

GreenMeUp Project - Enhancing the uptake of biomethane in Europe

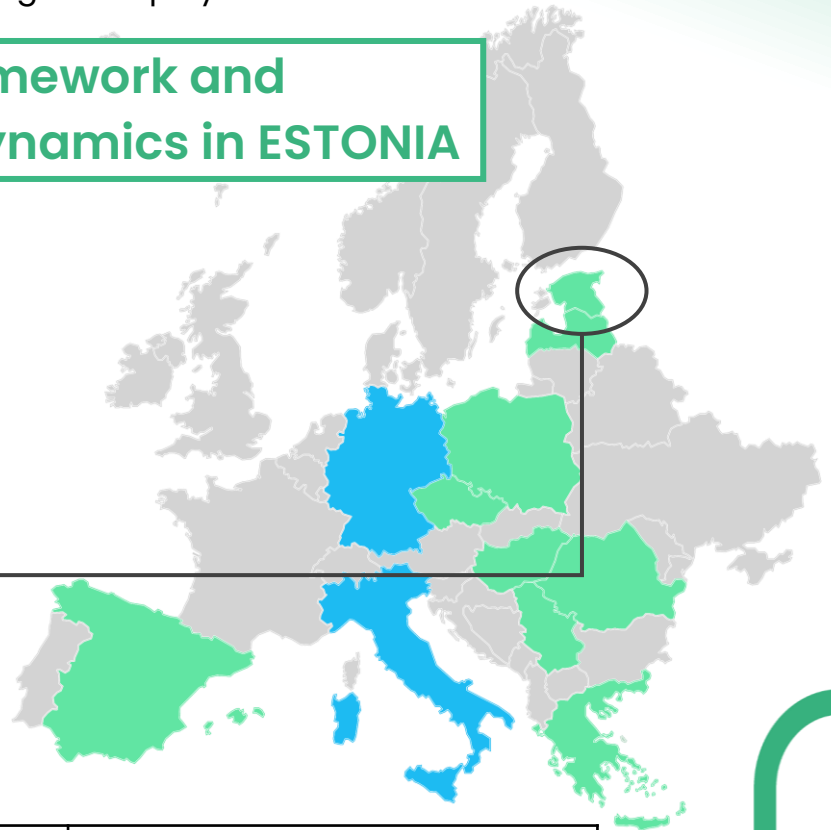
GreenMeUp is a Horizon Europe project that aims at fostering biomethane production in the European Union.

The project's activities will focus on the analysis of the European context, with a focus on countries with significant deployment rates of biomethane (**advanced countries**) and countries where Biomethane production rates are still low (**target countries**).

The main objective of the project is the one of reducing the gap between target and advanced countries, and hence aligning the deployment of Biomethane in the EU.

TARGET COUNTRY

Policy framework and market dynamics in ESTONIA



State of the art - 2023

Biogas plants	9
Biomethane plants	8
Plants under construction	2

National strategy: main results and achievements

In GreenMeUp, Estonia ranks as one of the target countries that will benefit from the project's results. Among target countries, Estonia is one of the most developed ones, with 8 biomethane plants in operation and 9 biogas plants active. In addition to that, 2 biomethane plants are currently under planning. The new biogas plant in Maardu was opened in 2022, with the aim of producing gas for Tallinn's city buses. The latest biomethane plant started production in 2023 in Ebavere.

Biomethane production in Estonia is mainly supported through the feed-in premium, a support which was recently extended until the end of 2024. This investment support is available also to biomethane filling station operators, for building new Compressed Biomethane (CBM) filling stations.

Currently, there are 28 CBM filling stations in Estonia, and 6648 vehicles running on Biomethane or natural gas.

Moreover, the Estonian Biogas Association has been working on the development of a Biogas Roadmap 2030, and the Estonian government is elaborating new support mechanisms.

Actual and future work: national market uptake policies

At the moment, Estonia's strategy is mainly focused on the technological update of existing plants and the development of new plants. The Estonian Biogas Association is also working on a detailed mapping of stakeholders, with the main aim of implementing stakeholders' hubs that can participate and collaborate in the design of national market uptake policies. The Ministry of Climate Affairs will implement a study on biomethane potential and will develop policies to further promote the biomethane production and consumption in Estonia. Most of biomethane produced in Estonia is used in public transport and bus companies also receive some incentives, if they use biomethane in buses. The government is also working on a policy which would support heavy-transport to adapt biomethane as a fuel.

Problems and barriers to the development of Biomethane

The main obstacle in the development of biomethane is connected to the lack of injection capacity to the natural transmission gas grid, while production and consumption locations are often too far from each other. Most of Estonian biomethane potential lies in agriculture, but there is only a few farms that will be able to provide a profitable amount of substrate by themselves. Biomethane production uptake would need greater co-operation between substrate providers, new policies to support and make biomethane production desirable and new market possibilities such as liquefying biomethane and injecting it to the gas grid, in order to promote its use in heavy transport and to trade with green energy on the international market.

CONSORTIUM



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