

# Global & Regional Market Analysis

NATURAL GAS, 2025

21/01/2026

# STORIES OF THE YEAR 2025

## January

- Russian gas ceased flowing to EU countries through Ukraine on New Year's Day after the expiration of the long-term transit agreement.
- On January 20, President Donald Trump ordered the U.S. to resume processing export permit applications for new LNG projects, reversing President Biden's pause.

## February

- On February 20, Russian forces launched a large-scale drone and missile attack targeting Ukraine's gas infrastructure.
- The EU's Gas Market Correction Mechanism (MCM) ended.

## March

- Plaquemines LNG is increasing its LNG exports, largely driving the global LNG supply growth in Q1 2025.
- The U.S. extended sanctions waivers for Turkey, Hungary, and Slovakia, allowing continued Russian gas purchases and ensuring uninterrupted supply via the TurkStream pipeline until May.

## April

- Hungary increased gas transmission capacity to Slovakia in 2025, raising firm capacity at the Balassagyarmat interconnection to 4.38 bcma after upgrades.
- On April 2, 2025, the U.S. imposed a 10% tariff on all imports and added targeted tariffs on several countries. China responded by raising tariffs on U.S. goods to 125%.

## May

- The EU will propose ending Russian gas and LNG imports by 2027.
- The EU cut its gas storage target from 90% to 83% and extended 2022 rules to 2027, allowing up to 4% deviation but keeping storage above 75%.

## June

- Iranian Parliament voted in favor of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz.
- Hungary's 2025–26 gas entry tariffs will fall by 4.4%, while exit tariffs will rise by 5.1%.

## July

- The EU accepted a 15% US tariff on certain goods, while Trump said the EU will move to zero tariffs, buy \$750 bn in U.S. energy, and invest \$600 bn in the U.S..
- On July 8, the European Parliament approved more flexible regulations requiring gas storage facilities to reach 90% capacity between October 1 and December 1.

## August

- After five years in operation, the Krk FSRU is heading to Türkiye's Kuzey Star shipyard for the installation of an additional regasification module.
- On August 6, 2025, Russia struck a compressor station in Ukraine's Odesa region near the Romanian border.

## September

- As of 9 September, trading on the Baltic and Finnish gas markets moved from the GET Baltic platform to the European Energy Exchange (EEX).
- Shell and MVM CEEnergy signed a 10-year gas supply deal, starting in January 2026. Under the agreement, Shell will deliver about 200 mcm of gas per year.

## October

- Russia stepped up attacks on Ukraine's gas infrastructure, cutting the country's production by at least 50%.
- FGSZ and Transgaz have amended the Interconnection Agreement for the Csanádpalota (RO-HU) border point, raising its technical capacity from 300,000 to 310,000 m³/h in both directions.

## November

- KRK LNG Terminal started its new gasification module, raising capacity to 6.1 bcm and setting a daily delivery record of 9 mcm.
- Greece signed its first long-term US LNG deal with Venture Global for 0.7 bcm/year from 2030.

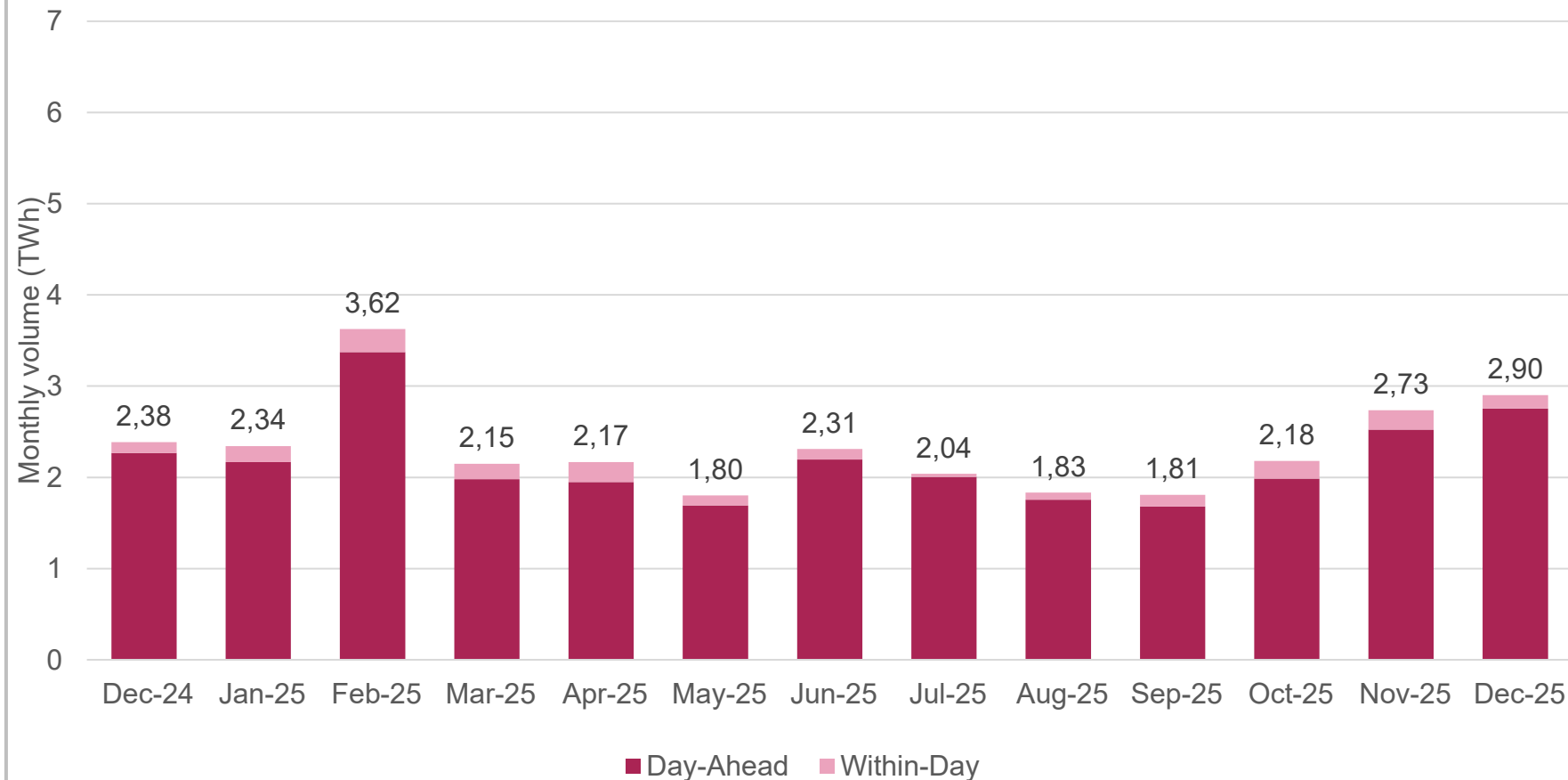
## December

- SOCAR and MVM ONeEnergy have signed a deal to supply Hungary with 800 million cubic meters of natural gas over two years, starting from January 1, 2026.
- The European Parliament approved a ban on Russian pipeline gas imports under long-term contracts starting on September 30, 2027.

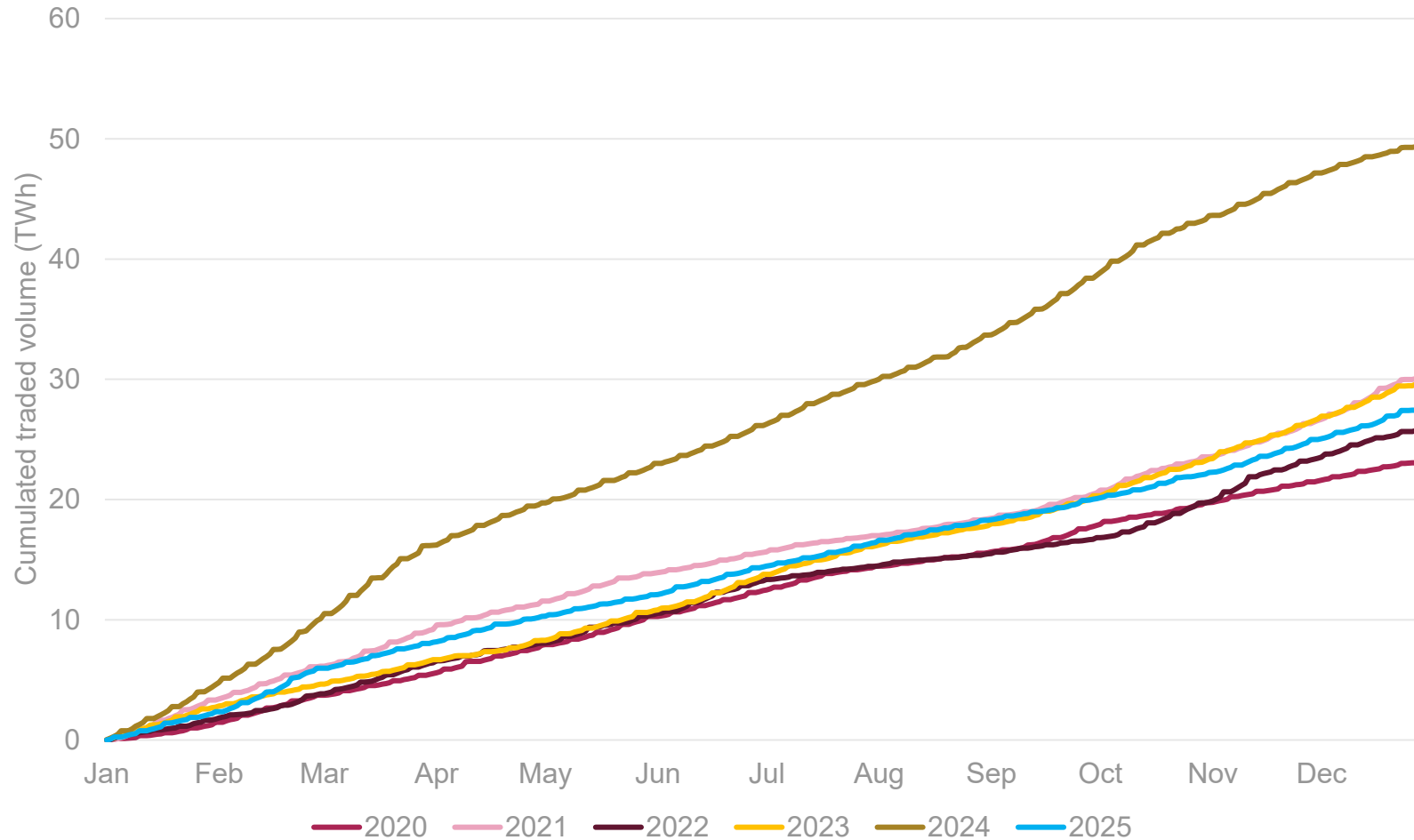
# TRADED VOLUMES

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » **Traded volumes in December increased by 22% YoY and 6% MoM.**
- » **In 2025, monthly average volume decreased by 44% compared to 2024, from 4.1 TWh to 2.3 TWh, aligning more closely with 2023 levels.**
- » **The decline in volume may be explained by higher gas prices on CEEGEX, compared to TTF and CEGH.**
- » **May and August** have been consistently lower in recent years, indicating a **seasonal pattern**.
- » **February was the strongest month of the year**, likely driven by a **reversal in flow direction between Romania and Hungary**.



