



BIOENERGY EUROPE
**STATISTICAL
REPORT**
2021

REPORT
BIOELECTRICITY





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ABOUT

THE STATISTICAL REPORT

Every year since its debut release in 2007, Bioenergy Europe's Statistical Report has provided an in-depth overview of the bioenergy sector in the EU-28 Member States.

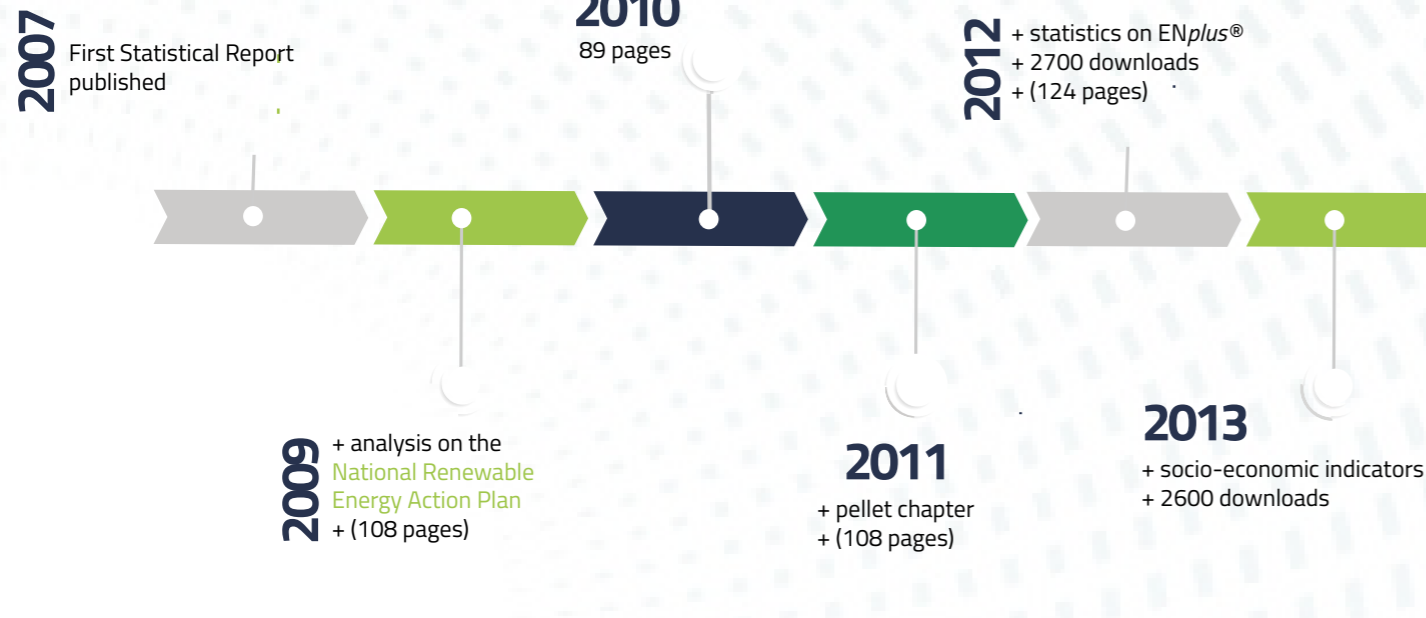
Bioenergy Europe's Statistical Report has been enriched each year with new figures and information, collecting unique data on the developments of the European bioenergy market from a growing number of international contributors.

Bioenergy Europe develops detailed reports that aid industry leaders, decision makers, investors and all bioenergy professionals to understand the situation of bioenergy in Europe.

With more than 150 graphs and figures, readers of Bioenergy Europe's Statistical Report can get accurate and up-to-date information on the EU-28 energy system such as the final energy consumption of biomass

for heat and electricity, the number of biogas plants in Europe, the consumption and trade of pellets, the production capacity of biofuels and other key information to help break down and clarify the complexity of a sector in constant evolution.

In 2017, the Report was rewarded by the European Association Awards for being the 'best Provision of Industry Information and Intelligence', a recognition after a decade of collective work.



ABOUT

BIOENERGY EUROPE

A bit of history

Bioenergy Europe is the voice of European bioenergy.

It aims to develop a sustainable bioenergy market based on fair business conditions. Founded in 1990, Bioenergy Europe is a non-profit, Brussels-based international organisation bringing together more than 40 associations and 90 companies, as well as academia and research institutes from across Europe.

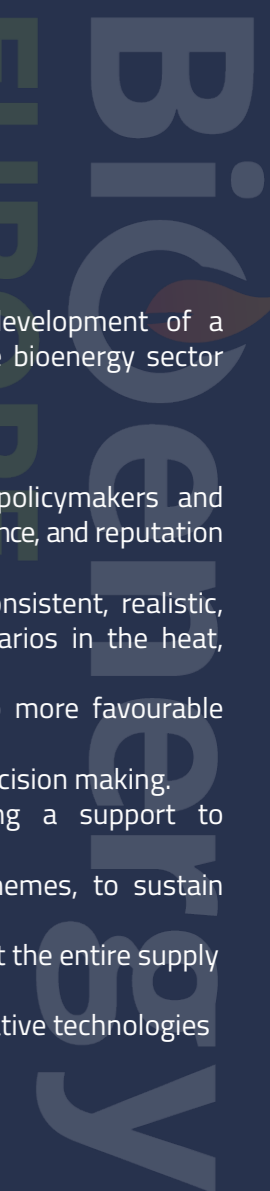
Our vision

Bioenergy Europe will be the leading player in ensuring that sustainable bioenergy is a key pillar in delivering a carbon neutral Europe.

Our mission

Bioenergy Europe facilitates the development of a sustainable, strong, and competitive bioenergy sector through:

- Promotion towards European policymakers and stakeholders for awareness, acceptance, and reputation of bioenergy.
- Promote the development of consistent, realistic, and sustainable bioenergy scenarios in the heat, electricity, and transport sectors.
- Pro-active proposals to develop more favourable European legislation.
- Market intelligence to support decision making.
- Services to members, including a support to advocacy at national level.
- Tools, including certification schemes, to sustain market growth and credibility.
- Industry collaboration throughout the entire supply chain.
- Promotion of efficient and innovative technologies within the bioeconomy.



OUR ACTIVITIES

Bioenergy Europe carries a wide range of activities aimed at supporting its members on the latest EU and national policy developments. Bioenergy Europe works to voice their concerns to EU and other authorities, including, advocacy activities in key policy areas as well as the organisation of dedicated working groups.



Working Groups

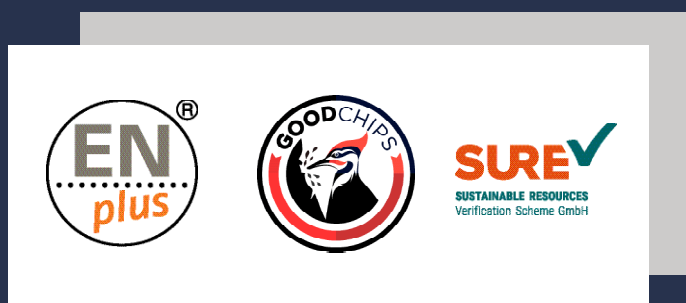
Bioenergy Europe's working groups act as a platform for members to discuss common issues and exchange information on the state of play of bioenergy.

There are currently 7 active working groups:

- Agrobiomass & Energy Crops;
- Biopower & CHP;
- Competitiveness;
- Domestic Heating;
- Sustainability;
- Pellets;
- Wood Chips.

Certification Schemes

Thanks to the experience and authority acquired over the last 20 years, Bioenergy Europe has successfully established three international certification schemes to guarantee high quality standard for fuels, namely, **ENplus®**, **GoodChips®** as well as the latest edition in the certification for sustainable bioenergy: **SURE**.



Networks

Bioenergy Europe is the umbrella organisation of both the **European Pellet Council (EPC)** and the **International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC)**. These networks



have been created thanks to the dynamics of Bioenergy Europe members. Today, these networks bring together bioenergy experts and company representatives from all over Europe and beyond.

The European Pellet Council (EPC), founded in 2010, represents the interests of the European wood pellet sector. Its members are national pellet associations or related organisations from over 18 countries.

EPC is a platform for the pellet sector to discuss issues relating to the transition from a niche product to a major energy commodity. Issues include the standardisation and certification of pellet quality, safety, security of supply, education and training, and the quality of pellet-using devices. EPC manages the ENplus® quality certification.

Launched in 2012, the **International Biomass Torrefaction Council (IBTC)**, aims to build the first platform for companies that have common interests in the development of torrefied Biomass markets. Currently, the IBTC initiative is supported by more than 23 companies worldwide.

IBTC's objective is to promote the use of torrefied biomass as an energy carrier and to assist the development of the torrefaction industry. In this respect, IBTC's key activities are to undertake studies or projects, and to commonly voice its members' concerns to third parties

For further information on Bioenergy Europe's Networks & Certification Schemes visit www.bioenergyeurope.org

OUR MEMBERS*

As the common voice of the bioenergy sector, Bioenergy Europe, aims to develop a sustainable bioenergy market based on fair business conditions and does so by bringing together national associations and companies from all over Europe – thus representing more than 4000 indirect members, including companies and research centres.

Associations



Academia



Companies



*Members as of May 2021.

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(Exclusive to Bioenergy Europe Members)

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You can find further information about this opportunity on the Bioenergy Europe website.

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Bioenergy Europe offers a sponsorship opportunity for the Statistical Report where you will have the opportunity to have the highest level of visibility. In addition to having full page adverts in all 7 statistical reports, you will also have your logos placed on publications, policy briefs, and enjoy content-driven tweets, as well as LinkedIn posts, amongst a variety of additional advantages.

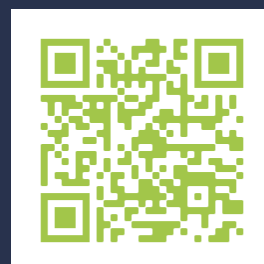
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- ✓ Standardized, high energy density
- ✓ Highly stable, water-resistant, low dust, no CO
- ✓ Outdoor storage and transportation
- ✓ Grindable at any co-firing mix ratio
- ✓ Limited supply chain and conversion costs

Elettricità Futura is the leading Association in Italy representing the broad electricity sector and bringing together large, medium and small enterprises involved in the entire supply chain (traditional and RES generation, retail, distribution, services). Elettricità Futura has 500+ members representing 70% of the electricity market in Italy. It is part of Confindustria as well as being member of the main European associations of the power sector. The Association, with a total of 50 members dealing with bioenergy, supports the role of sustainable bioliquids, biofuels, solid biomass, biogas and biomethane, recognising their valuable contribution to the energy system and its decarbonisation.

