

Methodology

The Good Lobby Decarb Initiative seeks to uncover:

- (i) how much public affairs and law firms (hereinafter, PALs) provide lobbying services to the fossil fuel industry
- (ii) whether these services contradict these firms' sustainability commitments and correspondingly
- (iii) the extent to which these firms rely on the fossil fuel sector in terms of overall revenues.

To attain the above objectives, we established a framework for compiling and analysing the collaborations made by each PAL firm working on energy issues, both at the EU and select national levels, where such information is disclosed.

The primary data source for our work is the EU Transparency Register (EUTR). The main data set was downloaded from the EUTR in January 2024 for the most recent closed financial year. Due to varying reporting cycles for each company this means that the relevant data refers to either 2021 or 2022 for each company.

We collected and stored for each entry the names of the PAL firm and relevant fossil fuel clients, the cost incurred by the client to engage the firm (if available) and, where possible, the client's name as it appears in relative lobby register and the LobbyMap database. This allowed to obtain information about the client's sector and assess whether it actively supports or opposes climate policies aligned with globally agreed CO2 reduction targets.

In calculating lobbying costs that are being reported in expenditure brackets rather than as actual sum we decided to use the midpoint of the range provided in the EU Transparency Register (EUTR).

To clean the data and resolve naming inconsistencies a string-matching algorithm was employed.

Having established the networks of relations between PAL firms and the fossil fuel industry and quantified the value of these relationships we repeated the analysis for lobbying data in Germany, Ireland and France that provide a similar level of disclosure. We also extended the analysis from fossil fuel to petrochemical companies and with an even broader aperture to all companies that are being assessed by InfluenceMap with regard to their positive or negative lobbying on climate policy issues. These additional data sources and broader approaches helped to validate and expand our findings.