

**Public**

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	GIRONDE HAUT MEGA
Project Number:	2017-0394
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a publicly owned fibre broadband network Fibre to the Home (FTTH) in the rural areas of the Gironde department.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU.

#### Other Environmental and Social Aspects

Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which will be mitigated by appropriate measures.

In this particular case, the promoter is incentivising the reuse of existing infrastructures to reduce the potential impact of the implementation of the project even further. Re-use of existing infrastructure allows for a more cost-efficient roll-out. As a result, around 66% of the network will be buried, while the remaining 34% are put on poles or are on-facade connections.

The promoter has indicated that around 20% of the project roll-out will be located in areas of cultural heritage. While the visual impact is minimal, the concessionaire will have to follow the indications of the competent authority "Architectes des bâtiments de France" in order to minimise the visual impact of the network roll-out.

---

<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.

Luxembourg, 18 September 2018

Although there is a number of Natura 2000 sites within the Public Initiative Network area, the promoter has indicated that none of these sites will be affected by the project.

The contract between the promoter and the concessionaire does furthermore reflect the requirement to limit the concessionaires' pollution and waste creation resulting from the project implementation.

Broadband networks have a positive social impact. With the increase of connectivity, accessibility and reliability of the telecommunications network they enable communities to enjoy higher speed broadband, internet with the ability for increased economic activity in rural areas and access to a whole array of e-service (such as e-health or e-government).

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (including civil works for fibre roll-out and transmission systems) do not fall under Annex I or II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending the Directive 2011/92/EU.

The related environmental issues seem well taken care of through the relevant legislation and contractual requirements.

Considering the above, the project is considered acceptable for EIB financing from an environmental and social point of view.