

Luxembourg, 11 December 2024

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	STEDIN ELECTRICITY NETWORK UPGRADE AND EXPANSION
Project Number:	2024-0177
Country:	THE NETHERLANDS
Project Description:	An investment programme in electricity distribution in the Netherlands, covering the period 2025-2026. It includes investments in MV and LV networks and automation, and focuses on customer driven investments (new connections for RES, EV chargers, and residential and commercial customers), capacity enhancing investments (network expansion), and investments to ensure quality of supply (asset replacement and modernisation).

EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	yes
(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The programme comprises several electricity distribution schemes with voltages ranging from 0.4 kV up to 66 kV. Under Dutch law, all programme schemes involving new overhead lines with voltages below 220 kV need to undergo an environmental screening, following which the competent authorities determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required. The Promoter confirmed that no overhead lines are planned in the context of the programme. As a result, given their characteristics, location, and potential impacts, and considering the criteria established under the national EIA legislation, none of the programme schemes are expected to require an EIA. Environmental analyses may be carried out in the context of the construction permitting process.

Programme schemes are also screened for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) under the EU Habitats Directive. Given their characteristics, location, and potential impacts, the Promoter expects that none of the programme schemes will be screened in for an AA.

The programme has the potential for some low to moderate environmental and social impacts. These include noise, vibration, dust, and disruption of traffic during construction, and electromagnetic radiation during operation. Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) - both increases and savings.



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The programme schemes related to digitalisation are expected to have limited environmental impact.

The Promoter is Stedin Netbeheer BV, an experienced Distribution System Operator (DSO) in the Netherlands. The environmental and social due diligence has followed the investment programme lending approach according to the EIB's procedures and standards, i.e. the due diligence focussed on the Promoter's capacity and capability to implement the programme in line with EIB environmental and social standards and requirements. Based on this assessment, the environmental capacity of the Promoter is deemed good, i.e. the Promoter has the experience and the capacity to manage the investment programme.

The management of waste generated by the project will follow sustainable waste management practices, in line with the applicable EU directives and Dutch legislation.

Physical climate change risks relevant to the area of installation of the project schemes, i.e. mainly flooding, temperature increase, heat waves, and high winds, are mitigated in the design stage, by adapting - as necessary - the design or the location of the equipment, monitoring, and regular inspections.

The operation has been assessed for its Paris alignment. It is considered to be aligned for low carbon and adaptation, in line with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and with the Bank's Energy Lending Policy.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The source of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) emissions for the programme is network losses associated with new or refurbished network equipment. At programme completion, the corresponding absolute emissions are estimated to be 10 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>e/year. These absolute emissions are offset by the reduction in network losses enabled by the programme in comparison to the do-nothing alternative. Therefore, at completion, the programme is expected to enable a saving of circa 82 kt of CO<sub>2</sub>e.

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 PATH counterparty Stedin Holding NV is in scope and screened in to the PATH framework, because it operates in a high emitting sector and it is considered to be of high vulnerability.
- The counterparty already meets the requirements of the EIB PATH framework with its existing alignment plans.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

Public consultations, when necessary, are organised by the competent authority, as part of the permitting process.

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The Promoter holds a Safety Culture Ladder (SCL) certificate, level 4, and has obtained the Safety, Health and Environment Checklist Contractors certification (VCA\*\*).

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## Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the Promoter, including its organisation, processes, and procedures, and considers them satisfactory. Based on the information available and with appropriate conditions and monitoring, the programme is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing:

- The PATH counterparty undertakes not to engage in incompatible activities, as defined in the EIB Group PATH Framework (<https://www.eib.org/en/publications/the-eib-group-path-framework>).
- Should a scheme have a potential impact on a site of nature conservation, the Promoter undertakes to inform the relevant authority and implement the procedures under Articles 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.
- The Promoter undertakes to store and keep updated any documents that may be relevant for the programme and which support the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives (Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority) and shall, upon request, promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.