Assessment

The environmental due diligence has followed the programme lending approach according to the EIB’s procedures and standards, i.e. the due diligence focussed on the promoter’s capacity and capability to implement the investment programme in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements.

The Bank has assessed the promoter’s environmental competence and processes, including a review of the EIA carried for four sub-projects under the programme to evaluate the

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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promoter's work quality in this regard. Based on this assessment, the environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed to be good.

The sub-projects of the programme fall either under Annex I of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU and have to undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment, or under Annex II of the EIA Directive, which requires the national competent authority to determine the need for an EIA. To date four sub-projects have been subject to a full EIA and have been granted the corresponding consents by the competent authority for nature and environment. As regards the remainder sub-projects under the programme, the promoter at this stage expects that, given their characteristics and typical impacts, none of them will be screened in for an EIA or for an Appropriate Assessment.

With regards to the four sub-projects for which an EIA has been carried out, no significant impacts have been identified. During construction, the environmental impacts are expected to relate to dust, noise, vibrations and vegetation clearance. Environmental impacts during operation will concern electromagnetic fields (EMF), noise disturbance, vegetation clearance and impact on flying vertebrates. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts according to the findings of the EIA reports and the conditions expressed in the EIA consents. These include selecting lines route so to avoid impacts on sensitive areas, measures to contain the effect of noise during operation, protection of vegetation, compensatory plantings, installation of bird diverters when appropriate, coordination with local authorities and property owners as well as specific measures for conductors installations where protected plants or species are involved or when crossing watercourses. When necessary, certain construction activities will be executed avoiding breeding seasons of bird species.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Gross annual GHG emissions of the programme in a standard year of operation are estimated at 77 kt of CO₂ equivalent per year (on the basis of network losses).

The operation will provide environmental benefits through the reduction of network losses. The total avoided CO₂ emissions are estimated at 15 kt of CO₂ equivalent per year using a grid emissions factor of 501 kgCO₂/MWh.

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'.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

Public consultations have been carried out for the four sub-projects that have been subject to an EIA. Public hearings took place for two of them; the minutes of the public hearings have been published on the public register of the competent authority for nature and environment. The main concerns of the public discussed during the public hearings concerned landscape, nature protection and spatial planning aspects.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the information available, and with appropriate conditions (see below) and monitoring, the project is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for Bank financing:

- The promoter undertakes to store and keep updated all EIA screening decisions concerning the project schemes issued by the competent authority for nature and environment.
- The promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank's funds to project schemes that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA and/or the biodiversity assessment have been finalised, approved by the competent authority and sent for review to the satisfaction of the Bank.
- The promoter undertakes to ensure that all project schemes will undergo a biodiversity screening in accordance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directive. 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 provision 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.