



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 11.06.2021

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

### Overview

Programme Name: CARUNA DISTRIBUTION NETWORK INVESTMENTS II  
Programme Number: 2018-0250  
Country: Finland  
Project Description: The project consists of a multi-component investment programme in the electricity distribution network in the South Western and the Northern Finland in the period 2018-2019. The programme includes network reinforcements and refurbishments in high, medium and low voltage networks as well as the replacement of overhead lines with underground cables to increase resilience to extreme weather events such as storms and heavy snow and meet the regulatory requirements for continuity of supply.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

**EIB notes the following Environmental and Social performance and key outcomes at Programme Completion.**

The investment programme consisted of a large number of high, medium and low voltage investment schemes geographically dispersed in the areas served by the promoter. The main objectives of the programme was the replacement of overhead lines with underground in order to increase the network's resilience to climate events, the improvement of the quality of service and the connection of new customers.

Based on the information provided by the promoter, none of the programme schemes required a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the applicable EU EIA Directive or an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive. The majority of the schemes comprised medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) works -such as undergrounding overhead lines-, which were expected to have low environmental impacts. Other schemes include the refurbishment of existing substations, including the replacement of power transformers and switchgears. The programme also included a number of new 110 kV programme schemes (ca 110km of new HV lines), screened out by the competent authorities based on the relevant criteria of national legislation. The programme scope underwent some slight changes during the implementation period, which is considered normal for this type of multi-scheme operations.

The main E&S provisions in the Finance Contract required from the promoter to keep updated any document as may be relevant for the programme, supporting the compliance with the provisions of EU environmental legislation and with the Bank's environmental Standards and requirements (in particular screening decisions from authorities and full EIAs). Furthermore, no allocation of EIB's funding was to take place to schemes requiring an EIA, until such EIA was completed and approved by the relevant authority. EIAs for programme schemes were to be made available to the public. Nevertheless, according to the Promoter, none of the programme schemes required a full EIA or an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive.

No significant environment or social issues were noted during the implementation of the programme.



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**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter during that the Programme has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.