

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

<i>Project Name:</i>	<i>MOBILE BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DENSIFICATION</i>
<i>Project Number:</i>	<i>2017-0581</i>
<i>Country:</i>	<i>Spain/Italy</i>
<i>Project Description:</i>	The project relates to the construction of new telecom towers and rooftop sites to host mobile broadband base stations in Spain and Italy, as well as investments to increase the capacity of existing infrastructures to accommodate additional base stations and new operators. In addition, the project includes the deployment of fibre optics and microwave radio links to connect the base stations to the core networks of the promoter's customer operators, and the roll out of new Distributed Antenna System (DAS) nodes to improve indoor coverage and increase capacity of the customer operators' networks in urban areas.
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 includes the construction of new towers and rooftop infrastructures to support mobile telecommunications equipment, as well as the installation of antennas for DAS and microwave radio links. The environmental impact of these activities during implementation will be limited to noise and dust related to the construction works, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures. The promoter requires its subcontractors to respect strict policies and principles related to environmental management by signing a specific annex to their contract.

More than half of the new sites included in the project will be built in urban or suburban areas, given that the main objective of the project is densification of mobile broadband networks for increasing their capacity. The number of new sites in environmentally sensitive and Natura 2000 areas is not expected to be relevant.

During operation, the main impact will be related to EMF (electromagnetic field) emissions. Studies are ongoing to further assess the potential long-term effects of use and exposure to

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<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.

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radio communications equipment. So far mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations, restrictions to their locations, the control of the power of the handsets and guidelines for consumer usage. In particular, the EMF emissions produced by mobile handsets is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer, a WHO specialized agency, as possibly carcinogenic to humans. The exposure limits applicable in the countries in the scope of the projects are different. Spain has adopted the limits from the corresponding EU recommendation (1999/519/EC), which is based on the Guidelines of the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection). In the case of Italy, the limits are much stricter. The promoter takes into account these conditions in its design for the new sites and modification of existing sites for all the technologies covered by the project.

Finally, the project includes the implementation of free cooling in around 903 sites in Italy, with the objective of reducing air conditioning energy consumption by up to 60% and is eligible for Climate Action – Mitigation (Energy Efficiency).

### **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

By hosting more than one mobile operator per tower, the project will reduce the number of towers required, with the corresponding positive environmental impact. It is estimated that thanks to the project there will be around 2 676 towers and rooftop sites less in the countries covered, without loss of coverage or capacity.

The promoter is fully committed to mitigating the possible environmental and social impacts of its activities and has developed a complete and well-structured environmental and social policy. This is reflected by the implementation of an integrated quality, safety and environment management system certified according to the following standards: ISO 14001, ISO 9001, OHSAS 18001, UNE 166002 and ISO 27001. Cellnex is a signatory of the UN Global Compact since 2015, and includes in its integrated annual reporting information about its environmental and social impacts according to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) sustainability reporting guidelines.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Investments in mobile telecommunication infrastructures (including civil works, installation of base stations and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The environmental impacts of the project will be limited during the implementation and operations phases, and related to dust and noise due to the construction of new sites and EMF emissions during operation. The promoter will address those issues with appropriate mitigation measures.

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