

Luxembourg, 5 July 2023

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	AUVERGNE NUMERIQUE TRES HAUT DEBIT II
Project Number:	2022-0761
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a publicly owned open access Very High Capacity (VHC) broadband PIN (Public Initiative Network) covering the four Departments of Auvergne (Allier, Cantal, Haute-Loire et Puy-de- Dôme) in the Region Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes in France. The objective of the project is to complete the existing Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network to cover the totality of the Households (HH's) in the area by expanding the network by further 73 000 HHs and densify the existing network to allow the connection of 53 000 households already covered under the previous phases.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The construction and installation of fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I nor Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU.

#### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is incentivising the reuse of existing infrastructures to reduce the potential environmental impact of the project's implementation and the reuse allows for a more cost-efficient roll-out. With the reuse of existing infrastructure, the impact on the few protected natural sites potentially affected by the project will be minimized.

Environmentally sensitive areas are brought to the attention of the Promoter by the competent authority DREAL (Direction Régionale Environnement Aménagement Logement) in order to adapt the deployment programme accordingly. The promoter has indicated that such adaptation will usually include the ban of aerial connections in Natura 2000 sites.

<sup>1</sup> 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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Regarding the visual impact, the company in charge of the network design and construction will have to follow the indications of the competent authority, such as "Architectes des bâtiments de France" in order to minimise the visual impact of the network roll-out. Most of the optical equipment sites (NRO's) located in urban areas (villages, etc...) will be installed close to or in the existing telecommunication offices.

Broadband networks have a positive social impact. With the increase of connectivity, accessibility and reliability of the telecommunications network, they enable communities to enjoy higher speed broadband, internet with the ability for increased economic activity in rural areas and access to a whole array of e-services (such as e-health or e-government).

Telecommunication networks are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy and fulfil the Paris Alignment criteria as set out in the EIB's CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

As a Sub-sovereign Public Authority (SSPA), the counterparty is out of scope of the PATH Framework.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Considering the above, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view