

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	EVN ELECTRICITY NETWORKS AUSTRIA
Project Number:	2013-0177
Country:	Austria
Project Description:	Investment programme covering the period 2013-2015, aiming at modernising and extending the electricity distribution network serving the region of Lower Austria.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

The programme was part of the business plan of the Promoter for the period 2013-2015 and consisted of several thousands of high, medium and low voltage investment schemes geographically dispersed across the region of Lower Austria.

None of the project schemes required a full Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with the applicable EU EIA Directive. The majority of the schemes comprised medium voltage (MV) and low voltage (LV) works, such as modernising and installing new MV/LV cables and refurbishing MV substations, which were expected to have low environmental impacts. Other schemes involved 110 kV voltage works that mainly included the replacement of conductors and insulation chains, reinforcement and replacement of pylons of existing overhead lines as well as the replacement of power transformers and switchgears in existing substations. The project also included a number of new 110 kV project schemes (such as 80km of new HV lines and new HV/MV substations), screened out by the competent authorities based on the criteria of the relevant legislation. The programme enabled the grid connection of 420MW of wind farms, as well as the grid connection of circa 7,500 smaller PV (photovoltaic) installations. The project scope underwent some slight changes during the implementation period, which is considered normal for this type of multi-scheme operations. According to the Promoter reporting, none of the scope changes resulted in a change in the EIA requirement.

The promoter was required, in the Finance Contract, to keep updated any document as may be relevant for the Project, supporting the compliance with the provisions of EU environmental legislation and with the Bank's environmental Standards and requirements, in particular screening decisions from authorities and requirements for full EIAs. According to the Promoter, no project component requiring a full EIA was initiated after appraisal.

No significant environment or social issues were noted.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.