

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: EWE FIBRE NETWORK NORTHWEST GERMANY
Project Number: 2017-0010
Country: Germany
Project Description: The project concerns the first roll-out phase of a fibre based broadband access network mainly in the German federal state of Lower Saxony. During this period, a significant amount of additional households will get access to Ultra-High-speed broadband services (> 100 Mbps). The entire roll-out programme aims at connecting about 1 m households over a period of 10 years.

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 implementation process is managed by the promoter's network business unit together with a wide range of subcontractors. Due to the diverse utility based business model (Telecom, gas, power, water), this unit and its subcontractors are well aware of the various environmental challenges related to the installation of underground cable networks. The geographically limited roll-out area combined with several local technical centres will facilitate the close supervision of the work sites and the performance of the subcontractors.

The promoter has a well-developed social responsibility policy, which addresses various key areas such as environmental impact, local responsibility or supply chain and defines respective targets to be achieved by 2020. The majority of CO₂ emissions are produced within their power generation business and the investments in a growing share of renewable energy will help to achieve a reduction target of 40% against 2005 emissions. Also the suppliers need to sign up for the promoter's social standards which include among others no child labour, adequate safety measures and no forced labour.

The critical infrastructures operated by the promoter also require a wide range of certification such as an environmental management system (ISO 14001) and an energy management system (ISO 50001).

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, 18 July 2017

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I and II of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments.

During the implementation period, there will be a limited temporary impact caused by installation works of the new underground duct systems and cables. Those civil works will be mainly carried out in areas with compact population as well as alongside roads. The new electronic equipment is normally housed in existing office-type buildings or new street cabinets. Intervention in the public space will require approval by local authorities.

The promoter has a certified environmental management system in place which is supported by a well-developed corporate social responsibility policy, including a regular CSR reporting.

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental and social terms.