<https://www.elettricitafutura.it/>



SURE enables all economic operators along the supply chain, from biomass producers to conversion plants, to prove sustainable use of biomass in electricity production

SUSTAINABLE RESOURCES Verification Scheme (SURE) is a voluntary certification scheme that aims at ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of biomass within the energy sector. SURE's set of criteria is in accordance with the principles of the European Energy Directive (RED II) and enables all economic operators within the bioenergy sector to demonstrate compliance with RED II requirements*.

Interested to learn more? Visit our website:

www.sure-system.eu

* after recognition by the European Commission



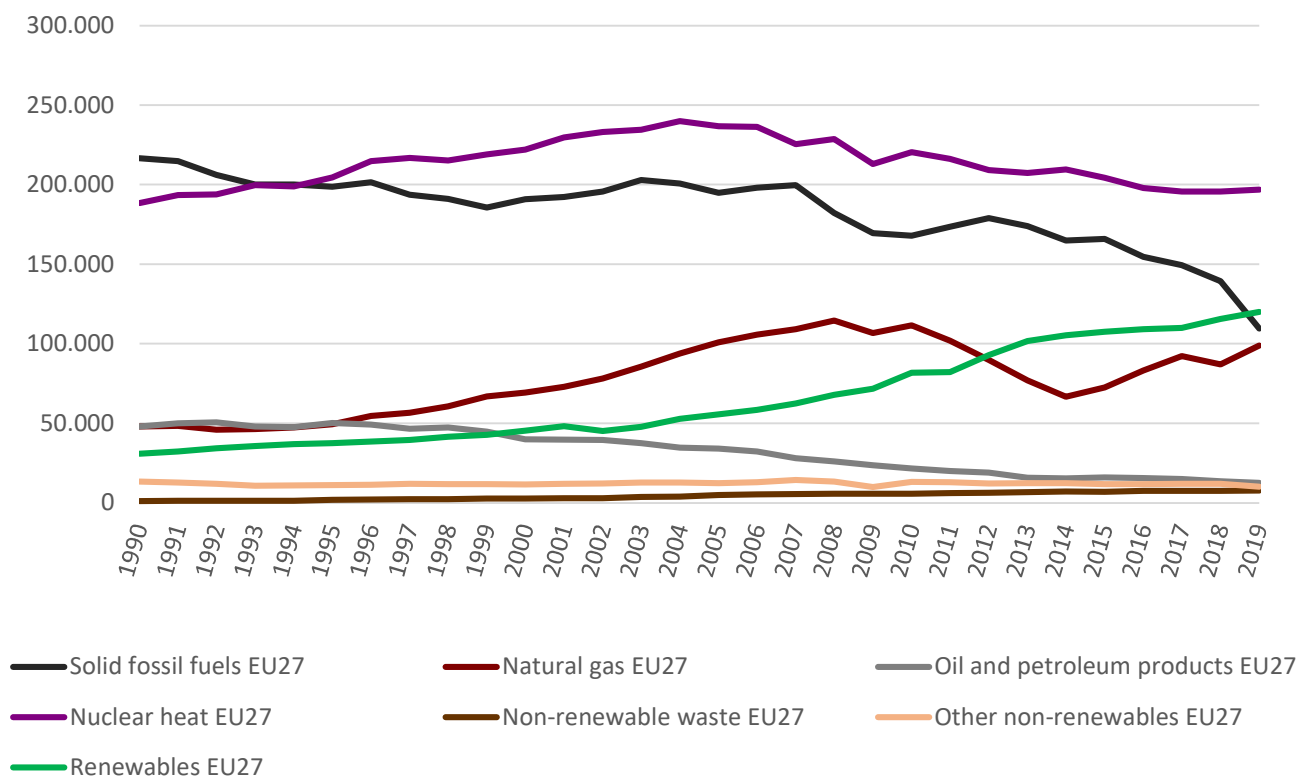
Electricity, heat and carbon from wood. SYNCRAFT, an Austrian high-tech company based in Tyrol, has been building and implementing energy systems worldwide for over 10 years now, that generate electricity, heat and green carbon from residual wood. SYNCRAFT's energy systems become climatepositive if the pure green carbon produced is used for nonthermal applications, e.g. as soil conditioner for the production of fertile black earth. In this way, the carbon originally withdrawn from the atmosphere via the tree is stored in the soil in a long-term, stable and beneficial manner. Our initially CO₂-neutral power plant thus becomes a CO₂-negative "reverse power plant".

<https://en.syncraft.at/>

1. Electricity and renewable electricity in Europe

2019 was a landmark year as fuel input of renewables has overpassed the solid fossil fuels (coal, lignite) input for electricity production in EU27, while the renewable electricity production increase trend was maintained. The positive effects of the EU ETS must also be underlined, which supported the faster decarbonization of the power mix, and called for the uniform carbon pricing signal across the entire energy system (transport, heating).

Figure 1 Evolution of fuels inputs for electricity generation in EU27 (ktoe)



Note: Fuels inputs for electricity consider all the fuels used for the production of electricity, including auto-producers and CHP. Non-renewable waste consists of materials coming from combustible industrial, institutional, hospital and household waste, such as rubber, plastics, fossil oils waste and other similar types of waste, either solid or liquid. The nuclear fuel input considers the generated heat and not the generated electricity. Other non-renewables include manufactured gases, oil shale and oil sands, peat products.
Source: Eurostat

Table 1 Fuels inputs for electricity generation changes 1990-2019 in EU27 (ktoe)

	1990	2019	Absolute change	Growth rate (1990-2019)
Total	546.555	555.704	9.149	2%
Solid fossil fuels	216.614	109.566	-107.049	-49%
Oil and petroleum products	47.976	12.584	-35.392	-74%
Natural gas	48.024	98.789	50.765	106%
Nuclear heat	188.580	196.928	8.348	4%
Non-renewable waste	1.149	7.635	6.486	564%
Other non-renewables	13.270	10.098	-3.172	-24%
Renewables	30.941	120.105	89.164	288%

Source: Eurostat

Figure 1 shows a progressive phase out of coal in the last 5 years, partly replaced by natural gas. Gas, being considered a transitional source and less harmful than coal has gained market. The countries are leading the growth for natural gas, being Italy (117,333 twh), Spain (112,487 twh), Germany (46,334 twh), France (24,325 twh) and the Netherlands (24,281 twh). It should be noted that the increase of gas consumption goes hand in hand with an increasing dependency on energy imports in Europe as the import dependency of gas in EU is about 75%.

As it can be seen in Table 1, the consumption of coal and oil for electricity production has decreased notably in the last 20 years. Nuclear has slightly increased (14%) and natural gas consumption doubled since 1995. Finally, the increasing penetration of variable renewables and their lowering costs, the demand for flexibility and localised, has been on the rise. The increase of gas consumption is equal with the increasing dependency on import being 93% in 2019. Currently, the increase dependency on import is only 24% in 2020.

Table 1 Fuel inputs for electricity generation in EU27 in 2019 (twh)

Fuel	Power only		CHP		Total	Total growth rate (2000-2019)
Solid fossil fuels	46,225	60%	49,342	60%	95,567	-21%
Oil and petroleum products	5,836	54%	5,749	60%	11,585	-7%
Natural gas	45,267	60%	19,342	54%	64,609	12%
Nuclear	199,421	98%	5,207	2%	204,628	5.1%
Non-renewable waste	2,425	34%	5,499	60%	7,924	1%
Other non-renewable	5,185	61%	3,312	39%	8,497	-20%
Renewables	49,234	74%	17,499	26%	66,733	4%
Hydro	27,323	100%	0	0	27,323	-7%
Geothermal	5,754	100%	0	0	5,754	0.1%
Wind	21,346	100%	0	0	21,346	12%
Solar thermal	2,232	100%	0	0	2,232	17%
Solar photovoltaic	19,321	100%	0	0	19,321	9%
Tide, wave, ocean	42	100%	0	0	42	4%
Solid biomass	5,739	21%	17,478	75%	23,217	1%
Biogas	2,499	26%	7,117	71%	9,616	1%
Municipal waste	2,339	21%	5,122	67%	7,461	1%
Waste	42	14%	46	60%	1,008	6%
TOTAL	412,146	74%	145,529	26%	557,674	2%

Note: Transformation heat means all inputs into the transformation plant destined to be converted into district heating or transformation output (districts and district heat). Transformation is only recorded when the energy product is ultimately or ultimately modified to produce other energy products, in this case electricity. For solid fuels, 10% more of waste technologies, it corresponds to the gross electricity produced for fuels. The last figure records the production of transformed fuels.

Source: Eurostat

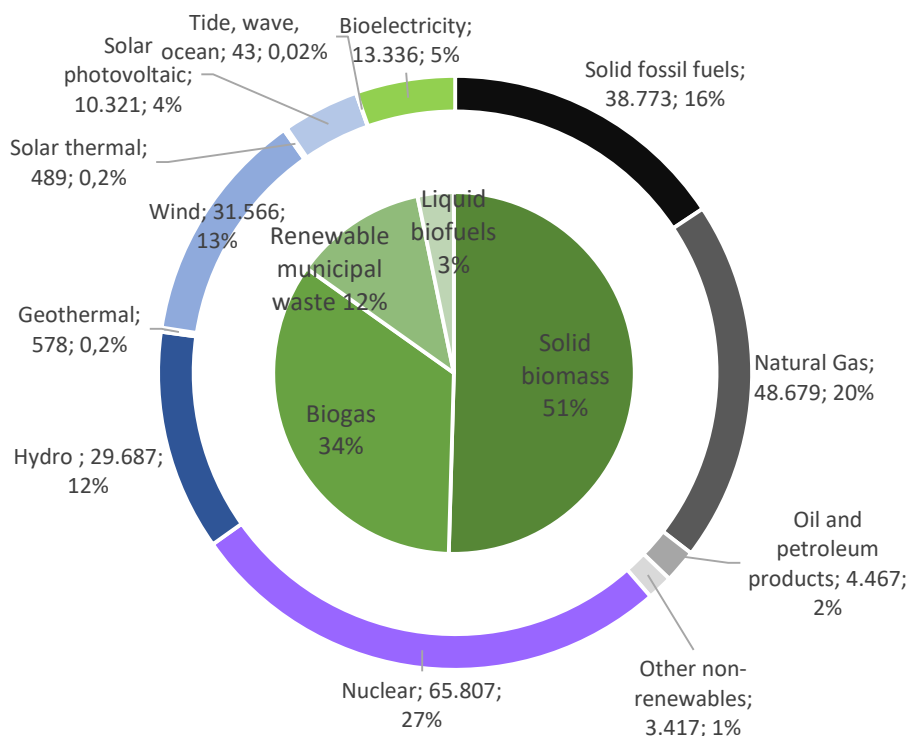
Table 2 Fuel inputs for electricity generation in EU27 Member States and UK in 2020 (GWh)

