

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TELECOM MALTA
Project Number:	2014-0176
Country:	Malta
Project Description:	The project relates to the financing of the promoter's investments in fixed and mobile telecommunication technologies for the period 2014-2016 in Malta.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	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

Neither the installation of mobile nor fixed telecommunication networks fall under Annexes I and II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EC, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment. Mobile telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from the visual impact of base station towers and EMF radiation. The disturbances during civil works related to the construction of fixed telecommunication systems can be mitigated by appropriate measures.

The residual project risks are related to the impact of EMF exposure to the general public, a subject that is under continuous study by international organizations.

Hence, the project is considered as acceptable for the Bank's financing, with minor negative residual impacts.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Regarding the limitation of EMF exposure to the general public, the promoter will adhere to the guidelines set out by the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP). EMF is however under continuous study by international organizations, and in the most recent development in 2011 the WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified EMF radiation as possibly carcinogenic to humans.

The compliance with the ICNIRP levels is regularly monitored by the regulatory body MCA and is publicly available information².

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.

² <http://www.mca.org.mt/emf-results>

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Concerning the “Habitats” Directive 92/43/EEC and related Natura 2000 protection sites, the relevant legislation does not include any provision regarding telecoms infrastructures, since individual schemes are small and not expected to have any significant negative impact.

The promoter will make use of existing infrastructure to the extent possible with the aim of reducing the disturbances during construction. For the FTTH component of the project, the large use of aerial connections will cause some visual disturbances, but is mitigated by the already extensive use of aerial connections by other telecom operators and utility companies.