

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	T-MOBILE CZ LTE
Project Number:	2012-0411
Country:	CZECH REPUBLIC
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's rollout of a 4G/LTE wireless broadband network in the Czech Republic, with a specific focus to enable connectivity to more rural and remote communities.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

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

Investments in mobile telecommunication projects (including investments in base stations, transmission systems and OSS) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC. The environmental impacts of mobile communication systems are mainly visual nuisance, electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation, and noise from diesel generators located at base stations and microwave radio towers.

Regarding the limitation of EMF exposure to the general public, the promoter will adhere to the guidelines set out by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). EMF is however under continuous study by international organizations, and in the most recent development in 2011 the WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified EMF radiation as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with minor negative residual impacts (B).

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The environmental impacts of mobile communication systems are mainly visual nuisance, electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation, and noise from diesel generators located at base stations and microwave radio towers. Other impacts can be mitigated by appropriate construction and operation measures.

Regarding the energy consumption reduction, the project includes the roll-out of leading-edge eNodeB's will lower power consumption compared to the older equipment in use.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 100 000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Other measures having a positive environmental impact include the use of alternative energy sources in the promoter's headquarters and recycling plans for old handsets.

The promoter has indicated that around 16% of the nodes included in the project will be located in areas defined as "Czech National Parks" or "Environmentally protected areas". Around 15 of those nodes are planned to be new sites, while the other ones will be co-located in already existing sites. All new sites included in the project require authorization of the environmental authority as part of the planning permission or planning consent, regulated by the building Act 183/2006 Coll. Only in very limited cases an Environmental Impact Study is requested, but according to the promoter this is not expected to be the case for any of the sites included in the project.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The promoter's risk prevention professionals operate according to the country's laws and regulations. They perform the risk assessment both for the employees as well as for the technical installation, including annual inspections and coordination with Labour Unions.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Regarding the EMF radiation, the promoter follows the national regulation No 1/2008 Coll. as well as by Act no 25/2000 Coll. This radiation levels set out in this legislation is based on the levels defined in EU Council recommendation 1999/519/EC, based on the guidelines set out by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). Every new site or changes in existing sites require authorization from the regional health office regarding EMF radiation.

The promoter's Environmental Management System is ISO 14001 certified.

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