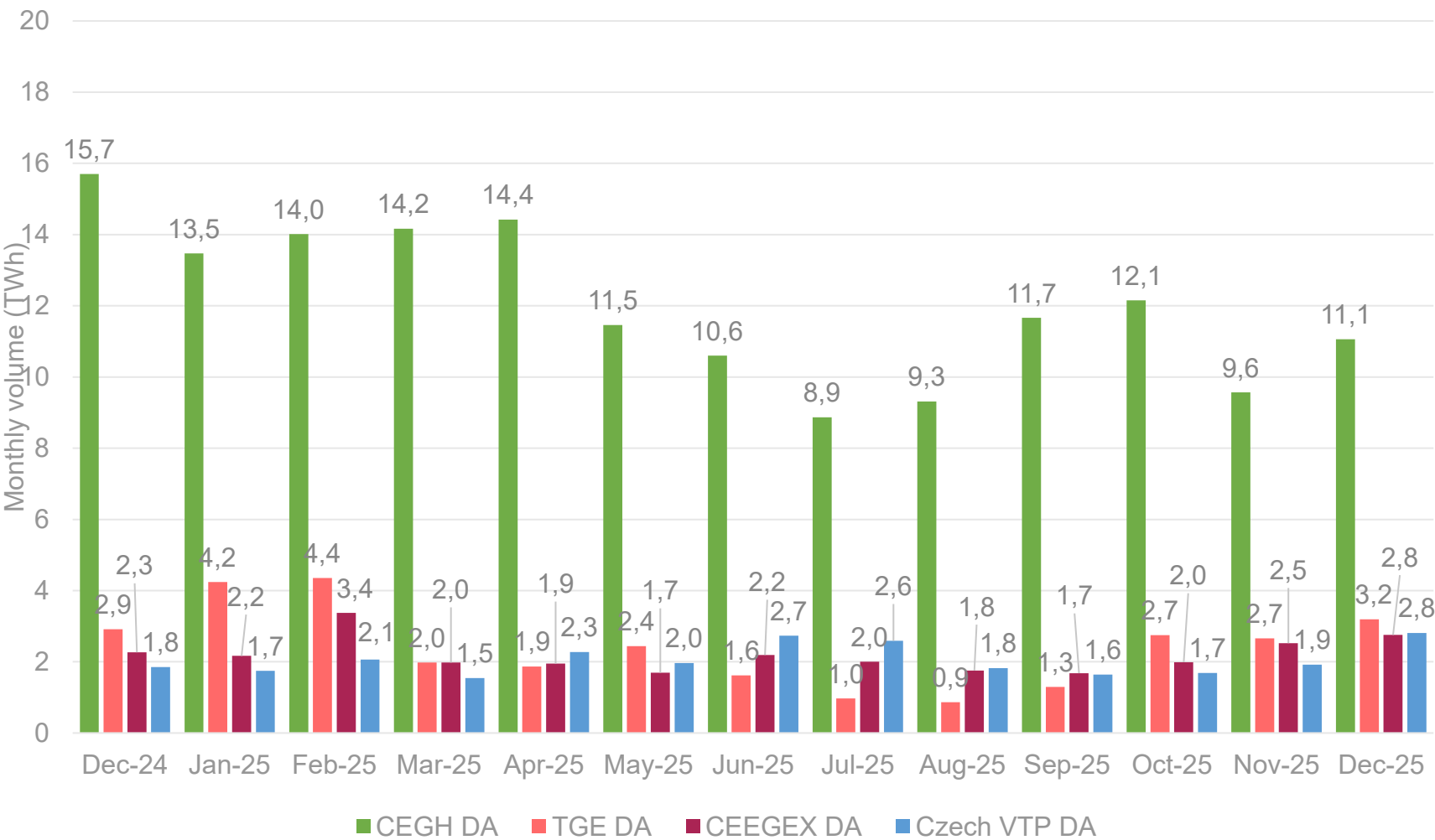
# TRADED VOLUMES YEARLY COMPARISON



## EXPERT OPINION:

- » In 2025, the annual traded volume was 27.9 TWh.
- » Compared to the nearly 50 TWh traded volume in 2024, this represents a decline of approximately 44%. One possible reason for this may be the higher CEEGEX gas prices relative to TTF and CEGH price levels during 2025.
- » Compared to the traded volumes of the four years prior to 2024, the 2025 volume is slightly above average.

# REGIONAL SCOPE DA MARKETS



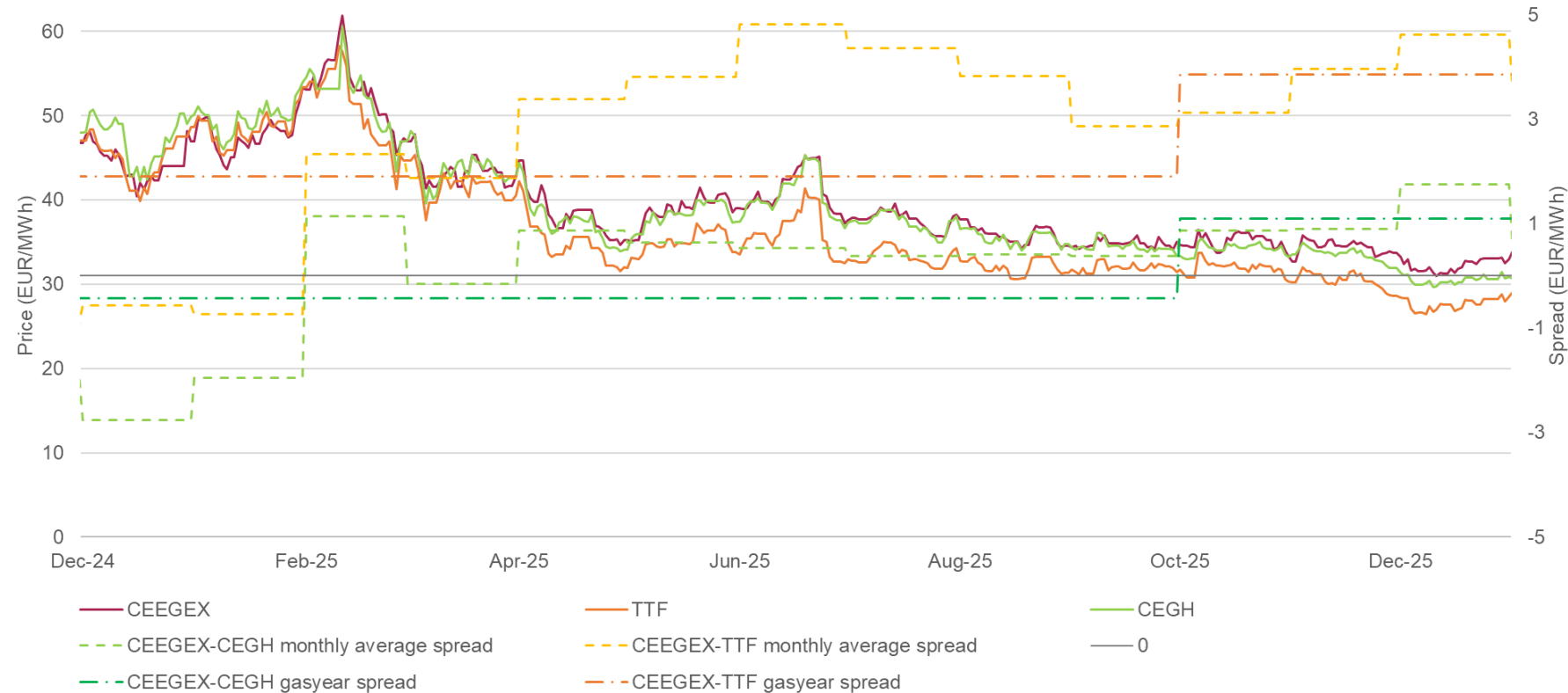
## EXPERT OPINION:

- » From November to December, traded volumes increased on all examined gas exchanges.
- » YoY, CEEGEX December volumes saw an increase of around 22%, while CEGH December volumes decreased by 30%. YoY, Czech VTP volumes increased strongly (56%).
- » On CEGH, the monthly average traded volume declined from 14.1 TWh in 2024 to 11.7 TWh, representing a decrease of around 17%.
- » On the TGE and Czech VTP, traded volumes increased in 2025 compared to 2024.

# TTF, CEGH PRICES AND SPREADS

## EXPERT OPINION:

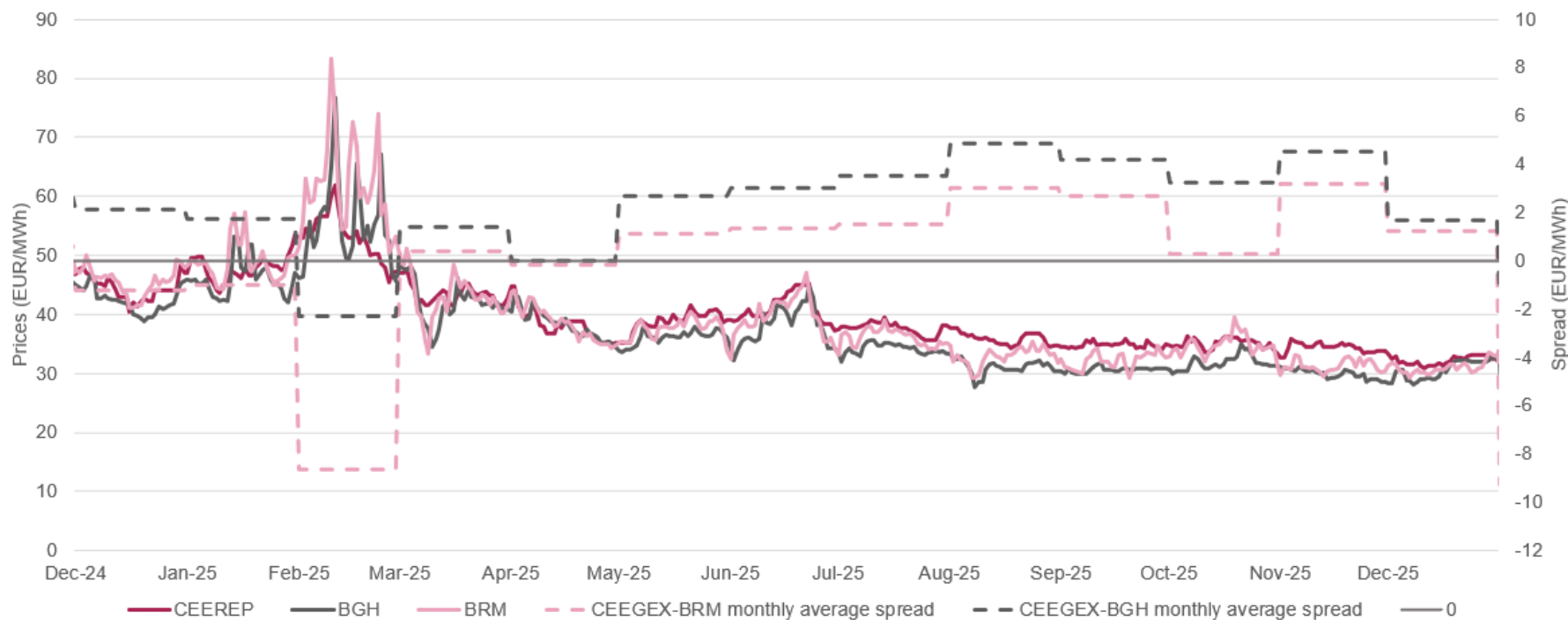
- » Prices showed high volatility throughout the first half of 2025, across all three exchanges examined. CEEGEX and CEGH prices continue to move in alignment, while TTF remains significantly lower.
- » The CEEGEX-TTF spread was between the 3-5 € range from April to the end of the year. The second half of the year was mostly stable with low spread changes.
- » Lower TTF prices were driven by the record volumes of LNG arriving in Western Europe in 2025.
- » The CEEGEX-CEGH spread was relatively stable from April also. It was mostly in the 1-0 € range. The spread got wider at the end of the year.
- » In February 2025, prices were at their highest, as a cold wave drove up European demand, storage levels were low, and Ukraine imported significant volumes of gas from the EU due to Russian attacks on Ukrainian gas infrastructure.



