

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: TOSCANA ENERGIA GAS NETWORK & METERING
Project Number: 2016-0140
Country: Italy
Project Description: Replacement, upgrading and extension of the Promoter's gas distribution network and installation of advanced metering systems throughout the network, largely located in the Tuscany region.

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

(Details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The programme comprises of the following types of gas distribution network investments: pipe replacement (cast iron and unprotected steel pipes replaced by polyethylene and protected steel); network extension (with new connections), installation of advanced electronic meters and the communication system and IT improvements necessary for their operation, corrosion prevention and other network refurbishments.

The activities will be undertaken using standard technologies and the promoter is experienced. The main impacts occur during construction, are temporary in nature, and can be mitigated using established work practices in the sector.

As regards the telecommunications requirements; the solution for advanced electronic meters 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 the other data transmissions, the national GPRS (mobile telephone) network is used.

Given the large numbers of meters being disposed of the waste management procedures are important. The meters are aggregated at district depots and then disposed of according to regulations by certified contractors.

The programme components fall under Annex II of Directive 2011/92/EU as transposed into Italian legislation. None of the project components require EIA. They are all considered screened out based on their technical characteristics and the criteria established in Italian legislation specifying the projects which have to be submitted to the competent authority for screening.

The operation will provide environmental benefits through some reduction of methane leaks and through the substitution of more polluting fuel sources by gas.

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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The investments will take place in Tuscany, including cities like Florence and Pisa. For project components to be implemented in areas with significant archaeological and urban heritage, the promoter has processes in place to ensure that the reinstatement of excavated areas is carried out rigorously, that the surface disturbance is minimised and in any case reinstated, and that in the case of any archaeological discoveries the relevant authorities are involved. The appraisal visit confirmed that due care was taken when areas of potential interest were discovered.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter has provided evidence of sound practice with respect to environmental management and confirmed that all new projects are assessed for environmental impact. In addition to systems to meet regulatory requirements, the promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system which assesses new projects and monitors on-going operations and follows regulations regarding management of cultural heritage assets.

The promoter is accredited to meet the standards of ISO 9001; ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001. Site visits demonstrated the appropriate implementation of health, safety, security and environmental standards.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the technical characteristics of the project and based on the environmental and social information provided by the Promoter, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.