

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	ERICSSON 5G
Project Number:	2017-0792
Country:	Sweden
Project Description:	RDI The project concerns the RDI investments by the promoter for the development of the fifth generation of mobile telecommunications systems (5G). It includes the development of hardware and software for the Radio Access Network (RAN), the core network, advanced analytics and data exposure functions to enable autonomous networks and an ecosystem in 5G.
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 specific RDI activities included in the project will not have any relevant environmental impact, as they relate to development of telecommunications hardware and software to be performed in existing facilities without changing their already authorized scope.

The equipment developed as a result of the RDI activities will be subject to regulations related to EMF (electromagnetic field) emissions. Studies are ongoing to further assess the potential long-term effects of use and exposure to 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. Many countries have decided to adopt the exposure limits recommended by the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), but others apply stricter limits. As the promoter has world-wide presence, its products are designed to comply with the EMF emissions regulations in all the different jurisdictions.

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, 15 March 2018

One of the key aspects of the 5G technologies developed as a result of the project is energy efficiency. The new technology, when fully developed, will make it possible to provide equipment transmitting ten times more data at the same energy consumption as current 4G equipment. In other words, given the increasing trend in mobile broadband demand, the project is expected to result in the development of technologies representing 90% energy savings in relation to building the same network capability with existing technology.

The promoter's products and activities (including this project) comply with the RoHS2 Directive (Directive 2011/65/EU) and WEEE Directive (Directive 2012/19/EU) as well as other applicable international and local regulation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Ericsson is committed to contributing to the circular economy and has designed a global "Product Take-Back programme" to minimise the potential environmental impact of decommissioned equipment. The programme has been implemented in collaboration with customers in 107 countries and has resulted in 9,600 tonnes of decommissioned equipment retrieved during 2016. Ericsson recycles 98% of the materials.

The promoter is a signatory of the UN global compact since 2000 and its integrated quality, safety and environmental management system is globally certified according to ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001. The promoter produces an annual Sustainability and Corporate Responsibility report assured by a third party (PwC) in accordance with the Global Reporting Initiative sustainability reporting guidelines.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project activities do not fall under Annexes I and II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to mandatory Environmental Impact Assessments. The proposed investments will take place inside buildings at existing RDI facilities without changing their already authorized scope, and are not expected to have a significant environmental impact on the surroundings. The promoter complies with all relevant regulations and recommendations related to its business. Given the increasing trend in mobile broadband demand, the project is expected to result in the development of technologies representing 90% energy savings in relation to building the same network capability with existing technology.

Therefore, the project has been classified as acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.