	Total	Solid fuel	Oil and petroleum products	Gas	Nuclear	Wastes (non-ferrous)	Other non-renewables	Renewables	Total biomass
EU27	117 246	126 346	12 344	96 749	126 418	6 171	12 248	121 225	42 445
EU27+UK	119 114	121 214	12 492	124 718	124 242	6 412	12 492	121 242	44 718
AT	6 113	24	24	242	0	22	42	222	22
BE	16 614	0	11	2 477	11 242	42	42	2 422	2 22
BG	16 242	4 227	22	42	4 22	2	2	2 22	22
CY	2 22	0	2 22	0	0	0	0	42	0
CZ	21 227	21 22	42	2 22	2 22	22	227	2 22	2 22
DE	126 212	96 212	42	12 718	12 212	2 212	2 212	27 212	22 212
DK	2 22	22	22	42	0	227	0	2 22	2 22
EE	2 22	0	2	0	0	22	2 22	42	22
ES	16 212	4 212	2 22	2 22	0	42	0	2 22	22
FI	46 212	2 212	2 212	12 712	12 212	42	22	12 212	2 212
FR	12 412	2 22	42	22	2 22	22	2 22	4 22	2 22
GR	126 212	42	2 22	6 212	122 212	2 22	22	12 212	4 22
HR	2 22	22	0	22	0	0	0	42	22
HU	2 712	42	22	2 22	4 22	22	22	42	42
IE	4 22	22	22	2 22	0	42	42	2 22	22
IT	16 212	4 212	2 212	21 212	0	42	42	16 212	4 212
LT	42	0	22	22	0	22	0	42	22
LU	22	0	0	22	0	22	0	22	22
LV	2 227	2	0	22	0	0	0	22	22
MT	22	0	22	42	0	0	0	22	2
NL	21 212	2 212	227	12 212	42	22	227	2 212	2 212
PL	21 712	26 212	42	2 212	0	22	427	2 212	2 212
PT	2 22	2 22	22	2 22	0	22	0	2 227	42
RO	11 212	4 212	227	2 212	2 212	0	42	2 212	22
SE	26 212	42	42	227	12 212	22	22	12 212	4 212
SI	2 212	2 212	0	22	2 212	42	0	42	22
SK	4 22	22	22	42	4 22	22	42	42	42
UK	16 212	2 712	42	21 212	12 212	2 212	22	12 212	4 212

Source: Eurostat

80% of the fuels used for electricity generation are oil, coal, gas and nuclear. This share increased to more than 90% in countries such as Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Malta, or Poland. In the last two decades, the use of natural gas for electricity production has declined, half of it being consumed by three countries: Germany, Spain, and Italy. Germany and Poland are the two main users of solid fuel fuels for electricity generation. Together they represent more than 50% of the EU27 solid fuel fuels input for electricity. Within EU27, Italy, Spain and France are the biggest users of petroleum products for electricity generation. The use of natural gas for electricity is increasing under the low emissions per energy unit compared to solid or petroleum products. To improve the carbon footprint of their electricity, these countries will need to implement substantial changes. Bioelectricity is a good option, and it will ensure the grid stability and an efficient use of primary energy via CHP when relevant. Countries with high share of bioenergy such as Luxembourg (30%), Denmark (20%) and Latvia (21%) are leading the race.

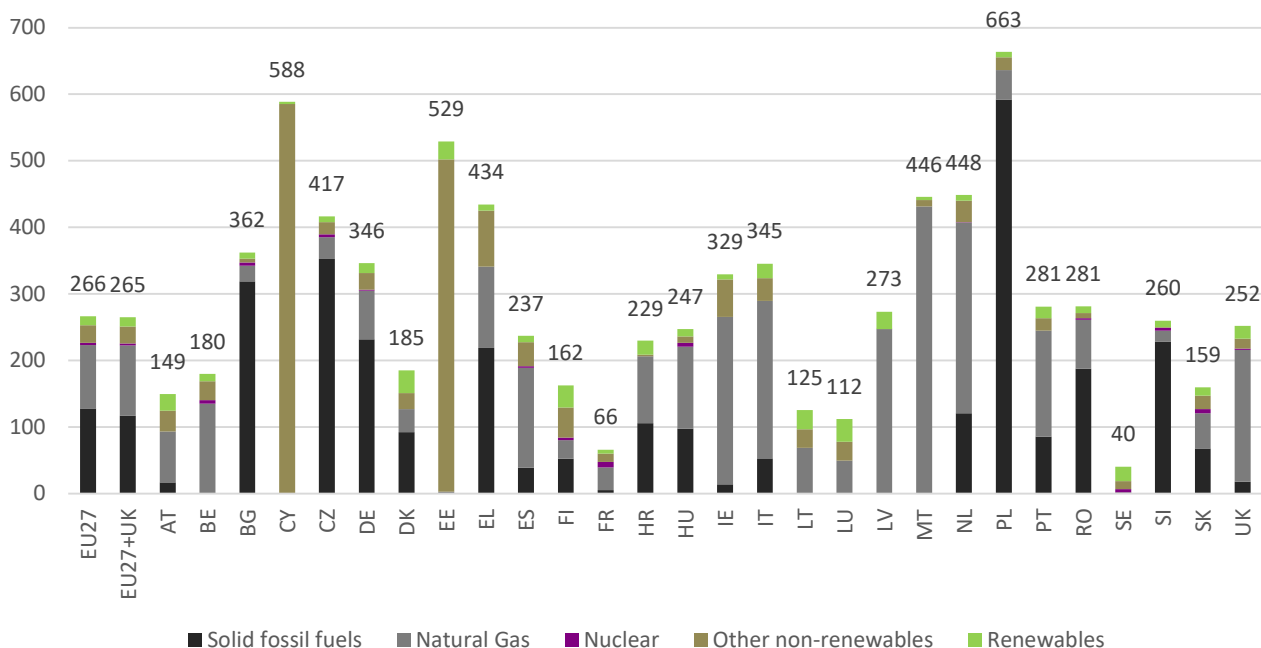
Figure 2 Gross electricity generation by product type in the EU27 in 2019 (ktoe)



Note: Hydro and wind are not normalised (more information about normalised production available in the [SHARES Tool Manual](#)).
Source: Eurostat

The total gross electricity generation has decreased by 1,5 % between 2018 and 2019, while the renewable generation has increased by 4,3%. The electricity generation from fossil fuels has decreased for all fossil fuels type, but the highest decrease was observed for solid fossil fuels (-25,2% representing 13.285 ktoe). As shown in Table 4, the percentage of renewables is 34,7% and the general growth rate for renewables between 2018 and 2019 (3,8%) is mainly influenced by solar thermal (16,8%), wind (14,5%), solar photovoltaics (8,6%) and tide, wave, ocean (4%). Bioelectricity is the third main source of renewable electricity after hydro and wind, producing 5,3% of the total electricity in EU27 or 15,4% of the total renewable electricity. The largest producers of bioelectricity in EU are Germany (4.375 ktoe, 8%), Italy (1.647 ktoe, 7%), Finland (1.110 ktoe, 19%) and former EU member UK (2.826 ktoe, 10%). The three EU member countries with the highest share of bioelectricity production among renewables are Estonia (61%), Hungary (49%) and Czech Republic (43%).

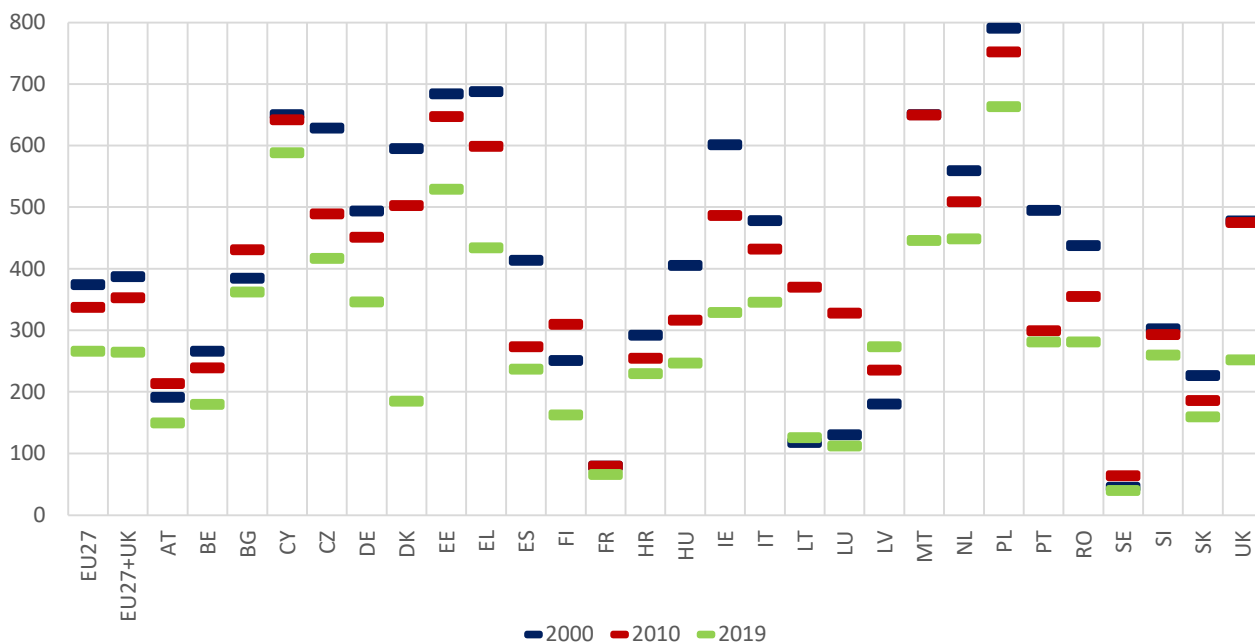
Figure 3 Electricity production footprint by EU Member State and UK for 2019 in gCO₂eq/kWh of electricity and shares by main fuel



Note: Other non-renewables include non-renewable waste, oil & petroleum products, manufactured gases, oil shale and oil sands, peat products. The share presented for each fuel depends on its share in the gross electricity production and its emissions factor – i.e. variations of importance for a specific fuel between countries are due to differences in share of gross electricity production.

