

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name: OUTOTEC RDI
Project Number: 2011-0497
Country: Finland, Germany
Project Description: The project concerned investments in research, development and innovation related to minerals and metallurgical processing technologies during the period of 2012-2015 in the promoter's existing R&D facilities in Finland and Germany.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

No significant environment or social issues were noted. The main objectives of the activities included the development of more efficient mineral and metallurgical process solutions necessary to address the declining ore grades; improvement of the recovery and recycling of metals and resources; reduction of energy and water consumption in the processes; efficient capturing of useful by-products. Being a technology company, the company's environmental impact is rather limited and definitely quite less substantial than its products, which the company has been developing with a strong sustainability focus; out of the strategic projects that were included in the scope of the Bank's financing, only about 6% did not have a sustainability focus; about 66% target, among other, energy efficiency, 50% emissions reduction, 44% waste minimisation, 38% water savings and 53% improved metals recovery. In 2015 90% of the company's order intake was categorized under the OECD definition as Environmental Goods and Services (up from 72% in 2010). Overall, the project had been assessed as acceptable having no adverse impact on the environment

Activities related to the development and testing of new methods or products for the production of non-ferrous metals from ore, fall in Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. However, the project concerned investments in research and development carried out in existing facilities operating under all the required authorisations. The R&D facility in Pori is within the Copper Industry Park site and the environmental authorisations that were obtained in 2005 covered the entire site, although made specific references to the R&D facility. The environmental approval dated 30.9.2005 (Dnro LSY-2002-4-322, 36/2005/1) was valid until 30.9.2013, and all the participating companies should in due time make new applications for environmental authorisations. The outcome of the new application process was to be submitted to the Bank as an undertaking, but the process is still pending. The company submitted the application on 30 September 2013 and also provided supplementary information to the relevant authorities on 15 April 2015 and on 7 May 2015, while the final decision is expected in the spring of 2017. Nevertheless, the company has already taken into account in their operations the requirements of the new environmental permit. These requirements define the limits of affluent emissions from the operations, and enter into force in two stages, first one with daily limits is valid up to 31/12/2019 and the second, where annual limits are set, will be in force from 01/01/2020 onwards.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.