

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: POLISH ELECTRICITY GRID MODERNISATION  
Project Number: 2012-0085  
Country: Poland  
Project Description: Extension and modernization of Central and Eastern Poland's electricity distribution networks operated by PGE Dystrybucja.  
EIA required: Some programme components may require EIA

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: yes  
(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

All project schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA directive thus implying a review by the competent authorities at the planning/consent stage with due regard to the necessity for environmental and biodiversity impact assessments. Relevant regional environmental administrative authorities under the responsibility of the Director General of Environmental Protection are responsible for determining whether an EIA is required and also issuing the environmental authorisation for the relevant schemes. As far as the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC is concerned, the permitting procedure applied by the regional authorities involves systematic consultations with the competent authority which is responsible for ensuring compliance with the biodiversity-related legislation.

The large majority of the project schemes to be financed by the Bank will be medium and low voltage reinforcements that will most likely not require formal EIAs and are expected to have minimal or no environmental impact. Likewise, by virtue of size, nature and location, these schemes are not expected to have a significant impact on sites of nature conservation. The environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed to be satisfactory. It complies with national environmental regulations and EU Directives. Given that the promoter is implementing the appropriate mitigating measures for this type of programme and the residual environmental impacts are expected to be limited, the project is acceptable to the Bank.

The promoter will undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to the distribution programme components that require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA with the integrated biodiversity assessment will have been finalised and approved by the competent authority. An electronic copy of all Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) and of the corresponding authorisation decrees will have to be placed on a web-site of the promoter when the EIA is made available to the public. The NTS will be accessible to interested parties via a web-link on the EIB website.

The promoter will also undertake to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the Project supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and shall promptly upon request deliver such documents to the Bank.

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

## **Environmental and Social Assessment**

### **Environmental Assessment**

The impacts that can be expected for the project schemes relate to visual impact, impact on flying vertebrates, vegetation clearance, electromagnetic fields, noise nuisance, and disturbance during construction. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers and others. The promoter is experienced and capable to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level through their planning procedures.

### **EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

Project's absolute emissions reach 91,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> per year and result from electricity losses in the replaced network and from increase in demand for electricity. This project's absolute emissions together with the losses in the rest of the network amount to 2,102,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> per year. Without the project the network losses would remain at the current (i.e., not improved) level and result in emissions of 2,153,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> per year, thus giving 51,000 t of CO<sub>2</sub> (equivalent) savings per year.

### **Social Assessment, where applicable**

The promoter is a major employer in the region within which it operates, and will for implementation rely on both own personnel and external subcontractors. The project will create approximately 4000 person years of employment during implementation and will serve to maintain existing operational posts.

### **Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required**

The promoter has implemented a responsible approach in its dealings with the natural environment and follows EU and national/regional requirements including public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. Overall the Promoter's procedures are acceptable.