

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	Montenegro Railways III
Project Number:	20150811
Country:	Montenegro
Project Description:	Rehabilitation of railway infrastructure along the main North-South trunk line crossing Montenegro (extended core TEN-T, Orient/East Med Corridor)

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The project consisted of number of relatively small components, all of them related to rehabilitation and modernisation of the existing Vrbnica – Bar railway line. In particular the works consisted of:

- (i) modernisation of signalling at the major junction of Podgorica;
- (ii) rehabilitation of 6 slopes;
- (iii) rehabilitation of 24 concrete bridges; and
- (iv) rehabilitation of around 8 tunnels.

The Environmental and Social Data Sheet prepared at appraisal was published in the Public Register of EIB in December 2016.¹

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

The components included in the project are implemented within the existing railway reserve, and no land acquisition was necessary for the project.

Concerning the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), the requirements in the Montenegro law are essentially as those in the EU law; and the different components of the project were subject to screening by the Competent Authority. The Competent Authority concluded that modernisation of signalling and rehabilitation of slopes components were not likely to have any significant impact on the protected sites. At the time of appraisal the authority had issued screening out decisions for these two components. In line with the requirements of Competent Authority and Montenegro law, the Promoter requested the screening concerning the need of an EIA for the rehabilitation of bridges and tunnels components.

Prior to disbursement for these two components, the promoter obtained screening decisions from the Competent Authority. In the case of some bridges located in sensitive places, the authority requested that a regulatory EIA procedure was performed, which was duly done in line with Montenegrin law and consistent with EIB standards.

Concerning protected nature sites, the railway line runs through the entire country from North to South and intersects or is adjacent to some sites; in particular, Skadar lake national park,

¹ [MONTENEGRO RAILWAYS III \(eib.org\)](https://eib.org/eng/projects-and-operations/montenegro-railways-iii)

Tara river basin and Komovi regional park. The project did not impact any protected sites and mentioned national parks.

The usual measures have been taken during the construction phase to mitigate small disturbances to the environment and track side dwellers, mostly related to dust and noise emissions. The various works were designed and implemented in line with good construction management practice as well as relevant domestic rules and regulations. Environmental management measures were prescribed by the conditions of works contracts, and enforced by qualified third party supervision. No material environmental issues arose during implementation.

Combined with the technical assistance for project preparation and works supervision contracts, the environmental capacity of the Promoter was adequate for the project.

All things equal, the project has had a positive impact on the environment by improving the quality of service offered by the rail sector, thereby promoting modal shift of people and freight from road to rail generating local and global environmental benefits.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

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

Following the fulfilment of the technical conditions and undertakings included in the Finance Contract, prior to disbursement of funds for the bridges and tunnel rehabilitation components, the Promoter submitted evidence of the completion of the corresponding environmental consent procedures, including in relation to the potential impacts on nature conservation sites.