

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: RESEAU TRES HAUT DEBIT HAUTE SAVOIE
 Project Number: 2011-0599
 Country: France

Project Description:

The project relates to the design and roll-out of a publicly owned fibre broadband network (Réseau d'Initiative Public, RIP) in the department of Haute-Savoie in France. The objective of the project, to be implemented from mid-2012 until mid-2015, is to deploy around 1°300 km of backbone network, that will provide fibre access in around 280 villages ("communes") and connect schools, business parks and tourist locations. The fibre backbone and the first phase of deployment of the customer fibre access network are included in the project.

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 fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works investments for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the Directive 2011/92/EU. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which the promoter is committed to mitigate by appropriate measures. The civil works will be mainly carried out in rural areas as well as alongside roads.

Overall, the project's environmental acceptability is classified by the Bank under the category A, Acceptable.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The promoter has indicated that around 10 short network tranches will be rolled-out close-to or through Natura 2000 sites, including aerial roll-out as well as digging. In those tranches, the aerial roll-out will use existing power lines, while the digging will be performed along existing roads in order to minimize the residual impact.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

For the components of the project including civil works, the environmental impact will be limited to the disturbance created by the construction. The five network points of presence (PoP's) included in the project, will produce limited noise impact as they are all planned to be located in industrial areas close to the promoters existing facilities (e.g. electrical substations).

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.

Luxembourg, 14 January 2013

The roll-out of the vertical in-house network plans to use existing infrastructure to the greatest extent possible. For the limited number of cases in which there is no existing infrastructure, the promoter has expressed its intention to use an aerial deployment of the fibres, for which measures to reduce visual impact will be implemented.

As part of the operation of the project, the promoter plans to implement an Impact Observatory, in charge of monitoring both the technical and commercial implementation of the project as well as the socio-economic impact of it.