

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	Hungary-Slovakia Gas Interconnection	
Project Number:	2011-0392	
Country:	Hungary	
Project Description:	The project consists in the construction and operation of the Hungarian section of the TEN-E Hungary-Slovakia gas interconnection. It includes a natural gas bi-directional transmission pipeline (+/-94 km) and associated infrastructure between Vecsés (some 17km southeast from the centre of Budapest) and Balassagyarmat (at the Slovak-Hungarian border).	
EIA required:	YES	
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	NO	
(Details are provided in section: "Carbon Footprint")		

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

This is a typical gas transmission project applying proven technologies. Although the promoter is a newly established company the project implementation is planned to be carried out by an experienced EPC contractor. The main impacts occur during construction. They are temporary in nature, and are mitigated according to established practices in the sector. The new pipeline will use the safety corridors of existing oil and gas pipelines for 95% of the total length of the route. Construction techniques such as horizontal directional drilling will be used to reduce temporary construction impacts.

The assessments also show that the pipelines will cross several Natura2000 sites, but conclude that there will be no significant negative residual impacts provided the identified precautionary measures are properly implemented.

A site visit demonstrated the thorough environmental planning in line with industry standards.

The environmental procedures employed by the promoter are considered to be appropriate to ensure compliance with the requirements of the relevant EU and national legislation, and thus the project is acceptable for Bank financing.

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project falls under Annex II of Directive 85/337/EEC and its amendments as transposed into Hungarian legislation. The environmental authority required that EIA studies have to be undertaken in order to seek environmental permit for the project. The draft EIS, including assessments of Natura2000 issues as requested in the Habitats and Birds directives, has been completed and submitted for review to the authorities and public consultation.

The environmental impact assessment addresses provisions required for construction activities, with special attention to the Natura2000 sites concerned. With these provisions, the competent authority for Natura2000, birds and habitats confirmed that the project is not likely to have significant effects on sites of nature conservation importance.

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.

The project will have typical impacts, i.e. mainly temporary impacts related to construction works (clearing of rights of way, noise, dust, increased traffic, temporary access restrictions, construction camps and lay-down areas, waste disposal, crossing of highways and rails). These impacts can usually be well managed by appropriate measures taken by the construction company.

EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise

Project is not included - project emissions (from compressors) are assessed to fall under the methodology thresholds.

Social Assessment, where applicable

One of the potential social impacts of the project is related to the compensation for the pipeline's right of way. However, since on 95 % of the length of the route the new pipeline will use the existing corridor of other oil and gas pipelines this impact is limited to the minimum. The temporary employment effect resulting from construction works can be considered as another social impact.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement, where required

The promoter informed that the public participation is ongoing in accordance with the national, EU and international environmental legislation. Extensive consultations with environmental authorities and other stakeholders were carried out and results were incorporated into the design of the pipelines.

The consultation procedure between Hungary and Slovakia has been carried out according to the Espoo convention and the assessment of the trans-boundary environmental impacts has been completed by the end of 2011.

The promoter is not aware of any outstanding environmental issue that could raise opposition from stakeholders involved.