



How can permitting bottlenecks for biomethane installations be addressed?

Claire-Lise Speisser · EBA / GRDF

Accelerating the European production of biomethane

5.2bcm

produced in Europe in 2024

>16 TWh

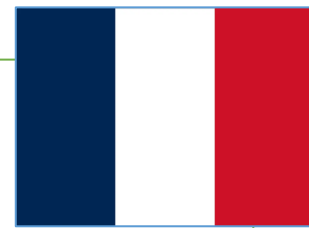
installed production capacity today

138 TWh

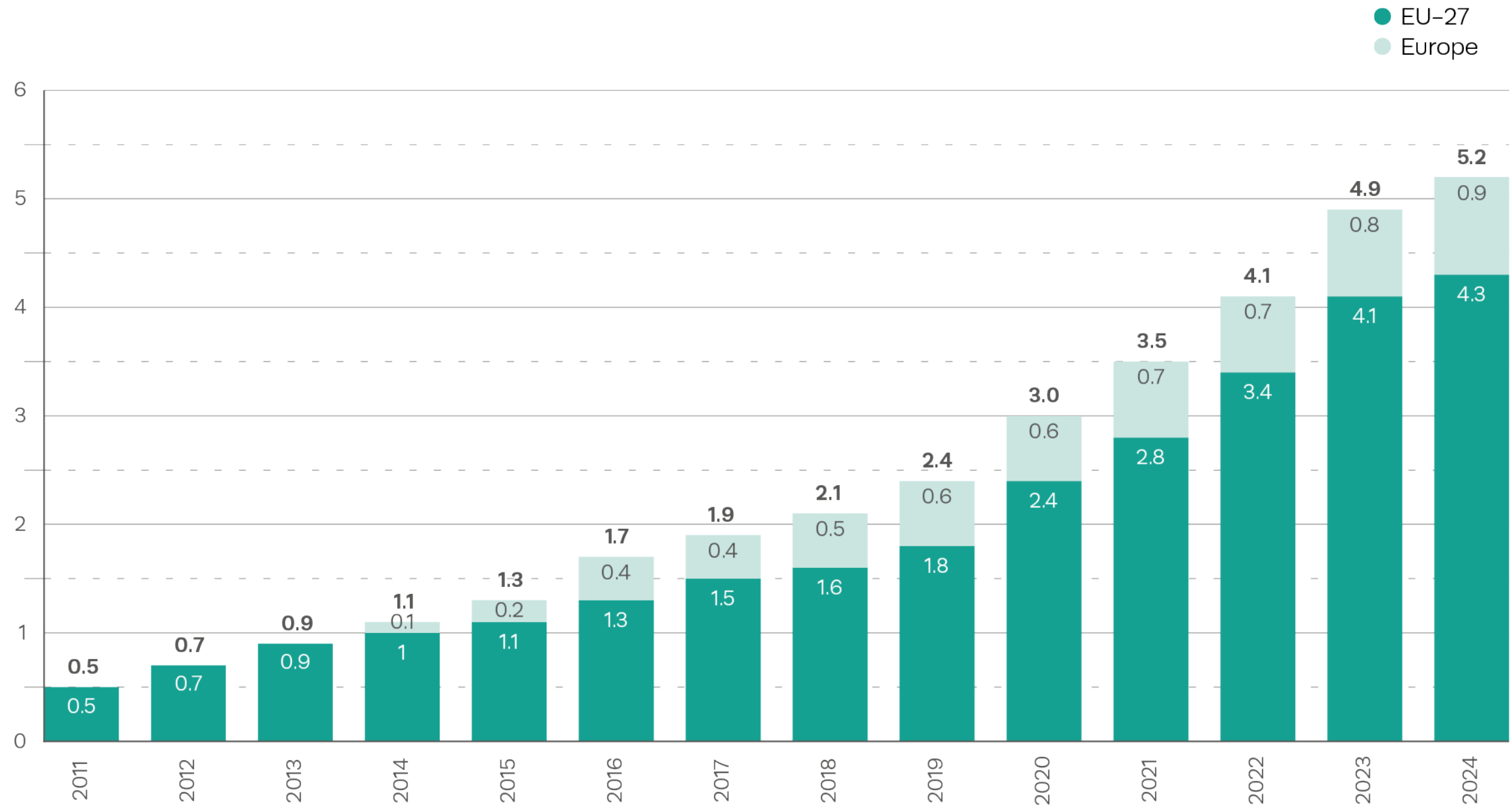
potential, mostly from agricultural feedstocks (manure, intermediary crops & residues)

13–18 GWh/y

most-deployed AD model — GRDF's focus for 15 years



Biomethane production in the EU-27 and Europe (bcm)



