

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: RAIL BORDER-KM 614 (FL20080170)
Project Number: 20110290
Country: Romania
Project Description: Rehabilitation and upgrading of the existing line between the Romanian-Hungarian border and km 614 (Pan European Corridor IV), over approximately 41km, increasing line speed from 120 to 160km/h.

EIA required: NO

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: NO

(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")

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

The project is part of the Operational Programme for Transport 2007-2013 (OPT) , which was the subject of a Strategic Environmental Assessment in line with Directive 2001/42/EC.

The project was classified in Annex II of the Directive 85/337/EEC on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as subsequently amended by Directive 2011/92/EU. The project was therefore the subject of a case by case determination of the need for EIA, as part of an EIA screening procedure carried out by the relevant competent authority, the Local Environmental Protection Agency (LEPA) Arad, which concluded that an EIA is not required.

According to the provision of Espoo Convention and EIA Directive, the project was subject of information exchange between Romanian and Hungarian Ministries of Environment and the conclusion was that the project is not likely to cause any transboundary adverse environmental effects on the Hungarian territory.

The Natura 2000 Declaration was issued by LEPA Arad in June 2009, confirming that the project is not likely to have significant negative effects in sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network.

Concerning the main impacts, the environmental authority imposed mitigation measures related to protection of water, air, and soil and waste management, particularly during construction. Noise protection measures have also been defined, particularly for the area around Arad station.

From an environmental point of view, the project is acceptable for Bank financing.

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

The negative screening decision took several aspects of the project into consideration, notably its nature. The project consists essentially of rehabilitation of existing infrastructure – the doubling of the single track section of 5.6km near the Hungarian border will use the earthworks that were built in 1915 for double-track. The cumulative impact with other projects was also considered, as the project is located in an area where two other similar projects are proposed – the ring-road of Arad and the Curtici-Arad county road rehabilitation. The location and the characteristics of potential impact were also taken into account.

Some environmental mitigation measures are required as part of the environmental/screening decision. During construction, there will be requirements limiting dust emission and governing the management and disposal of waste, as well as requiring the rehabilitation/reinstatement of areas affected by the construction works. In line with Romanian law, the contractor will be responsible for the cost of remediating accidental environmental damage related to the construction works.

For the operation phase, the most relevant measure is to do with noise protection, as usual in this type of project. A total of over 2km of noise barriers will be provided. Of these, a large proportion will be located in the area of Arad station, in line with the findings of the noise reduction plan that was prepared for this station.

The Natura 2000 Declaration was issued by LEPA Arad in June 2009, confirming that the project is not likely to have significant negative effects in sites included or intended to be included in the Natura 2000 network. The distance between the designed route and ROSPA 0015 Câmpia Crișului Alb și Crișului Negru is approx. 5.6 km.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

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

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

As part of the EIA screening procedure, the LEPA (the competent authority) consulted several public authorities, among them the Arad City Hall and the Arad County Office of the National Guard for the Environment.

The decision of the competent authority having been that no EIA is necessary, no further consultation in the context of an EIA was carried out. The public was informed about the content of the negative screening decision, through announcements at the headquarters of LEPA Arad, in the media and on the CFR website. No comments from the public were registered.