



Luxembourg, 09/10/2024

Environmental and Social Completion Sheet (ESCS)¹

Overview

Project Name:	PL-SK GAS INTERCONNECTOR
Project Number:	2017-0317
Country:	SLOVAKIA
Project Description:	The project consisted of the construction and operation of the Slovak section of the Poland-Slovakia bi-directional gas interconnector and modification of the existing compressor station Velke Kapusany.

Summary of Environmental and Social Assessment at Completion

The Poland - Slovakia bi-directional gas interconnector consisted of a 164 km high pressure gas transmission pipeline with the related above ground installations from Strachocina (PL) to Veľké Kapusany (SK). It is an EU Project of Common Interest (PCI 6.2.1) contributing to the implementation of the strategic energy infrastructure priority corridors.

The objective of the project was reinforcing the security of gas supply in the region of Central Eastern and South Eastern Europe.

The project consisted of the construction and operation of the Slovak section of the Poland-Slovakia bi-directional gas interconnector and modification of the existing compressor station. It includes:

1. the construction of a DN1000 103 km long gas pipeline in Slovakia; from the border with Poland to the existing compressor station CS01 at Veľké Kapušany.
2. the rehabilitation of the CS01 compressor station at Veľké Kapušany and pipe arrangements to allow the bi-directional capability.

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

Based on the information provided by the promoter up to project completion, no significant environment or social issues were noted.

The main impacts were temporary and mitigated according to established practices in the sector, including site restoration measures.

On both the Polish and Slovak sides of the interconnector, the mitigation measures outlined in the EIA, as well as in the environmental and construction permits were fulfilled and complied with by Promoters and their main contractors.

¹ The template is for ILs and FLs



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Route planning, determining of access roads, width of the workings strip and other parameters of the construction process were implemented such as to minimize impacts on the environment and shorten the construction process. Tree felling was minimized and compensations issued to affected land owners, farmers and municipalities as well as tree plantings where required. However, there is still a pending appeal from one of the affected landowners concerning a working strip in its forest where the pipeline is already installed and buried, and the case is being handled by the Slovak legal authorities.

On the Slovak side: The Project environmental and social aspects were managed by the Promoter via its Project team and Environmental Supervisors deployed on different sections of the pipeline. The working strip will regain its forest layer except for the 10-meter width along the pipeline route that will be regularly cleared due to safety reasons and potential maintenance works. Reinstatement is complete on agricultural lands crossed by the buried pipeline. Throughout the implementation process, birds' nests, including a few protective birds such as eagles and black storks, were identified close to the construction sites. Construction was halted during critical nesting periods, contractors were required to work at a certain distance to some nesting sites. Some nests were also displaced to installed birdhouses whenever appropriate, to compensate for the loss of nesting sites of smaller birds. Despite these measures, some Riparia Riparia bird nests were damaged by one of the contractors and the case is being handled by the Slovak Environmental competent authorities.

On the Polish side, some archaeological finds required preservation and rescue surveys. Local residents' complaints and concerns were handled through a stakeholder engagement process.

The Project's pipeline was implemented and operated so far without any major health or safety incident. The pipeline is not expected to experience major gas leakage, particularly in early operation stages. The average long-term leakage rate on Eustream assets is nevertheless relatively low compared to other natural gas pipelines. The Promoter will continue working towards continuous improvement in monitoring and prevention measures in this respect.

The greenhouse gases emissions attributed to the operation of the pipeline on the Slovak side are estimated at 6 kt CO_{2-eq}/yr, similar to levels calculated during appraisal, based on the expected future annual utilization rate of the pipeline. It is to be noted that the compression station part of the Project scope is electric-driven, thus subject to the Slovak electricity grid CO_{2e} factor.

Summary opinion of Environmental and Social aspects at completion:

The EIB is of the opinion based on reports from the promoter, that the Project has been implemented in line with EIB Environmental and Social Standards, applicable at the time of appraisal.