# BRM, BGH PRICES AND SPREADS

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » **BRM** and **BGH** prices spiked in **February** (exceeding 80 EUR/MWh), then stabilized in the 30–40 EUR/MWh range from April onwards.
- » The significant price increase in February was driven by record cold weather in Romania, which led to high demand, relatively low storage levels, and increased import needs in Ukraine, it particularly affected prices in the eastern regions.
- » The **CEEEX-BGH** spread remained mostly positive (2–4 €), showing that BGH prices stayed consistently below **CEEEX** benchmarks.
- » BRM volatility was extreme in Q1 (spread dipping near –€10), but prices converged toward zero spread and stabilized from May.
- » By year-end, all indices aligned between **30–35 EUR/MWh**, showing high correlation and significantly narrowed spreads.



# JAPANESE CANDLES 2025



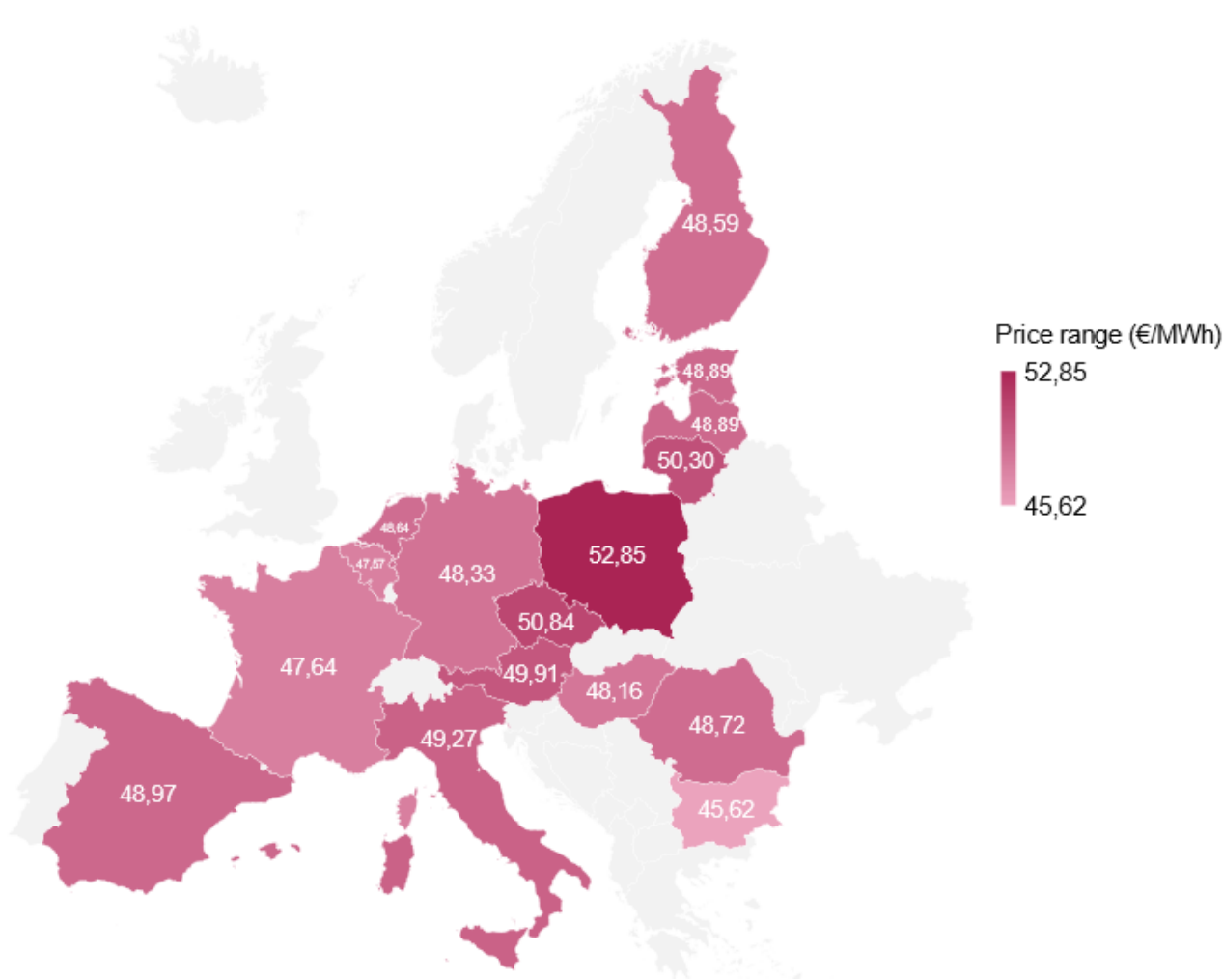
## EXPERT OPINION:

- » Prices showed a stagnating trend towards the second half of the year, mostly around €35/MWh.
- » In February, the price **volatility was the highest** during 2025.
- » The intraday price changes were the most significant in February. The highest was around € 10.

