

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION
Project Number: 20160522
Country: Romania
Project Description: The project relates to the roll-out of a digital TV broadcasting network throughout Romania, to support the switch-over from analogue to digital TV distribution in the country. The new network is planned to provide 96% population coverage and 80% territory coverage to carry the signal of the national free-to-air TV operator.

EIA required: No

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

The project activity does not fall under Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended and therefore does not require an environmental impact assessment. The project main impact will be the electromagnetic field radiations intrinsically associated with radio and TV broadcasting, followed by the visual impact of towers and masts that will be reinforced or have new antennas installed.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will be geographically dispersed throughout urban and rural areas of Romania, but does not include any new construction of towers. Visual impact of the new network is minimal, as the transmitters will be installed on existing towers. The project also involves the installation of backbone equipment and information systems inside buildings, which will have almost no residual environmental impacts (e.g. the dishes for microwave transmission antennas typically use the TV mast).

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, 10 January 2017

EMF radiation has been classified by WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in 2011 as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" or the 2B classification. Although mainly associated with the use of wireless phones, this classification raises public attention to all kind of ICT signals. The national legislation (Order 1193 from September 2006) follows the Council Recommendation 1999/519/EC and the recommendations of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP).

The project is based on the use of high efficiency transmitters and the highest digital power is limited to 5kW compared to the highest analogue transmitting power of 40kW.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activity does not fall under Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU as amended and therefore does not require an environmental impact assessment. In addition, the transmitters will be installed on existing towers. The project main impact will be the electromagnetic field radiations intrinsically associated with radio and TV broadcasting.

The environmental impact of the project will benefit from the use of more power efficient transmitter. Overall, the project is therefore considered acceptable for EIB financing.

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