



Luxembourg, 30 June 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	EWE FIBRE NETWORK NORTHWEST GERMANY
Project Number:	2017-0010
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	<i>The project concerned the first roll-out phase of a fibre based broadband access network mainly located in the German federal state of Lower Saxony. The households in the rollout area got access to Ultra-High-speed broadband services (> 100 Mbps). At the time, the entire roll-out programme aimed at connecting about 1 m households over a period of 10 years.</i>

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project was one of the early FTTH rollouts in Germany to gradually substitute existing enhanced copper access networks with a full fibre technology (FTTH). The promoter planned for a 10 year programme to achieve this modernisation. The rollout started in 2017, however shortly after the start the promoter agreed with Deutsche Telekom to create a joint venture (JV), which takes care of the installation of a single FTTH fibre access network jointly used for the broadband service delivery by both JV partners separately. In 2020 the JV was finally approved and the original 10 years rollout programme was gradually phased out with the exception of party-finished rollout areas, new housing areas and business parks.

Due to these stretched and reduced investment levels the project had to be extended by two additional years, while the technical basis and the quality of the broadband services remained unchanged. In contrary the JV will allow to cover more areas economically as the same infrastructure would be jointly used by at least two operators for the delivery of advanced broadband service.

The project implementation, which mostly refers to trenching work for underground cable installations, was carried out by a subsidiary of the promoter, that is specialised on the installation of any kind of utility distribution network.

Such project activities are not listed under the Annexes of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU amended by the EU Directive 2014/52/EU. The construction works required approval by the competent authorities and the landowners, if necessary. After completion of the trenching works for the cable installation a proper reinstatement was done resulting in limited residual effects.

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.

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs