

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	HERAULT TRES HAUT DEBIT
Project Number:	2016-0851
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a PIN (Public Initiative Network) in the Hérault department, France. The objective of the project is to deploy a Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network as well as fibre-based connectivity to public sites, enterprises, and a limited number of copper network cabinets to enable VDSL services for customers not covered by the FTTH network. The access networks included in the project will be deployed in areas where private operators are not present with very high speed broadband services due to lack of commercial interest.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	/no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The tender documents of the concession stipulate that the Déléataire shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations². In addition, the reuse of existing infrastructures is strongly recommended and will be taken into account in the evaluation of the offers. This model should also be in the interest of the Déléataire in order to reduce as much as possible the civil works necessary to deploy the new Fibre to the Home (FTTH) network because of their high cost and organisational and logistic complexity.

The Hérault Department will verify that the roll out plans of the Déléataire comply with all the environmental requirements detailed in the tender documents. Besides monitoring the project implementation, the Department will review the network, once it is deployed to confirm its compliance with the validated plans.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The project will also have positive environmental and social contributions because very high speed broadband access networks enable videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-administration and telework. These solutions improve significantly the attractiveness of the less densely populated areas that the project is targeting in terms of job opportunities and quality of life. In

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.

² Notably the “Code de l’Environnement” in France

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addition, they will contribute to the reduction of personal transportation needs and therefore of road traffic and pollution.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2011/92 EC.

Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. In addition, in this particular case the promoter is incentivising the reuse of existing infrastructures to reduce the potential impact of the implementation of the project even further.

Hence the project is deemed to be environmentally acceptable for EIB financing.

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