



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg, 29 November 2022

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	HIGHWAYS IX
Project Number:	2014-0595
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	The project concerns the construction of a motorway section on the A4, the upgrading of an interchange on the A2 and investments in road safety, electro-mechanical equipment, ITS and control centres.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project concerns the construction of 13.031 km of a new dual 2-lane motorway section between Draženci and the border with Croatia in Gruškovje, along the corridor A4 Slivnica-Republic of Croatia. The project includes as well the upgrade of the Šmarje-Sap junction in the A2 Karavanke-Obrežje motorway, the rehabilitation of several motorway sections and various investments in Electro-Mechanical equipment (EM), Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) and control centres across the Slovenian motorway network.

The construction of the new motorway section and the upgrade of the Šmarje-Sap junction were subject to an EIA procedure. The road rehabilitation schemes and the investments in EM, ITS and control centres did not require an EIA. Concerning the two Natura 2000 sites bordering the motorway section: Haloze – Vinorodne (SCI - SI3000117) and Boč – Haloze – Donačka gora (SCI - SI3000118), following the assessment carried out under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the Form A was provided confirming that the project had no significant impact on the protected areas.

All the necessary building permits were issued.

The mitigation measures implemented during the construction include among others: crossings for fauna, replacement of habitats, preservation of existing hydrological regime, archaeological investigations, adequate pavement solutions to reduce the noise, installation of more than 9 km of noise barriers and improvement of the sound isolation of the windows in those buildings more directly exposed.

In order to mitigate the impact on biodiversity, the following mitigation measures have been implemented: the creation of alternative habitats for the Dusky Large Blue butterfly, animal crossings and protection fences and the preservation of the existing hydrological regime. The status of the butterfly fauna has been monitored annually during the installation of the replacement habitat during construction and is being monitored during five years following completion.

<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs.



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Concerning the impacts on cultural heritage, preliminary archaeological investigations were carried out at Lancova, Podlehnik, Stanošina and Zakl. During construction, protective fencing and panels were installed in the vicinity of the cultural heritage places.

The impacts of the project are deemed positive, due to the improvement in traffic conditions and road safety in the villages along the existing main road and the improvement in the noise protection in the parallel road network. Specific investments on safety equipment have enhanced safety conditions across the entire Slovenian motorway network.

For the project construction, 198.9 ha of land was acquired out of which 10.3 ha (5.2%) was expropriated. The acquisition of 32 buildings (24 of them residential and 8 commercial) was required. Adequate compensation was made in accordance with Slovenian law.

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

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