



Luxembourg, 16 December 2024

## Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)<sup>1</sup>

### Overview

Project Name:	INWIT DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2020-0946
Country:	Italy
Project Description:	The project related to the modernisation and expansion of one of the biggest mobile tower networks in Italy owned by a recently created tower company, the promoter. The network is composed of steel towers and rooftop sites and it hosts the radio and transmission equipment of several MNOs as well as Fixed Wireless Access operators. While the network expansion through new sites has enabled a wider coverage particularly for 5G services, the installation of specialised active equipment has increased the indoor mobile network's coverage in challenging locations such as department stores, historic towns, public places as well as in high streets. The tower network will also host increasingly Fixed Wireless Access equipment to enable the fixed line broadband coverage in less densely populated areas.

### Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The finalised project concerns a passive tower network on which mobile and fixed wireless operators has and will install their active network equipment. Beside the passive structures, the tower network also includes power supply, air conditioning and further auxiliary services such as physical security in order to allow for a reliable operation of the active equipment. The investments include the erection of a limited number of new towers, the reinforcement of existing towers and the installation of micro coverage network solutions such as small cells and Distributed Antenna Systems (DAS).

Such installations extend the network coverage and capacity in an operator neutral manner in difficult indoor and outdoor locations such as shopping malls, hospitals, industrial premises, old towns and high streets. The project investments have a limited environmental impact as only a small number of new sites have been developed. The majority of the investments relate to measures at already existing sites and new micro coverage solutions.

Therefore, activities of this type, construction of new telecommunication towers or the installation of active equipment, do not fall under Annex I nor II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU.

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<sup>1</sup> The template is for ILs and FLs



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Mobile telecommunication networks may cause radiation emissions with potentially harmful effects to the environment and human health. Therefore, the promoter is required to obtain for new sites and for changes on existing sites, construction and operational permits from the local competent authorities. Such permits verify structural aspects as well as the compliance with Italian exposure limits.

In Europe, the radiation emissions are regulated by the EU recommendation (1999/519/EC) on radiation exposure limits (based on the ICNIRP2 principles). Italy transposed the regulatory guidance in 2003 and further reduced the emission threshold to a level 10 times lower than is specified in the above EU recommendation. Therefore, Italy had, just until recently, besides Belgium and Switzerland, some of the lowest allowable emission levels in Europe.

Potential health risks from electromagnetic radiation issued by traditional mobile networks and mobile phones have been studied extensively. The results suggest that the ICNIRP thresholds are sufficient. The new 5G bands and such modulation schemes and the specific antenna technologies are relatively new for the sector and will require additional scientific analysis to better understand the specific impact of the emerging 5G technology. Still the general assumption is that the ICNIRP thresholds are also sufficient for 5G mobile networks. The visual impact represents another residual effect of the project, which is limited, as this project does only include the deployment of a limited number of additional towers.

The Company complies with the Corporate Governance Code of Borsa Italiana.

At the end of 2023, the gender split on board level was 45% women and 55% men. Overall in the company, the split is reported as 39% women and 61% men.

**Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:**

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, site visits by the EIB team and/or inputs provided by Lenders' Supervisors and others, where applicable, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.