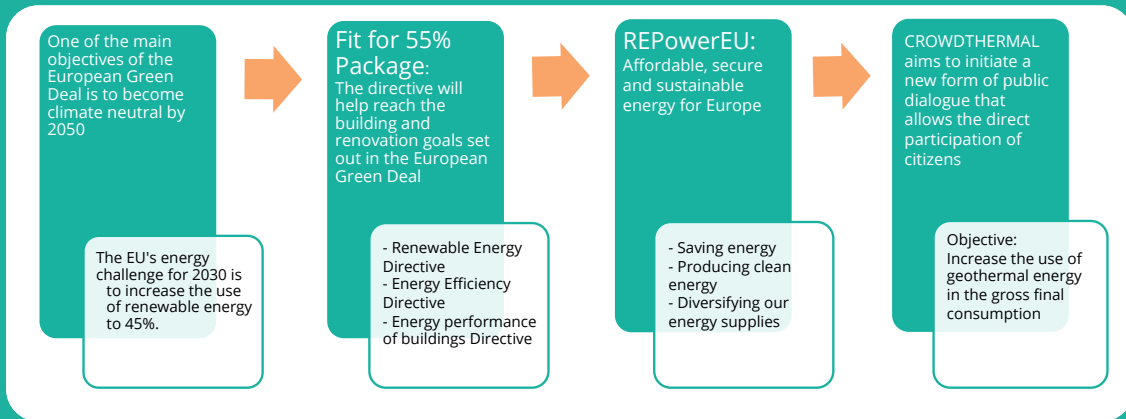




RECOMMENDATIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PROJECT DEVELOPERS

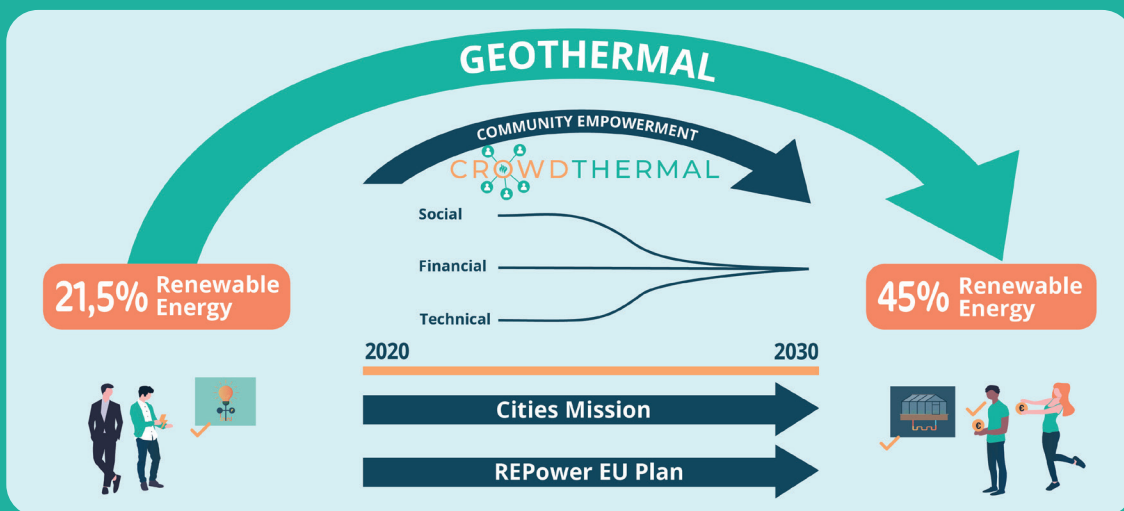
Geothermal energy has a large potential for EU's renewable energy supply. Concrete actions encouraging citizen and community engagement can help unleashing this potential. More broadly, for all sources of renewable energy, there is a clear need to learn more on public engagement and social acceptance.



*Political framework for the CROWD THERMAL project.
Source: CROWD THERMAL project, 2022.*

The EU-funded CROWD THERMAL project has identified three main aspects which need to be taken into consideration:

- Social-environmental conditions for citizen engagement
- Financial mechanisms
- Technical aspects for risk mitigation



*CROWD THERMAL Community Empowerment to achieve the renewable energy challenges.
Source: CROWD THERMAL project, 2022.*

Based on the research performed around these aspects, CROWD THERMAL has developed a set of recommendations and tools relevant for the delivery of the European Green Deal, the REPowerEU Plan and for the implementation of the EU Mission on 100 climate-neutral cities by 2030.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n° 857830.



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RECOMMENDATIONS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PROJECT DEVELOPERS

Social and environmental factors for citizen engagement:

- It is essential that citizens and communities can perceive social benefits of the geothermal project.
- Projects should seriously address resistance and negative attitudes towards geothermal energy.
- It is important to understand the conditions for public acceptance and public engagement.
- When planning public engagement, consider the existing (contextual) preconditions of a project when deciding on public engagement strategies.
- Identifying the relevant stakeholders and their relation to each other is essential when tailoring the different participation measures to the existing target groups.
- The project should take into account citizens' knowledge about geothermal energy or energy topics in general, since it determines how engagement strategies are designed.
- The environmental risk factors must be assessed for the relevant project phases and geothermal technology types. Relevant mitigation measures must be developed to manage environmental risks taking into consideration the technology types and project phases.
- Developing a Social Licence to Operate is a crucial factor.

Financial mechanisms for citizens' and community engagement:

- Introduce alternative finance mechanisms for geothermal energy
- Combine crowdfunding and risk mitigation for deep geothermal projects
- Consider the interdependencies between technical, financial and social dimensions

CROWD THERMAL has developed an online **"Core services" platform**, offering the following tools for communities, project developers and local authorities:

- Online decision support tool for developers and promoters of geothermal projects to identify the most appropriate social engagement strategies and financial instruments
- Implementation frameworks for community-based geothermal development
- Guide to integrated finance in geothermal energy
- Toolbox for risk evaluation and mitigation
- Meta-database of geothermal projects
- Information catalogue for self learning



Get in touch with the **CROWD THERMAL Alliance** in case you need personalised advice!

More information:

CROWD THERMAL Deliverable 4.10
CROWD THERMAL recommendations

