

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Prague Metro III
Project Number:	2011-0403
Country:	Czech Republic
Project Description:	6.1 km double track extension of Metro Line A from Dejvická to Motol.
EIA:	Required

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment, including key issues and overall conclusion and recommendation

The extension of Prague Metro Line A falls under Annex II of Directive 85/337/CEE, as subsequently amended, according to which the need for a full EIA is decided on a case-by-case analysis by the Competent Authority. In this case the project was screened in. The Promoter carried out a full EIA process. The favourable EIA Decision (final environmental approval) was obtained in 2008 and was received by the Bank. No impact is foreseen on any Natura 2000 site, as confirmed by the Competent Authority in January 2011 in a declaration (form A) which has also been received by the Bank.

Despite some adverse environmental impacts during construction, the project is expected to have an overall positive impact on the environment thanks to the increase in public transport service and quality. The estimated reduction of traffic related CO₂ emissions, mainly due to a shift from private car to public transport, is in the range of 5 000 tonnes per year.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Impact and Mitigation

The competent authority for issuing the final environmental approval of the project is the Environmental Protection Department of the Municipality of Prague. This department is also responsible for issuing a statement concerning the project's compliance with Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Birds Directive 79/409/EEC. The Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic is responsible for the monitoring of Natura 2000 sites and is the competent authority for issuing the final declaration in this respect.

The project results from the Operational Programme Transport (OPT) for the Czech Republic under the Convergence Objective for the period 2007-2013, which has been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The project is also comprised in the land use plan documentation "Principles of City Development of City of Prague", which underwent a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) under Act No 100/2001 Coll., including assessment of impacts on sites of Community importance and bird habitats under the s. 45 i) of Act No 114/1992 Coll.

The EIA process began in August 2007 and was completed on 26 November 2008. The main impacts identified during construction concern the disposal of waste water, the potential pollution of underground water and of soil and subsoil, the emissions of pollutants in the air and high levels of noise and vibration due to construction activities. These impacts can be mitigated through the use of best construction practices and appropriate technologies. In the

Motol area, due to the presence of the hospital, mitigation measures shall be carefully implemented in order to comply with the stricter noise regulations. The project requires the removal of nearly 5 000 trees and 25 000 m² of trees, bushes and climbing plants, which will be fully replanted. The project route is within a protection zone of the Prague urban conservation area, and it goes through the urban historic zone Prague 6 (Dejvice, Bubeneč, Horní Holešovice). The project is not expected to affect any historic sites of cultural significance, but the possibility of archaeological findings is not excluded. The route usually follows the street right-of-way, but some expropriation is needed in the area of Veleslavin and Petřiny stations. The expropriation of agricultural land is also needed in the Motol area. In any case, permanent or temporary occupation of land for working sites arrangements shall be minimised to the basic needs. Temporary traffic disruptions due to construction in the street right-of-way shall be mitigated by a traffic management plan.

The project is located in a mostly built-up environment. There are three sites of community importance in the vicinity of the project (the closest one located 1.3 km away). Based on its location and the nature of works, it was assessed that the project will not have any major impacts on these sites. Formal evidence in this respect has been submitted to the Bank in the form A declaration by the Ministry of the Environment. Ten animal species protected by Czech law (Act No. 114/1992 Coll., on nature and landscape preservation, amended by regulation No. 395/1992 Coll.) were found in the project's area. However, it was deemed that the project would have very limited impact on these species, thus its construction does not pose a threat to the protection of fauna in the area. A decision on approval of an exception (under provisions of the s. 56 (1) of Act No 114/1992 Coll., on nature and landscape protection, as amended) from prohibitions stipulated in provisions of the s. 50 of the above-mentioned act on basic rules of protection of one of this specially protected species, the Bombardier beetle (*Brachinus explodens*), was issued on March 2009. The decision on the exception mentions that the species is common in the wider area and damage by construction works would be temporary as members of the species from the surrounding area would quickly colonise the site.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The EIA Report was made available to the public for comments during July 2008. An expert opinion was prepared and also submitted for public discussion and comments from 17 September to 17 October 2008. The comments received were considered when the final EIA approval decision was taken.