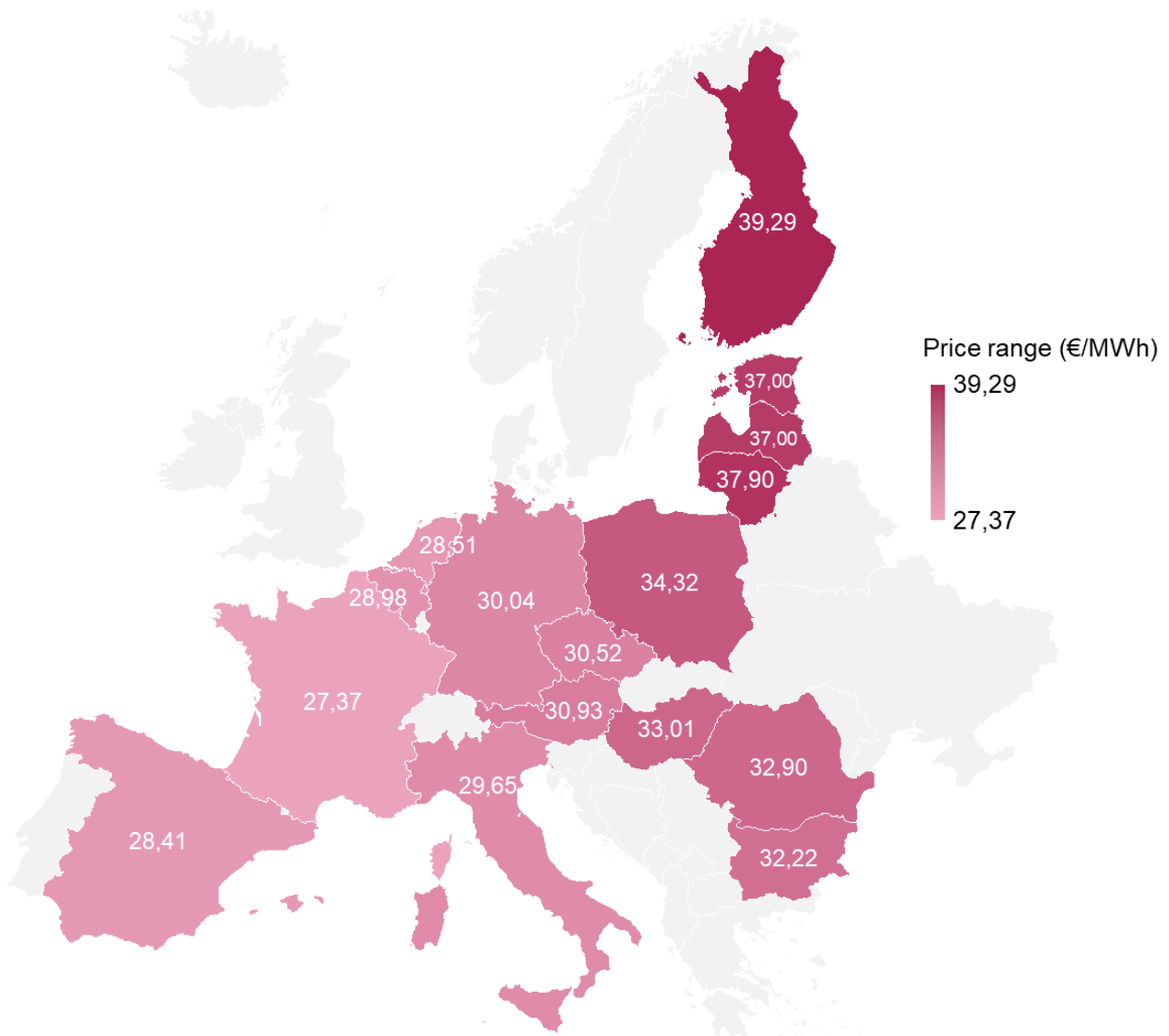


# NATURAL GAS PRICES SNAPSHOT

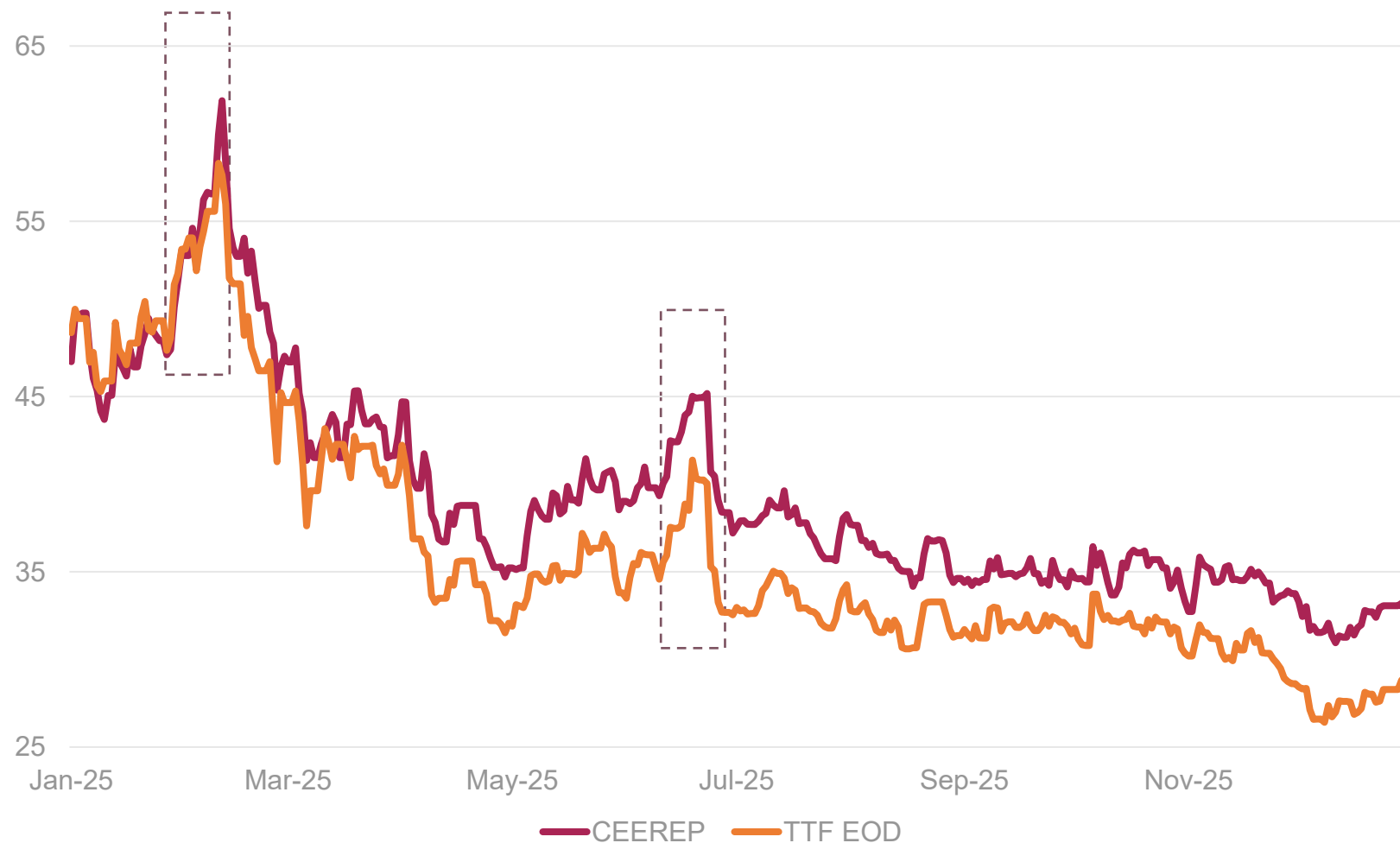
12/29/2024



31/12/2025



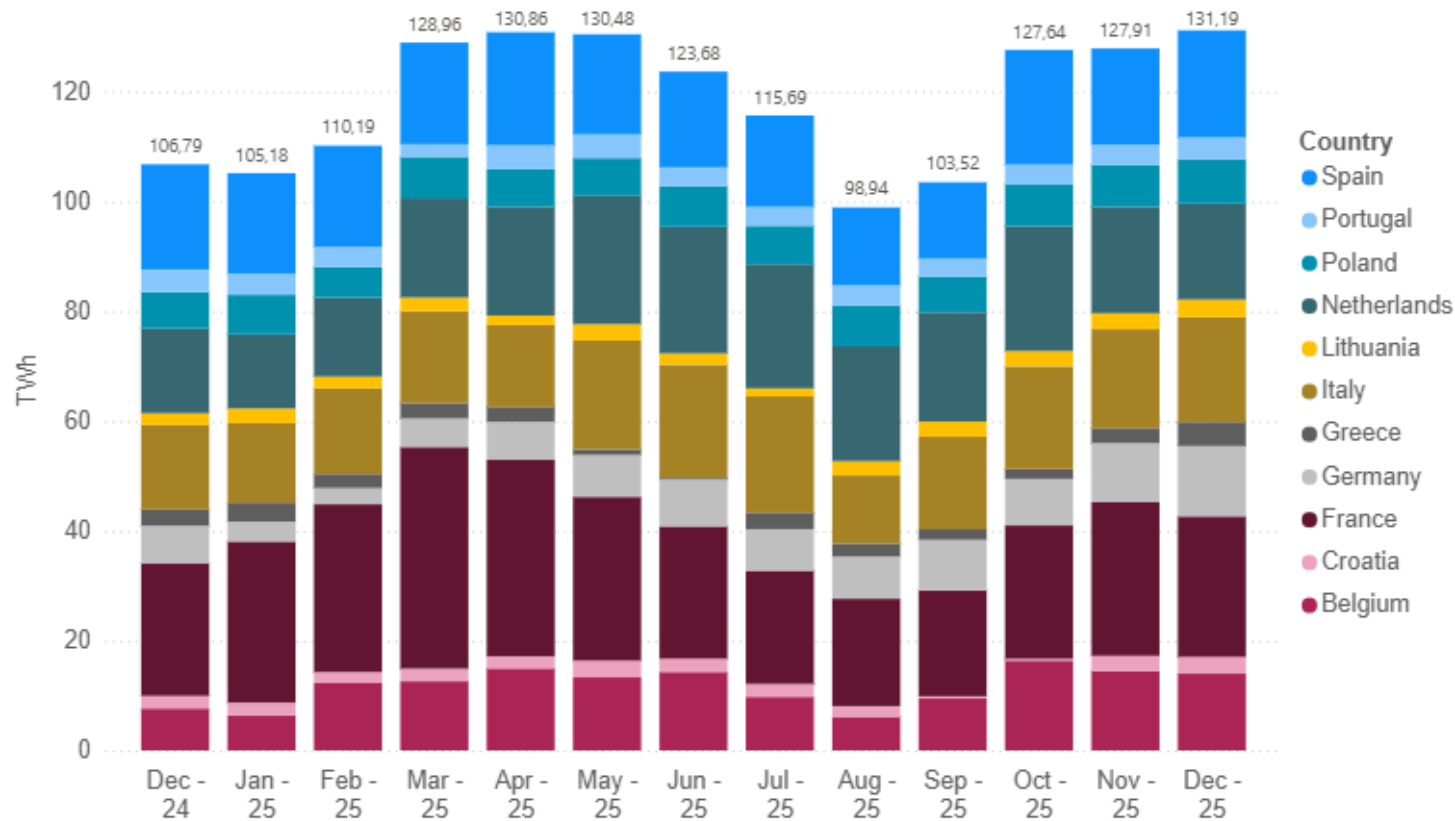
# THE INFLUENCE OF GEOPOLITICS ON GAS PRICES



## EXPERT OPINION:

- » Throughout the year, prices generally **declined** due to strong LNG inflows and easing geopolitical pressures.
- » In February, low storage levels, colder weather, and unplanned outages pushed prices to a 2025 high.
- » In April, **President Trump's tariffs** raised concerns about a global economic slowdown and weaker demand, leading to a decline in prices.
- » In June, as the conflict between Israel and Iran escalated, gas prices jumped on June 19, before U.S. President Donald Trump announced a ceasefire between the two countries on June 23.
- » In June, the EU agreed to loosen its gas storage rules, allowing member states to reach the 90% filling target anytime between October 1 and December 1, with flexibility to deviate by up to 10% in difficult market conditions.
- » News about **peace talks between Russia and Ukraine** has sometimes affected prices throughout the year.

