

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

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| Project Name: | ALSACE TRES HAUT DEBIT |
| Project Number: | 2015-0361 |
| Country: | France |
| Project Description: | The project will consist in the deployment of a Very and Ultra High Speed broadband telecommunications network, using in most of the cases a Fibre to the Home (FTTH) technology, in the Region of Alsace in France. |
| 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

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92 EC. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions that in this case will mostly consist of digging telecom trenches to lay ducts and install cables, and which will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

The project will use as much as possible existing infrastructure. Respect of environmental legislation is one of the conditions of the tender for the concession and environmental mitigation measures have been included in the evaluation of the candidates.

The project is evaluated as having an A rating (Global impact positive or neutral, risk low and residual impacts insignificant) and is considered acceptable for the Bank's financing. This evaluation should be confirmed at Stage 2 of the appraisal when the project plans and the participants will have been more precisely defined.

Environmental and Social Assessment

The awarding authority for this project to be implemented under a PPP model is the Region of Alsace.

The terms of the concession in negotiation with candidates stipulate that the concessionaire shall respect environmental regulations. The main principles the Region expects to be applied in the implementation are the reuse of existing infrastructure, the integration of new constructions in the landscape, the use of low impact civil works techniques and the reutilisation of materials.

It will be in the interest of the concessionaire to reduce as much as possible the civil works necessary to deploy the new Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network because of their high cost and organisational and logistic complexity. Civil works, that would be the main source of impacts, are therefore expected to be very limited.

The region will have to validate the roll out plans of the awarded concessionaire and will be particularly attentive to impact on the protected areas of Alsace (Natura 2000, directives Habitats and Birds). Besides the monitoring of the project implementation, the Region will have to accept the project elements once concluded. At that stage the Region will assess their conformity to the plans and engineering rules.

Up to this stage of the project development the French environmental authorities have not required specific mitigation measures to the Region.

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.

Luxembourg, 21 October 2015

The project will also have positive environmental and social contributions because highly sophisticated telecommunications networks enable e.g. videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-administration and telework services, all contributing to the reduction of personal transportation needs and therefore of road traffic and pollution. Telecoms networks may also lead to a better management of energy consumption of the public infrastructure in towns, of the businesses and of the households through the connection on-line of powered devices enabling a more intelligent and efficient management of their operations.