

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	MAGYAR TELEKOM NETWORK DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	20130276
Country:	Hungary
Project Description:	The project consists of investments to improve the availability and quality of the promoter's high speed mobile (3G and 4G/LTE) and fixed broadband telecom infrastructures in Hungary. As a result of the project, the promoter is expected to cover additional 869 000 households with high speed fixed broadband networks and reach 93% population coverage with 4G/LTE network, an increase of 52 percentage points from the current level. In addition the project entails investments in core and transmission networks, as well as relevant IT systems, to support the resulting increases in network traffic.
EIA required:	Yes
	Although in recent years the Hungarian environmental protection authority (EPA) has not required environmental impact assessment processes (EIA) for MT installations, in the event they will be required the EIB should receive the Non-Technical Summaries prior to allocation of EIB funds.
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	no
	The project will not have over 100 k tons CO <sub>2</sub> e/year absolute (gross) emissions or 20 k tons CO <sub>2</sub> e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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

Telecommunication projects are not specifically mentioned in any annexes of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU but the Hungarian environmental protection authority may require EIAs as part of the telecom sites' authorization process.

The fixed network has no significant permanent impacts as its main elements are ducts and cables installed underground or electronic equipment installed inside technical buildings, most of them already existing.

The mobile network will have limited impacts, with the visual impacts of base stations towers mitigated by appropriate construction and operation measures, and the potential health risks from electromagnetic radiation mitigated by the respect of Hungarian legislation, in line with the EU recommendation and the ICNIRP thresholds.

The promoter avoids installations in protected and Natura 2000 areas because of the strict applicable regulations.

The promoter has a certified (ISO 14001) integrated Environmental Management System (EMS) encompassing all its activities and sites. The EMS allows the promoter to identify and control environmental impacts of its activity including those from new projects.

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

In Hungary, the Government Decree 314/2005 covers environmental impact studies. In general telecom activities are not included in the regulation but the environmental protection authority (EPA) is involved in authorization process for new telecom sites. The EPA may require simple impact estimations, preliminary assessment reviews that include impact estimations and in the most complex cases detailed environmental impact analysis.

On the mobile activity, on recent years MT has been exempted from EIAs, in part because it has expanded equipment on existing locations which is not subject to permissions. Also in the most recent years MT had no radio tower projects in natural reserves and “Natura 2000” areas because these would automatically require an EIA and MT wants to avoid the delay and costs to obtain permissions.

On the fixed network activity, MT has planned in the past some developments for natural reserves and “Natura 2000” areas. The opinion of the EPA was sought and MT has respected the stipulated restrictions (in some cases for example that only underground lines are used).

Besides the EPA several other entities may be involved in the site authorisations. The local municipalities award building permits, in a few cases requiring urban landscape, architectural and natural landscape protection impact analysis.

Concerning Electromagnetic Field radiation (EMF), Hungary has adopted regulation (decree 63/2004./VII.26. – ESzCsM) based on ICNIRP guidelines and EU recommendation. In compliance with NMHH Decree 7/2012, permits for the radio stations to be built or expanded have to be issued by the National Communications Authority and for those radiating above 400 Watt ERP radiation-biological measurements must be included. Measurements are also made if justifiable requests are received from the public.

MT staff is trained on EMF issues by external experts. Potential health risks from EMF radiation continue to be studied at an international level. In 2011 the WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified electromagnetic radiation as possibly carcinogenic to humans (group 2B) which underlines the relevance of the subject.

MT in 2012 had 79 k tons of CO2 impact which was decreasing at about 2% per year. No major changes are expected by this incremental project because its new installations will be balanced by more efficient equipment. The project will thus be below the thresholds for inclusion in EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise.

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[https://www.telekom.hu/about\\_us/society\\_and\\_environment/sustainability\\_reports](https://www.telekom.hu/about_us/society_and_environment/sustainability_reports).