

Luxembourg, 6 June 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	FIBER OPTIC NETWORK ROLL OUT ITALY (FONOI)
Project Number:	2023-0507
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	A project to deploy and operate a fibre optic network connecting business areas of Italy on a wholesale basis.
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

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can be mitigated by appropriate measures.

In order to minimize the impact during construction, the promoter will make use of existing infrastructure to the extent possible with the aim of reducing the disturbances during construction.

The re-use of existing infrastructure to the largest extent possible will also limit the overall impact of the project. The project will be implemented in existing industrial and business areas to connect enterprise customers on a wholesale basis. Most of the network will be deployed in underground ducts and manholes along existing roads in the targeted industrial and business areas, with small street cabinets located in those areas being the limited residual impact.

Telecommunication networks are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are therefore 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).

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

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.



Luxembourg, 6 June 2024

The expansion of the fibre network will help to increase the FTTH competition and allow for more affordable and better high-speed broadband products. Investments in the FTTH roll-out significantly improve the quality of broadband services, with widely reported positive social benefits such as enabling teleworking solutions thereby reducing the need for travel, enabling the use of cloud computing solutions with energy efficiency gains, the delivery of e-health and tele-education services to underserved regions, and supporting regional development through development of sufficient ICT ecosystem.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can 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.