



European Investment Bank (EIB)

Luxembourg 06.08.2020

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)

Overview

Project Name:	GAS NETWORK UPGRADE IN SLOVAKIA
Project Number:	2014-0238
Country:	Slovakia

Project Description: The project is part of the promoter's investment programme to upgrade the gas distribution networks in Slovakia for the period 2014-2018. The investments envisaged by the Distribution System Operator (DSO) include mainly the replacement of old pipelines of various operating pressures, the reconstruction of regulation stations, as well as the upgrade of key information technology systems and metering equipment. The investment schemes are located in various parts of the country.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

EIB notes the following key Environmental and Social outcomes at Project Completion.

This was a gas distribution project applying standard technologies and implemented by an experienced Promoter.

The majority of the investments was dedicated to the replacement of existing low/medium-pressure metallic gas pipelines by polyethylene ones.

None of the schemes fell under Annex I of Directive 2011/92/EU and subsequent amendments. By their technical characteristics, some of the individual schemes could have fallen under Annex II of the EIA Directive and its amendments as transposed into Slovak legislation. According to the information provided by the Promoter, the competent authorities did not require a full EIA for any of the schemes. In any case, a condition to inform the Bank was nevertheless included in the Finance Contract in the event that a full EIA might be required over the course of the Project's implementation. The Promoter undertook as well not to allocate the Bank's funds to Project components that require a formal EIA and/or nature assessment until it had been completed and approved by the competent authority.

Equally, none of the investment schemes affected Natura 2000 sites, being located mostly in urban areas.

The main impacts, associated with construction works, were temporary and were mitigated according to established practices in the sector.

Based on the information provided by the Promoter during Project implementation, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

The operation provided environmental benefits through the reduction of methane leakages. According to EIB GHG footprint calculations at completion, methane losses from the distribution network have been reduced by 16 kton CO₂e/year due to the implementation of the pipe replacement component of the Project, in line with estimates at project appraisal.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The EIB is of the opinion, based on reports from the promoter during construction, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.