

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	VODAFONE MOBILE IRELAND
Project Number:	20130093
Country:	Ireland
Project Description:	The project concerns the expansion of a 3G technology based mobile broadband telecommunications network and its upgrading to HSPA+ (Evolved High Speed Packet Access) together with the roll-out of a new 4G LTE (Long Term Evolution) network throughout the Ireland. The project, to be implemented from April 2013 until March 2016, is planned to increase the 3G coverage from current 52% to reach a total of 87% of the population and to introduce LTE coverage to 68% of population as well as to roll-out the 3G technology in the 900 Mhz spectrum. The project also includes investments in the transmission and core components of the network.

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, and electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation from 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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

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.

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.

Regarding Natura 2000, the promoter will follow all the requirements from the competent authorities for the implementation and operation of the sites, although the number of base stations located in those sites will only be very minor (<5).

The environmental impacts of mobile communication systems are mainly visual nuisance, and electromagnetic field (EMF) radiation from base stations and microwave radio towers. Other impacts will 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. The energy-efficiency levels of the equipment were one of the selection criteria during the tendering process. In addition, the promoters overall energy efficiency will be improved through the RAN-Sharing agreement with O2 which reduces the number of sites owned and operated by the promoter.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Regarding the EMF radiation, the promoter will adhere to the guidelines set out by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). The ICNIRP guidelines are also the basis for the levels defined in the EU recommendation 1999/519/EU. In Ireland, the authorities commission monitoring studies to check that operators are complying with their licences. Base stations are selected at random and their emissions are registered and compared to the standards issued by the ICNIRP. The reports are publicly available.

Apart from the network related energy efficiency plans, the promoter is continuously reviewing other aspects of its business in order to reduce its energy consumption. Employees travel, stores, etc... are some of the aspects being analysed on a yearly basis.

The promoter also has in place plans for waste reduction, and is committed to support the communities in which it works via initiatives like the Vodafone Foundation, the free text donation service JustTextGiving, etc...