

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *DOLOMITI ENERGIA NETWORKS & HYDRO II*
 Project Number: *2016-0053*
 Country: *Italy*
 Project Description: *Investments for the modernisation, upgrading and development of the electricity and gas distribution networks, as well as the repowering of small hydropower facilities in the autonomous province of Trento over the period 2017-2020.*

EIA required: yes

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

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

Environmental and Social Assessment

The Programme comprises typical electricity and gas distribution schemes as well as and hydropower generation expansion and rehabilitation investments. The programme also comprises the roll-out of gas advanced metering infrastructures. The programme is located in the Trento province of Trentino Alto Adige region in the Northern Italy

Environmental Assessment

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 five hydropower schemes still have to undergo the screening by the competent authority. One of them, the construction of a power station on the Vioz river at the Cogolo facility, is expected to be carried out in a site of nature conservation importance and to require a full EIA. For electricity and gas networks, 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 construction of a power station on the Vioz river at the Cogolo facility is aimed at addressing safety issues related to landslide hazards. The construction is expected to be carried out in the Natura 2000 sites of *Stelvio* (SPA²) and *Alta Val la Mare* (SCI³). An EIA including an appropriate assessment will be carried out in liaison with the competent authority.

As regards the gas advanced metering infrastructures, the telecommunication system will use the national GPRS network and the 169 MHz frequency band (allocated by the EU for remote reading).

No major environmental or social impacts were identified that could not be adequately mitigated. During construction, the environmental impacts are expected to relate to dust, noise, vibration, traffic disruption and vegetation clearance. Environmental impact during operation will concern electromagnetic fields (EMF) and noise disturbance. For the 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.

² Special Protection area – code IT3120157

³ Site of Conservation Importance – code IT3120002

advanced metering infrastructure, the main potential impact is from the disposal of the old meters being substituted by this project. When relevant, appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented to minimise impacts. 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, vibration and traffic disruption during construction works.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is certified to meet ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 for its hydro generation activity as well as ISO 9001 for its gas distribution activity.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the information available, the Project is acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social perspective.

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 (Form A/B, or equivalent declaration by the competent authority), and shall upon request promptly deliver such documents to the Bank.