

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	EESTI ENERGIA POWER DISTRIBUTION NETWORKS
Project Number:	2013-0181
Country:	Estonia
Project Description:	Investment programme aiming at reinforcing and modernising an electricity distribution network in Estonia by connecting new supply points, improving overall reliability and safety as well as introducing smart meter infrastructure.

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

The entirety of the project schemes will be investments in the medium and low voltage distribution network none of which fall under Annex I of Directive 2011/92/EU and thereby require EIAs. However, electricity distribution falls under Annex II of the Directive and EIAs might be required by the competent authority on a case by case basis. By virtue of size, nature and location, it is not expected that these schemes will have a significant environmental impacts nor affect sites of nature conservation.

The Bank will require the Promoter to undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to project components that require an EIA until the EIA with the integrated biodiversity assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. An electronic copy of all Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) and of the corresponding authorization decrees must be placed on a web-site of the promoter when the EIA is made available to the public and when environmental authorisation is achieved, and maintained until completion of reporting as required by the Bank.

The Finance Contract shall further require as undertaking by the promoter 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.

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. The project's impact in terms of SF6 and greenhouse gas emissions is deemed negligible. In addition, a large part of the schemes are refurbishments of lines and substations, with a negligible incremental impact. All investments in the MV-network are done as underground cables, further reducing as well the impact on birds and visual impact.

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.

The environmental capacity of the promoter is deemed good. The requirements of Natura 2000 programme are fully taken into account by the promoter in its own screening process. The Estonian environmental legislation ensures that the Environmental Board responsible for Nature Conservation and Natura 2000 protection is systematically involved in the permitting process. Thus no particular reporting in this respect (Form A/B) will be required by the Bank.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The promoter enforces strict occupational health and safety requirements and measures. Statistics show a continuous decrease in occupational accidents from already low numbers over the past five years.

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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter continuously assesses its environmental performance by means of a set of indicators. Indicators target a continuous improvement from year to year. For electricity distribution the set of indicator include in addition to events and emissions, physical properties and also the degree of compliance with environmental objectives and response time of environmental claims.