

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	RAIN RURAL BROADBAND (FL 20070534)
Project Number:	2010-0412
Country:	Lithuania
Project Description:	The project relates to the roll-out of fibre-based broadband telecommunication network in Lithuania to provide the infrastructure needed to extend the reach of broadband services mainly to rural areas of the country. The project will provide connection points in educational institutions, official institutions, libraries and public internet centers. In addition, the project will also provide wholesale connectivity to commercial operators on an "open access principle" for the connection of mobile-communication towers and fixed-communication network nodes.
EIA required:	NO
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	NO
(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")	

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 EIA Directive 2011/92/EC. This was confirmed via a letter issued the 3rd of August 2010 by the Lithuanian Environmental Protection Agency. Fixed telecommunication systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can be mitigated by appropriated measures.

Concerning the "Habitats" Directive 92/43/EEC and related Natura 2000 protection sites, the relevant legislation does not include any provision regarding telecoms infrastructures. The project will pass by a small number (<10) Natura 2000 sites in the rural areas. The Ministry of Environment has confirmed to the promoter, that the project implementation will not have any significant negative impact on these sites as long as all protection and management requirements are met.

The project is hence deemed to be environmentally acceptable with minor negative residual impacts.

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.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

See above.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies only include emissions from Investment Loans, and large allocations under Framework Loans, above the methodology thresholds.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is implementing the network in cooperation with experienced civil work companies and has developed a sound contractual and supervision framework. This structure is supposed to make sure that the sub contractors obey the applicable environmental and health standards.

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