

Luxembourg, 17 April 2024

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	TELE2 5G ROLLOUT IN SWEDEN
Project Number:	2023-0388
Country:	Sweden
Project Description:	The project relates to the design, roll-out and operation of a 5G mobile telecommunications network throughout Sweden. The project will be rolled-out throughout the country and will increase the 5G population coverage from 20% to over 99% at completion. Furthermore, the project includes investments in the swap-out of the 4G equipment to upgrade the 4G network.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: “EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise”)	

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project consists of three main components:

1. Deployment of a 5G mobile telecommunications network.
2. Swap out of a 4G network.
3. Increase backhauling fibre connectivity to mobile sites.

The project involves the installation of equipment in existing infrastructures (towers, rooftop sites and other radio access and core network buildings). The project is limited to the deployment of the telecommunications and facilities equipment (Radio Access equipment, Backhauling infrastructure, Power and Cooling devices, etc...) and the reinforcement and adaptation of the infrastructure (rooftop or towers).. The deployment of a large number of new towers is not part of the project scope. Providing basically equipment within existing infrastructure, it is not expected that the project has a significant negative environmental impact.

The promoter will collaborate with the corresponding County Board “Länsstyrelse” as well as the corresponding municipal authority to receive the relevant permits in environmental sensitive and non-sensitive areas.

Where relevant, visual nuisance due to towers and rooftops is mitigated by following the corresponding requirements of the municipal authority that is consulted as part of the permitting process. The municipal authority may impose height restrictions, specific disguising site formations (tree shape, chimney, etc.) and other similar measures.

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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Paris Alignment

Telecommunication networks are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy and fulfil the Paris Alignment criteria as set out in the EIB's CBR (Climate Bank Roadmap).

Carbon Footprint calculation

Both the absolute as well as the relative emissions have been calculated to be below the threshold of 20 kTCO₂.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened out for the PATH framework, as its activities are not included in the list of EIB sub-sectors and segments in high emitting sectors and for high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

During the operations phase, the main potential impact would be related to exposure to EMF (Electro Magnetic Field) emissions by RAN equipment. Studies continue to be conducted to further assess the potential long-term effects of exposure to EMF emissions on human health.

So far, mitigation measures adopted are limits to the radiation of the mobile base stations and restrictions to their locations. Sweden has adopted exposure limits aligned with the ones stipulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC), which is based on the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection) 1998 guidelines. ICNIRP has stated that in terms of the 5G exposure levels measured so far, its 1998 guidelines would also provide protection for the frequency bands that the promoter's network would use. The European Union Directive 2013/35/EU of 26 June 2013 defines the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields (EMF)).

The promoter has established an environmental management system that is ISO 14001 certified. The decision to perform the deployment and operation of the mobile network via an active network sharing agreement will reduce the overall impact of the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The project consists mostly of the installation of telecommunications equipment in existing sites already approved for such purposes.

The project focuses mostly on the active equipment and the reinforcement of existing passive infrastructure. Potential environmental impact during construction is expected to be limited and, where applicable, the relevant environmental authorities will review the documentation and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented.

The environmental impact of mobile networks during operations is mainly related to electromagnetic field (EMF) emissions that are mitigated by operation under the exposure limits determined by the regulation and based on the best science currently available.

Therefore, the project is considered to be acceptable in environmental and social terms for the Bank's financing.