

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	CONNECTING EUROPE BROADBAND FUND (CEBF)
Project Number:	20160013
Country:	EU-28, Norway, Iceland
Project Description:	The operation concerns the investment into a broadband infrastructure fund, which supports to a large extent Greenfield broadband projects that are mostly located in less densely populated areas, smaller in size and have a high risk. The fund will operate in the EU 28 complemented by Norway and Iceland. There are no pre-defined country allocations or minimum country requirements but the commitments in one member state, should not exceed 20% of the total fund size.

EIA required: Depending on the underlying investment

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: No

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The Fund's underlying investments relate to Telecom and ICT infrastructure (fixed line and mobile broadband access networks) mostly expected to fall outside the scope of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended. There is a risk that due to the focus on rural areas, the networks may need to cross environmental sensitive areas, however the residual impact is expected to be very limited. Still for all underlying investments adherence to the principles of relevant EU Directives will be required.

In order to ensure full compliance of the operation with the Bank's environmental and social requirements, it is proposed that the legal documentation to be concluded between the Fund and the EIB comprises additional safeguards. These include, amongst others, the following undertakings:

- The Fund will perform environmental and social due diligence of its investments to ensure that potential impacts and risks and appropriate prevention, mitigation and compensation measures were identified through an environmental and social impact screening/assessment when relevant, including satisfactory and meaningful public consultation and participation.
- The Fund will be required to verify that none of the investments have a significant negative impact on any site of nature conservation importance, including sites protected under national legislation and international agreements. If in the reasonable view of the Fund Manager an investment has the potential to significantly affect sites of nature conservation importance, it shall ensure that an appropriate assessment is carried out for the potentially affected sites. Also it should obtain written confirmation from the competent authority as defined in the relevant EU Directives, or an equivalent assessment satisfactory to the EIB, that the investment does not have a significant negative impact on any Protected Site.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

- If an underlying investment is subject to an Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA), the Fund Manager will be required to publish the Non-Technical Summary (for EU countries) or the ESIA (outside the EU) or a link on its website for access to stakeholders.
- The legal documentation to be concluded between the Fund and EIB will include an obligation on the Fund to ensure that all projects are in compliance with national and European legislation (where applicable) as well as EIB's Environmental and Social (E&S) standards.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

The implementation of the Bank's E&S requirements shall be incorporated into the Fund's procedures by means of an Environmental and Social Management System to the satisfaction of the Bank's services. This will be made conditional to the first disbursement.

In view of the above findings and conditions the operation is deemed satisfactory from an environmental and social compliance perspective.