



Luxembourg, 14 September 2022

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	FIBER OPTIC NETWORK ROLL OUT POLAND (FONROP)
Project Number:	2022-0084
Country:	Poland
Project Description:	The project relates to the deployment of a new FTTH (fibre to the home) access network in areas of Poland where very high capacity networks are not available, which will pass 2.1 million households and business premises. The new network will be operated on a wholesale basis selling services with equal terms and conditions to all retail operators.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project, comprising the installation of fixed telecommunications infrastructure with no new buildings, does not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU. The promoter and its contractors will rely as much as possible on existing fixed network infrastructures (ducts and poles mainly) to deploy its new fibre optic network, minimising the need for construction works and therefore potential negative environmental effects. In any case, for the part of the network requiring civil works, the potential negative effects would still be limited in time and scope, mainly related to minor disturbances such as noise and dust in the project sites. The promoter will mitigate the potential impacts by applying well-established industry-standard measures. Moreover, the network will be deployed mainly within towns and villages and the promoter does not expect the project to require network deployment activities in Natura 2000 areas.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will have indirect positive environmental and social impacts because ultra-high speed broadband networks enable videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-government, eeducation and teleworking. These solutions improve significantly the attractiveness of the less densely populated areas that the project is targeting in terms of job opportunities and quality of life. In addition, they may contribute to the reduction of personal transportation needs and therefore of road traffic and pollution, as well as resilience to health emergencies. Moreover,

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.



Luxembourg, 14 September 2022

the economic resilience to external factors such as the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic outbreak will be strengthened as the economy can be further diversified through the access to very high capacity networks.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project does not fall under Annex I or II of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. Moreover, the promoter will rely on existing infrastructures to minimise the need for civil works, which in any case would have limited and manageable environmental effects. On the other hand, the project will have significant positive environmental impacts related to positive socio-economic impacts associated with the coverage expansion of ultra-high speed broadband networks.

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