

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	BREITBAND NIEDERSACHSEN - KREIS HAMELN-PYRMONT
Project Number:	2019-0180
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	The project represents the sixth allocation under the framework loan “Breitband Niedersachsen” (2014-0404). It concerns the roll-out of a passive optical fibre access network (Fibre-To-The-Building or FTTB). By 2022 the network will provide advanced broadband services up to 1 Gbps to about 14 000 households and businesses located today in uncovered white spots.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project concerns the deployment of a passive fibre access network including a regional backbone in the German district of Hameln-Pyrmont, which is located in the federal state of Lower Saxony. The network cables will be deployed mostly alongside roads. There is also a limited number of facilities required for connecting all the cables. They will be put at suitable locations to reach the different municipalities with the least possible civil works efforts.

The project does not fall under the Annexes of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. However before the construction work can start, a permit from the competent authorities is required, which verifies the environmental impact of the cable routes and requires suitable mitigation measures including rerouting, if necessary, protection measures and suitable reinstatement works.

Due to the underground installation practice of the cables, the residual environmental effects will be limited, apart from disturbances during the construction phase.

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 October 2019

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The wide spread availability of broadband networks particularly in more rural areas is one of the key enabling technologies helping to improve the sustainability of the society through digital solutions such as e-government applications, smart business applications and also tele-working. The project will also provide latest broadband services to many public buildings such as administrative offices and fire brigades of the Hameln-Pyrmont district. The project does therefore have a strong contribution to the overall environmental and social sustainability of the rural part of this district.

Conclusions and Recommendations

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