# LNG SEND-OUTS BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES\* MOM

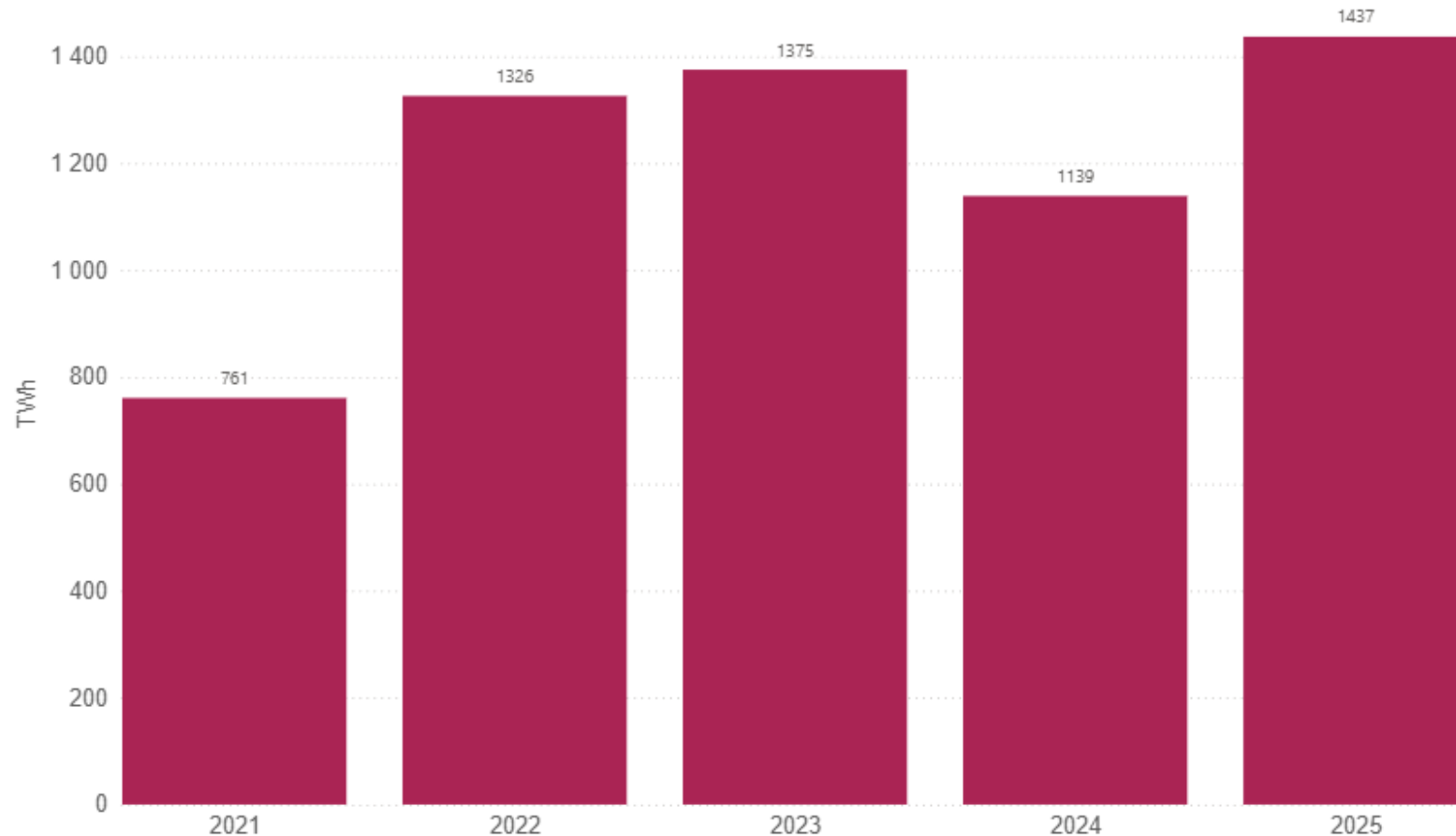


## EXPERT OPINION:

- » **European LNG imports in December hit an all-time high for the month, contributing to record levels for the entire year.**
- » In December, **European LNG imports increased slightly MoM again**, and were up 22% YoY.
- » Asian LNG benchmark prices fell to a 20-month low at the end of the year due to weak demand, as regional buyers cut back on purchases amid milder weather and well-stocked inventories.
  - » This may have contributed to more LNG cargoes being diverted to Europe.
- » The most significant LNG importers in the EU in December were France, Italy, Spain and the Netherlands.

• Excluding UK, Finland (data not available)

# LNG SEND-OUTS BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES\* YOY



• Excluding UK, Finland (data not available)

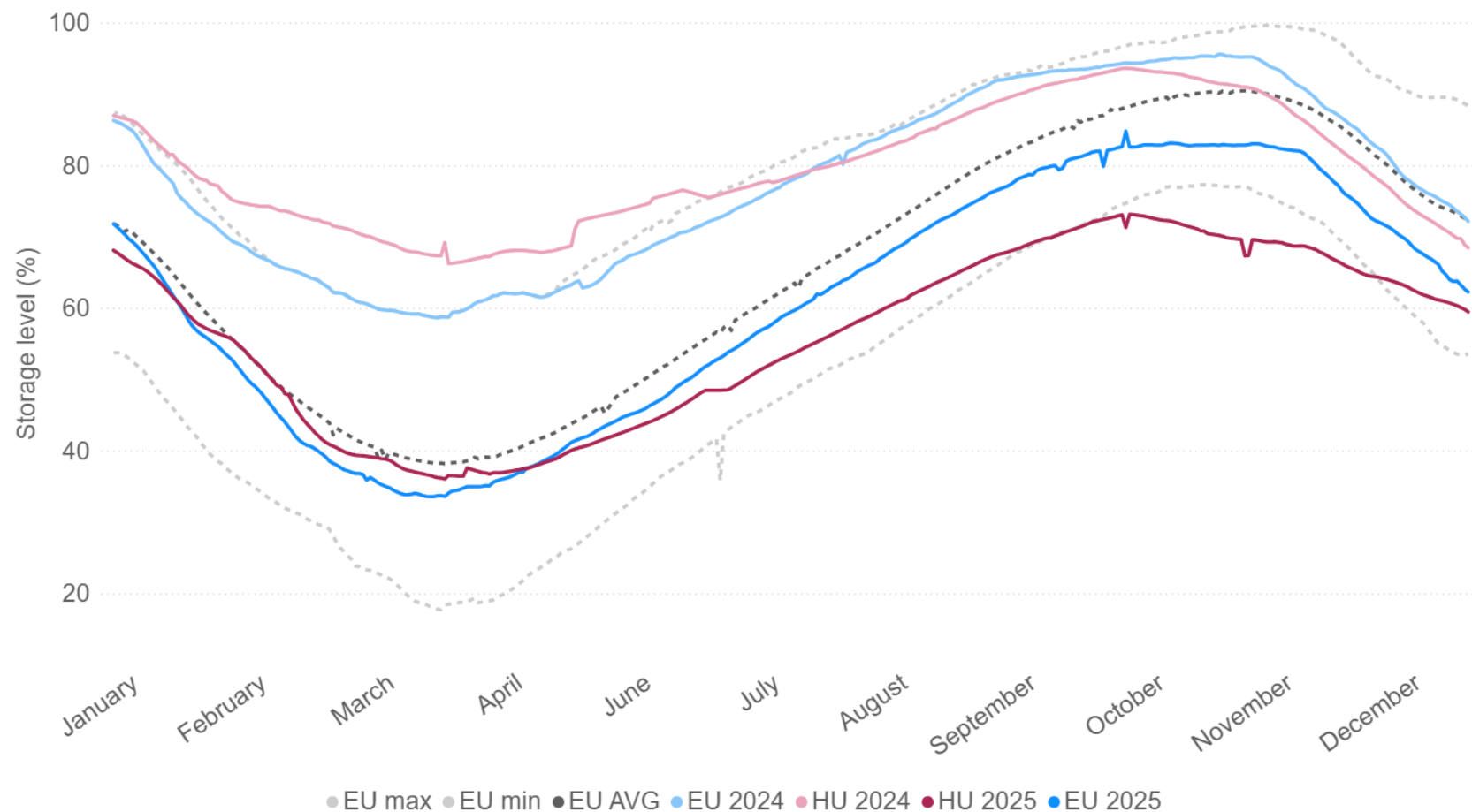
## EXPERT OPINION:

- » The figure shows the LNG send-outs of European countries year by year.
- » Europe refers to the same countries shown in the previous figure: Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain.
- » **European LNG send-outs reached an all-time high in 2025.**
  - » Overall Asian LNG imports weakened in 2025, with key buyers like China reducing purchases significantly due to soft industrial demand and mild weather.
- » The four countries producing the highest values in 2025 continued to be **France, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain.**

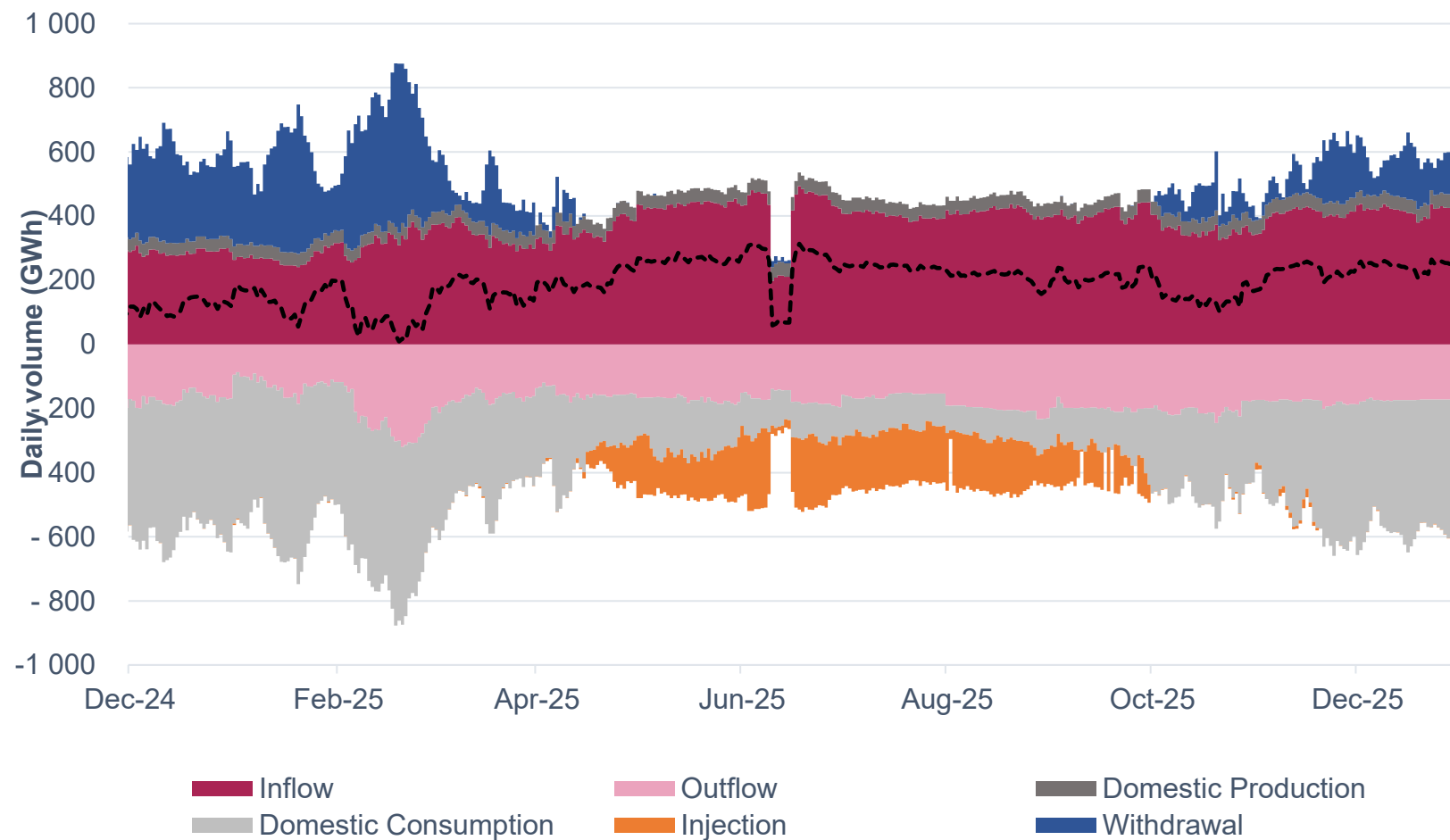
# GAS STORAGE LEVEL IN EU AND HU

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » In the end of 2025, the aggregated EU storage facilities stood at 62% (-10% YoY), while Hungarian stocks stood at 60% (-9% YoY).
- » Both EU and Hungarian gas storage levels are way below last year's values. However, the difference is not as large as it was in the first half of the year.
  - » Stronger heating demand until spring 2025:
    - » Cold spells and below-average temperatures increased gas use, resulted in faster withdrawals, deeper seasonal storage minimum.
  - » Milder start of heating season (Oct-Dec 2025):
    - » Due to higher temperatures compared to 2024, heating demand and gas consumption were lower.



