

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ELECTRICITY DISTRIBUTION SLOVENIA
Project Number:	2014-0339
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	Investment schemes in the electricity distribution network in Slovenia planned for implementation in the years 2015-2017.
EIA required:	yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

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

The programme comprises a large number of electricity distribution schemes from 400 V to 110 kV. Some programme schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU) thus implying a review by the competent authorities at the planning/consent stage with due regard to the necessity for full environmental and biodiversity impact assessments. Ten schemes have already been screened in and the relevant EIA processes are completed or on-going.

Overall the environmental impacts of the project are expected to be modest and relate mainly to noise, vibration, dust, and traffic disruption during the construction, and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and nuisance during operation. The majority of the programme schemes are refurbishments of equipment and facilities with limited environmental impact.

The environmental capacity of the promoters is deemed to be good; they have the experience and the capacity to appropriately manage their respective investment programmes and are ISO 14001 certified. The programmes' environmental basis is acceptable to the Bank.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts during construction and operation. Particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works. Typical mitigation measures include special construction procedures to minimize damages, construction of facilities to contain oil leaking from transformers, special waste collection procedures and other. The promoters are experienced and have the capacity to mitigate the impacts to an acceptable level through their Environmental Protection Management programmes.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The promoters have implemented a responsible approach in their dealings with the natural environment and follow EU and national/regional requirements including public consultation and engagement with key stakeholders. For HV networks the comments usually take a form of a demand for a construction of an underground cable instead of an overhead line and apart from dense areas are usually rejected on economic or environmental grounds. Cables are

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.

much more expensive than overhead lines; on top of that the environmental impact of a cable can be significant due to necessary excavation works during construction and due to the requirement for a wide grass-only corridor on a surface along an underground cable line. As such, in rural areas cables are often not a preferred choice for environmental and economic reasons unless there is a preponderant interest in terms of visual impact or Natura 2000 site would be negatively affected by overhead line.

Conclusion

In the event that a programme component to be financed with the Bank's funds requires a full Environmental Impact Assessment, the promoters will undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to this component until the EIA with the integrated appropriate assessment has been finalised and approved by the competent authority. In such a case, an electronic copy of a Non-Technical Summary (NTS) of the Environmental Impact Statement and the favourable EIA decision by the competent authority must be sent to the Bank.

The promoters will undertake to store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the project supporting the compliance with the provisions under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.