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Report on target countries' analysis

Central Europe

Czech Republic

Identified challenges

The Czech Republic encounters significant **political obstacles**, including undue interference in biomass energy utilization, insufficient prioritization of biomethane within public administration, and the absence of a pragmatic strategic plan to effectively achieve established European targets.

Key **economic challenges** include concerns about the profitability of biomethane projects and investments without state support, worries about investment in upgrades due to changing operational conditions, and an inadequate system of guarantees of origin with high prices and trading difficulties.

The country struggles with low awareness of biomethane and its benefits, coupled with low demand for biomethane from society.

Proposed solutions

To address **political challenges**, the Czech Republic aims to communicate more with state administration to emphasize biomethane's importance, minimize interference in biomass energy use, and continue working with the EBA to influence policy. It also involves advocating for a realistic strategic plan to achieve European targets and further communicating the strategy.

Operational support notification is pending. Successful implementation will represent a significant sector advancement, governance must guarantee sector support for the next x years, and CZ Biom has proposed modifications to the guarantees of origin system, as previously discussed within the context of the LEX RES II legislative changes.

To **increase public awareness** and demand for biomethane, the suggested approach is to implement information campaigns via articles, reports, social media, and communication with universities.

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Report on target countries' analysis

Central Europe

Poland

Identified challenges

In Poland, the biomethane market stagnates due to a lack of robust **political incentives**. This absence of clear governmental support hinders investment and development in the sector, impeding its potential growth and contribution to renewable energy goals.

Economic hurdles involve a lack of clear guidelines regarding substrate prices, the need to determine attractive biomethane prices for investors, high investment and operational costs for biomethane plants, the absence of flexible business models, a lack of adequate economic valorization of GHG reductions, and difficulties in securing financing for projects.

The country has a low level of **public acceptance** about biomethane plants, social protests against biomethane projects, and potential negative impacts on local communities, such as increased traffic or odor emissions.

Proposed solutions

Poland requires a **comprehensive governmental strategy** for biomethane, encompassing production, distribution, and consumption. This strategy should define specific biomethane targets within the energy mix and address gas network capacity expansion through infrastructure modernization, incentives, and strategic investment.

To strengthen biomethane production, financial support mechanisms, stable tariffs or price guarantees, and incentives like subsidies, tax breaks, and preferential loans are crucial. Operational optimization, innovative business models, attractive GHG reduction rates, and a robust incentive system will further enhance efficiency and attract investment.

To **increase public awareness** and demand for biomethane, the suggested approach is to implement information campaigns via articles, reports, social media, and communication with universities.

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Report on target countries' analysis

Central Europe

Hungary

Identified challenges

Hungary needs to adapt to **EU policies** (Fit for 55, RePowerEU) and implement a guarantee of origin scheme for renewable gases, while also developing a biogas/biomethane action plan.

The country faces turbulence in natural gas markets, difficulties in accessing European biomethane markets, high grid injection costs that producers must cover, and excise duties on bio-CNG and bio-LNG.

There is a **low public awareness** of climate protection, a lack of appreciation from agricultural stakeholders for the benefits of biogas production, resistance from local residents to biogas plant construction, and a reluctance to follow best practices in source-separated waste collection.

Proposed solutions

Hungary aims to update its National **Energy Strategy** and implement a renewed National Energy and Climate Plan, including a biogas/biomethane action plan and a guarantee of origin scheme for renewable gases.

The country seeks to apply Contracts for Difference in medium-long term purchase agreements, ensure the mandated issuing body for Guarantees of Origin joins the European network, promote investment cost sharing for grid injection between network operators and producers and exempt Bio-CNG and bio-LNG from excise duty.

The country plans to **expand information** activity through media and NGOs, distribute information on successful biogas and biomethane plants via the Hungarian Biogas Association, inform residents in detail about planned technology and safety measures, and introduce country-wide collection and processing of municipal waste to direct it to biogas plants.

This factsheet refers to an official report produced by the GreenMeUp consortium. To have access to the full document for more detailed information, please click here.

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