

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	MOSELLE PROGRAMME TRES HAUT DEBIT
Project Number:	2016-0231
Country:	France
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and roll-out of a publicly owned passive fibre broadband network PIN ("Public initiative network" or "Réseau d'Initiative Publique" or "RIP") in the Moselle département, France.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The tender documents of the construction and the concession stipulate that the subcontracting companies and the Délégataire shall comply with all applicable environmental regulations². The reuse of existing infrastructures, one of the main criteria in the network roll-out strategy of the promoter will reduce the civil works, while the guideline to avoid areas of nature protection will minimise the environmental impact of the works.

The promoter has indicated that in certain parts of historical cities, the implementation of the respective project components may require permission from the authorities responsible of the visual impact on cultural heritage (e.g. architectes des bâtiments de France). Limitation of the use aerial connection or underground installations of street-cabinets are some of the conditions these authorities might impose on the promoter for specific sites.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

High speed broadband networks allow the implementation of innovative services such as videoconferencing, telemedicine, e-administration and teleworking in those less densely populated areas. They can therefore have a positive environmental contribution due to their potential to allow for the reduction of personal transportation needs and road traffic and pollution.

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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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 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU.

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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