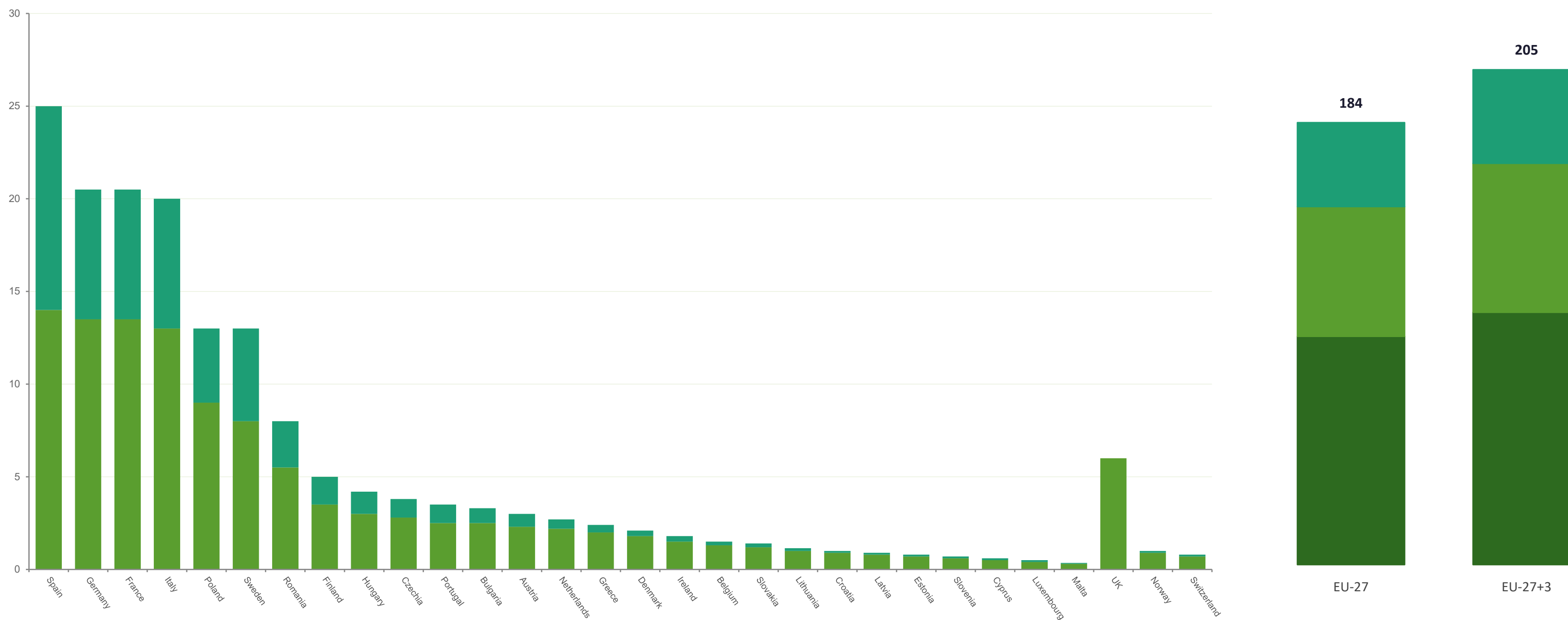
EBA ©2025

France, Germany, Italy, Denmark and the UK are leading the production and scale-up of biomethane.



■ In 2050, Europe's production potential reaches 205 bcm/yr — still largely anaerobic-digestion based

Total potential by country and technology (bcm/yr)

