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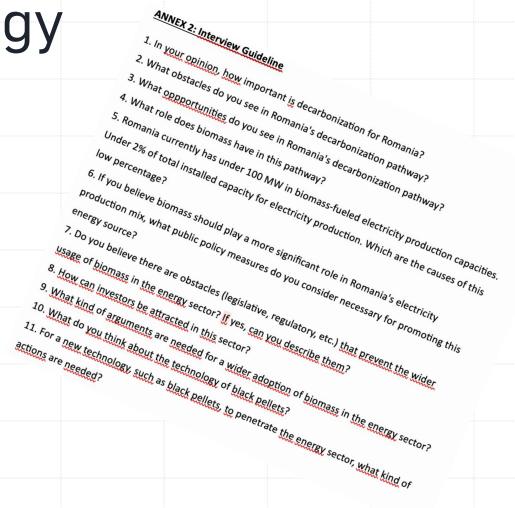
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Objective & methodology

- To determine the perspectives of the main institutional stakeholders and their positioning vis-a-vis environmental and social constraints related to biomass usage in the energy sector
- 6 individual and small group interviews with 13 decision-makers from 6 stakeholders, private and public
- Semi-structured interviews
- Desktop research (political statements & programmes)



Political prioritizatiof of biomass (or lack of it)

- biomass" + "energy" + PSD/ PNL/ UDMR/ USR
 - PSD: biomass is not among the ten energy priorities of the party, priority is preventing illegal logging and ensuring affordable prices for firewood for the population
 - PNL: slightly more favourable e.g.: Law 166/ 2023 (removal of RES obstacles in urban planning legislation, explicit reference to biomass), 2019 political party proposal subsidies to agri producers
 - USR: support the usage of biomass, including organic waste, for heating in rural areas
 - UDMR: no special refernce to biomass, reference that illegal logging has stopped
- Point in case: PL-x nr. 44/2017

Tension environmental – energy – social objectives

- tension between environmental objectives related to biomass (e.g.: forest conservation and curbing illegal logging and deforestation) and using biomass in the energy sector is real
- pro-conservation forestry practices and discouragement of the usage of forestry biomass in the energy sector
- sctual concern is social: biomass will rise prices of heating by reducing wood availability
- political economy constraint: illegal networks of firewood

Points of divergence

- Pro-conservation vs. intensive forest management
- Only scrap is burnt vs. solid wood is burnt
- Which type of forest to prioritize for harvesting
- CO2 absorbtion in old forests
- How much wood is illegaly sold/ how effective SUMAL is
- Politicians make traceability hard vs. industry is playing dirty
- More biomass could be harvested (due to climate change) vs. we are ok

Points of convergence

- Biomass to replace firewood, including informal sales chains
- Forest roads
- Solution of choice: agriculture scrap and energy plants
- Lack of technical know-how at the level of municipalities