Luxembourg, 20 September 2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	NORTHERN GERMANY FIBRE ROLLOUT FONNOG
Project Number:	2022-0862
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a Very High Capacity (VHC) broadband network in Northern Germany (Lower Saxony, Northern-Rhine Westphalia and Schleswig-Holstein). The objective of the project is to cover around 220 000 additional Households (HHs) to the promoter's existing network of 40 000 FTTH and 53 000 Fibre to the Curb (FTTC) HH's. As a retail operator, the promoter will offer advanced active services to the end customers in its coverage area.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise[1]: 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 fibre to the home (FTTH) telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) neither fall under Annex I nor Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU.

Most of the network deployment will be performed by burying the cable, mainly alongside public roads. The investments will therefore have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. These mitigation measures will be dictated by the local authorities during the process of granting the construction permit.

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)

[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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EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened out for the PATH framework, as its activities are not included in the list of EIB sub-sectors and segments in high emitting sectors and for high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

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).

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

Investments in the FTTH roll-out significantly improve the quality of broadband services, with widely reported positive social benefits.

In light of the above, the project has been found to be acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.