

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ATEA DC EXPANSION
Project Number:	2017-0547
Country:	Sweden/Denmark/Lithuania/Latvia
Project Description:	The investment programme concerns the construction of a new data centre and the expansion of existing ones located in Sweden, Denmark as well as the Baltic region, the modernisation of the company's IT platforms and the automation investments for a new logistics centre. These investments will increase the capacity and efficiency of the company in order to provide new cloud solutions and better customer infrastructure services.
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 environmental impacts of the different project components include CO₂ emissions through the cooling and the operation of the new data centres and increased road traffic created by the logistics centre, as well as positive effects from improved business processes resulting from the modernisation of existing data centers.

The data centre investments relate partly to the installation of latest ICT equipment such as servers and storage systems within existing own or rented facilities but also the construction of one new facility (Lithuania / Vilnius). This new data centre block will be located next to an existing one and is currently in the planning stage. As this extension was already planned from the beginning and is located on the existing plot, no specific environmental studies are required. The promoter will be required to send all relevant authorisations and permits to the Bank once they are available.

The data centres itself are located very far in the north of Europe, therefore they can make best possible use of e.g. ambient air cooling measures in order to increase the overall power efficiency. This efficiency is reflected in a low Power Usage Efficiency² indicator in the range of 1.1 – 1.3. Such efficiencies are good compared to similarly sized data centres. In addition the power supply in these countries is mainly secured through renewable energy sources limiting the CO₂ emissions further.

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 Power usage effectiveness (PUE) is the ratio of total amount of energy used by a computer data center facility to the energy delivered to computing equipment.

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The new Swedish logistics centre, which is not part of this project, will be located in a business area and there is no specific environmental study required. As it will replace two smaller sites with a higher efficiency, the overall impact after the shutdown of the old sites will be lower compared to the situation before. The main residual impact of the new centre will be caused by the road traffic to and from the centre.

The centre is also designed to allow for the improved recycling of old recovered ICT equipment. The recycling/reuse is done in different stages, either internal relocation of used IT equipment within the company, refurbishment and sale or finally the professional recycling of IT equipment at the end of life. This reuse and recycle programmes is one of the largest in the Nordic and Baltic region.

The promoter has a well-developed environmental and social policy which is reflected in the various certifications such as ISO 14001 / ISO 26000, the UN Global Compact / GRI based reporting and the high number of awards and recognitions for their sustainability work.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The different 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.

The new facilities (data centre, logistics centre) are build and operated in line with latest industry standards. The design and location have been chosen to allow for efficient operation with limited CO2 emissions. The promoter has a specific business line that is targeting the reuse and the professional recycling of ICT equipment in order to minimize the environmental impact of outdated computer hardware.

With the above conditions in place, the project is acceptable for Bank financing.