Source: Bioenergy Europe calculations based on the 2019 gross electricity generation from Eurostat, the median GHG emission factor of the IPCC 2014, Tomorrow - ElectricityMap, Paolini et al. (2018), RED II values with Bioenergy Europe assumptions and calculations. GHG emissions are taken into account, as well as the Life Cycle Assessment emissions and not only the stack emissions.

Figure 4 Electricity production footprint by EU Member State and UK for 2000-2010 and 2019 in gCO₂eq/kWh of electricity



Source: Bioenergy Europe calculations based on the 2018 gross electricity generation from Eurostat, the median GHG emission factor of the IPCC 2014, Tomorrow - ElectricityMap, Paolini et al. (2018), RED II values with Bioenergy Europe assumptions and calculations.

It has to be noted that the above figures look at the footprint of the electricity production and not the consumption, therefore the potential impact of imports is not addressed. The Lithuanian electricity footprint increased when comparing 2000 and 2010 because of the phasing out of nuclear electricity generation in 2010. This choice resulted in a contraction of total electricity generation from around 1000 ktoe in 2000 to 322 ktoe in 2019, and therefore induced growing of the electricity imports. For other countries such as Latvia, the carbon footprint increased. In Latvia the total generation was relatively low in 2000 and mainly based on renewables (e.g. mainly hydro). Since 2000, electricity consumption has increased, and the additional capacity installed to cover the demand was fossil-based. (e.g. natural gas).

Despite the fact that the carbon footprint of EU electricity is decreasing, the figures show that natural gas has partly filled in the gap left by the reduction of nuclear and fossil-based electricity production. Natural gas is, after nuclear, the second most important fuel for electricity production in EU27 for the first time in 2019. It is evident that natural gas is playing a predominant role in the high carbon footprint of the electricity production. Although less polluting than oil and coal, natural gas cannot be considered as a clean fuel. The future challenge towards carbon neutrality in Europe will be to phase out fossil gas that is currently substituting coal at large scale.

Considering the persisting and significant carbon intensity of the electricity produced in the EU, we may pose a question if electrification of heating and transport sectors are the right way forward? Increasing demand of electricity would most likely mean that reducing carbon intensity will be further prolonged.

Table 3 Final electricity consumption and electricity import/export by EU Member State and UK in 2019 (TWh)

Country	Final consumption (TWh)		Export (TWh)	Import (TWh)	Balance (Export - Import)
	2019	2018			
EU27	23,490	23,312	21,792	21,792	0
Growth rate (2018-2019)	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	-	-
EU27+UK	23,490	23,312	21,817	21,817	0.07%
Growth rate (2018-2019)	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	-	-
AT	1,461	1,471	2,240	0	-779
BE	1,098	1,078	1,090	0	0
BG	2,090	2,010	0	0	0
CY	499	499	0	0	0
CZ	1,025	1,078	940	0	-85
DE	42,800	42,018	2,000	0	-2,000
DK	2,480	2,470	0	0	0
EE	629	629	0	0	0
ES	4,314	4,314	0	0	0
FI	25,238	25,238	0	0	0
FR	7,021	7,021	0	0	0
GR	27,242	27,242	0	0	0
HU	1,389	1,389	0	0	0
IE	2,467	2,467	0	0	0
IT	2,499	2,499	0	0	0
LT	25,222	25,222	0	0	0
LU	909	909	0	0	0
LV	100	100	0	0	0
NL	1,112	1,112	0	0	0
PL	214	214	0	0	0
PT	9,420	9,420	0	0	0
RO	12,079	12,079	0	0	0
SI	4,227	4,227	0	0	0
SK	2,828	2,828	0	0	0
SE	22,712	22,712	0	0	0
UK	1,176	1,176	0	0	0
EU	2,399	2,399	0	0	0
UK	25,098	25,098	21,817	21,817	-3,281

There are no exports for the EU27 and the UK, as exports to non-EU countries. Source: Eurostat

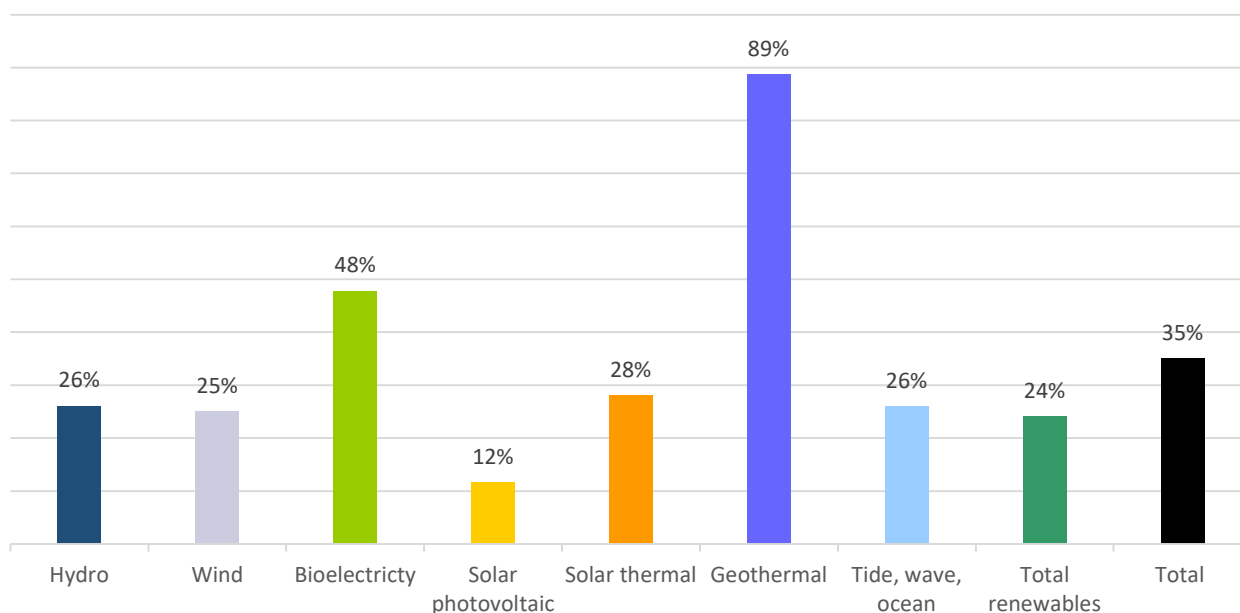
Luxembourg and Lithuania mainly rely on imports for their electricity consumption (92% and 88% respectively) and in absolute terms Italy remains the biggest importer of electricity. Croatia, Malta, Hungary, and Finland are net importers for more than 20% of their consumption. The three main exporters in absolute terms are France, Germany, and Sweden.

Table 6 Total electrical installed capacity and electrical capacity for renewables in EU Member States and UK in 2019 (2019) – with growth rate

	Total	Total renewable	Nuclear	Wind on shore	Wind offshore	Hydroelectricity	Solar photovoltaic	Solar thermal	Geothermal	Total waste, other
2019	407,398	476,827	106,951	105,125	10,827	27,098	116,478	2,798	668	218
Growth rate (2018-2019)	1.8%	6.2%	0.8%	5.8%	14.8%	3.2%	16.2%	0.8%	0.8%	-1.8%
2017-18	1,492,198	106,827	107,000	100,000	21,000	60,000	110,000	2,700	600	210
Growth rate (2016-2017)	1.8%	6.2%	0.8%	5.8%	17.8%	3.2%	16.2%	0.8%	0.8%	-1.8%
AT	25,800	25,800	24,907	3,205	0	1,500	1,700	0	0	0
BE	24,000	20,000	1,400	1,000	1,000	1,000	4,600	0	0	0
BG	11,200	1,200	1,076	700	0	0	1,000	0	0	0
BY	1,800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZ	22,000	1,000	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DE	226,800	226,800	20,700	20,000	7,000	21,000	60,000	0	0	0
DK	25,200	0	0	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	0	0
EE	2,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ES	20,478	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
FR	106,070	0	20,100	20,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
GR	27,470	7,000	1,070	2,000	70	2,000	0	0	0	0
HR	106,200	0	20,000	20,000	0	2,000	20,700	0	0	200
HU	1,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
IT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NL	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PL	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PT	21,070	24,000	7,000	1,000	0	700	0	0	0	0
RO	20,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SE	10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SI	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SK	1,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
UK	106,000	106,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EU	106,000	106,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: Eurostat

Figure 5 Average load factor* for the different renewable technologies and for the total installed capacities in the EU27 in 2019



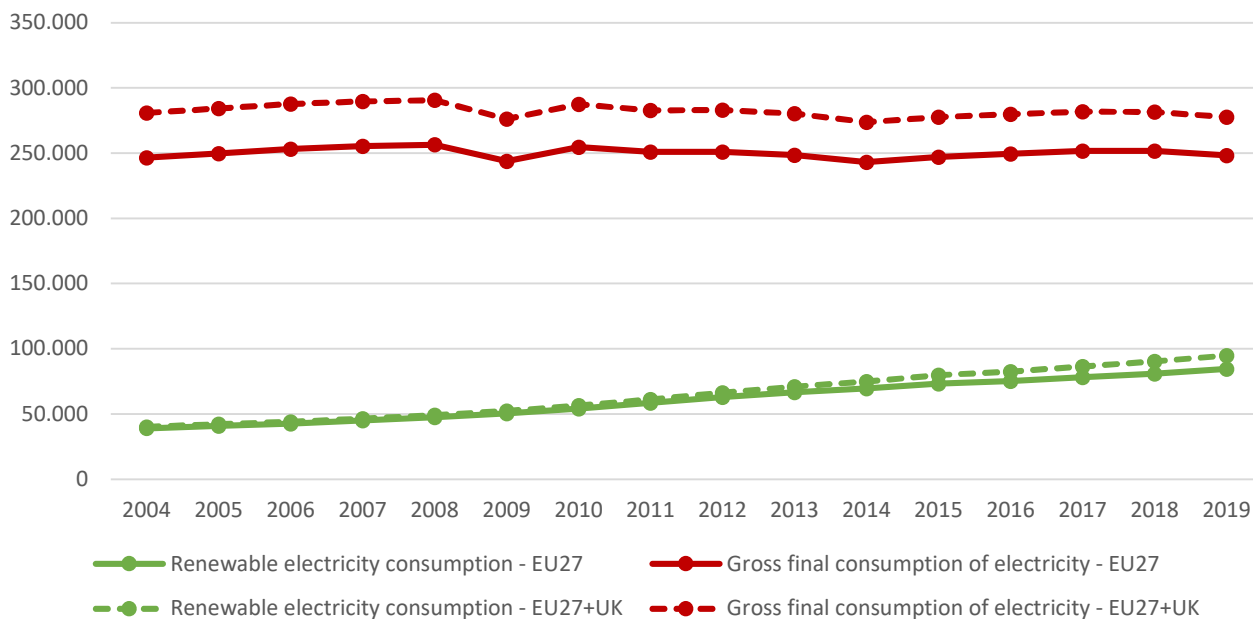
*The load factor represents the percentage of the time equivalent (annual average) during which the unit is operating at its nominal capacity.

