

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name: T-MOBILE POLAND NETWORK DEVELOPMENT  
Project Number: 2016-0823  
Country: Poland  
Project Description: The project concerns the promoter's investments in Poland to increase the availability and quality of high speed mobile broadband services based on 4G/LTE technology. It includes the network expansion and capacity increase over the years 2017 to 2019 in order to cope with the continued data traffic increase and to provide latest mobile broadband services through shared networks together with Orange Poland.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise<sup>1</sup>: No

(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

The project implementation is composed of the upgrade of existing sites with new equipment as well as the erection of a limited number of new sites due to the rural rollout obligations and for the network densification in cities. The erection of new sites requires a building permit, which is combined with environmental assessments by the competent authorities. Today a limited amount of sites (less than 5%) are located in nature conservation areas. A significant further increase is not expected.

According to a report prepared by BiPro in May 2008, the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC) on exposure limits (based on the ICNIRP principles) has been transposed in 2003 into national law. The Polish legislation has set even more stringent radiation emission thresholds, which are more than 40 - 100 times below the levels specified in the above EU recommendation.

The promoter has implemented already since 2001 the ISO 14001 environmental management system. In terms of health and safety the promoter follows the national regulation which includes as usual special training and tools for working on heights. Such obligations will be also passed on to subcontractors through related purchase agreements.

---

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 17 March 2017

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I and II of the EU Directive 2011/92/EC, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Generally, mobile networks based on 3G/4G technology have limited environmental effects.

The impact during implementation will be limited as in many cases new equipment will be put on existing sites. The erection of new sites is well regulated and mostly driven by the coverage targets of the new 800 MHz spectrum. The main impact during operation, such as the radiation emissions or the visual detraction, will be mitigated by appropriate construction and operation measures within the national regulations.

Potential health risks from electromagnetic radiation during operation are still being studied at an international level, but WHO classified them in 2011 as being possibly carcinogenic to humans based on a review of recent studies. Therefore, more research on the link between cell phones and the cancer risk is proposed and users are asked to handle the cell phone more carefully particularly in the case of high usage. Still, the ICNIRP<sup>2</sup> thresholds are considered in Europe as appropriate. Poland has implemented the EU recommendations (1999/519/EC), which are based on those principles and has even lowered the effective emission thresholds by more than 40 - 100 times below the EU recommendation.

The project is classified as acceptable and it is therefore eligible for the Bank's financing.

---

<sup>2</sup> International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection