

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 report

The BIP analysed current permitting processes across Europe

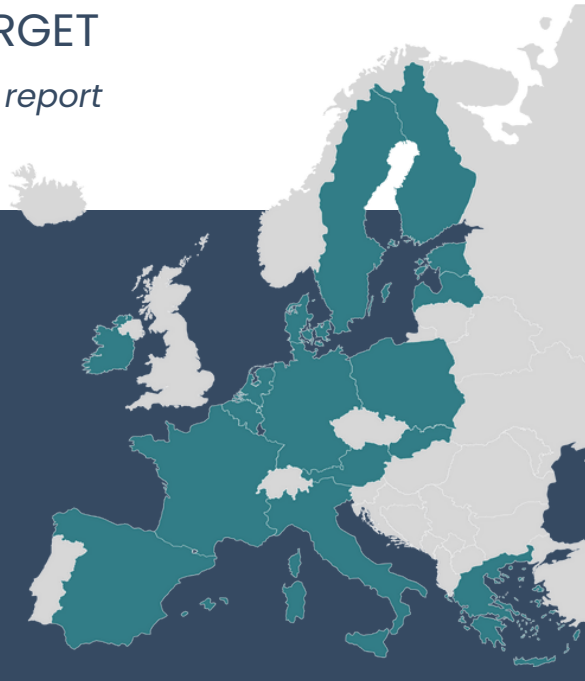
To understand current permitting processes and analyse barriers & best practices, a **questionnaire** was distributed amongst the BIP members.

62 responses received

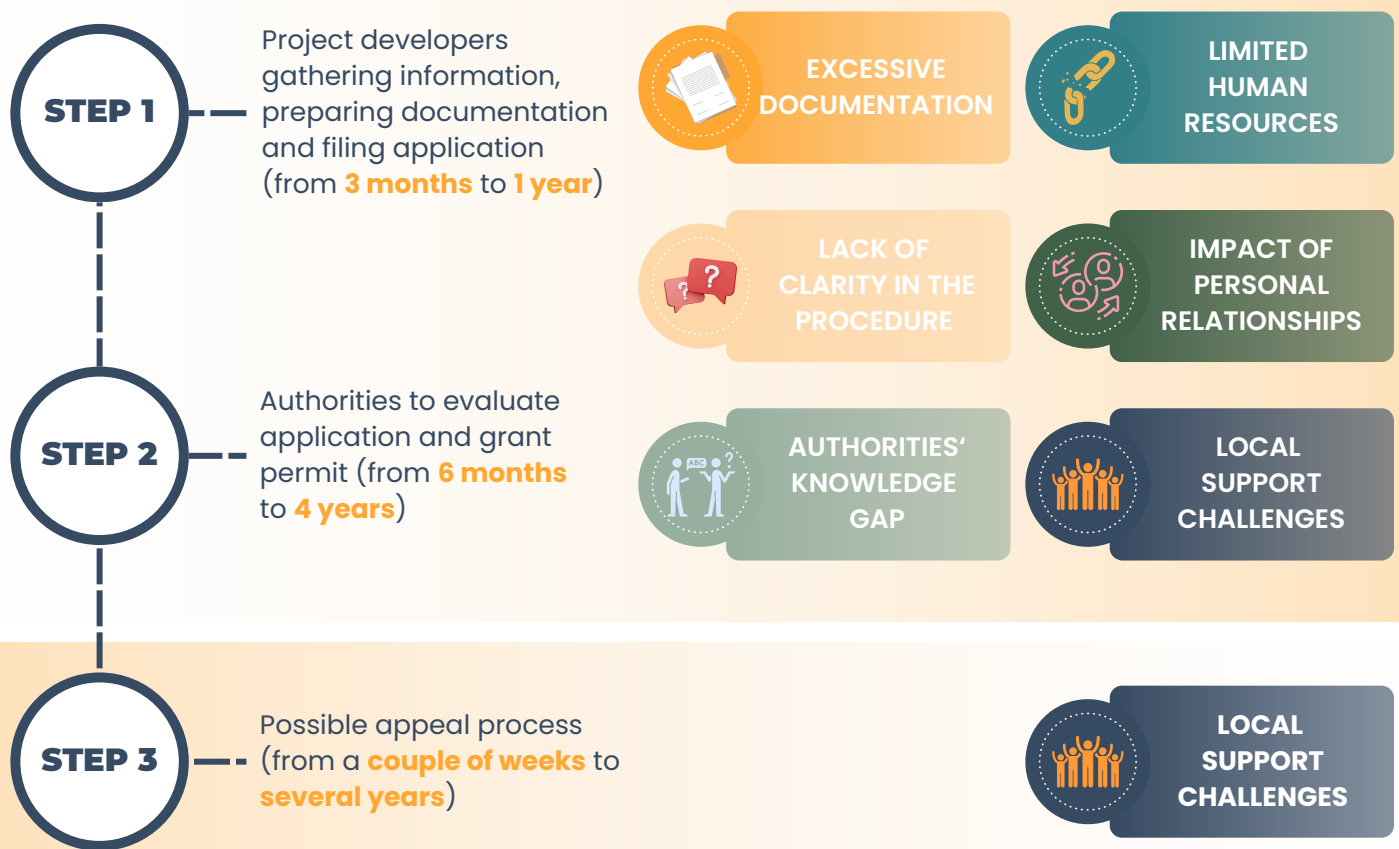
16 Member States

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:



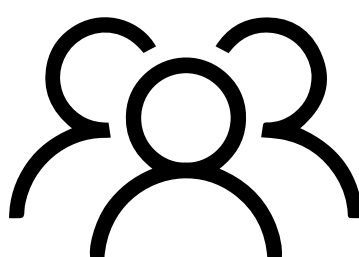
AN IDEAL PERMITTING PROCEDURE

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:



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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.