Note: Total considers all the electricity sources and technologies.

Source: Eurostat and Bioenergy Europe's calculations

Bioelectricity's load factor is twice higher than the average for renewables. Indeed, bioelectricity is dispatchable and allows to adjust production to stabilize the grid. The stability and reliability of the grid is a big challenge for the energy transition due to the large increase of non-dispatchable/intermittent technologies (wind and solar). However, bioelectricity is a very viable solution for the EU being a dispatchable, flexible, not site-specific, and affordable technology. Bioelectricity generation has experienced the third largest growth rate within renewables in terms of installed capacity, proving that the advantages of bioelectricity technologies are already being recognized. The intermittency of wind and sun induces a lower load factor for technologies exploiting those energy sources, meaning that for producing the same amount of electricity, more installed capacity will be needed, that could lead to overcapacity in certain circumstances, as electricity is hard to store. This happens in cases of strong wind and high sunshine. Maintenance and grid management for stability will be more challenging as the share of intermittent sources is increasing. Furthermore, when the production is non-dispatchable, storage solutions might be needed, increasing the overall costs. Therefore biopower is complementary with the long-term power system development marked by increased share of intermittent power production.

Figure 6 Evolution of the gross final consumption of electricity and gross final consumption of electricity from renewable sources in EU27 and EU27+UK (ktoe)*



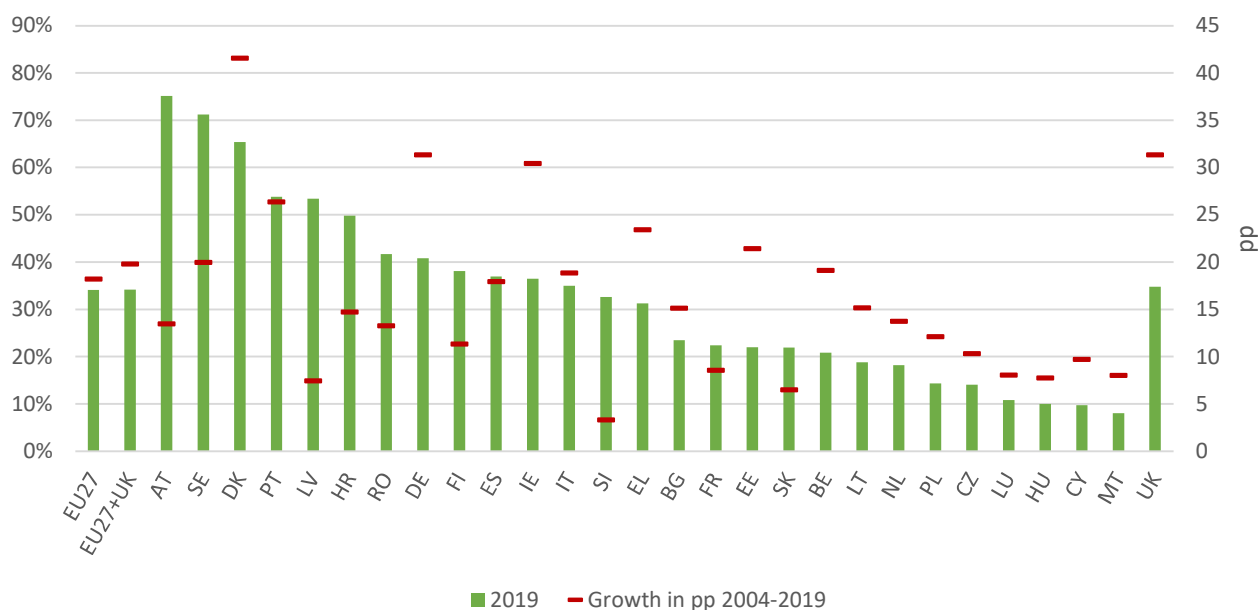
* Gross final consumption of electricity is calculated according to the methodology established by Directive 2009/28/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008.

Source: Eurostat, SHARES 2019

The renewable energy share in the power sector keeps growing steadily for the past years reaching a share of 34% for 2019. The share of renewables in the amount of electricity gross final consumption more than doubled between 2004 and 2018 (from 14,3% in 2004 to 34,3% in 2019), being the sector where renewables have experienced the largest increase. Bioenergy comes with a respectable share of 16% among renewables for EU27.

Yet, Figure 6 also shows there is still a large gap to be filled to achieve 100% renewable electricity; further efforts are needed, such as an increased Carbon price in the ETS or a phase-out of direct and indirect subsidies to fossil fuels. Today and in the near future, electrification is by no means equal to decarbonisation at the EU27 scale.

Figure 7 Share of renewables in gross final consumption of electricity* in EU Member States and UK in 2019 (%) and growth of this share between 2004 and 2019 (in percentage points)

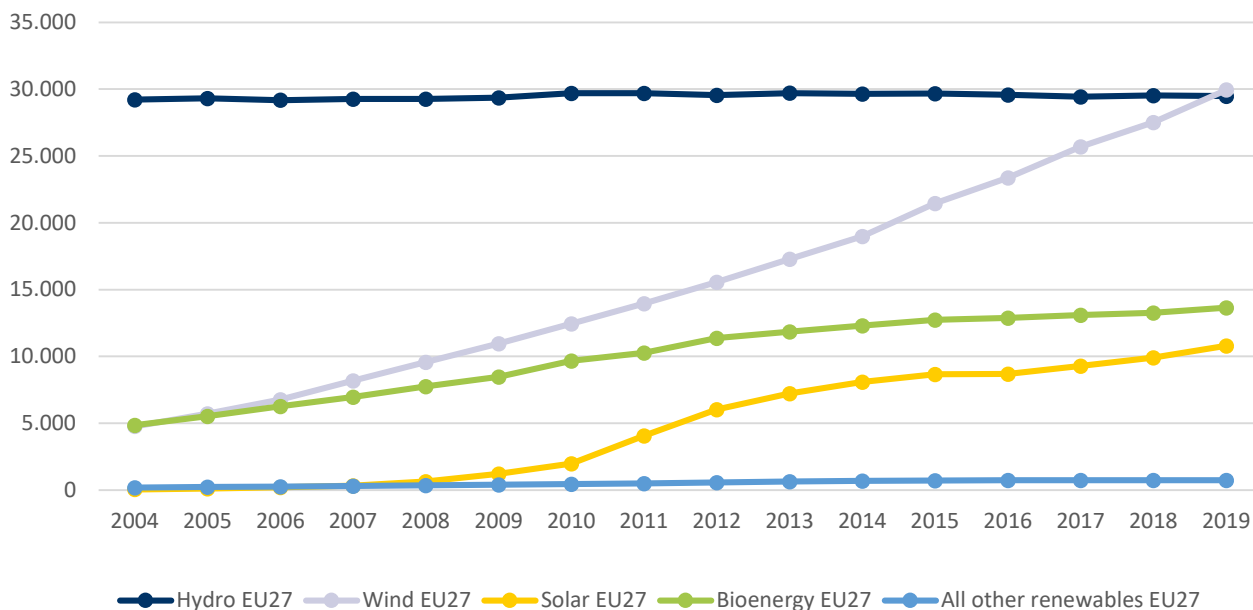


* Calculated according to the methodology established in Directive 2009/28/EC and also Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008.

Source: Eurostat, SHARE 2019 (with wind and hydro normalised and pumped hydro excluded)

As Figure 7 shows, there are still significant divergences between Member States with respect to the deployment of renewable electricity in Europe. Austria, Sweden, Denmark, and Portugal are leading for the share of renewables in gross final consumption of electricity. Hydropower is the main contributor for Austria and Sweden, while it is wind power for Denmark and Portugal (Cf Table 4). Bioelectricity also has an important role in these four countries as it represents their second or third main source of renewable electricity. Denmark, Finland, and Estonia have the biggest share of bioenergy (Cf Table 4) among renewables, 20%, 19% and 17%, respectively. It has to be noted that Figure 7 expresses the contribution of renewables in relative terms; in absolute terms the top countries producing the most renewable electricity are Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Sweden, and Austria (Cf Table 4).

Figure 8 Evolution of gross final consumption of electricity from renewable sources* in EU27 and EU27+UK between 2004 and 2019 (ktoe)



* Calculated according to the methodology established on Directive 2009/28/EC and also Regulation (EC) No 1099/2008.

Note: Wind and hydro are normalised to smoothen the annual changes due to weather conditions – that is the reason why the data is not exactly matching the one presented in table 4. More information about normalised production is available in the [SHARES Tool Manual](#).

Solar include both solar PV and concentrated solar plants. All other renewables include electricity generation from geothermal and tide, wave & ocean.

