

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	2I RETE GAS SMART METERING & UPGRADING
Project Number:	2013-0682
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project is part of the promoter's on-going investment programme in gas distribution networks and concerns the installation of ca. 2.8 million gas smart meters and the related new communication networks as well as the necessary information management system to enable and optimise the use of the new meters in alignment with the requirements of the relevant regulatory framework.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

(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 comprises the installation of gas smart metering systems in the gas distribution networks in geographically dispersed concession areas of the Promoter. The project will enable to improve operators' efficiency as well as customer information and awareness and will allow for energy savings.

Given the characteristics, location and potential impacts of the project, and considering the criteria established under the EU and national EIA legislation, the project does not require an EIA. No works are planned to be carried out close or in a site of nature conservation importance.

As regards the telecommunications requirements; the solution has adopted the 169 MHz frequency band dedicated by the EU for remote reading. The project complies with EU and Italian regulations (DPCM 08/07./2003). The 169 MHz band is used for short distances; for other data transmissions, the national GPRS (mobile telephone) network is used.

The activities will be undertaken using standard technologies by an experienced promoter. The main impacts occur during project implementation, are temporary in nature, and are mitigated according to established practices in the sector.

Based on the information available, the programme is acceptable in environmental terms for Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

For the smart meters the main potential impact on the environment is from the disposal of the old meters being substituted by this programme. Given the large numbers of meters being disposed of the waste management procedures are important. Appropriate procedures have been established to streamline the disposal process of the meters managed by the promoter and to reduce the environmental impact of the waste disposal

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.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has a well-established health, safety and environmental (HSE) management system, and is ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 certified.

The project potentially may lead to reduction of gas consumption and thus CO₂ eq. emissions. The Bank considered an expected impact on demand of 0.5%, considered conservative. It is not included in the carbon footprint exercise given that those reductions are from customer demand management rather than any technical aspect of the project itself.

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