

Luxembourg, 04/12/2023

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	SMART METERING SERBIA
Project Number:	2020-0695
Country:	SERBIA
Project Description:	The project concerns the installation of approx. 1.1 m advanced electricity meters in Serbia in the period 2024–2028 to replace the existing ones. The projects also includes the related IT infrastructure. The project is the first phase of the mass replacement of electromechanical meters in the country that amounts to approx. 3.7 m meters.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project comprises the installation of smart meters to substitute old mechanical ones over the period 2024-2028. The deployment of smart meters is expected to lead to operational savings for the Promoter, reduced non-technical losses, and increased energy market efficiency.

The Project components are not subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment as per the Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU.

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

The dismantled meters will be recycled by licensed recycling companies following sustainable waste management practices (EDS Waste Management Plan), in line with the applicable EU directives and Serbian legislation. The plan includes: types and amounts of waste, classification of waste, processes in which waste is generated, required resources, methods of waste management, internal procedures, measures to improve waste management, measures to protect the environment

Smart meters will comply with the electromagnetic radiation limits set out in guidelines published by national and international organisations.

The smart meter is designed, manufactured and certified by accredited notified bodies in compliance with the “Measuring Instruments Directive” (MID) Directive 2014/32/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 26 February 2014, on the harmonization of the laws of the Member States (Serbian standard SRPS EN 50065-1) relating to the making available on the market of measuring instruments.

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.



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Whilst the Project may facilitate energy savings, in itself it is not expected to have significant impact on CO₂ emissions. As a conservative approach, the savings in end-user consumption have not been considered in the Carbon Footprint calculation.

The operation has been assessed for its Paris alignment. It is considered to be aligned for low carbon, in line with the policies set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap and with the EIB's Energy Lending Policy.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The Promoter is Elektrodistribucija Srbije d.o.o (EDS), Serbian electricity Distribution System Operator (DSO). Being a public sector utility it is "In scope" (i.e. subject to PATH assessment) and screened out for (i) active in high emitting sector and screened in for (ii) exposed to high physical risk (Physical Risk Combined Anchor Score 3.18).

The counterparty has agreed to develop its resilience plan in line with the requirements of the PATH framework and to publicly announce its publication by 24 months after the signature of the contract.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The smart meters allow customers to access their own consumption data more easily, increasing awareness of their energy use habits and encouraging behaviours that are more efficient and sustainable. In the presence of personalized electricity tariffs, not implemented at the moment, it enables customers to save money by taking advantage of dynamic and highly flexible pricing, that are better suited to different consumer habits.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The investment in smart meters is included in the objectives of the "Integrated National Energy and Climate Plan of the Republic of Serbia for the period 2030 with the projections up to 2050" (NECP) which had been issued for public consultation.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

EDS has in place procedures in the field of environmental protection, safety and health at work in accordance with Standards ISO14001:2015 (Environmental Management System) and ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational Health and Safety Standards).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Bank reviewed the environmental and social capacity of the Promoter, including its organisation, processes, and procedures, and considers them satisfactory. Based on the information available, the project is expected to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.