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International Newsletter 4
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REGATRACE (Renewable GAs TRAdE Centre in Europe) aims to create an efficient trade system based on issuing and trading biomethane/renewable gases Guarantees of Origin (GoO). This will strongly contribute to the uptake of the European common biomethane market.

News from the biomethane world

EU Methane Strategy: Recognising the contribution of biogas to mitigate methane emissions

As part of the Green Deal, the European Commission presented its Methane Strategy in October 2020. Following carbon dioxide, methane is the second biggest contributor to human-caused global warming. Consequently, tackling methane emissions is crucial to achieving the EU's 2030 climate target and the goal of climate neutrality by 2050. The Methane Strategy proposes measures to mitigate methane emissions in the energy, agriculture, and waste management sectors and recognizes the pivotal role biogas and biomethane play herein.

[Read more here](#)

The future of certification system for renewable and low carbon gases at the April Madrid Forum

The European Commission invited in April the most key gas stakeholders to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the decarbonisation of the ever more integrated internal EU gas market, including the future of the certification system for renewable and low-carbon gases.

[Read more here](#)

News from the project

AEBIG – REGATRACE: WG of Biomethane – Spain

**Workshop on challenges for
handling GOs in relation with
Energy Conversion held on
March 11th 2021**

"Biomethane/renewable gases vision – Spain" was organized by AEBIG in cooperation with the REGATRACE project, on 3 on-line sessions on March 2021. The workshop involved almost 20 different key stakeholders of the biomethane field of Spain.

[Read more here](#)

Technical and operational comparison of the biomethane/renewable gas GoO system and the electricity system published

The latest REGATRACE report provides unique insights into and comparisons of European schemes for cross-border transfers of certificates for renewable gas and electricity. Since cooperating between different systems starts with understanding them, the assessment of the European legislative framework forms the basis to outline which energy carriers and types of certificates are covered by the assessed schemes. Under the task lead of ERGaR, AIB's EECS gas and electricity schemes, CertifHy's hydrogen scheme and ERGaR's CoO scheme were described and compared against more than 100 criteria. The ERGaR RED MB scheme was introduced but not included in the full comparison as the scheme rules have not yet been made public.

[Read more here](#)

On March 11th, a workshop was held on "Mapping Challenges for certificate handling in relation with energy carrier conversion". It was targeted at issuing bodies and registry operators of guarantees of origin (GOs), with a view to have a discussion with the parties involved in the design and technical management of GOs regarding energy carrier conversion.

[Read more here](#)

Provisional IT-system for start-up of registries delivered to REGATRACE target countries

Within project task 3.3, the REGATRACE target countries (BE, ES, IE, IT, LT, PL, RO, SK) are represented by organisations engaged in establishing national renewable gas registries/GO issuing bodies. They have been equipped with an IT-system of an existing national biomethane registry to overcome the complex burden of understanding the functioning of gas certificate registry systems. This will ease their development phase and help get used to certificate documentation processes.

[Read more here](#)

Launch of the REGATRACE Network

A network for dialogue between various parties involved in the documentation and cross-border tracking of renewable gases enables to leverage and synchronise the different developments in Europe.

[Read more here](#)

Country news

AUSTRIA

Austrian biogas industry expects important improvements and greater consideration of green gas with the Renewables Expansion Act - now available as government bill

The Renewables Expansion Act (Erneuerbaren-Ausbau-Gesetz) underwent an extensive development phase but the target of passing the highly anticipated law is now in reach. In spring 2021, the draft law passed the Council of Ministers and is now available as governmental bill. Feedback had been carefully assessed and led to some significant improvements for the biogas industry and the consideration of a green gas market in Austria.

[Read more here](#)

AUSTRIA

Online recordings of the "klimaaktiv" workshop series on biomethane injection into the gas grid are publicly available

The "klimaaktiv" online workshop series on biomethane injection into the gas grid offers a public available knowledge base with comprehensive information. The topic of biomethane injection was addressed from different angles by speakers in five consecutive webinars to provide a holistic view. The presentations in German language were recorded and are publicly available.

[Read more here](#)

BELGIUM

BELGIUM

Working Group Belgium

Biogas-E organised the second workshop of the Regatrace project last March. The goal of the workshop was to discuss the draft version of the long-term strategic vision for biomethane in Belgium and to collect input for the roadmap. The stakeholders of the Biomethane Working Group identified the ambitious GHG reduction targets from the European Union as the most important driver for the further development of the biomethane sector in Belgium.

