



Biomethane Market Acceleration and Uptake in Europe

BIOMAPE Webinar

21/10/2026

Summary and Recap

Author(s)	Stefanie Königsberger, Julian Auderieth, Andreas Wolf, Franz Keuschnig (AGCS); Christos Tzagkas, Sarah Harry, Tim Hamers (ERGaR)
Version	1.0
Quality review	-
Date	23 October, 2026
Dissemination level	Public (PU)
Grant Agreement	N° 101234779
Starting Date	01-11-2025
Duration	36 months
Coordinator	Stefano Proietti (ISINNOVA)
E-mail	sproietti@isinnova.org



BIOMAPE T2.1 Webinar

Summary and Recap

Table of Contents

- 1 BIOMAPE in a nutshell 3
- 2 Event Overview 1
- 3 Project Introduction 1
- 4 The EU Perspective: The Biomethane Mechanism 1
- 5 Focus Country Presentations 2
 - 5.1 Hungary 2
 - 5.2 Portugal 2
 - 5.3 Serbia 2
 - 5.4 Slovenia 3
 - 5.5 Ukraine 3
- 6 The D2.1 Guidelines: Certificates and the Registry Typology 3
- 7 The Upcoming Handbook on Cross-border Trade 4
- 8 Guided Discussion: Social Acceptance 4
- 9 Closing and Take-home Messages 4
- 10 Follow-up 5



1 BIOMAPE in a nutshell

The European Union's ambition to achieve climate neutrality and enhance energy security depends on the accelerated deployment of renewable energy solutions that are technologically mature, economically viable and socially accepted. Biomethane is increasingly recognised as a strategic renewable energy carrier, capable of delivering immediate greenhouse gas emission reductions, advancing circular economy pathways, strengthening rural development and enhancing energy system resilience.

Despite its strong potential, **biomethane deployment across Europe remains uneven**. National policy frameworks vary considerably, market instruments are not always interoperable, and cross-border trade of biomethane certificates remains limited. At the same time, social acceptance challenges can delay or hinder project development, particularly where communities lack transparent information and meaningful participation opportunities.

BIOMAPE (BIOMethane Market Acceleration and Uptake in Europe) responds to these challenges by accelerating the production and use of biomethane across Europe, fostering market development and supporting the EU's energy transition. The project brings together research organisations, industry associations, registry operators, market actors, public authorities and civil society representatives to address technical, regulatory and social barriers in a holistic and integrated manner.

The project is structured around four interconnected pillars: (i) a multi-level geographical dimension addressing local, national and EU-level challenges; (ii) social acceptance, placing citizens and communities at the centre of the transition; (iii) a policy dimension supporting coherent and effective biomethane market development; and (iv) comprehensive support and transferability, ensuring scalability and long-term impact. These pillars are underpinned by multistakeholder and multidisciplinary approaches as cross-cutting themes, ensuring robust stakeholder engagement and the integration of diverse expertise at every stage.

Operationally, BIOMAPE is organised into three main activity packages: Biomethane Certificates and Cross-border Trade; Biomethane Policy and Market Development; and Biomethane Social Acceptability. Over its three-year duration, the project will support the creation and strengthening of biomethane registries for certificate management in five countries (Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia, Portugal and Ukraine), facilitating transparent and efficient cross-border trade. It will further contribute to improving and harmonising biomethane policies, with the objective of increasing the share of renewable energy in final energy consumption by 2030 and beyond.

A strong focus on stakeholder engagement will include participatory activities such as workshops, site visits and the establishment of Biomethane Social Acceptability Groups in eight countries (Austria, Hungary, Ireland, Serbia, Slovenia, Portugal, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). These actions will address public concerns, improve community acceptance of biomethane technologies and foster inclusive governance models.

By strengthening market mechanisms, enhancing policy coherence and promoting social acceptance, BIOMAPE will lay the groundwork for a robust and transparent biomethane market across Europe, while fostering international cooperation and knowledge transfer within and beyond Europe.