# HUNGARIAN GAS MARKET BALANCE



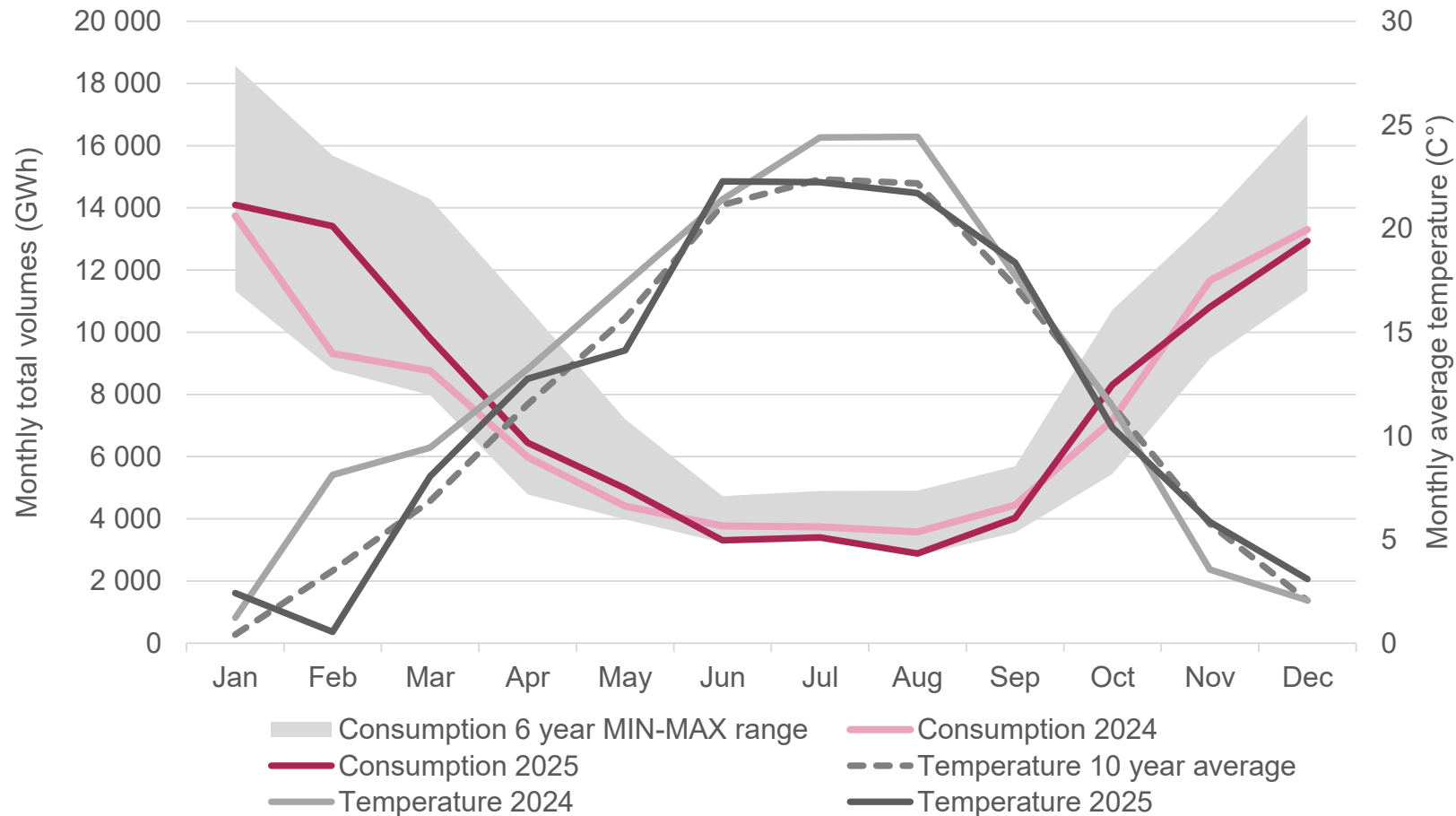
## EXPERT OPINION:

- » In December, **imports recorded a slight decrease of around 6% MoM**, while exports remained at roughly the same level.
- » **Imports from Romania dropped by 22% compared to November level.**
- » Imports from Croatia decreased again, while exports to Croatia slightly increased.
- » **Imports from Austria increased significantly, by 50% in December MoM.**
- » In December, **the withdrawal was highly significant, similar to November.**
- » In December, domestic consumption continued to increase due to colder weather.
- » Domestic production roughly remained the same in December.
- » **In 2025, both import and export volumes increased compared to 2024 (by 25% and 29%).**

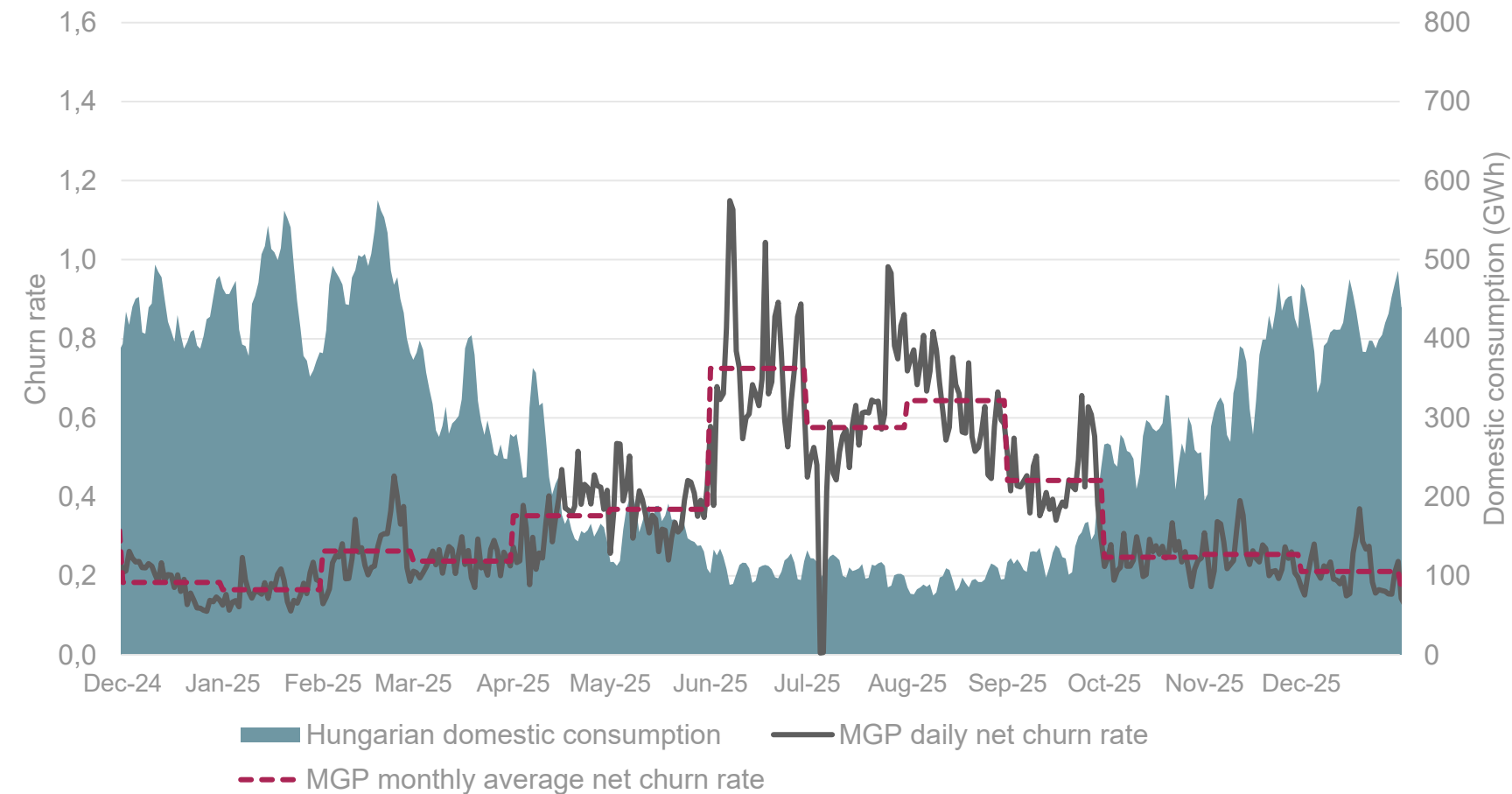
# HUNGARIAN DOMESTIC GAS CONSUMPTION

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » Between February and September 2025 (with the exception of June), average monthly temperatures were lower than in 2024.
  - » As a result, consumption during this period (with the exception of summer) was higher than last year.
- » In contrast, the beginning of heating season in 2025 was milder than in the previous year, leading to lower consumption compared to 2024 levels.
- » **Overall, temperature fluctuations continued to influence consumption patterns.**
- » Consumption was higher during most of the spring months due to cooler weather, while a milder start of heating season resulted in reduced demand compared to last year.



# CEEGEX CHURN RATE



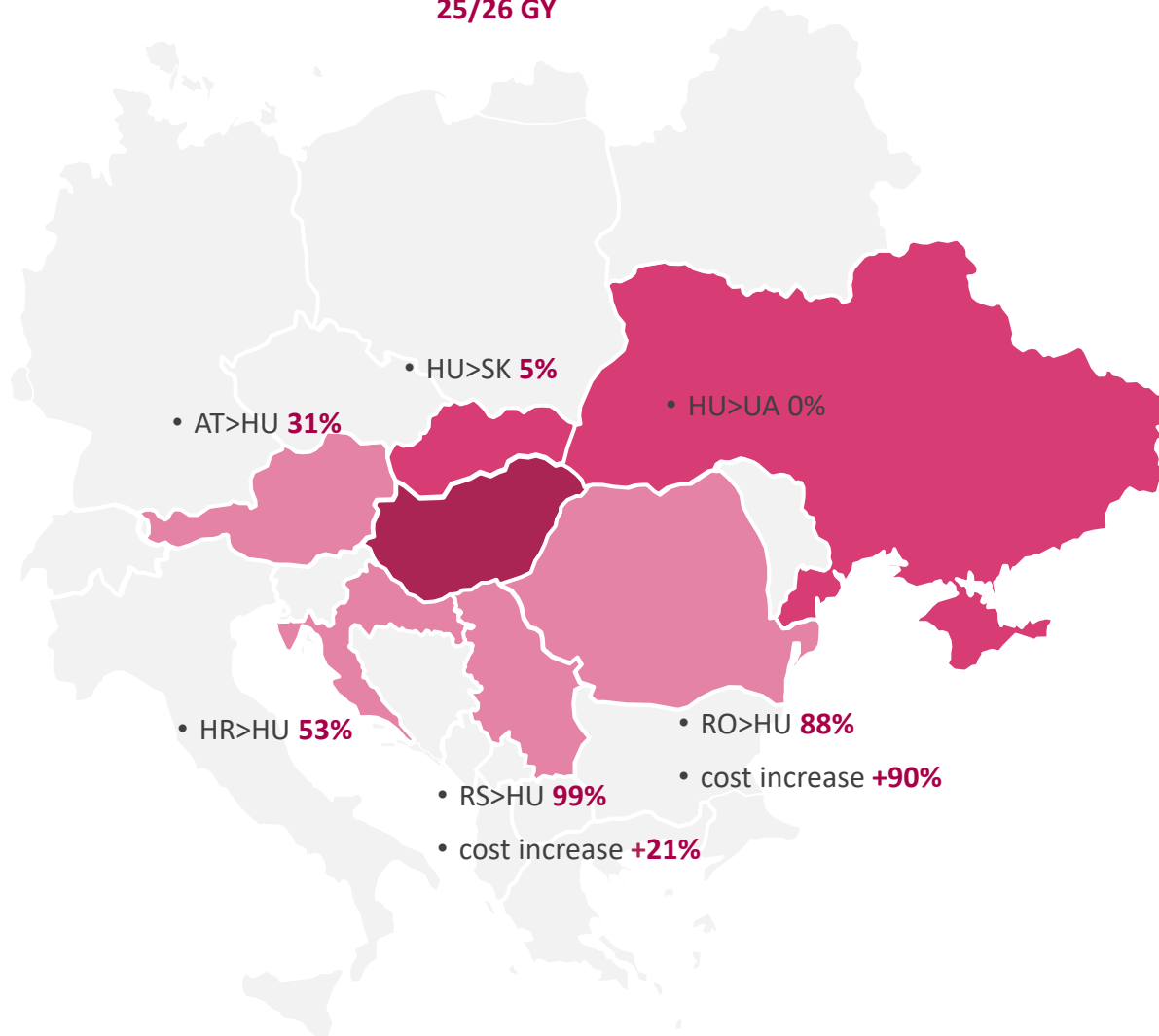
## EXPERT OPINION:

