



Luxembourg, 12 December 2024

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	ELEKTRILEVI FTTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT
Project Number:	2019-0444
Country:	Estonia
Project Description:	The project concerns the roll-out of a passive fibre access network in Estonia. The network will provide Very High Capacity (VHC) broadband services with download speeds of 1 Gbps to about 266 000 households. 47 000 households of them are located in areas with insufficient broadband connectivity (white areas) and about 219 000 households in areas with limited broadband service offerings. The network will be offered on an open-access basis to any retail provider of broadband services. The new broadband network will be installed over the period from 2019 to 2023 across Estonia.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

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

The fibre network will be deployed mostly alongside roads on the poles of the existing power distribution network. There is also a very limited number of small shelters required for the termination of the last mile fibre. The fibre will be installed at suitable locations close to existing backbone networks to reach the different housing areas with the least possible civil works efforts.

The project does not fall under the Annexes of the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. However, before the construction work could start, a permit from the competent authorities was required, which would verify the environmental impact of the cable routes.

Due to the fact, that the fibre is usually installed above ground on existing poles of the power distribution network or in underground ducting systems, the residual environmental effects were limited, apart from disturbances during the construction phase.

The wide-spread availability of broadband networks particularly in more rural areas is one of the key enabling technologies helping to improve the sustainability of the society through digital solutions such as e-government, smart business applications and also tele-working.

The project will also provide latest broadband services to public buildings such as administrative offices. In Estonia, the establishment of a proper fixed broadband infrastructure is particularly important, as there are due to the history of the country only mobile broadband services available. Such areas are particularly suffering under a high mobile network congestion during peak hours. Therefore, the project does have a strong contribution to the overall social sustainability particularly of the rural areas.

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs



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Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter 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.