



Luxembourg, 11.09.2025

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	ZIDANI MOST-CELJE RAILWAY LINE UPGRADE
Project Number:	2017-0314
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	Modernization works on the Zidani-Most railway line, 26,2 km, forming part of core Baltic Adriatic and Mediterranean TENT Corridors

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The project consists of the modernisation of the 26,2 km long double-track railway line between Zidani Most and Celje, located on both the Baltic-Adriatic and the Mediterranean TEN-T core network corridors, mainly used for freight traffic.

The upgrade took place on three sections of the railway line, namely from Zidani Most to Rimske Toplice, from Rimske Toplice to Laško and from Laško to Celje. The railway stations Celje, Laško and Rimske Toplice were also renovated, new platforms were built to allow easier and safer access to people with reduced mobility.

Level crossings at the Rimske Toplice and Laško stations and three level crossings at the Rimske Toplice–Laško section were also abolished. New underpasses were also built in Marija Gradec and Rimske Toplice, including road diversions and other related infrastructure. Noise protection measures have been implemented, with the installation of around 3.5 kilometres of new noise barriers.

The key change for freight trains is the use of longer trains and the use of heavier, more powerful locomotives. The latter removes the need to change locomotives, which took up to twenty minutes.

The Project has positive effects on the environment: by improving rail passengers and freight traffic, it enhances the attractiveness and competitiveness of the railway service, facilitating an increase in rail modal share while reducing the use of road transport and the associated negative impacts on the local environment, road safety, and greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to responsible transport in line with EU objectives.

No significant environmental or social issues were identified during the implementation of the project.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The project falls under Annex II of the EIA Directive and therefore was subject to screening. In February 2016, the Competent Authority decided that no regulatory EIA was required.



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The project is located in the vicinity of five Natura 2000 sites: Savinja Celje–Zidani Most (SI3000376), Gračnica (SI3000308), Veliko Kozje (SI3000280), Voglajna Dam Tratna – tributary to Savinja (SI3000068), Posavsko Hribovje (SI5000026).

An Appropriate Assessment under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EC was performed concluding that no specific mitigation measures were necessary except for the site Savinja river (SI3000068), for which the Competent Authority prescribed specific mitigation measures to be implemented.

With Decision No. 35405-26/2016-4 of 5 February 2016, subject to these conditions, the Competent Authority MOP ARSO gave its opinion that the project would not have any significant impact on Natura 2000 sites.

Based on reports from the Promoter, EIB is of the opinion that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.