Luxembourg, 15th November 2021

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	*CEPS TRANSMISSION NETWORK UPGRADE* – GREEN LOAN
Project Number:	*2021-0496*
Country:	*Czech Republic*
Project Description:	*The project comprises schemes for the reinforcement and modernisation of the electricity transmission network in the Czech Republic, over the period 2021-2025.*
EIA required:	yes, for the following subprojects: A. V431/831 – doubling of the 400 kV overhead line, 18,5 km B. V451/448– doubling of the 400 kV overhead line, 53,8 km

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: yes

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

The project comprises six electricity transmission schemes with voltage levels up to 400 kV. The main project schemes consist of the upgrade of existing 400 kV electricity transmission overhead lines (OHL), by replacing their main components (conductor, towers, insulators) and/or by converting a single- to double-circuit overhead lines.

The project schemes comprise the following:

A. V431/831 – doubling of the 400 kV OHL Chrast-Prestice over a length of (18.5) km;
B. V451/448 – doubling of the 400 kV OHL Babylon-Bezdecin (53.8 km);
C. V420 - Refurbishment of the existing 400 kV OHL Hradec-Mirovka (85 km);
D. V423 - Refurbishment of the existing 400 kV OHL Cebin-Sokolnice (52 km);
E. V475 - Construction of a 400 kV double-circuit OHL connecting substation Milin (0.75 km)
F. VYS-T401 - Replacement of a 220/110 kV transformer with a 400/110 kV transformer in Vyskov substation

[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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Environmental Assessment

The project schemes A and B fall under Annex I of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. As a result they were subjected to an EIA and have been granted the corresponding consents by the competent authority for nature and environment. The authority consent was granted on 22.02.2016 for scheme A. The validity of the consent granted on 05.09.2012 for scheme B was reconfirmed on 04.04.2019. The other project schemes, due to their size and characteristics and considering the EIA screening criteria set out in the national legislation[2], did not undergo a screening for an EIA.

The route of scheme B crosses the Ploučnice stream 3 times, which is part of Natura 2000 site Horni Ploucnice (site code: CZ0513506). The Appropriate Assessment screening under the Habitats and Birds Directives ruled out significant effects and an Appropriate Assessment was therefore not necessary. The Appropriate Assessment screenings carried out for the other project schemes (except scheme F which do not require such screening under the national legislation) also ruled out significant effects on the integrity of any European site on view of the site's conservation objectives.

The EIA for the schemes A and B, did not identify significant environmental impacts subject to the implementation of appropriate mitigating measures. Scheme A comprises the doubling of part (ca 18.5 km-long) of the 33 km-long 400 kV single-circuit existing overhead line Chrast – Prestice. Scheme B comprises the construction of a 400 kV double-circuit overhead line parallel to the existing single-circuit line between substations Babylon and Bezdecin. The new lines are broadly routed along the existing line corridor, which for scheme B is in part expanded, although variants with respect to the existing route corridor will be implemented for scheme B in order to avoid sensitive areas. The lines cross agricultural land, forested areas, watercourses, peatlands and runs through area of old mines (scheme B), while avoiding densely populated areas.

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. Particular attention will be paid during the construction work to restrict the effects of noise, vibration and traffic disruption, protection of vegetation, restricting tree cutting, minimization of direct encroachment on forest land, installation of effective anti-dusting measures and the management and protection of watercourses, ponds and wetlands. When necessary, certain construction activities will be executed avoiding breeding seasons of bird species. During operation, the planned mitigation measures include containing the effect of noise and the installation of bird diverters when appropriate.

Physical climate change risks relevant to the area of installation of the project schemes, i.e. mainly extreme rainfall events, flooding, snow loading and storms and high winds, are mitigated in the design stage, by adapting -as necessary- the design of the power lines' towers or the location of the equipment.

The project has been assessed for its Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon resilience goals in line with the EU Taxonomy Regulation and with the EIB Energy Lending Policy. The programme is expected to generate positive environmental impacts by enabling the integration of renewable energy generation in the transmission system of the country, thus supporting national and EU decarbonisation goals.

[2] Under the Czech environmental act new overhead lines with voltage level above 110 kV and longer than 2 km need to undergo a screening for an EIA

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EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Gross annual GHG emissions of the programme in a standard year of operation are estimated at 26 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 6 kt of CO2 equivalent per year using a grid emissions factor of 511 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 two project schemes that have been subject to an EIA. Public hearings took place for one of them; the minutes of the public hearings have been published on the public register of the competent authority for nature and environment. The consultation feedbacks have informed the scoping of the EIA. The public raised in particularly the need to properly address landscape, water protection, impact on forest land and potential dust emission issues. The schemes were overall well accepted

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter is experienced in conducting works of this nature, with an in-house team responsible for environmental and social aspects of projects.

The projects will be designed and monitored to comply with EMFs exposure limits and audible noise limits.

Based on the aforementioned elements and based on previous operations financed by the EIB, the environmental and social capacity of the promoter is deemed good.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the information available, the project is acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.