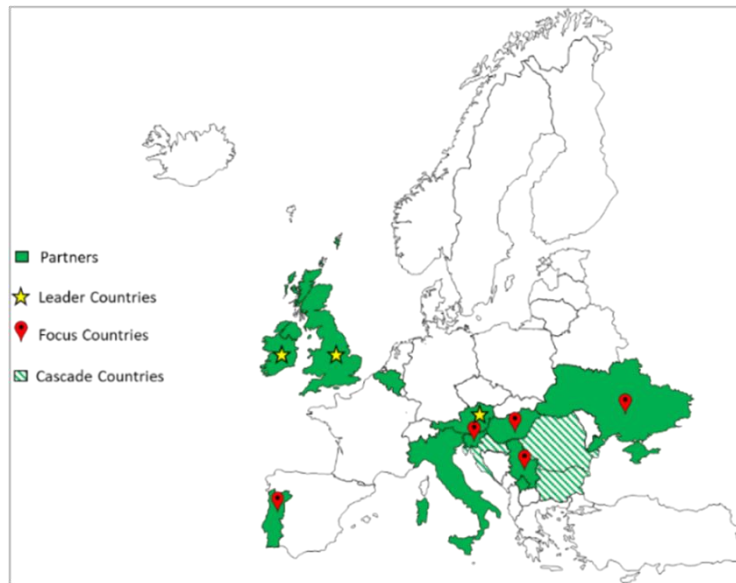


Figure 1- BIOMAPE Consortium

2 Event Overview

On 21 October 2026, the BIOMAPE project hosted a public webinar on the establishment of national biomethane registries and their integration into the European market. The event was attended by 133 participants from 23 countries, representing 96 organisations, among them public authorities, registry operators, biomethane producers and project developers, industry associations, suppliers, traders and researchers. The agenda of the 2.5-hour webinar comprised three sessions, with a keynote by the European Commission on the new EU Biomethane Mechanism, presentations of the five BIOMAPE focus countries (Hungary, Portugal, Serbia, Slovenia and Ukraine) on their national market and registry status, and the presentation of the BIOMAPE Deliverable D2.1 with a subsequent guided discussion. The webinar was moderated by Christos Tzagkas (ERGaR), with closing remarks by Julian Auderieth (ERGaR President). Project coordinator Stefano Proietti (ISINNOVA) introduced the EU-funded project, and Stefanie Königsberger (AGCS) presented insights and lessons learned from the BIOMAPE report D2.1, Updated Guidelines for Establishing National Biomethane Registries for Certificate Management, which is based on research covering 18 European countries. Three interactive polls accompanied the sessions, and the event was recorded for publication.

3 Project Introduction

Stefano Proietti introduced BIOMAPE, Biomethane Market Acceleration and Uptake in Europe, a Horizon Europe project with eleven partners in ten countries, now concluding its first year. The project rests on several pillars, namely a multi-level geographical approach addressing local, national and EU level challenges, a strong focus on social acceptance, eight case studies across the project countries, a policy dimension for coherent biomethane market development, and horizontal activities securing transferability and long-term impact. Work package 2 on biomethane certificates and cross-border trade, which hosted this webinar, has already published the updated guidelines for establishing national biomethane registries (D2.1) and will conclude with a handbook on the European cross-border trade of biomethane certificates in mid 2027.

4 The EU Perspective: The Biomethane Mechanism

Mikolaj Jasiak, Team Leader in Unit F.1 Diversification Strategy and Joint Purchasing at the European Commission, DG Energy, presented the rationale for the European interest in biomethane and introduced the Biomethane Mechanism under the EU Energy and Raw Materials Platform. He emphasised that biomethane is a homegrown, storable energy carrier that uses the existing gas infrastructure, complements electrification in sectors that are difficult to decarbonise, and opens new revenue streams for farmers, while its uptake is currently constrained by production costs and public acceptance. As a new type of policy instrument, the Biomethane Mechanism is a free and voluntary platform service that matches supply and



demand rather than regulating or financing the market. Two functions will go live in November 2026. The matching function opens a demand submission window from 4 November until Christmas, followed by supply offers in late January. The regulatory dashboard covers eight member states, with Portugal, Austria, Hungary and Romania planned for the next iteration. Future extensions will open the platform to financial institutions and to local authorities and network operators seeking investors. In the subsequent poll, more than 90 per cent of participants stated that they intend to register with the mechanism, with the regulatory dashboard considered its most beneficial function. In the Q&A, the speaker confirmed the fully voluntary character of the platform, its openness to companies preparing production, and the intention to update the dashboard on a rolling basis.

5 Focus Country Presentations

5.1 Hungary

Attila Kovacs, National Biomethane Biogas Green Energy Industrial Association

Hungary is in the starting phase of biomethane development, with two operational plants, a third to be commissioned soon and up to ten projects under consideration. Annual production fluctuates between 100 and 160 GWh, depending on the substrate supplies. The regulatory authority MEKH has been designated by law as operator of the national registry for renewable gas guarantees of origin (Type 1, with proofs of sustainability co-registered), which joined the AIB Gas Scheme in 2026. RED III is largely transposed into national legislation, and an operational support scheme for biomethane is currently absent. Production is primarily exported to Western Europe. The priority for the coming twelve to twenty-four months is to meet the advanced biofuel and biomethane targets through biomethane supplied to the grid, and project developers seek simple, transparent and efficient administrative access to Western European markets.

5.2 Portugal

Jaime Braga, Portuguese Association of Bioenergy Producers

Portugal is in an early but promising stage with one plant in production, five to six additional plants expected within months and 40 projects in licensing. The national plan foresees biomethane covering 20 per cent of gas demand. The registry operated by REN is fully operational since 2024, joined AIB, issued its first biomethane guarantee of origin in 2026 and has already recorded around 90,000 MWh of cancellations this year, compared with 640 MWh in 2025. Main challenges are lengthy licensing procedures, grid connection costs that will only be defined in early 2027 and growing public acceptance concerns.