- » The churn rate chart shows what proportion of the national gas consumption's volume was traded on the CEEGEX spot exchange.
- » Overall, **the churn rate in 2025 remained well below 2024**, especially over the summer, and it was **closer to 2023** levels.
- » Seasonality was still present, but with significantly lower volatility compared to last year.



# YEARLY CAPACITY AUCTIONS IN JULY

## Yearly Firm Capacity product 25/26 GY



## Yearly Firm Capacity product 24/25 GY

- HU>SK **99%**  
cost increase **130%**
- HU>UA **0%**
- AT>HU **0%**
- RO>HU **90%**  
cost increase **191%**
- HR>HU **0%**
- RS>HU **100%**

## EXPERT OPINION:

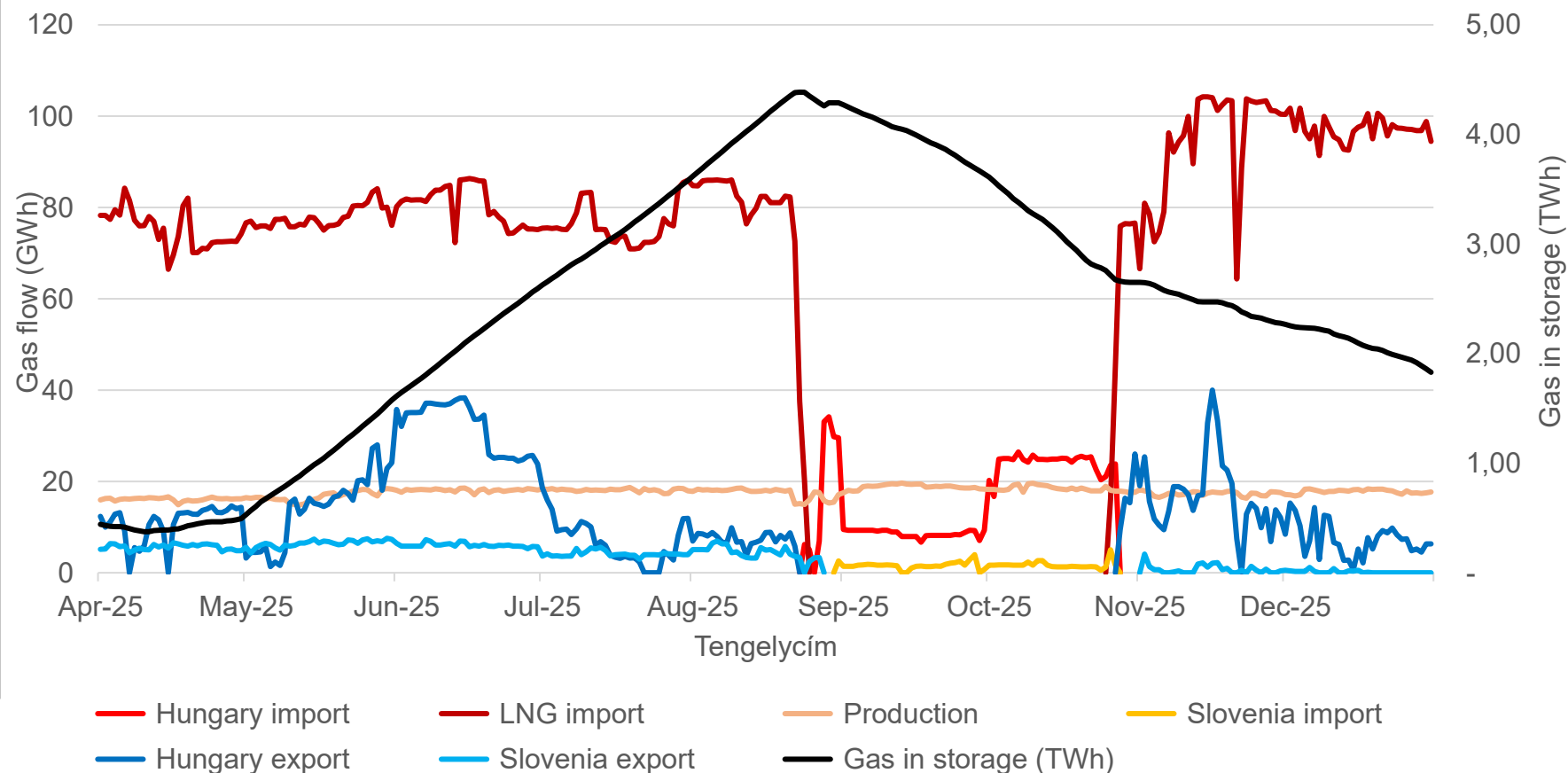
- » **AT>HU:** After no bookings in previous year July, this year saw a volume of bookings, as gas volumes to Hungary resumed from February.
- » **RO>HU:**
  - » This route was very popular this year and last year as well, driving up premiums significantly, 1146 HUF/kWh/h.
  - » The requested capacity was five times higher than the offered capacity.
- » **HR>HU:** After no bookings last year, significant volumes were booked this year.
- » **HU>SK:** After last year's 18 participants, only one participant attended the auction, a significantly smaller amount was booked.
- » **RS>HU:** Unlike the previous two years, there were now 2 participants instead of 1. An auction premium of 267 HUF /kWh/h was formed.
- » **UA>HU:** Annual capacity was not offered.

# KRK LNG TERMINAL EXPANSION

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » At the end of August 2025, expansion works began at the Krk LNG terminal; by the end-of-October completion, **the terminal's send-out capacity increased from 2.9 bcm per year to 6.1 bcm per year.**
- » The chart clearly shows the change in gas flows resulting from the terminal's shutdown and restart. **With LNG imports ceasing, the outflow toward Hungary and Slovenia stopped, and gas volumes began flowing into Croatia from Hungary** (and, to a minimal extent, from Slovenia as well).
- » With the terminal's shutdown, withdrawals from storage also began intensively, and their volume decreased once operations resumed.
- » **After the terminal restarted, no significant increase could be observed in Croatian exports toward Hungary and Slovenia;** however, with the expansion, **Croatia may take on a more significant role in the region's gas supply in the future.**

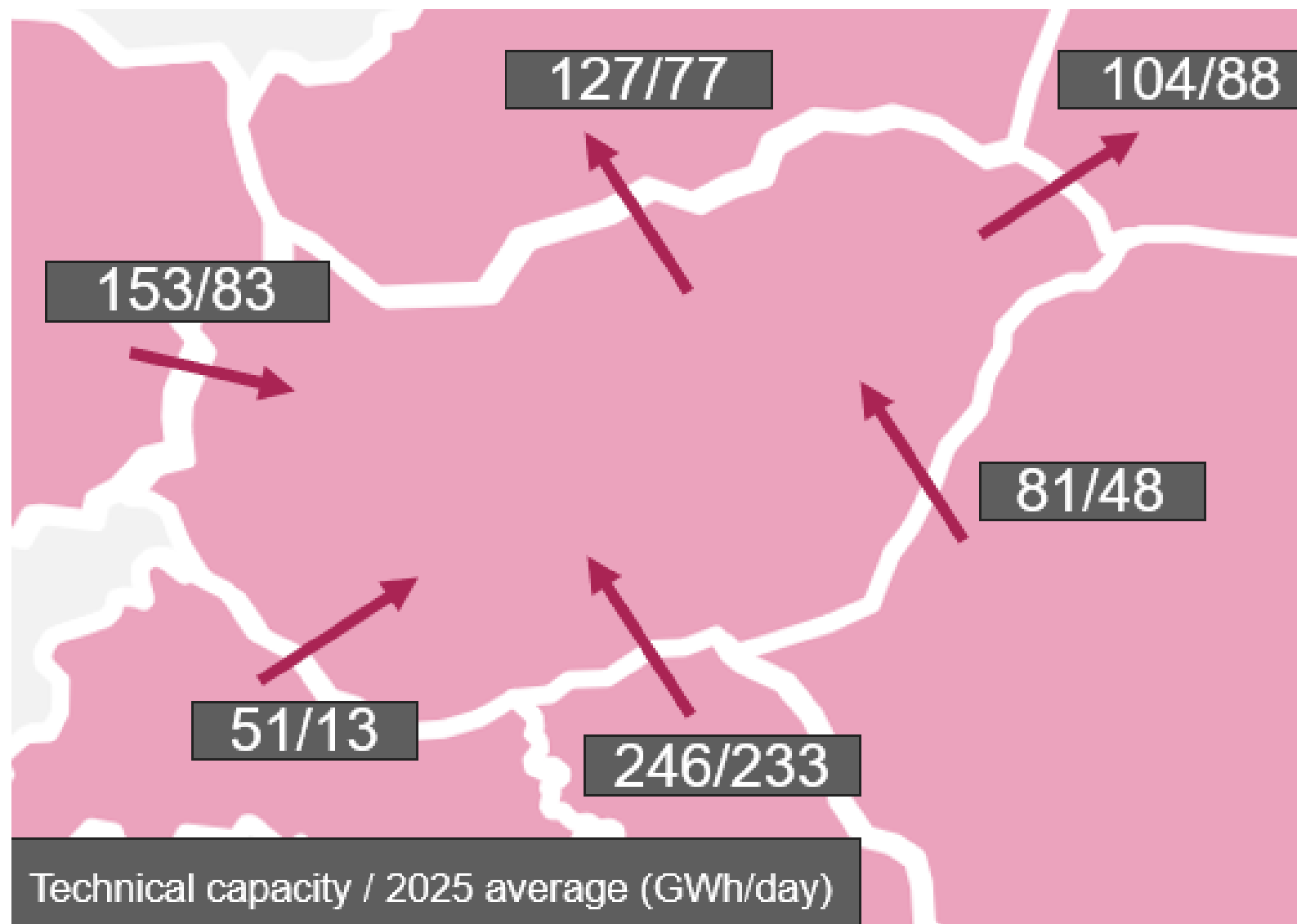
Croatian gas flows 2025.04.01 - 2025.12.31 (GWh/d)



# HUNGARIAN GAS FLOWS 2025

## EXPERT OPINION:

- » In 2025 as well, **imports from Serbia were the most significant**, with the interconnector operating close to maximum capacity for most of the year. A substantial share of the gas arriving from this direction is of Russian origin.
- » **The second most significant import route was from Austria**, representing a major change compared to 2024, when no gas arrived from this direction. This shift can also be explained by the price reversal between the Austrian and Hungarian markets.
- » **Imports arriving from Romania were also significant**; however, these volumes were less stable than in 2024.
- » **The most significant outflow volumes were directed toward Ukraine**, with flows close to maximum capacity in the second half of 2025.
- » **Significant volumes were also directed toward Slovakia**; in 2025, several capacity expansions were implemented, and Russian-origin supplies also reach Slovakia via this route.