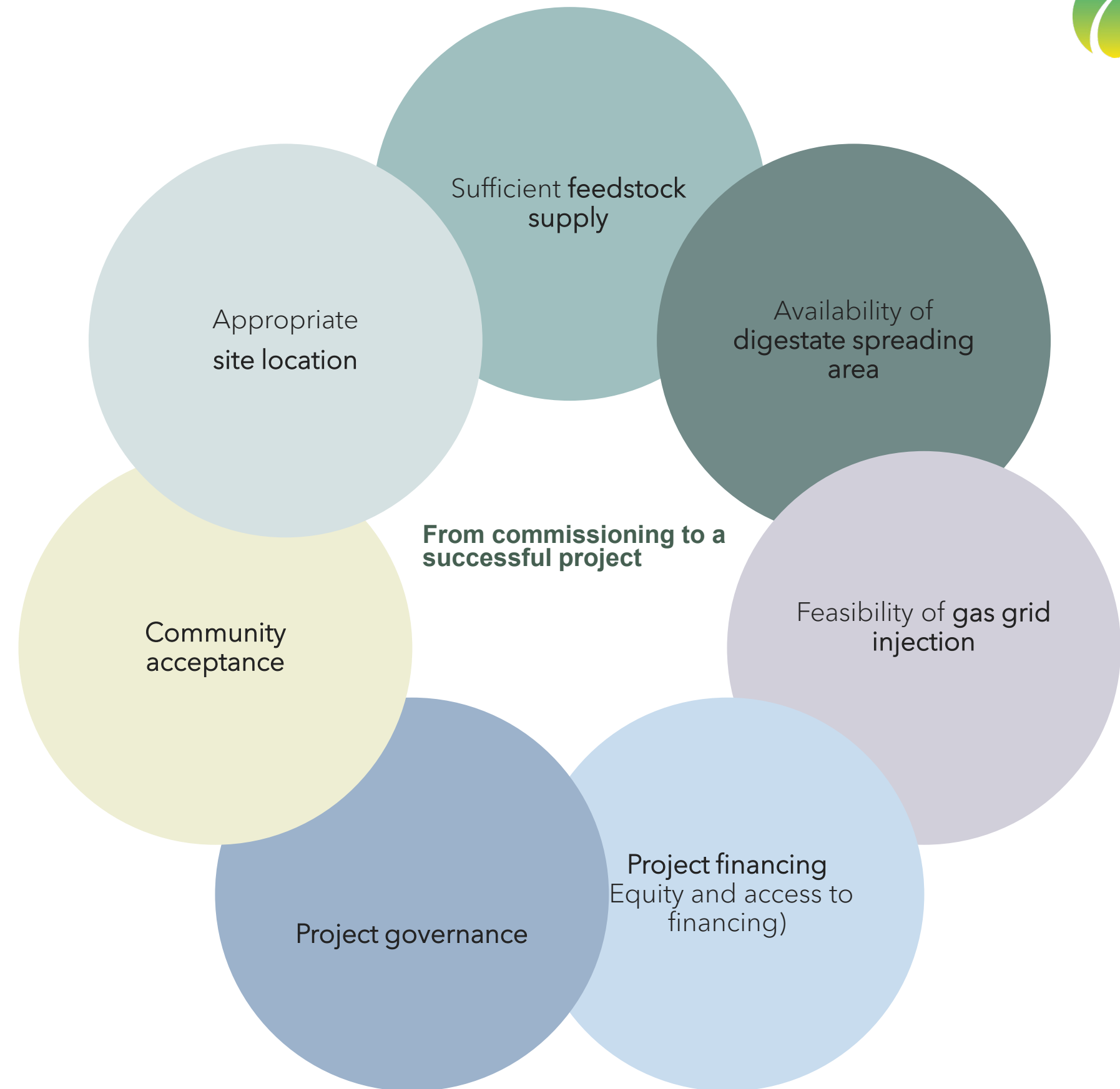


■ Anaerobic digestion ■ Thermal gasification ■ E-methane

Source: Guidehouse 2026. "Biogases: Europe's overlooked path to energy independence?"

■ **A wide variety of bottlenecks exists, depending on the local ecosystem**

Around **40 project account managers** from GRDF work alongside farmers and developers to mitigate these bottlenecks and bring projects to commissioning.



■ Ensure long-term visibility for the biomethane business model

Developing Member States

- Feasibility-study subsidies, CAPEX subsidies and production-support schemes
- Ease the relationship between agricultural producers and offtakers (contracting)

Mature Member States

- Blending obligations and **Biomethane Purchase Agreements**
- Production support targeted at agricultural, local and small plants

Provide clear, stable schemes for farmers to launch new projects — or upgrade existing ones.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

■ Ease the permitting process of biomethane and biogas installations

Project permitting — current barriers

- Inconsistent requirements across administrative units and regions, changing over time
- No flexibility for innovative practices — e.g. a combined manure & irrigation pipeline
- Social acceptance requires local political and administrative buy-in

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Monitor national implementation of the Permitting Revision Directive (Grid Package) into the RED, and ensure biomethane is integrated as a "renewable energy" source.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

- **Recognise biomethane as renewable and adapt RED certification for farmers**



RED & certification-related issues

- Ensure regulatory visibility over time
- Ill-suited to small-scale agricultural feedstock units
- Harmonise certification rules and feedstock definitions across the EU
- Reduce the number of costly, time-consuming certifications burdening agricultural producers

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

See our recommendation for the upcoming RED IV negotiation to ease the certification process for biomethane production.

■ Ease the valorization of biomethane by-products

Biogenic CO₂

- Establish a clear regulatory definition of biogenic CO₂
- Develop a fit-for-purpose certification framework
- Support valorization models over time so first viable business cases can emerge

Digestate

- Amend the Nitrates Directive as per RENURE (digestate +100 kgN/ha/y)
- Adapt Fertilising Product Regulation thresholds to include liquid digestate under PFC I
- Include digestate use in the RED GHG-reduction formula
- Recognise digestate under the CRCF framework
- Allow intermediary crops grown with digestate (IR 2022/996)

■ Adapt the gas grid to enable biomethane injection

4 in 10

AD projects require an interconnection pipeline

37 + 58

reverse-flow units in operation, plus 58 planned

Innovations

Temporary storage and connecting industries to the transport and distribution grid where reverse-flow units are not possible.

Gas quality

Oxygen and Wobbe-index limits can become very costly for producers — avoid over-regulation and design pragmatic, locally agreed solutions.

Effectively monitor national implementation of the **"right to inject" (Directive 2024/1788)**, and ease permitting for grid reinforcements in the Permitting Revision Directive (Grid Package).

Thank you for your attention

Claire-Lise Speisser · EBA / GRDF
Claire-lise.speisser@grdf.fr

