

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Programme Name:	PROGRAMME FRANCE TRES HAUT DEBIT
Programme Number:	2013-0128
Country:	FRANCE
Programme Description:	The programme relates to the deployment of public broadband telecommunication networks (Public Initiative Network, PIN) throughout the French territory. The programme will consist of yet to be defined projects
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	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 programme relates to the deployment of public broadband telecommunication networks (Public Initiative Network, PIN) throughout the French territory. The programme will consist of yet to be defined projects, which will be appraised individually for those with project costs above EUR 50 m.

Generally speaking investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EC. It is therefore unlikely that the projects under the programme would be required to perform an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) according to the Directive. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

Overall, taking a prudent approach, the programme's environmental acceptability can be classified as acceptable with minor negative residual risks. The sustainability of the projects will need to be appraised individually, including the possible impacts on protected flora and fauna (Habitats 92/43/EC and Birds 79/409/EC) for networks being rolled-out in less densely populated areas potentially located close or within Natura 2000 sites.

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which should be mitigated by appropriate measures. The overall programme has as one of its main principles the requirement to make use of existing infrastructure, like ducts, manholes, etc..., which is expected to help to reduce its overall environmental impacts.

<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.

**EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise**

The Programme's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are not known at this stage, but will be assessed during the appraisal of the individual projects.

**Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The wide spread availability of broadband networks is one of the key pillars for the implementation of initiatives aiming at improving the sustainability of society, like smart grids or smart cities. The programme does therefore have a strong contribution to overall environmental and social sustainability.