

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BROADBAND WIRELESS ACCESS
Project Number:	2016-0438
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project concerns the promoter's investments in Italy to migrate its fixed Broadband Wireless Access (BWA) network from WiMAX to future-proof LTE Time Division Duplex (TDD) technology, and to expand its coverage of Italian households from 45% to at least 70% by end of 2018.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project includes investments in telecommunications equipment to provide fixed or nomadic broadband services based on radio based technology with electromagnetic emissions.

In Italy the exposure limits, with respect to these emissions, are more stringent than the ones stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC / based on the ICNIRP principles) and have been implemented for the frequency bands used by radio Telecommunication networks. The promoter complies with all the relevant regulation about electromagnetic emissions, which is verified by regional institutions.

In around 85% of the cases the promoter will not build new sites, but will install its base station equipment in existing infrastructures that it will rent from either telecom tower companies or other operators. Part of the base stations will be completely new and the others will be upgrades of existing and less efficient base stations. In all cases, the new or upgraded equipment is based on the latest technology with low power consumption.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I or II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EC as amended, and are therefore not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Generally, radio networks based on UMTS/LTE technology have limited environmental effects.

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.



Luxembourg, 31 January 2017

The impact in this case will be even lower due to the fact that the project does not include a high number of new towers but mainly new or upgraded equipment in existing towers. The main impact during operation, such as the radiation emissions or the visual detraction, will be mitigated by appropriate measures compliant with the national regulations and EU standards.

Potential health risks from electromagnetic radiation are being studied at an international level. Still, the ICNIRP thresholds are considered appropriate. The Italian regulation imposes even more stringent thresholds.

The project is therefore acceptable for the Bank's financing.

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