

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION BiH	
Project Number:	2010-0562	
Country:	Bosnia and Herzegovina	
Project Description:	The project consists in a 5-year investment programme (2012-2016) intended to maintain, modernise and extend the electricity distribution network in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its purpose is to secure a more stable and reliable supply, to improve the overall service quality, and to cater for demand growth and decrease losses.	
EIA required:	No	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No	

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

The EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) has been transposed in Bosnia and EIA processes are already established. Further efforts, however, are required to implement the Directive in a harmonised manner at the State and Entity (the Federation of BiH and the Republika Srpska) levels. The investment schemes comprising the distribution investment programme come under Annex II of the EIA Directive thus implying a review by the competent authorities with due regard to the necessity for an environmental and biodiversity assessment.

The schemes included in this large programme of some several hundred individual components relate to medium and low voltage reinforcement and expansions with minimal or no environmental impacts. Likewise, by virtue of size, nature and location, these schemes are unlikely to have a significant impact on sites of nature conservation. As such it is not expected that any of the schemes will require an environmental impact or biodiversity assessment. The components, which will require an environmental impact or biodiversity assessment under European or national legislation, will be excluded from the programme co-financed by the Bank.

The promoters comply with national environmental regulations, including the provisions of the relevant EU Directives. They will implement the appropriate mitigating measures for this type of programme. The residual environmental impacts are expected to be limited. The project is therefore acceptable to the Bank. It will require, however, regular environmental monitoring.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

In the Federation of BiH the implementation of the EIA Directive is at an advanced stage; the main obligations under the Directive are already provided for in the Law on Environmental Protection (O.G. FBiH 33/03 and 38/09) and the Regulation on plants and installations for which Environmental Impact Assessment is obligatory and on plants and installations which may be constructed and commissioned only if they receive an environmental permit (O.G. FBiH 19/04). The Federal Ministry of Environment and Tourism (FMET) is the authority responsible for implementation of the Directive. The whole EIA procedure is in place, from requests by developers for scoping, to public consultations, to approval of the assessment. A

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.

unit for environmental permitting has been established within FMET, which also deals with the EIA procedure. Information relating to the EIA is, to a large extent, made public through announcements in newspapers, the ministry's website and written notice directly to the public concerned.

In the Republika Srpska the transposition of the EIA Directive is in the final stage. The Directive has been transposed mainly by the Law on Environmental Protection (O.G. RS 28/07, 41/08, 29/10) and the Decree on EIA (O.G. RS 07/06). Furthermore, the Guideline on Content of the EIS (O.G. RS 118/05) sets out the content of the Environmental Impact Statement. Some general provisions applicable to the EIA procedure are also laid down in the general Law on Administrative Procedure (O.G. RS 13/02) and the Law on Free Access to Information (O.G. RS 20/01). The authority responsible for the implementation of the Directive is the RS Ministry of Physical Planning, Civil Engineering and Ecology. Both Annexes I and II of the Directive are considered fully transposed. The data from environmental impact statements are used when issuing ecological permits. Requests for ecological permits might be provided together with a request for project development following the procedure of EIA. The Decree on EIA (O.G. RS 7/06) defines projects to be assessed, following both criteria of case-by-case evaluation and threshold values.

As far as the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and the Wild Birds Directives are concerned, the process of their implementation, for example the process of creation of a list of Natura 2000 sites, is under way with several assistance programmes active in the field.

Majority of works will be performed inside existing sites and line corridors and will have rehabilitation character of low environmental impact. The highest voltage of the distribution grid is 35 kV. The limited impacts that can be expected for the project schemes relate to visual impact, potential impact on flying vertebrates, vegetation clearance, electromagnetic fields, noise nuisance, and disturbance during construction. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers and others. The promoters are experienced and capable to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level through their planning procedure. They demonstrate sufficient experience and capacity to handle the components properly.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The implementation of the programme will create substantial employment during construction and contribute to maintaining existing posts for operation. Reliable access to, and supply of electricity likewise represent a social benefit.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The promoters have implemented a responsible approach in their dealings with the natural environment and follow national requirements including public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders that comply with the EU regulations. Overall the promoters' procedures are acceptable.