

Luxembourg, 11 December 2024

## Environmental and Social Data Sheet

### Overview

Project Name:	BILLIONNETZ GERMANY
Project Number:	2023-0072
Country:	GERMANY
Project Description:	The project relates to the design and rollout of a Fibre to the Home (FTTH) Very High Capacity Network (VHC) broadband network throughout Germany. The objective of the project is to add around 226k additional homes passed to the promoter's existing network of 194k homes passed (at the end of 2023). The project represents around half of the promoter's company wide deployment plan which will see its network more than triple to reach at least 629k homes passed at project completion. In terms of areas, the project focuses mainly on non-subsidized areas for households with no existing access to VHC cable or FTTH/B broadband technologies. In addition, the promoter will also offer wholesale open access services to other retail operators.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise <sup>1</sup> :	No
(details for projects included are provided in section: "EIB Carbon Footprint Exercise")	

### Environmental and Social Assessment

#### Environmental Assessment

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects (mainly civil works for fibre rollout) do not fall under the Annexes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) EU Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by the 2014/52/EU Directive. Fixed telecommunications systems have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can be mitigated by appropriate measures.

In order to minimize the impact during construction, the promoter will make use of existing infrastructure to the extent possible. The network will be deployed in underground ducts and manholes along existing roads in the project's residential areas, where small street cabinets will be located. The promoter will also install close to 50 Points of Presence (PoP's), small shelters in which the active equipment will be hosted. All the PoP's will be equipped with solar panels.

<sup>1</sup> 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 CO<sub>2</sub>e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.



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## **Climate Assessment**

Telecommunication networks are the basic components for the digitalisation of all sectors of the economy. They are therefore essential to enable the deployment of low carbon and decarbonisation scenarios leading to significant sustainability benefits across the whole economy.

The project is considered to be Paris aligned because i) it meets the low carbon criteria as set out in the Climate Bank Roadmap (Annex 2, Table H) and ii) is assessed as not materially at risk from physical climate hazards.

## **EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework**

The counterpart is in scope but it is screened out of the PATH Framework because it is neither a high-emitting nor a highly-vulnerable entity.

## **Other Environmental and Social Aspects**

The expansion of the fibre network will help enhancing FTTH competition and allow for more affordable and better broadband products. Investments in FTTH technology significantly improve the quality of connectivity services, with widely reported positive social benefits such as enabling teleworking solutions thereby reducing the need for travel, enabling the use of cloud computing solutions with energy efficiency gains, delivery of e-health and tele-education services and finally supporting regional development through development of an ICT ecosystem.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Investments in fixed telecommunications projects have limited environmental effects, apart from disturbances during civil work constructions, which can be mitigated by appropriate measures.

Investments in FTTH technology significantly improve the quality of Internet services, with widely reported positive social benefits.

In light of the above, the project has been found to be acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.