

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: OPEN FIBER ULTRA-BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT PLAN
Project Number: 2016-0531
Country: Italy
Project Description: The project concerns the roll-out of an optical fibre access network (Fibre-To-The-Building/Home) in at least 271 Italian cities. By 2023, the network will pass about 9.5 m households in the so-called Clusters A&B representing nearly 40% of all Italian households. The network will provide wholesale open access to enable licensed retail operators to offer ultra-high speed broadband services of up to 1 000 Mbps.

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 project activities do not fall under Annexes I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, and are therefore not subject to a mandatory Environmental Impact Assessment.

The project will concern the national roll-out in the Clusters A&B (commercial roll-out areas) of mostly underground but also overhead fibre optical cables as well as the construction of smaller street-side cabinets and container type of central office shelters. All this will be located within larger cities and municipalities and it will require approval by the local competent authorities before the works can be executed.

The impact of the works is mitigated through different measures, which are also supporting the roll-out speed and lower the investment cost. A key measure is the leverage of a very high share of existing cable and duct infrastructures, which will significantly lower the need for civil works. At the same time, there is a strong push for lighter civil work methods to limit the impact of the remaining works. Furthermore, the promoter's shareholder provides easy access to their existing sites in order to allow for the erection of the network equipment and cable handling shelters within suitable sites.

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, 17 July 2018

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Despite being a young company, health and safety is a specific concern of the promoter and it is putting a related framework in place to address such issues with the view of seeking a future ISO certification. In relation to the civil works contractors, such obligation is part of the contractual arrangements and it is also a criterion in the selection process of such contractors.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the above, the project is acceptable for the Bank's financing in environmental and social terms.