

Press release | October 2022

First District Heating and Cooling Day stresses potential of geothermal energy to diversify Europe's renewable energy resources

Berlin | October 2022 | The EU-funded project CROWD THERMAL and the Geothermal-DHC COST Action co-organised a transdisciplinary event during the European Geothermal Congress in Berlin to create a platform for researchers working on the interconnection between social, environmental, legal and risk mitigation aspects of geothermal energy in district heating and cooling.

The First District Heating and Cooling Day was held on 20 October 2022 as an official side-event of the **European Geothermal Congress (EGC)** in Berlin. Co-organised by the [Geothermal-DHC COST action](#) and the EU-funded [CROWD THERMAL project](#), the event which attracted more than 100 participants, allowed to emphasise the potential of the use of geothermal energy in district heating and cooling networks.



Partners of the CROWD THERMAL and Geothermal-DHC projects during the event in Berlin.

As stated by the event conveners, **Isabel Fernandez Fuentes**, Coordinator of CROWD THERMAL, and **Gregor Götzl**, Chair of the EU COST Action CA18219 Geothermal-DHC, *“using geothermal energy in heating and cooling networks offers vital chances for achieving the green transformation of the heating and cooling sector and making Europe more independent from energy imports.”*

Four keynote speakers highlighted the importance of geothermal, especially in light of the current energy crisis and the need to foster the diversification of renewable energy sources. **Valentin Gavan** from ENGIE presented an end-to-end tool on low temperature district heating networks, which will allow to improve operational knowledge and expertise by deploying a structured source of information for business development. **Tamas Medgyes** from the District Heating Company of Szeged presented their experiences in transitioning from a gas-based urban heating system towards geothermal district heating and cooling. Different tools developed by the CROWD THERMAL project supported the local case study in driving public engagement. The importance of the Social License to Operate in geothermal energy was introduced by **Amel Barich** (GEORG) who stressed how operators can increase public acceptance and trust in geothermal projects. The Geothermal-DHC COST action was introduced by **Joao Figueira** (Technical University of Lisbon), who highlighted the initiative's endeavour to make the use of geothermal energy in heating and cooling networks more visible and accessible across Europe, in particular through the campaign *“100 good reasons for using geothermal energy in heating and cooling networks”*.

The afternoon session was dedicated to the presentation of the main results of the EU-funded CROWD THERMAL project which aims at empowering citizens to participate in the development of geothermal energy projects via alternative financing methods such as crowdfunding. The project team presented a set of reports, addressing social, environmental, financial, and risk mitigation aspects of community-financed geothermal projects.

The session concluded with an introduction of the [set of services](#) CROWD THERMAL developed for communities of citizens, geothermal project developers and local authorities. The services will assist the geothermal sector, contributing thus to an accelerated market development in Europe and supporting the [European Union's 2030 climate and energy targets](#) as well as the [REpowerEU plan](#), which aims at a greater strategic independence of Europe's energy supply.

The first Geothermal District Heating and Cooling Day allowed to connect researchers from different backgrounds to exchange on recent developments and prospects and jointly address present challenges and barriers for the deployment of geothermal energy supported heating and cooling networks in Europe.

More information:

Presentations given during the event:

<https://www.crowdthermalproject.eu/2022/09/14/first-geothermal-district-heating-and-cooling-day-event-bringing-geothermal-heating-and-cooling-networks-closer-to-the-people>

About Geothermal-DHC:

The EU COST Action CA18219 Geothermal-DHC represents a network addressing the integration of geothermal energy into decarbonized heating and cooling networks addressing the full range of geothermal technologies. Geothermal-DHC investigates concepts related to shallow geothermal in local heating and cooling networks ("5th generation networks") towards direct geothermal energy use for district heating supply. Geothermal-DHC offers an inclusive European network currently covering more than 100 researchers and non-scientific stakeholders from around 40 countries around the world. For more information on this COST Action please visit www.geothermal-dhc.eu.

About CROWD THERMAL:

The mission of the Horizon 2020-funded CROWD THERMAL project is to empower the European public to directly participate in the development of geothermal projects, with the help of alternative financing schemes and social engagement tools. CROWD THERMAL aims to initiate a new form of public dialogue, during which it will be possible to jointly tackle concerns and increase interest in geothermal energy. The aim is to take public engagement to a new level, empowering citizens to directly participate in the development of geothermal projects with the help of alternative financing, such as crowdfunding. This will only be possible if public trust can be gained, and the transparency around geothermal projects (and their social and environmental impacts) can be maximised. For more information please visit <https://www.crowdthermalproject.eu>.