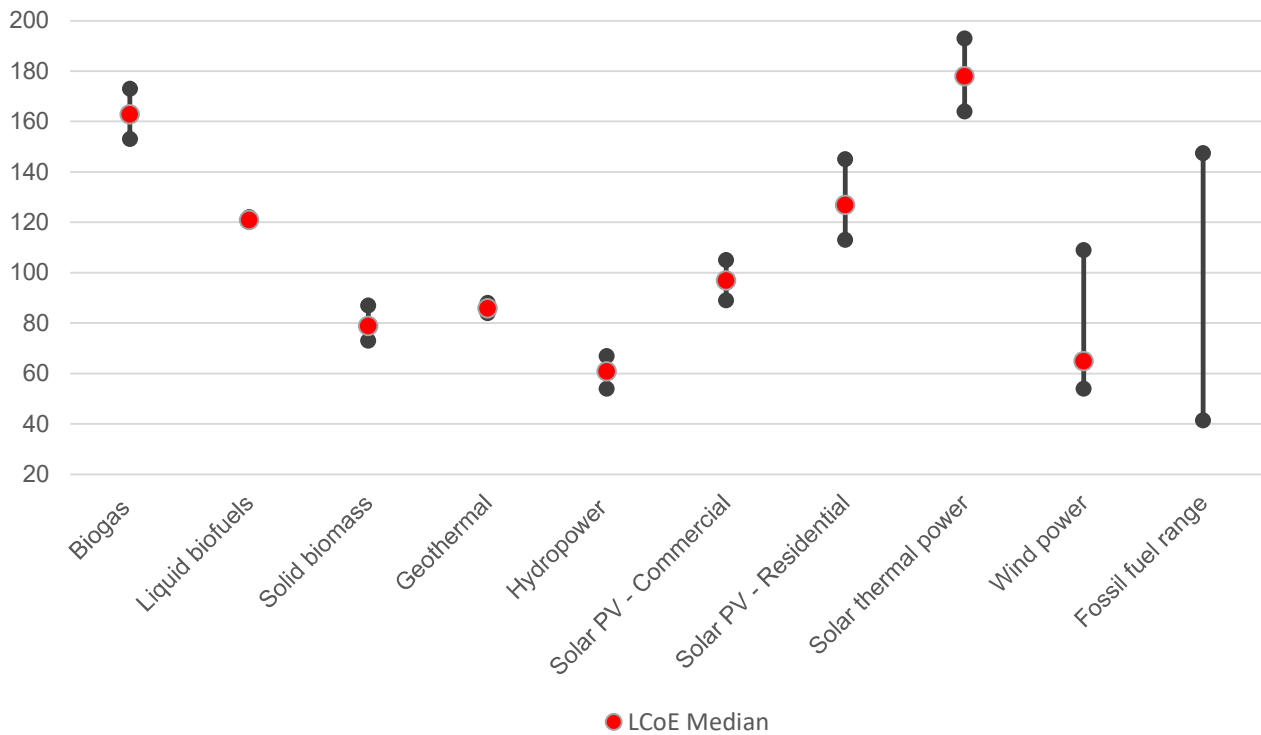
Source: Eurostat, SHARES 2019, and Bioenergy Europe’s calculations

The fast growth of wind farms has resulted in slightly overpassing the hydro power plants in 2019. Renewable electricity sources like wind and solar lead the growth in the power sector, but because of their variable nature, they require flexible and dispatchable electricity generation to complement them. Bioenergy power plants (solid, liquid, or gaseous) can serve as baseload units or, most crucial, as peak load units and provide stability to the grid. The grid stability is of great importance when variable energy sources (wind and solar) are in high shares.

It is also interesting to note the decentralisation trend of energy production, which allows the consumer to be put at the centre of the energy system. Not only in the heat sector, where decentralised production of bioheat has an important role to play, but also in the electricity sector where micro- and medium-scale CHP can play an important role in empowering citizens and other electricity consumers in the fight against climate change.

In the years to come, the role of dispatchable and flexible sources of electricity such as bioenergy, will be increasingly important to bring stability to electricity grids and facilitate the fast deployment of other variable sources of renewable electricity.

Figure 9 Levelised cost of electricity for different renewable technologies compared with the range cost for fossil fuel technologies (€/MWh).



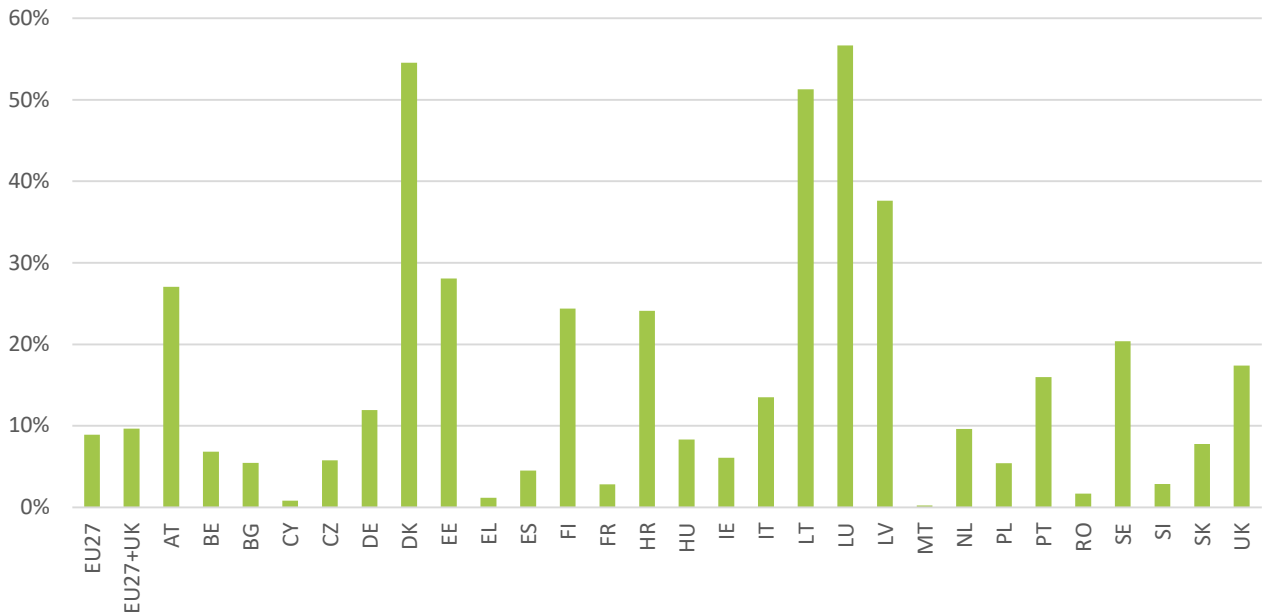
Source: Euroobserver 2018 (for renewables) and Irena (for the range of fossil fuel costs)

Figure 9 shows that bioelectricity is competitive. Indeed, generally the LCOEs of bioelectricity technologies are in the range of fossil fuels, except for biogas technologies where cost reductions are expected. It has to be noted that the range of cost for biomass technologies may be in reality very large (more than what is shown in Figure 9) depending on the technologies, feedstock and geographical conditions considered. The limitations of LCOE should also be acknowledged: while it allows for a simple comparison of technologies with varied features, it does not cover the “how, when and where” of electricity production, which in turn means that the utility of the produced electricity is not considered, there is no distinction between units that are flexible and dispatchable (able to adapt their production to the actual needs of the grid), nor the place of production (grid connection and losses). Furthermore, none of the social and environmental externalities are included in the LCOEs which would lead to a decrease of the performance of the fossil fuel technologies. Additionally, the levelised cost of electricity does not consider the potential valuation of heat within CHP plants which would lead to more advantageous results.

Considering these limits of the LCOEs, the analysis leads to even better results for bioelectricity technologies as they use renewable fuels and are flexible, dispatchable technologies. Additionally, they generally value heat with co-generation plants.

2. Bioelectricity in Europe

Figure 10 Share of biomass fuels within the fuel inputs for electricity generation considering conventional thermal energy sources* and biomass fuels per country in 2019



*i.e. fossil fuels, nuclear and non-renewable waste inputs.

Source: Eurostat

In Luxembourg, Denmark and Lithuania, biomass fuels represent more than 50% of all conventional thermal sources used for electricity production (i.e. not considering wind, hydro, solar, and tide, wave, ocean and geothermal). Luxembourg imports most of its electricity, and thus has low total fuels inputs for electricity generation. In Denmark, Lithuania and Latvia 100% of the bioelectricity is produced from CHP. Latvia's percentage is high because hydro is not accounted and is a large part of their electricity generation.

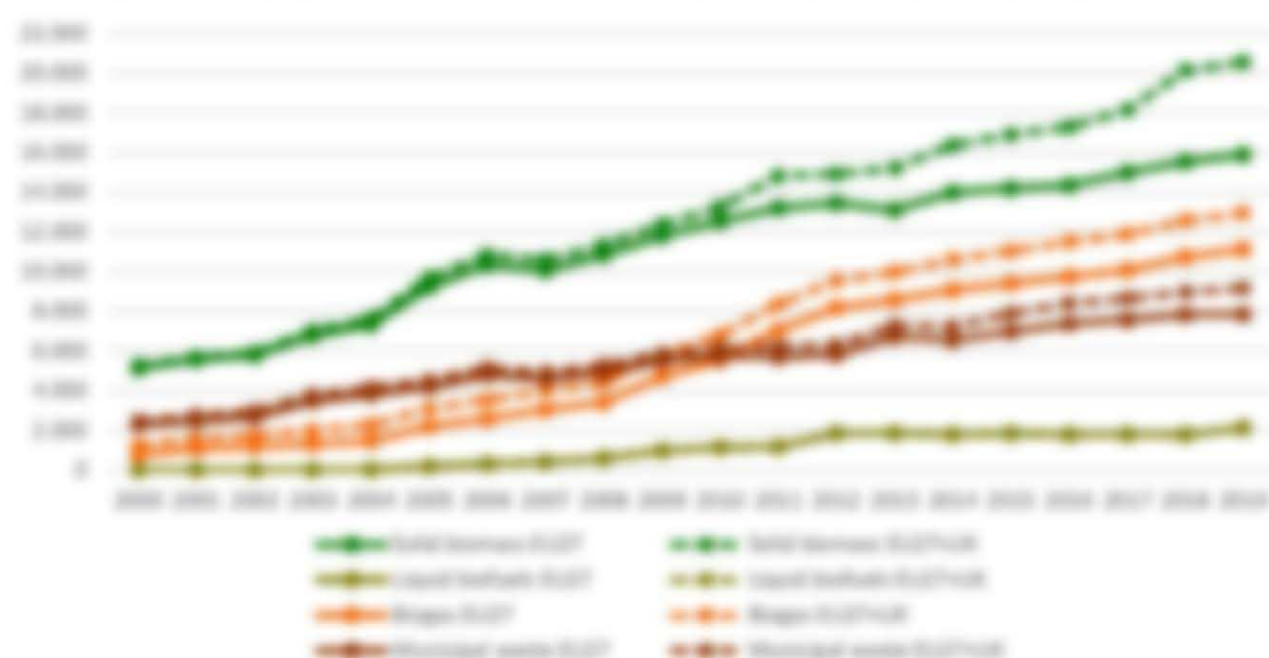
Table 7 Fuel inputs for electricity generation in EU Member States and UK in 2027 (MWh)

EU27	TWh				
	Total	Fossil	Nuclear	Renewable	Waste
EU27	41,405	24,448	16,408	1,751	1,000
EU27+UK	50,719	29,221	17,541	2,071	1,066
AT	1,201	439	177	109	0
BE	1,100	666	104	272	20
BG	512	491	44	14	0
CY	0	0	0	0	0
CZ	1,190	689	402	99	0
DE	22,408	2,019	1,408	1,176	61
DK	2,046	1,412	133	401	0
EE	149	138	1	20	0
ES	100	10	60	0	0
FI	1,425	1,174	199	201	0
FR	2,868	2,100	77	207	1
GR	2,808	1,901	601	1,066	0
HR	290	210	60	0	0
HU	624	510	10	10	0
IE	212	17	40	66	0
IT	1,421	1,709	1,006	679	610
LT	101	107	60	14	0
LU	109	61	12	14	0
LV	343	271	70	0	0
MT	1	0	1	0	0
NL	1,410	611	129	670	0
PL	1,860	1,405	206	49	1
PT	611	710	70	130	1
RO	101	100	0	0	0
SE	4,064	1,471	0	760	10
SI	70	10	20	0	1
SK	400	310	120	10	0
UK	6,004	4,710	2,177	1,064	0

Source: Eurostat

Total biomass represents 10% of the fuel inputs for electricity in the EU27 in 2027, followed by lignite (2%) and renewable waste (2%). Romania (20%), Greece (20%) and Bulgaria (20%) share the top three countries among EU27 with highest total biomass shares for electricity.

