
The methanization sector through its instruments. Understanding the multi-scale articulation of sectoral public policies

Antoine Bouzin*¹

¹Centre Émile Durkheim – CNRS, Sciences Po Bordeaux - Institut d'études politiques de Bordeaux,
Université de Bordeaux (Bordeaux, France) – France

Abstract

Since the mid-2010s, we've seen the imposition of a new sectoral frame of reference (Jobert & Muller, 1987) at national level for the methanization field. The dynamic of units injecting biomethane into networks, supported by both private stakeholders (agricultural worlds, gas network managers) and public stakeholders (central, territorial administrations) has in fact resulted in the imposition of a new chaining in the public policy statements in circulation (Zittoun, 2013). This new chain presents methanization as a solution to the energy and climate problem of decarbonization, leaving aside other chains more focused on agro-ecological issues. Reduced in this way and placed in the category of renewable energy sectors, anaerobic digestion is governed by the instruments traditionally used in national public energy policies: feed-in tariffs, evaluation in terms of cost per MWh produced, 5- and 10-year planning, assignment of quantified production targets, *and so on*. However, the local deployment of units and the investment of local authorities and administrations are leading to the implementation of a reference framework for methanization, which is still sector-specific but territorialized. Other instruments are used locally - at regional and/or departmental level - to reorientate, adapt and tinker with the reference framework established at national level. In particular, these instruments aim to link methanization to other local problems: local economic and industrial development, local circulation of the economic value produced, stemming rural and agricultural desertification.

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*Speaker