

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: EGEA NETWORKS
 Project Number: (2016-0241)
 Country: Italy
 Project Description: The Programme is part of the multi-annual, rolling investment programme of the Promoter encompassing a large number of project schemes in district heating, integrated water services and waste management sectors.

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

Environmental Assessment

Some Programme components fall under Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EC). Therefore, the decision whether an EIA is required is left with the competent authority on the basis of the criteria defined in Annex III of the EIA Directive. Based on the technical characteristics, location and limited potential impacts of the Programme components, and considering the criteria established under the national EIA legislation, only one of the Programme components, namely the Alessandria district heating network development, requires an EIA. The Environmental Impact Study for this Programme component has been completed and presented to the Bank for review but the final environmental authorization has not been received yet at the time of project appraisal. Some other works are also subject to construction permits to be provided by the local authorities.

Based on the capacity threshold, only one of the new gas-fired cogeneration plants for the district heating network will fall under the requirements of the Industrial Emissions Directive 2010/75. Nevertheless, all the cogeneration units must comply with relevant national environmental legislation which comprises, amongst others, pollutant emissions limits.

The implementation of Programme components will apply standard technologies (e.g. ordinary trench excavation), undertaken by an experienced Promoter.

The impacts that can be expected relate mainly to noise, nuisance and disturbance during construction that are temporary by nature and can be effectively mitigated according to established industrial practices. The newly constructed infrastructure (cogeneration plants, substations) will have some limited visual impact.

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.

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None of the works will be implemented inside or in the vicinity of Natura 2000 or other protected sites.

The development and optimization of the district heating systems will allow the Promoter to increase the off take of heat generated by already existing high efficiency cogeneration plants (CHP). This will lead to the optimisation of the heat supply mix and to the reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels and the related emissions. The extension of the district heating networks will allow the replacement of individual smaller, fossil fuel fired heating boilers in residential and public buildings and therefore will reduce CO₂ and other pollutants emissions in urban areas. However, since both the estimated annual absolute emissions and emissions savings of the programme in a standard year of operation are below the thresholds the Programme is not included in the EIB carbon footprint exercise. The district heating Programme components contribute to energy efficiency improvements as well as to reduction of emission of greenhouse gases and other polluting airborne emissions. The water sector components of the Programme will improve the environmental conditions of the main water bodies receiving the wastewaters as required by the River Basin Management Plans ("RBMPs") implementing the requirements of the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC. The overall impact will be higher ecological quality of surface and groundwater resources, and increased service coverage quality and resilience. The investments in waste management will improve recycling performance in the targeted regions by advancing the separate collection scheme.

The works will take place in Italian cities 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. In case of archaeological discoveries the relevant authorities are involved and due care is taken when areas of potential interest are discovered.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The Promoter has demonstrated sound practice with respect to environmental, health and safety management. In addition to procedures to meet regulatory requirements, the Promoter has a comprehensive environmental management system which is applied to new projects and monitors ongoing operations. The Promoter is certified to meet the requirements of standards of ISO 9001; ISO 14001 and OSHAS 18001.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Given the technical characteristics, location and potential impacts of the Programme components, and considering the criteria established under the national EIA legislation, only one of the programme schemes requires an EIA.

The impacts that can be expected from the Programme components are of temporary nature and will be mitigated according to established industrial practices.

The successful completion of the environmental and social impact assessment process including environmental authorization to the satisfaction of the Bank will be a contractual condition to disburse part of the loan associated with the programme component requiring an EIA. Moreover the promoter will undertake not to allocate the Bank's funds to the programme component requiring an EIA and/or appropriate assessment before it has been completed to the satisfaction of the Bank, including approval by the competent authority. An electronic copy of the Environmental Impact Study was already submitted to the Bank. A copy of the consent from the competent authority should also be provided when issued.

The Promoter follows sound practices with regard to the management of environmental issues.



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The project is expected to have certain environmental benefits and minor residual environmental impacts and thus is acceptable in environmental terms for Bank financing.