

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	IMPLEMENTATION OF GSM-R SLOVENIA
Project Number:	20150313
Country:	Slovenia
Project Description:	Installation of GSM-R digital radio communication system on the entire public railway infrastructure network of the Republic of Slovenia.
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 project consists of installation of GSM-R radio communication system on national and regional railway lines in Slovenia. The works include the installation of Mobile Switching Centres (MSC), erection of radio base stations and installation of data transmission and power supply. This type of works falls outside the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU).

Even though EIA was not mandatory for the project, the promoter undertook a non-statutory EIA in 2003 which was updated in 2011. Some parts of the project are located in or close to Natura 2000 sites; the competent authorities stated that no significant adverse impacts are expected.

The project will contribute to supporting sustainable transport given that it will improve the rail infrastructure in Slovenia, ensuring competitiveness with other forms of transport.

The project is acceptable from an environmental perspective.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is included under Slovenia's 2007-2013 Operational Program which was subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in 2007. One of the conclusions of the report was that GSM-R has no significant environmental impacts.

The project falls outside the scope of the EIA Directive. Even though an EIA was not mandatory for the project, the promoter undertook a non-statutory EIA in 2003 which was updated in 2011. The project takes place within the existing right of way and does not require planning permits or building permits.

The project has limited negative environmental impacts on population, fauna and biodiversity, soil, water and landscape during both construction and/or operation. Relevant mitigation

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.

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measures mainly associated to the construction of base stations have been considered to minimise the impacts.

The project includes the whole Slovenian railway network and hence it is geographically spread across the whole country, some sections are located in or close to Natura 2000 sites. Although the works will take place for the most part in the existing right of way, special attention has been paid in the locations where the base stations will be built.

The project partly affects the following Natura 2000 sites:

- SAC Nakelska Sava (SI3000201)
- SPA Povsasko hribovje (SI5000026)
- SAC Goricko (SI3000221)
- SPA Drava (SI5000022)
- SAC Temenica (SI3000049)
- SAC Vrhtrebnje – Sv. Ana (SI3000057)
- SAC Kras (SI3000276)
- SPA Kras (SI5000023).

As a result, an assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive was undertaken. This assessment outlined specific mitigation measures for the areas where impacts were identified, along with general measures to be followed for all construction within Natura 2000 sites. These include: (i) restrictions on the location of works, (ii) bird protection measures associated to the antenna towers (iii) restrictions on the timing of tree and shrub clearing (iv) water protection measures in Soča River and (v) subsequent monitoring on the sites. The Competent Authority stated that no significant negative impacts are expected on these sites provided that the mitigation measures mentioned above are met (Natura 2000 declaration).

The project will contribute to supporting sustainable transport given that it will improve safety and operations of the rail infrastructure in Slovenia. No changes of modal split directly attributable to the project are anticipated and therefore no changes in carbon emissions are expected.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

Public consultation did not take place as the project did not require an EIA. There are no known complaints at this point against the project. Several test measurements were performed with the GSM-R signal and no interferences with the networks of public mobile operators were detected.