# RECENT INFRASTRUCTURE ADVANCEMENTS AND UPDATES

1

Balassagyarmat capacity increase (from 3.5 to 4.38 bcma)

2

Capacity expansion of the Krk LNG Terminal

3

Completion of the Zlobin–Bosiljevo gas pipeline

4

Poland Ukraine capacity increase (from 2.35 to 4.3 bcma)

5

Vertical Corridor: Ukraine-Greece Route 2, 3

6

Csanádpalota (RO-HU) border point technical capacity slightly raised

7

Alexandroupolis LNG Terminal gasification capacity raised (from 91 GWh/d to 131)

8

Russia - China Power of Siberia 2 pipeline

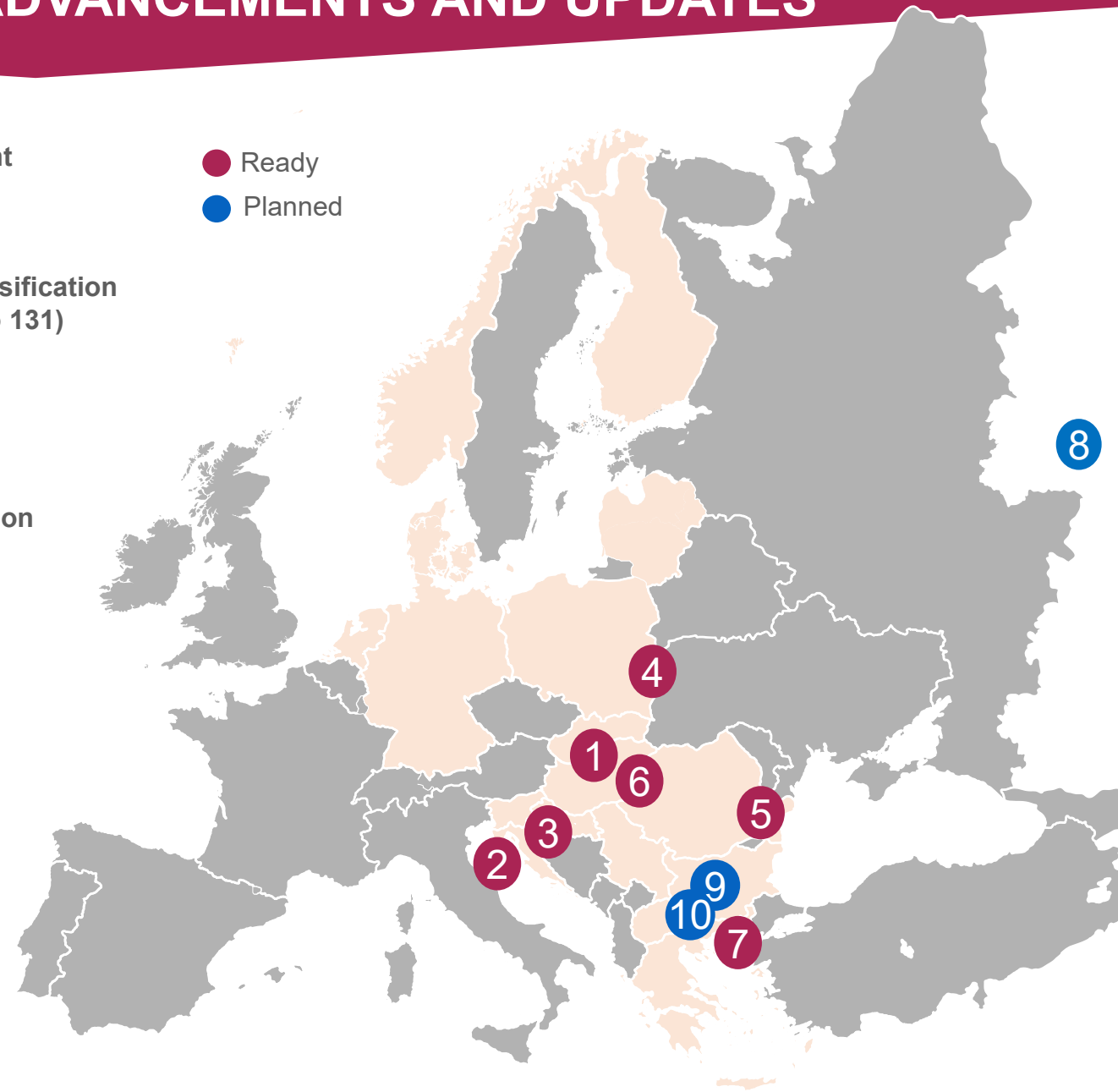
9

Bulgaria's Chiren storage expansion (550 mcm → 1 bcm)

10

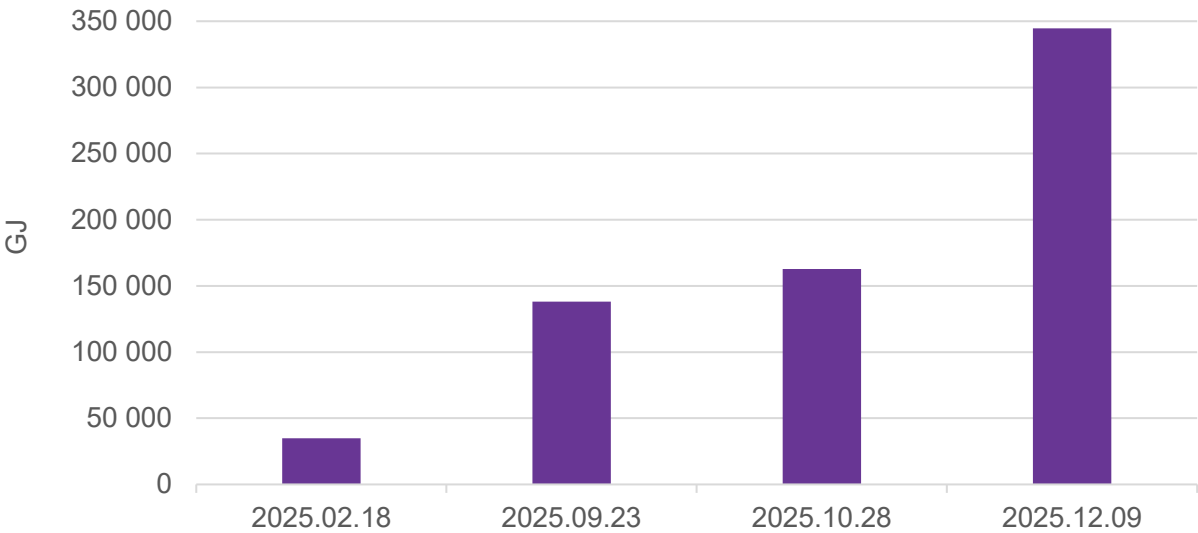
Vertical Corridor Bulgaria: Kulata-Kresna

● Ready  
● Planned

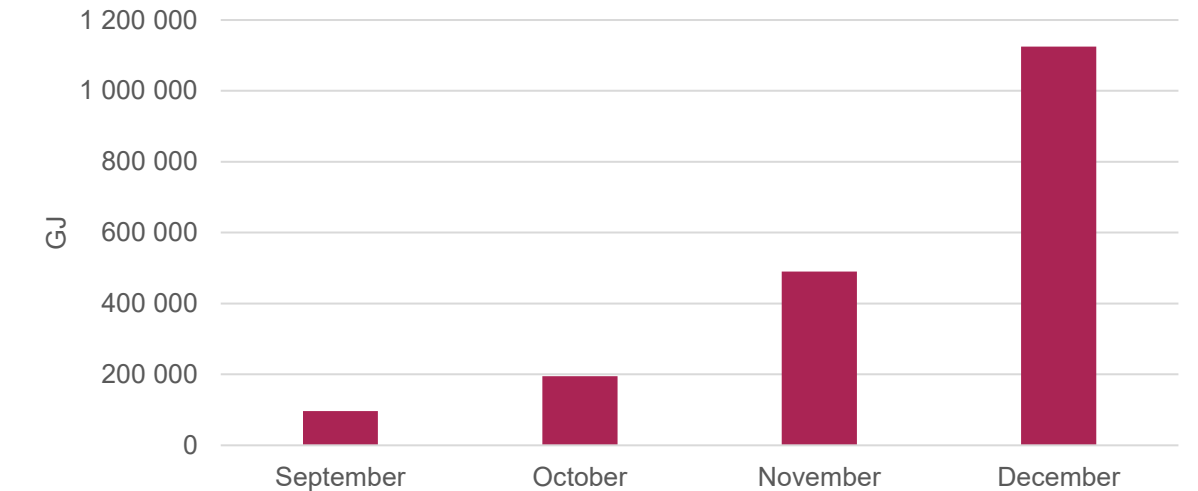


# HUNGARIAN WHC MARKET 2025

Traded volumes by auctions



Traded volumes on the Registration platform



After its launch in 2024, the Hungarian WhC market reached new records and underwent significant changes in 2025 following regulatory changes, including the introduction of a new platform and new products.

## Auction platform

- » In 2025, a total of four auctions were held, during which **a total of 680 233 GJ HEM were traded**, which is **more than 2.5 times the volume traded in 2024**.
- » Each auction saw a steady increase in both traded volumes and market participation.
- » The December auction marked a new record, with traded volumes reaching almost 350,000 GJ.
- » **Residential HEM accounted for 90% percent** of the total traded volume.

## Registration platform

- » **Launched in September 2025**, the Registration platform provides an organized market transfer option, where the **trading method is based on a direct matching procedure that matches buyer and seller offers**.
- » In 2025, a **total trading volume of 1.9 million GJ** of HEM was recorded on the Registration platform.