[Read more here](#)

ESTONIA

Apple core or manure – everything can be fuel!

Biomethane has been produced in Estonia since 2018. Compressed natural gas or CNG has become an affordable and eco-friendly alternative to petrol and diesel fuel with an increasing share on the fuel market. In addition to being friendly to the environment and our wallets, biomethane production also contributes to the functioning of the circular economy.

[Read more here](#)

GERMANY

Construction of one of the first biomethane liquefaction plants in Germany

With the approval of the necessary bodies, the go-ahead has been given for the construction of one of the first biomethane liquefaction plants in Germany. It is scheduled for completion by the end of 2022. Three companies are pooling their expertise for this: Altnoil GmbH, Erdgas Südwest GmbH, and bmp greengas GmbH.

[Read more here](#)

ITALY

The NRRP opportunities for the development of biomethane in agriculture

Within the framework of the Next Generation EU, that is the instrument aimed at responding to the economic and social crisis caused by Covid-19, the Italian Government approved the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP). Agriculture, renewables and green transition are among the main investment areas of the NRRP.

[Read more here](#)

POLAND

biomethane in Flanders

The current biogas sector in Flanders only valorises 14% of the biogas/biomethane potential. Mostly biomass streams from agriculture, such as crop residues, manure and sequential crops, are currently underused, concludes a new study published in May 2021 by the Green Gas Platform.

[Read more here](#)

ESTONIA

Alternative fuels help reduce public transport footprint

In recent years, more and more attention has been paid to alternative fuels in the public transport sector as well. Whereas elsewhere in the world the transition to alternative fuels has already lasted for a long time, Estonia has started turning its attention to climate-neutral behaviour, and therefore is considering the alternative options on the fuel market, especially in recent years.

[Read more here](#)

GERMANY

Future of LNG and bio-LNG in German heavy-duty transport

Discussions about the future of the toll exemption and German draft legislation to implement the RED II are weighing on the future prospects for LNG in heavy-duty transport. Thus, the previous drafts from the Federal Environment Ministry for the implementation of RED II into German law are not very helpful for the development of a bio-LNG market. They generally do not take biogas sufficiently into account, as various biogas associations criticize.

[Read more here](#)

LITHUANIA

The Law on Alternative Fuels has been passed: How the transport sector will change over the next decade

The potential of biomethane and hydrogen gas will be developed in the coming years in order to ensure that biomethane and green hydrogen account for at least 5 per cent of final energy consumption in the transport sector by 2030.

[Read more here](#)

POLAND

[Getting closer to signing the](#)**sectoral agreement on the development of the biogas and biomethane sector in Poland**

From the beginning of the year, UPEBI representatives actively participated in meetings of seven working groups of the Biogas Partnership established by the Ministry of Climate and Environment to prepare the agreement on the development of the biogas and biomethane sector in Poland.

[Read more here](#)**ROMANIA****EU Cohesion policy: €216 million to modernise Bucharest's thermal energy transmission system**

The Commission has approved an investment of €216 million from the Cohesion Fund to modernise the thermal energy transmission system of Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

[Read more here](#)**IRELAND****Momentum is Gathering For Ireland to Embrace Biomethane Within A New Legislative Framework And With Strong Industry Consumer Support**

2021 has seen Ireland introduce a Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 to support its transition to Net Zero by no later than 2050. The Climate Action Bill stipulates a 51% reduction in Ireland's carbon footprint by the end of the decade and Ireland will be legally bound to reduce its emissions (carbon footprint) by 7 % per year to hit its new 2030 target.

[Read more here](#)[ORLEN Poludnie and PGNiG to](#)**develop biomethane production business in Poland**

ORLEN Poludnie, an ORLEN Group company, and Polish Oil and Gas Company (PGNiG) have signed a letter of intent to strengthen cooperation in the development of renewable energy sources. The companies plan to set up a special purpose vehicle that will invest in the development of a network of biomethane plants.

[Read more here](#)**SPAIN****The Spanish Ministry for Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge celebrates the approval of Spain's first Climate Change and Energy Transition Law in the Congress of Deputies**

On May 21, the Climate Change and Energy Transition Law was published in the Official State Gazette (BOE). The Law, which comes at a key moment to activate the levers of economic recovery, establishes the objectives to achieve full decarbonization of the economy by 2050.

[Read more here](#)

Meet the consortium!

The REGATRACE consortium is composed by 15 partners from 10 countries (Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Spain) working together to provide support for the biomethane market uptake.



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