



Luxembourg, 22nd September 2023

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Project Name: | S3 Expressway |
| Project Number: | 20120666 |
| Country: | Poland |
| Project Description: | Construction of several non-continuous sections of S3 expressway between Gorzow and Legnica in western Poland (in total 144 km) |

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The Project involved a mixture of road improvement and road construction in western Poland in a largely rural environment. It consisted of two components as follows:

- (i) construction, largely on a new alignment, of 82 km of 2 x 2 expressway between Nowa Sol and Legnica (2 x 3 between Polkowice and Lubin where the existing 2 x 2 will be widened);
- (ii) construction of three other separate works, namely the conversion to 2 x 2 expressway standard of the existing 12 km Gorzow and 6 km Miedzyrzecz Bypasses as well as the 44 km section between Sulechow and Nowa Sol.

The works fell under Annex I of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. The Project was subject to several full EIA procedures including mandatory disclosure and public consultation. The various procedures resulted in seven different Environmental Decisions (ED) being issued by the respective Competent Authorities over the period 2009-2014.

The Environmental and Social Data Sheet prepared at appraisal was published in the Public Register in January 2014¹.

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

In accordance with Polish law, certain additional environmental procedures were performed at the building permit stage (ZRID) after project appraisal.

The Environmental Decisions specified a large number of mitigating measures including: restrictions during construction; installation of acoustic barriers; construction of small, medium and large animal crossings; drainage and wastewater treatment systems; re-plantation of greenery, including over 25,000 trees such as maples and lindens; construction of pedestrian facilities and access roads for local residents; as well as ex-post impact assessment. These measures have been duly implemented during construction.

Monitoring of operational performance as specified in the Environmental Decisions - for example in relation to rainwater discharge measures, use of animal passages and effects on wildlife such as birds, bats and fish - is ongoing.

The sections cross or border four Natura 2000 sites and are in the vicinity (less than 1 km) of four others; therefore, the provisions of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) applied. The relevant EIA reports did not identify any significant negative effects

¹ [S3 EXPRESSWAY \(eib.org\)](https://eib.org)



Luxembourg, 22nd September 2023

on protected sites and species. A confirmation of these opinions (Form A/B) was issued by the respective Competent Authorities for Nature Conservation.

Residents of 3 estates - Pomorski, Raculka and Racula in Zielona Góra - reported that the installed acoustic screens were too low and would not adequately protect them from noise. The promoter, in line with regulatory obligations, carried out post implementation monitoring which determined that mandatory ceilings for noise levels had indeed been exceeded. Hence, additional acoustic screens were constructed.

Road safety audits at various stages of design, pre-commissioning, and after opening to traffic have been performed in accordance with Polish legislation and their recommendations taken into account by the promoter.

The Project involved the expropriation of private and public land as well as the involuntary resettlement of residential homes. Such expropriation was conducted in accordance with applicable national laws and regulations.

The Bank required that prior to the first disbursement for which funds were to be applied in part to a particular component, the promoter provide:

- an opinion of the Competent Authority for Nature Conservation on the expected impact of the project on protected areas and species (Form A); and
- a copy of the approval of the Supplemental EIA(s) performed under Section 88 of the EIA Act 2008 or evidence that no such Supplemental EIA(s) was required.

The relevant Forms A and Supplemental EIAs were issued.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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