

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: *IRISH SMART METER IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME*
Project Number: *2018-0150*
Country: *Ireland*
Project Description: *National programme for the roll-out of electricity smart metering infrastructure in the Republic of Ireland during 2019-2024.*

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

The project relates to the roll-out of a smart metering infrastructure in Ireland. The project is part of the national Smart Metering Programme and comprises the installation of around 2.4 million electricity smart meters that will allow remote readings, near real-time consumption information and better management of the electricity distribution network. The project will enable to improve operator's efficiency as well as customer information and awareness and will allow for energy savings.

Environmental Assessment

The project is not subject to an Environmental Impact Study per Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. The telecommunication system will use the GSM networks (global system for mobile communication) for remote access via the Wide Area Network and wireless protocols for local access via the Home Area Network. The project is in line with the national and EU standards.

The main impacts of the project relate to electromagnetic radiation and to the disposal of the old meters being substituted by this project.

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Carbon Footprint Exercise, as defined in the EIB Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tonnes CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

Luxembourg, 25/10/2019

Whilst the project may facilitate energy savings, in itself the project is not expected to have significant impact on CO₂ emissions.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter is certified to meet ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001. The promoter has developed an environmental management plan and has established an action plan and key performance indicators to follow up its implementation. Appropriate procedures have been established to streamline the disposal process of the meters managed by the promoter and reduce the environmental impact of the waste disposal.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the promoter including its organisation, processes and procedures, and deemed them to be good.

Based on the information available, the project is expected to have minor residual impacts and thus is acceptable in environmental and social terms for Bank financing.