

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *A2A RETI ELETTRICHE E GAS II*
 Project Number: 2014-0609
 Country: *Italy*
 Project Description: Investments in electricity and gas distribution networks for 2016-2019 and in public lighting for 2015-2016.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: yes

(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

The project is a multi-component investment programme comprising the implementation of a large number of schemes in electricity and gas distribution as well as the substitution of public lighting systems with LED technology. The programme also comprises the roll-out of gas smart meters. The programme is mainly located in the areas of Milan, Brescia and Bergamo.

As regards the gas smart meters, the telecommunication system will use the national GPRS networks (global system for mobile communications) and the 169 MHz frequency band (allocated by the EU for remote reading).

Some programme schemes fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU). Given their characteristics, location and potential impacts, and considering the criteria established under the national EIA legislation, none of the schemes are expected to require a full EIA and none are planned to be carried out close or in a site of nature conservation importance.

The programme will result in a reduction of greenhouse gases through the prevention of methane leaks in gas networks, the switch from more polluting fuels, and energy savings in public lighting. Based on the information available, the programme is expected to have minor residual impacts and thus is acceptable in environmental terms for Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The majorities of the activities involve the replacement, upgrade or extension of electricity and gas underground networks with limited environmental impacts. The environmental impacts of the programme mainly relate to noise, vibration and dust during construction and electromagnetic fields (EMF) and noise during operation. For the smart meters and public lighting components, the main potential impact on the environment is from the disposal of the old meters and luminaires being substituted by this programme.

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.

Appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impact during construction. During excavation works, particular attention will be paid to potential impacts on cultural heritage sites. In densely populated areas, particular attention will be paid to contain the effect of noise, vibrations and traffic disruption during the construction works.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Gross annual GHG emissions of the programme in a standard year of operation are estimated at 20.4 kt of CO₂ equivalent per year (on the basis of network losses, estimated methane leakages and electricity consumption of public lighting).

The operation will provide environmental benefits through the reduction of methane leaks, energy savings resulting from the substitution of the existing public lighting system with LED technology as well as the switch from more polluting fuels. It is estimated that the programme will replace 2,195 TJ of more polluting fuels with gas. The annual energy savings for the public lighting system have been estimated at 31 GWh.

The total avoided CO₂ emissions are estimated at 47 kt of CO₂ equivalent per year.

For the annual accounting purposes of the EIB Carbon Footprint, the project emissions will be prorated according to the EIB lending amount signed in that year, as a proportion of project cost.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is certified to meet ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001. The promoter monitors and publishes a set of indicators that reflect its environmental performance.

Bank Environmental Conditions

The Promoter undertakes not to allocate the Bank's funds to the Programme components that require a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) until the EIA with the integrated biodiversity assessment has been finalised, approved by the competent authority and sent for review to the satisfaction of the Bank together with the signed Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority, to indicate the compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Promoter shall store and keep updated any documents as may be relevant for the Programme supporting the compliance with the provisions of the EU EIA, Habitats and Birds Directives and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.