



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 20 December 2021

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: TOSCANA ENERGIA GAS NETWORK & METERING
 Project Number: 2016-0140
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: Replacement, upgrading and extension of the Promoter's gas distribution network and installation of advanced metering systems throughout the network, largely located in the Tuscany region.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The investment programme comprised of the following types of gas distribution network investments: pipe replacement (cast iron and unprotected steel pipes replaced by polyethylene and protected steel); network extension (with new connections), installation of advanced electronic meters and the communication system and IT improvements necessary for their operation, corrosion prevention and other network refurbishments.

The installation works were undertaken using standard technologies by an experienced Promoter. The main impacts occurred during construction, but as it had been expected they were temporary in nature, and could be mitigated using well established work practices in the sector.

As regards the telecommunications requirements, the solution for advanced electronic meters has adopted the 169 MHz frequency band dedicated by the EU for remote reading. The project complies with EU and Italian regulations (DPCM 08/07/2003). The 169 MHz band is used for short distances; for the other data transmissions, the national GPRS (mobile telephone) network is used.

Given the large numbers of disposed meters the waste management procedures were important. The meters were aggregated at district depots and then disposed of according to regulations by certified contractors.

Given the technical characteristics, location and potential impacts of the project, and considering the criteria established under the EU and national EIA legislation, none of the project components required EIA.

No works were carried out close to or on sites of nature conservation importance.

The operation provided environmental benefits by allowing reduction of methane leaks and by making possible the substitution of more polluting fuel sources by gas.

The investments took place in Tuscany, including cities like Florence and Pisa. For project components implemented in areas with significant archaeological and urban heritage, the promoter followed the established procedures to ensure that the reinstatement of excavated



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areas was carried out rigorously, the surface disturbance was minimised and in any case reinstated. In case of archaeological discoveries the relevant authorities were involved.

The project improved operational efficiency as well as enhanced customer information and awareness that would potentially allow for energy savings through demand response of customers to price signals.

The technical characteristics of the project allowed reduction of CO₂ eq. emissions by decreasing methane leakages from the rehabilitated and newly constructed pipelines of gas distribution network. However, the emissions are measured and managed by the promoter on the system level and cannot be directly associated with the system components affected by the project. Another potential factor for emission reduction introduced by the project is the possible decrease in gas consumption by the customers having up to date and accessible information after installation of smart meters. However, those emission reductions are difficult to quantify given their uncertainty and that they relate more to customer behaviour affecting the demand rather than any technical aspect of the smart meter component of the project itself.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

Based on the information available at appraisal stage and the monitoring reports from the Promoter the EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.