

**Public**

## **Environmental and Social Data Sheet**

### **Overview**

Project Name:	DEUTSCHE TELEKOM FIBRE ROLLOUT
Project Number:	2020-0081
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project concerns the expansion of Very High Capacity Networks in Germany. The investments will be carried out during the years 2021 and 2022. The project will bring for the customers a significant uplift of the broadband service offering up to gigabit broadband services.
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 project concerns the commercial deployment of a fibre access network spread across urban and semi-rural areas in Germany. The network cables will be predominantly deployed alongside roads in underground ducting systems. The excavation material will be used to fill in again the trench and thus limit the amount of building waste. There is also a need for a limited number of cabinets, which are required for the handling of the fibre cables. They will be installed at suitable street side locations and making reuse of already existing installations of the copper access network as far as possible.

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.

The new network will make as much as possible use of existing installations of the copper access network such as cabinets, facilities and ducts. This will help to limit the residual environmental effects, apart from disturbances during the construction phase.

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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 CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 21 April 2021

Generally, the promoter aims in its operations at high standards in accordance with latest safety and occupational health principles. Therefore, the company has invested into an environmental management system according to ISO 14001 as well as into an energy management system according to ISO 5001. The works are carried out in close cooperation with relevant authorities to limit the impact on the environment and any cultural heritage.

The promoter provides a very elaborated reporting of its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions including scope 1, 2 and also 3 effects. For the combined fixed and mobile networks in Germany, the scope 1 & 2 energy consumption is growing due to the expanding networks and the increased capacity / throughput of such networks. However at the same time the location based CO<sub>2</sub> emission remain flat and the market-based emissions are declining.

Based on a model calculation developed by the promoter and validated by an external consultancy firm, the provision of high-speed broadband services enables end-user to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions with a factor 2,44 times higher than the power consumption necessary for the provision of such services. This modelling tried to capture the positive environmental effects, which fixed and mobile broadband services bring to other economic sectors.

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

The wide spread availability of broadband networks particularly outside densely populated areas is one of the key enabling technologies helping to improve the sustainability of the society through digital solutions such as e-government, smart business applications, distance learning, and also tele-working. The project may also provide backhaul capacity to mobile sites, to allow for the full exploitation of (5G) mobile data services.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The provision of a reliable high quality broadband infrastructure is important for the widespread use of internet-based services such as e-government, e-learning/home-schooling, teleworking and online transactions. The promoter's existing infrastructure in Germany is not able to provide latest gigabit services. Therefore, the project will have a strong contribution to the overall social sustainability particularly in less densely populated areas.

The project itself is profiting to a certain degree from existing infrastructures of the copper network and helping together with less intrusive civil works techniques to limit the environmental impact during the construction period.

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.