Figure 22: Evolution of electricity capacity from business plants by type in the EU27 and EU as a whole



Key issues

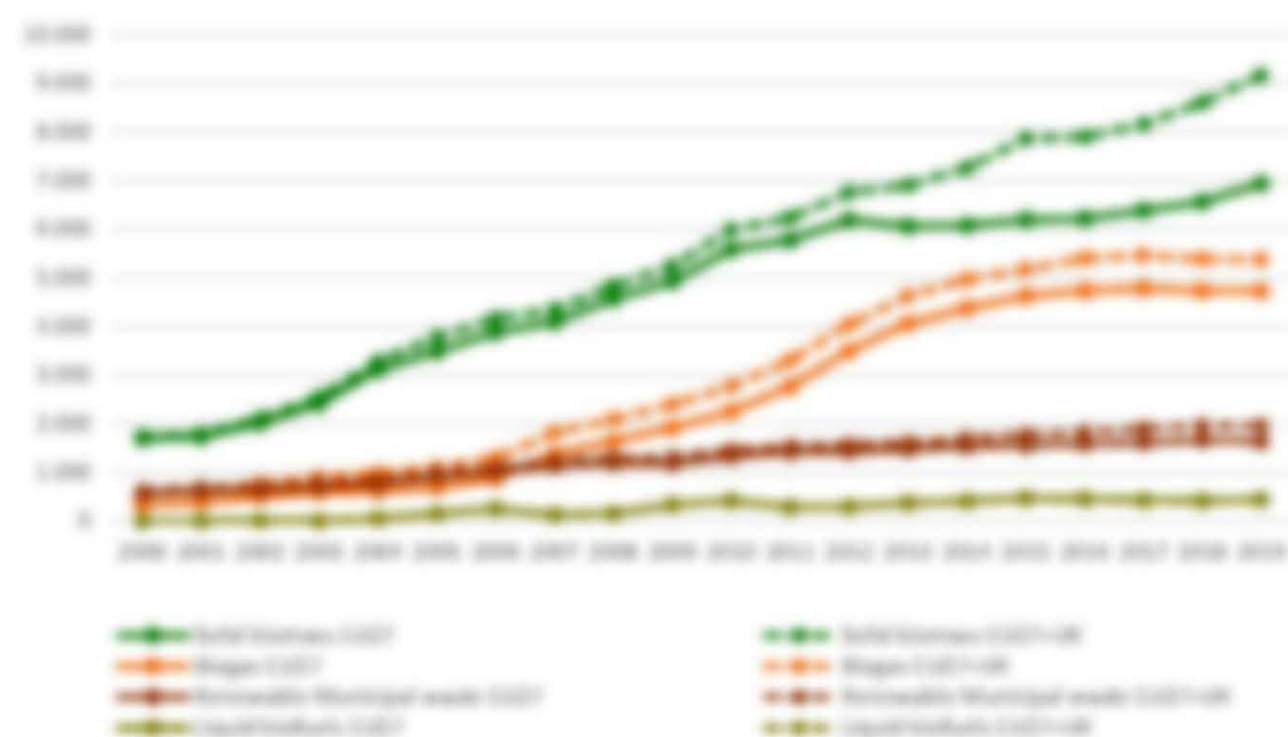
Following the adoption of the first Renewable Energy Directive, electricity increased over the last decade, with particularly strong growth rates for shops and utility business. Future growth trends of electricity may be reinforced by the continued effect of the cost phase out strategies, and increasing need for the clean and dispatchable generation capacity, needed to stabilise the energy system increasingly dependent on intermittent RES. On the other hand, some underlying the growth of electricity may be lack of legal certainty concerning EU's renewable policy.

Table 2 Electrical capacity from biomass plants by type in EU Member States and UK in 2020 (in MW) with average EU Member States and UK load factor

	EU	EU	EU	EU	EU
	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020
Capacity (MW)	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020	27, 2020
Load factor (%)	40%	50%	50%	50%	50%
EU27-UK	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020
Capacity (MW)	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020	44, 2020
Load factor (%)	40%	50%	50%	50%	50%
AT	1, 2020	812	260	240	1
BE	1, 2020	138	287	210	40
BG	17	24	30	0	0
CY	10	0	10	0	0
CZ	817	898	868	50	0
DK	11, 2020	1, 2020	7, 2020	1, 2020	200
EE	1, 2020	1, 2020	138	817	0
ES	258	280	4	170	0
FI	40	14	70	0	0
FR	1, 2020	710	270	200	4
GR	1, 2020	1, 2020	0	138	0
HR	1, 2020	878	300	800	0
HU	127	70	10	0	0
IE	408	878	70	40	0
IT	138	7	10	40	0
LT	1, 2020	718	1, 2020	710	808
LU	112	40	30	14	0
LV	40	30	10	17	0
NL	138	87	40	0	0
PL	0	0	0	0	0
PT	1, 2020	210	138	718	0
RO	1, 2020	710	210	40	0
SE	710	138	70	40	0
SI	138	138	30	0	0
SK	1, 2020	1, 2020	0	1, 2020	808
UK	40	40	30	0	1
EU	210	138	40	10	0
EU	7, 2020	4, 2020	1, 2020	1, 2020	0

Note: electrical capacity from CHP units are included - considering the net maximum electrical capacity from [European CHP plants](#)
 Maximum capacity - installed capacity could also include non-renewable thermal capacity
 Source: Eurostat

Figure 22 Evolution of the gross electricity generation from biomass by type in the EU27 and EU (2004)



Key facts

Biogas used for electricity is increasing, while its other uses are increasing, mainly its final consumption in the industrial and agricultural sector but also in commercial & public services. This process corresponds to the end of support measures to biogas based production of electricity and to the new national targets of biogas in the heating sector or biomethane use in transport and/or injection in the natural gas grid. Total biomass continues to grow with a rhythm of 1% per year, two times more than the two past years.

Figure 23 Gross electricity generation from biomass by type in the EU27 and EU in 2020 (TWh)



Key facts

Table 3: Green electricity generation from biomass in the Member States and EU in 2022 (TWh), with growth rate

	Total TWh	Growth rate 2022/2021	Total TWh	EU-27	Renewable percentage	Total TWh
EU-27	14,752	1.7%	8,360	8,128	1,000	80
Biomass	14,752	-	8,360	8,128	1,000	80
Growth rate 2022/2021	1.7%	-	1.7%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
EU-28	16,861	1.8%	9,125	8,728	1,002	80
Biomass	16,861	-	9,125	8,728	1,002	80
Growth rate 2022/2021	1.8%	-	1.8%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
AT	66	4.2%	33	33	33	0
BE	11	0.0%	11	11	11	0
BG	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
CY	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0
CZ	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
DE	7,112	1.1%	3,511	3,511	3,511	38
DK	11	0.0%	11	11	11	0
EE	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
ES	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
FR	1,130	0.5%	565	565	565	1
GR	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
HR	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
IE	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
IT	1,130	0.5%	565	565	565	0
LT	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
LU	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
LV	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
MT	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
NL	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
PL	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
PT	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
RO	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
SE	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
SI	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
SK	1	0.0%	1	1	1	0
UK	1,130	0.5%	565	565	565	0

Source: Eurostat

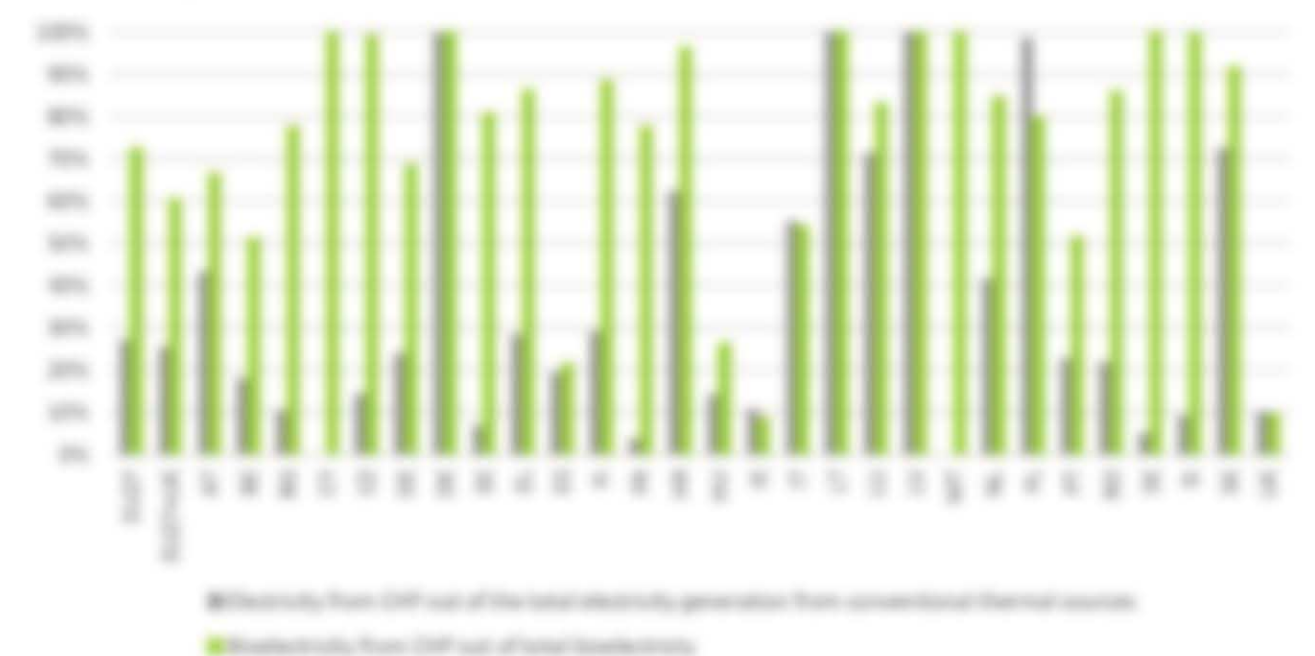
The top 5 EU-27 countries in bioelectricity production (Germany, Italy, Finland, Sweden, and France) represent 60% of the total EU-27 bioelectricity generation. While in Germany and Italy the majority of bioelectricity is produced in a high number of small/medium size biogas plants, the United Kingdom has an alternative model with a limited number of large installations converting woody biomass.

