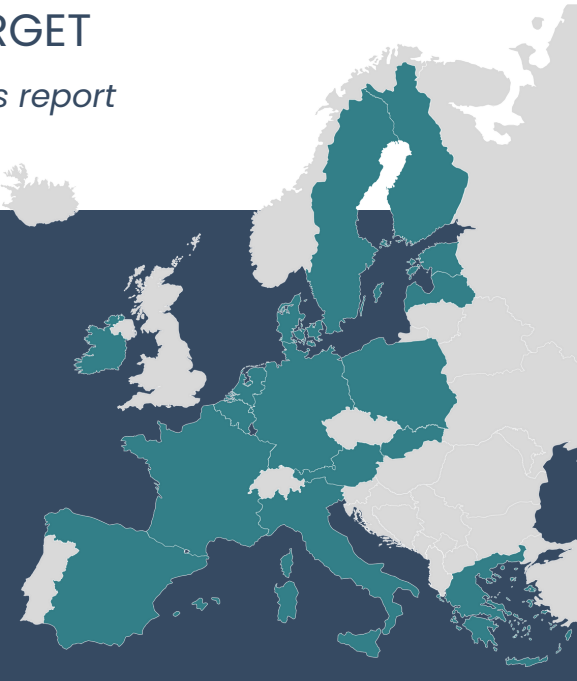


ACCELERATING BIOMETHANE PERMITTING

ENSURING A SMOOTH AND TIMELY PERMITTING PROCESS IS KEY TO REACH THE 35 BCM TARGET

Explore the challenges and best practices in Task Force 2's report



The BIP analysed current permitting processes across Europe

To understand current permitting processes and analyse barriers & best practices, a **questionnaire** was distributed amongst the BIP members.