5.3 Serbia

Goran Knežević, Serbian Biogas Association

Serbia operates 48 biogas plants but has no biomethane production yet, which presents a greenfield advantage, since the registry and the rules can be designed from the start instead



of copying fragmented systems. The national gap analysis estimates the biomethane potential at 0.37 TWh per year in the short term, 2.16 TWh in the medium term and 4.24 TWh in the long term, the latter corresponding to roughly 12 per cent of the current annual gas consumption of 26 to 32 TWh. Viable operation requires biomethane prices of around 105 EUR per MWh for upgraded existing plants and around 115 EUR per MWh for new plants. Following the BIOMAPE recommendation, Serbia envisages a phased approach beginning with a production data registry (Type 5), adding certificate functions in a second phase, and targeting a fully integrated registry (Type 7) with European interoperability.

5.4 Slovenia

Tjaša Bedenk, Slovenian Biomethane Register Association

Slovenia has no commercial biomethane production yet and is waiting for a dedicated support scheme. One pilot plant produces around 1 GWh per year with a potential of up to 36 GWh. The existing support scheme for biogas electricity expires in 2027, and the ministry is preparing two new schemes, one for biogas electricity and one for biomethane. The establishment of the renewable gas registry will start on 1 January 2027, building on the experience of the electricity guarantees of origin scheme. Priorities are a robust renewable gas registry, the dedicated support scheme and stakeholder capacity building.

5.5 Ukraine

Anna Pastukh, Bioenergy Association of Ukraine

Ukraine combines the largest agricultural land area in Europe with an estimated production potential of up to 21.8 bcm per year and an extensive gas grid interconnected with four EU member states. The Biomethane Development Programme foresees more than 1 bcm by 2030 and 2.1 bcm by 2035. Six ISCC-certified plants are operating with an annual capacity of 108 million cubic metres, and the production of around 21 to 22 million cubic metres in 2025 is almost entirely exported to the EU. The registry, operated by the State Agency on Energy Efficiency, is in trial mode since February 2026 and is evolving from a guarantee of origin registry (Type 1) towards a two-layer system separating guarantees of origin and proofs of sustainability (Type 3). The main barriers are the pending recognition of the Ukrainian gas grid for Union Database purposes, the missing mutual recognition of guarantees of origin and the absence of domestic demand.

6 The D2.1 Guidelines: Certificates and the Registry Typology

Stefanie Königsberger presented the core findings of Deliverable D2.1, the updated guidelines for establishing national biomethane registries for certificate management. The report defines the common attribute layers of renewable gas certificates, covering plant specific data, energy quantity, input and source attributes, sustainability attributes and ownership information, and describes the roles around a registry, including registry operators, auditors, certification bodies,

voluntary schemes and authorities. Austria was highlighted as a model case, as its legislation obliges the three parallel national systems to exchange data. The typology of registry systems distinguishes seven types. Guarantee of origin issuing bodies (Type 1), biofuel registries (Type 2), hybrid systems (Type 3) and parallel systems (Type 4) reflect historically grown national structures. The production database (Type 5), the data centre (Type 6) and the fully integrated registry system (Type 7) are three forward-looking options developed by BIOMAPE. For countries that are building their structures now, the report recommends aiming at a fully integrated system from the start, while countries with grown parallel systems can streamline their data flows through a production database or a data centre. With this typology and the accompanying guidance, BIOMAPE provides blueprints for countries establishing or further developing their national registries.

7 The Upcoming Handbook on Cross-border Trade

Christos Tzagkas presented the next deliverable of the work package, a handbook providing guidance to economic operators engaging in the cross-border trade of biomethane certificates. The handbook will clarify the different certificate types and their market pathways, describe the existing cross-border exchange mechanisms, include a dynamic chapter on the Union Database, and illustrate business cases for the EU Emissions Trading System and FuelEU Maritime. Publication on the BIOMAPE website is expected around mid-2027.

8 Guided Discussion: Social Acceptance

The closing poll showed that compliance pathways, notably the Emissions Trading System and proofs of sustainability, are considered the most relevant market pathways, while the absence of a legal framework and the availability of capital are seen as the biggest barriers to establishing national registries. The guided discussion examined whether limited social acceptance discourages authorities from developing support schemes. The focus country answers showed the full breadth of experience across Europe, ranging from local protests against biogas installations to strong governmental support through a national bioenergy coordination council.

9 Closing and Take-home Messages

ERGaR President Julian Auderieth stressed in his closing remarks that registries are the reliable market infrastructure for renewable gases and certificates the vehicles that move them through Europe. BIOMAPE provides the blueprint for registry development, and first focus countries are already taking up the suggested registry types. The untapped potential of biomethane is currently held back above all by the missing digital market infrastructure and by hindrances in cross-border transfer, which makes interoperability between registry systems within the European Union and with connected countries the central task ahead. The presentation of the

Biomethane Mechanism was acknowledged as a clear signal that the European Commission regards biomethane and renewable gases as an integral part of Europe's energy security.

10 Follow-up

The recording of the webinar will be published on the YouTube channel of the AGCS Biomethane Registry Austria, and the slide deck will be made available. Within Task 2.1, BIOMAPE will schedule dedicated personal meetings with each focus country registry operator over the coming months to follow up individually and to support market and registry development. The next BIOMAPE Newsletter will include a recap of the event, and the handbook on cross-border trade will be published around mid-2027.