Figure 18 Share of renewable electricity generation out of total gross electricity generation in the Member States and EU in 2022 (%)



Source: Eurostat

Figure 19 Share of gross electricity generation of conventional thermal power plants* produced from CHP and share of renewables produced from CHP in 2022 in the Member States and EU (%)



*Conventional thermal power plants plants producing electricity from gas, coal and oil-based products, nuclear and non-renewable waste
 Source: Eurostat

Most electricity (76% in 2020) is generated in combined heat and power plants. This is the case for 26 of the 27 EU Member States. Spain, Hungary, and Ireland are the only countries with less than 50% of their electricity produced in CHP plants. Cyprus, Lithuania, Latvia, Malta, and Sweden produce electricity only in CHP plants.

In 2020, only 27% of the electricity from conventional thermal sources was generated in CHP. This number reached 10% in 2018 from 14% in 2016 for electricity. This is reflecting the synergies between renewable energies and energy efficiency, and it is a clear indicator of how increasing a strong promoter of energy efficiency. Indeed, it is an important contribution of European research to energy system integration bringing the benefits development of a more circular energy system, as one of the main examples of sector coupling.

Electricity is mostly produced in efficient CHP plants, but it is also important to recognize the role of biomass-only installations when the conditions justify it (e.g. in locations where heat is needed or when smelting of existing installations). In fact, the form of energy needed depends strongly on the local circumstances, suggesting that different approaches should be needed.

In general terms, it should further be noted that CHP electricity plants can apply carbon capture and storage technologies (CCS) making carbon dioxide removal and using biomass as alternative feedstocks for negative emissions.

Table 20 Evolution of electricity generation 2000-2019 in EU Member States and UK (TWh)

	Total electricity			Electricity from electricity only plants			Electricity from CHP plants		
	2000	2010	2019	2000	2010	2019	2000	2010	2019
EU27	2,391	4,398	13,398	875	3,802	3,818	1,718	4,291	9,498
EU27+UK	2,529	10,498	28,282	1,178	4,271	4,711	1,798	4,277	10,128
AT	111	91	418	17	171	117	91	109	271
BE	49	109	170	11	118	110	11	118	110
BG	0	1	118	0	0	118	0	1	118
CY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CZ	41	108	411	14	101	4	31	108	418
DE	171	1,817	4,175	171	1,194	1,817	0	1,793	1,817
DK	112	98	107	0	0	0	112	98	112
EE	1	94	112	0	10	10	1	94	91
ES	0	14	17	0	14	1	0	1	16
FR	118	141	168	11	111	117	118	111	111
GR	141	141	1,111	11	111	111	111	111	1,111
HU	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
IE	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	17
IT	0	111	111	0	111	111	0	111	111
LT	0	17	11	0	11	17	0	1	0
LU	111	111	1,111	111	111	111	111	111	111
LV	0	11	11	0	0	0	0	11	11
NL	1	1	11	0	1	1	0	1	11
PL	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111	111
PT	0	11	11	0	1	1	0	1	11
RO	111	1,111	1,111	0	0	0	111	1,111	1,111
SI	0	11	11	0	1	0	0	11	11
SK	0	17	111	0	0	11	0	17	111
UK	111	1,111	1,111	111	111	1,111	111	111	111

Source: Eurostat

Germany, Italy, and Sweden are taking the first three positions among EU27 countries with the biggest growth for total electricity in absolute figures, while we see the highest proportional increase in Croatia, Slovakia, and Bulgaria since 2000. 55% of the increase in electricity between 2000-2019 corresponds to production in CHP plants. This trend confirms the importance of sound regulatory framework, which is the case of an EU (12) of Renewable Energy Directive, incentivised use of biomass in highly efficient facilities. This is common for all the countries, besides the UK, in which electricity growth was driven by power-only installations. For the same period, Germany, Spain, and Italy had the biggest growth in absolute figures from electricity deriving wholly from power plants. At the same time, Croatia, Hungary, and Poland had the biggest growth in absolute figures. Finally, in regard to the electricity from CHP plants, it was Germany that had the biggest growth in both absolute and relative figures since 2000. Italy and Sweden follow for absolute figures, and Hungary with Slovakia for relative figures.

The Italian and German growths are mainly due to the increase in large capacities. The Polish increase is attributed to small biomass capacities that are predominantly (interfitted, upgraded or new units). Some other countries with no significant electricity production in 2000, such as Estonia, Croatia, or Hungary, are now producing between 4.1% and 11.8% of their electricity from biomass (Figure 18), mainly on small biomass (biomass (SMB) and Hungary (SMB) or large (LMB)). All the countries mentioned above have seen their total fuel bills (oil, coal, & all work for thermal consumption) decreased (compared with 2000) alongside with the increase of electricity and other renewable biomass, electricity generation from natural gas in 2019 is still significant (except for Estonia and Sweden) and other

higher than its 2020 level – explaining its current importance in the electricity footprint (cf. Figure 4) and showing the need for clean and dispatchable units, such as bioelectricity, in the transition to a low-carbon electricity grid.

Table 11. 2020 Bioelectricity production according to the National Energy and Climate Plans (NECPs) in the EU27 Member States (MWh) and growth rate between 2020 and 2030 (%)

	Total bioelectricity in 2020	Total bioelectricity in 2030	Absolute change	Growth rate
AT	418	418	0	0%
BE	461	247	-214	-46%
BG	117	140	23	20%
CY	0	0.4	0.4	0.4
CZ	403	397	-6	-1%
DE	4,818	5,412	594	12%
DK	112	93	-19	-17%
EE	117	100	-17	-15%
ES	0	138	138	100%
FR	478	907	429	90%
GR	1,140	1,178	38	3%
HR	163	0.4	-162	-100%
HU	0	10	10	100%
IE	0	0.4	0.4	0.4
IT	1,480	1,390	-90	-6%
LT	40	40	0	0%
LU	0	0	0	0%
LV	40	0.4	-39	-100%
MT	0	0	0	0%
NL	100	0.4	-99	-100%
PL	461	1,380	919	200%
PT	280	400	120	43%
RO	40	0	-40	-100%
SE	1,120	1,178	58	5%
SI	0	0	0	0%
SK	140	138	-2	-1%

000 t CO₂ means that the information is not available because the data NECPs of these countries is not yet available and that NECPs do not give insight on bioelectricity or that the information is not available in the NECP.

Source: Eurostat, NECP.

It should be noted that Belgium, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Germany, Estonia, and Italy foresee a decrease in total bioelectricity generation for 2030. On the other hand, the highest increase is expected to be seen in Poland, Spain, and Portugal.

Figure 28 ESOZ projection for load electricity for 2020 based on the 2019 trend



Note: In the countries with no data available ESOZ set up public or no data about electricity, the average growth rate observed with the data available was applied. A linear method was used for the calculation of the values in the ESOZ reports according to ESOZ, as there are no reliable representations of the implementation plan of the Member States.

Source: ESOZ, ESOZ and Energy Forecast Committee

Projections show that electricity should reach nearly 12 MWh by 2020 in the ESOZ. The strong rise of electricity during the past decade and the steady growth during the decade clearly demonstrates that Member States are relying on electricity to reach their ESOZ target. An overall increase of around 1.2 MWh is forecasted in the next decade for ESOZ (1.2%). This confirms that Member States are counting on electricity to be part of the future electricity mix and to play a key role in enabling higher intermittent renewable technology penetration rate.

3. Annexes

Table 12 Country codes

EU27	European Union (27 members)
AT	Austria
BE	Belgium
BG	Bulgaria
CY	Cyprus
CZ	Czech Republic
DE	Germany
DK	Denmark
EE	Estonia
EL	Greece
ES	Spain
FI	Finland
FR	France
HR	Croatia
HU	Hungary
IE	Ireland
IT	Italy
LT	Lithuania
LU	Luxembourg
LV	Latvia
MT	Malta
NL	Netherlands
PL	Poland
PT	Portugal
RO	Romania
SE	Sweden
SI	Slovenia
SK	Slovak Republic
UK	United Kingdom

Table 13 Symbols and abbreviations

Symbol	Meaning
,	Decimal separator
.	Thousand
n.a.	Data not available

Table 14 Table decimal prefixes

10 ¹	Deca (da)	10 ⁻¹	Deci (d)
10 ²	Hecto (h)	10 ⁻²	Centi (c)
10 ³	Kilo (k)	10 ⁻³	Milli (m)
10 ⁶	Mega (M)	10 ⁻⁶	Micro (μ)
10 ⁹	Giga (G)	10 ⁻⁹	Nano (n)
10 ¹²	Tera (T)	10 ⁻¹²	Pico (p)
10 ¹⁵	Peta (P)	10 ⁻¹⁵	Femto (f)
10 ¹⁸	Exa (E)	10 ⁻¹⁸	Atto (a)

Table 15 Table general conversion factor for energy

	to			
from	1 MJ	1kWh	1 kg oe	Mcal
1 MJ	1	0,278	0,024	0,239
1 kWh	3,6	1	0,086	0,86
1 kg oe	41,868	11,63	1	10
1 Mcal	4,187	1,163	0,1	1



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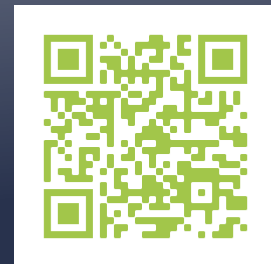
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