62 responses received

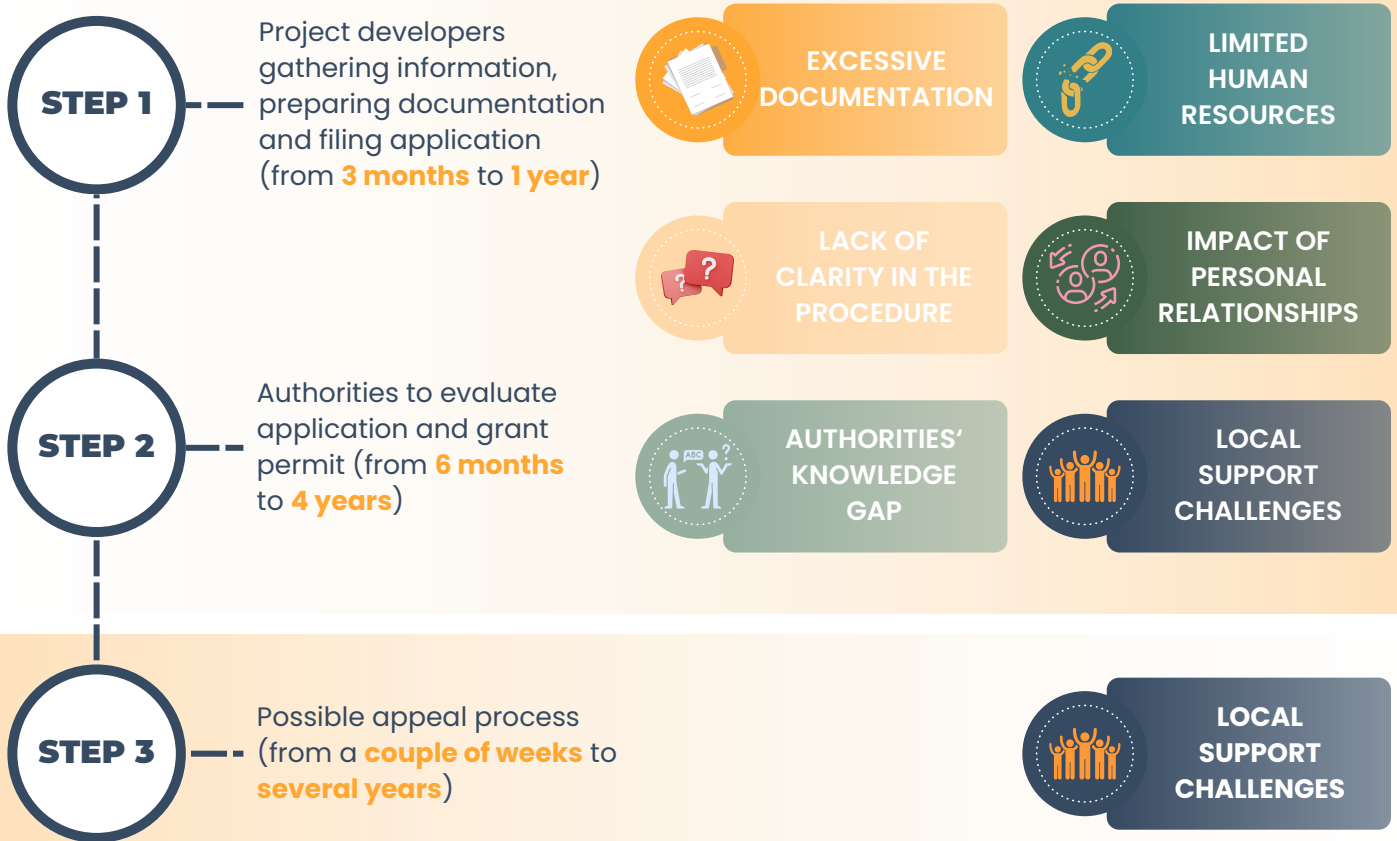
16 Member States

REPORTED PERMITTING DURATION

2-3 years average

5-7 years outliers

Permitting procedures **vary across Member States**, but can be generally **clustered into three steps**, each connected to specific **obstacles**:



Best practices have been identified to overcome the **obstacles** encountered in the **three steps** of the permitting procedure:

- STEPS 1, 2** ZONING APPROACH — Permitting can be accelerated by establishing zoning areas, usually with ample feedstock and existing gas grid infrastructure, designated for sustainable biomethane production.
- STEPS 1, 2, 3** OVERRIDING PUBLIC INTEREST — Introducing a rebuttable presumption that sustainable biomethane projects serve overriding public interest streamlines permitting processes by granting priority to such projects.
- STEPS 1, 2, 3** INTERACTION WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES — Close collaboration with the local community through, for instance, informative sessions, can reduce resistance to a project and streamline the permitting process.
- STEP 2** TIME LIMIT IMPLICATIONS — Providing for time limit implications where excessive delays are caused by insufficient resources or expertise of permitting bodies can help accelerate procedures.
- STEPS 1, 2, 3** ONE-STOP-SHOP APPROACH — Procedures can be accelerated by implementing a one-stop-shop for biomethane permitting, eased by a single office coordinating with the authorities.
- STEP 2** TRAININGS — A training programme can help to accelerate the permitting process.
- STEPS 1, 2** COMMS & STANDARD PROCEDURES — Clear communication, guidelines and standard operating procedures for permitting can improve clarity on the process.

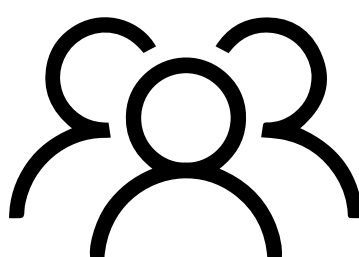
AN IDEAL PERMITTING PROCEDURE

STANDARDISING PERMITTING PROCEDURES TO REDUCE RISKS AND COSTS & FACILITATE HARMONISATION ACROSS THE EU

Building on the analysis of existing **good practices** in various Member States and the analysis of main **challenges** experienced by project developers, the BIP has identified the essential elements of an 'ideal' standard procedure for permitting. A standardised permitting procedure can drastically **reduce risks** and **costs** for **project developers**. It also **facilitates harmonisation** of varied procedures across EU Member States.

STEP 1 Early interaction with stakeholders

- Initial meeting between local authorities to align views (legal, financial, environmental)
- Decision by local authorities on project submission, specifying timeline for filing application, evaluation and finalisation
- Early engagement with local stakeholders and politicians



STEPS 1, 2 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

- The EIA, draft zoning plan and environmental approval are prepared between the project developer and local authorities
- Standardization or simplification of certain elements of the EIA for time savings
- Permitting filing includes one round of reviews by local authorities, with a fixed timeline



STEP 2 Public hearing and decision

- After the finalisation of the permit filing, one single hearing is conducted for the EIA, zoning plan and environmental approval together



STEP 3 Appeal procedure

- Following the granting of the permit, the appeal procedure is restricted to procedural and legal matters
- The procedure time for the evaluation of appeals is reduced
- Construction at own risk is allowed during the appeal evaluation phase



Scan the QR code and download the permitting report:



bip-europe.eu



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About the Biomethane Industrial Partnership

The BIP is a private-public partnership comprising the **European Commission, Member States, industries, academia & civil society** who team up in several Task Forces to achieve 35 bcm biomethane by 2030.