

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 POLAND



State of the art - 2023

Biogas plants	350
Biomethane plants	0
Plants under construction	3-5

National strategy: main results and achievements

In GreenMeUp, Poland is represented by the Polish Economic Chamber of Renewable and Distributed Energy, PIGEOR. Even though the country counts on 350 biogas plants, including 130 so called agricultural plants with a capacity of circa 350 Mwe, the country still lags behind on biomethane production.

In this regard, Poland would have a huge potential for about 4-8 bcm of biomethane per year but has currently no biomethane plants in function. There are several projects under development: PSG (the main operator of the gas distribution system in Poland) has received more than 100 applications for biogas connections, and is now developing projects on bioLNG production, with the aim of reaching 5.5 tons by 2024.

In order to catch this opportunity, the Polish government is currently working on a series of policies which should increment biomethane implementation and deployment: the Polish Energy Policy (PEP), which aims at reaching 10% renewable gaseous fuels transported via gas grids by 2030; the act on electromobility and alternative fuels, which recently introduced a requirement for local municipalities to ensure a defined share of biomethane-powered buses to use in next years; the 2022 gas system regulation which introduced some requirements on gas fuel quality, including biomethane; and the RES act, which introduced a feed-in premium FIP system for the injection of biomethane into the network, together with a definition of the rules for business activities in biomethane production.

Actual and future work: national market uptake policies

At the moment, Poland's strategy is mainly focused on exploiting as much as possible the country's production potential, which could be used in several sectors, such as agriculture and agri-food industry. In addition to that, there is also a growing interest of stakeholders, who are keen to invest in this field. As for several target countries, one of the main problems concerns the decarbonization of transport, in particular the current difficulty on fulfilling the EU requirements concerning the share of RES in transport as provided by the Renewable Energy Directive (RED).

In order to tackle this issue and accelerate the amount of RES in transport, an agreement on cooperation for the development of the biogas and biomethane sector was signed in November 2021. This agreement included the main market participants: ministries, system operators, gas sector, biogas sector and consumers.

Problems and barriers to the development of Biomethane

Among the national obstacles in the development of biomethane, one of the most important ones are the significant delays in the introduction of regulations, together with an insufficient knowledge among politicians and society in general. As a consequence, the country faces problems in obtaining administrative permissions, that strongly slow down the construction and implementation of biomethane plants. In addition to that, connecting biomethane plants to the national gas distribution grids is quite complex, because of the lack of grids and its insufficient capacity.

Despite these barriers, many different market players are willing to cooperate in order to use the huge biomethane potential in Poland. For this reason, it seems certain that the first biomethane installations will be built there soon.

CONSORTIUM



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