

Luxembourg, 02nd June 2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>EVN RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS GREEN LOAN</i>
Project Number:	<i>2022-0804</i>
Country:	<i>Austria</i>
Project Description:	<i>Financing of selected projects of EVN regarding investments in wind farms in Austria with scheduled completion up until the beginning of 2025.</i>
EIA required:	yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes
 (details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is part of the Promoter's investment programme for the years 2022-2025, comprising the construction and operation of 5 wind power projects with a total capacity of 103 MW in Austria. The investment at one site comprises the dismantling of seven old wind turbines with a total capacity of 15.2 MW (repowering), jointly implemented with another developer.

It is common in Austria, that wind farms are co-developed by different promoters. These promoters do the permitting together, jointly implement shared infrastructure such as roads and grid connection, but own, implement and operate their turbines separately. This is also the case at three sites of the present project, including the repowering project. Corresponding permitting processes comprise both, project relevant turbines and third parties' turbines.

The project scope comprises the following investments:

Investment name	Federal State	Installed capacity (MW)	EIA required (Yes, No)
Windpark Palterndorf-Dobermannsdorf – Neusiedl an der Zaya Süd	Lower Austria	42	Yes
Windpark Großkrut-Altlichtenwarth	Lower Austria	24.8, of which 12.4 relate to this project	Yes
Windpark Paasdorf	Lower Austria	40.2, of which 22.2 relate to this project	Yes

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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Windpark Prottes II	Lower Austria	18.0	Yes
Windpark Sigleß-Pöttelsdorf Repowing	Burgenland	16.8, of which 8.4 relate to this project	No

The wind farms are located inside preferential zones for wind farms. The corresponding regional wind power development plans from 2014 (Lower Austria) and 2011 (Burgenland), respectively (as amended), are based on Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA).

Wind farms fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU). It is therefore up to the Member State's competent authority to judge whether an individual wind farm requires an EIA or not, based on criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive. According to the relevant national Act (UVP Act, 2000, as amended), wind farms with an installed capacity of at least 30 MW or when comprising more than 20 turbines are screened-in. Lower thresholds apply for wind projects inside protected areas as well as in alpine locations above 1,000 m height (15 MW, 10 turbines).

In line with national legislation, and under consideration of cumulated impacts with neighbouring installations, wind farms at four sites were screened-in and underwent an EIA process, one wind farm were screened-out.

Investments that underwent an EIA process:

The promoter's EIA reports address all relevant risks (biodiversity, noise, shadow flickering, visual impacts) through expert studies, and consider cumulated impacts with neighbouring wind farms. Given the presence of protected species and habitats in the greater project areas, all sites underwent avifauna impact assessments. The studies conclude that the wind farms do not have significant negative environmental impacts post mitigation.

Final permits were issued during the years 2021 and 2022. Some of them represent amendments of previously issued permits, dating back to the period 2016-2020. All final permits comprise comprehensive mitigation measures and monitoring requirements.

The wind farms are located in the proximity of several Natura 2000 sites, as outlined in the table below. Appropriate Assessment studies were carried out as part of the initial EIA processes and supplementary appropriate assessments concerning changes in project design were provided during consent amendment processes, if and where required. Competent authorities confirm that the wind farms have no significant negative impacts on the integrity of these sites.

Investment name	Closest Natura 2000 sites	Minimum distance in km (ca.)
Windpark Palterndorf-Dobermannsdorf – Neusiedl an der Zaya Süd	SCI „Weinviertel Klippenzone“ (AT1206A00)	0.1
	SCI „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT1202000)	7.2
	SPA „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT1202V00)	6.1
	SPA „Záhorské Pomoravie“ (SKCHVU016)	9.3
	SCI „Gajarské alúvium Moravy“ (SKUEV0125)	9.3
	SPA „Soutok – Tvrdonicko“ (CZ0621027)	9.4
	SCI „Soutok – Podluží“ (CZ0624119)	9.4
Windpark Großkrut-Altlichtenwarth	SPA „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT120V00)	3.1
	SCI „Weinviertel Klippenzone“ (AT1206A00)	6.8
	SCI „Soutok – Podluží“ (CZ0624119)	9.6
	SPA „Soutok – Tvrdonicko“ (CZ0621027)	9.6
	SCI „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT1202000)	9.7

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Windpark Paasdorf	SCI „Weinviertler Klippenzone“ (AT1206A00)	4
	SPA „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT1202V00)	21
Windpark Prottes II	SCI „Pannonische Sanddünen“ (AT1213000)	3.8
	SCI and SPA „March-Thaya-Auen“ (AT1202000 and AT120V00)	6
	SPA „Sandboden und Praterterrasse“ (AT1213V00)	10

At the time of appraisal, wind farm Prottes II is expected to undergo further small changes to the project design. The promoter confirms non-significance of changes and impacts and seeks formal approval of this modification at project completion ('UVP Kollaudierungsverfahren'). In such case, no EIA would be required.

Investments that did not undergo an EIA process:

Windpark Sigleß-Pöttelsdorf Repowering:

This is a repowering project located in a zone for wind farm development, which reduces the number of wind turbines from 9 to 6 at the site (2 old turbines, 4 new ones). With regards to the decommissioning of old wind turbines, permit conditions cover the scope of dismantling, reuse/recycling/ waste management, and renaturation.

This installation is located in the proximity of a Natura 2000 site, as outlined in the table below. An Appropriate Assessment study and the competent authority confirm that the installation has no significant negative impacts on the integrity of these sites.

Investment name	Closest Natura 2000 sites	Minimum distance in km (ca.)
Windpark Sigleß-Pöttelsdorf Repowering	„Mattersburger Hügelland (AT1123323)“	2.4

A final permit was issued in 2022. It comprises comprehensive mitigation measures and monitoring requirements.

All Investments:

The project has been assessed for Paris alignment and is considered to be aligned both against low carbon and resilience goals against the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and the Bank's Energy Lending Policy.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

The direct CO₂ equivalent emissions of the plants under this operation are negligible.

In accordance with the Bank's current Carbon Footprint methodology it is calculated that based on the avoidance of electricity generation from a combination of existing and new power plants in Austria (combined margin for intermittent electricity generation), the total relative effect of the project is a net reduction in CO₂ equivalent emissions by 50 kt CO₂e/yr.



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For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty already meets the requirements of the EIB PATH framework with its existing alignment plan(s).

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The wind farms' EIA processes and corresponding permit amendment processes included public consultation. Third parties raised objections during the various public consultation processes and their concerns were considered by the competent authorities, where admissible.

No legal appeals are pending against the project at the time of appraisal.

The promoter applies a pro-active communication and stakeholder engagement approach. Relevant stakeholders are informed and consulted early on in the project development process. Third parties can contact project managers directly as well as service staff at the head-quarters through established communication channels.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is one of the largest operators of renewable energy installations in Austria. The promoter is a subsidiary of a regional multi-utility (EVN AG).

Each project is subject to environment, health and safety management and control, in-line with legal requirements. Compliance is verified through internal audits.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project is deemed acceptable for Bank financing under environmental and social aspects.