

Interreg
Danube Region



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the European Union

A green wavy line graphic representing the Danube River.
Danube GeoHeCo

Newsletter 01

Danube GeoHeCo

Fostering the implementation of shallow
geothermal hybrid heating and cooling
systems in the Danube Region



Acknowledgement

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Legal disclaimer

The content of this Newsletter reflects the opinion of the author and does not in any way reflect the opinion of the Interreg managing authorities and the European Union.

The first issue of the Danube GeoHeCo project newsletter has been published!

At the end of the first period of the project, we summarized the most important activities and results of the semester in a newsletter! In this Newsletter you can read about the Danube GeoHeCo project, the Kick-off meeting and official start of the Project, Organized Danube Region Programme Lead Partners seminar in Belgrade, Presentation of the Danube GeoHeCo project at the meeting of the focus group of the ESINERGY project & news on Budapest based Ambassadors of EU visit to geothermal installations in Szeged.

Stay updated with the upcoming Newsletters from the Danube GeoHeCo project!

About the Danube GeoHeCo project



Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. Photo

Project Title: Fostering the implementation of shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling systems in the Danube Region

Project Acronym: Danube GeoHeCo

Danube GeoHeCo - Fostering the implementation of shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling systems in the Danube Region aims to increase the penetration of shallow geothermal energy in the Danube Region through initiating a robust transnational cooperation of promotion and support actions.

The purpose of proposed activities is to achieve ambitious EU energy and climate targets by 2030 and consequently 2050. The project will foster the integration of shallow geothermal solutions into existing fossil-fuel based domestic HC systems, raise awareness, and enhance capacities.

Danube GeoHeCo project approach is based on three specific objectives of the project:

1. Design and technology optimization of shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling systems.
2. Community-led planning for utilization of shallow geothermal heating and cooling potential.

3. Digital platform and virtual marketplace for fostering shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling.

The project partners of eight Danube Region countries participated at the kick off meeting of Danube GeoHeCo project

On March 26-27, 2024, project partners met in Čakovec, Croatia, for the kick-off meeting of the "Fostering the implementation of shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling systems in the Danube Region - Danube GeoHeCo" project. Hosted by the Lead partner Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd., the meeting served as a platform for collaboration among the 13 partners representing eight countries in the Danube region.

Regional Development Agency Bačka has been entrusted with the role of the Communication lead, with the task of promoting and disseminating project results.

The gathering facilitated introductions, knowledge exchange, and discussions surrounding utilisation of geothermal energy and application of heating and cooling systems. Additionally, the meeting outlined the project's activities and implementation steps.

Mr Horst Schindler, representing the Interreg Danube Region Programme Joint Secretariat, underscored the importance of effective collaboration among partners and the visibility of project outcomes.

With a planned duration of 30 months starting in January 2024, the project emphasizes collaboration across partner countries, institutions, and pilot locations. Key

stakeholders, including government decision-makers, representatives of small and medium-sized enterprises, contractors, non-governmental organisations, and the general public, are integral to the project's success. Interactive workshops during the meeting focused on initial activities within defined Danube GeoHeCo specific objectives.

The partnership comprises Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. (Croatia), CROST Regional Development Nonprofit Ltd. (Hungary), University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering (Croatia), Research Burgenland Ltd. (Austria), Local Energy Agency Pomurje (Slovenia), Geological Survey of Slovenia (Slovenia), InnoGeo Research and Service Ltd. (Hungary), Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information (Slovakia), Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (Romania), Faculty of Engineering in Kragujevac (Serbia), Regional Economic Development Agency for Šumadija and Pomoravlje (Serbia), Regional Development Agency Bačka Ltd. Novi Sad (Serbia) and LIR Evolution (Bosnia & Herzegovina). Additionally, 15 associated strategic partners representing local, regional, and national authorities, higher education institutions and associations are contributing their expertise to the project. The involvement of associated strategic partners is also valuable to the project as they will further integrate their knowledge and experience into its outcomes, further enhancing its impact in the focus area.



Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. Photo

Organized Danube Region Programme Lead Partners seminar in Belgrade

Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd., as a Lead Partner of the project Danube GeoHeCo participated at lead partner seminar hosted by Interreg Danube Region Programme in Belgrade. The event was held on 24th and 25th of April with the aim of enhancing collaboration and knowledge exchange among lead partners of the projects approved under the first call for proposals.

Since lead partners play a key role in the design and coordination of the entire project and direct the partnership towards the achievement of project goals this event was a good opportunity for them to delve more into the crucial topics connected to management of DRP projects which will greatly help them to manage their partnership in a quality and sustainable manner.

During the first day of the meeting, lead partners received practical information on project implementation, reporting, communication, and financial management while the second day was intended for synergy and capitalization within the Danube Region Strategy priority areas. Finally, the event also featured with networking sessions, allowing representatives from freshly starting projects to connect with each other and engage with the Managing Authority/Joint Secretariat.



Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. Photo

Online meeting of the Danube GeoHeCo project partners

The first online meeting of partners on the Danube GeoHeCo project was held on June 17, 2024.

The purpose of the meeting was to inform about the activities carried out and the results achieved in the first reporting period, communication and dissemination activities, as well as all other planned activities expected from partners in the upcoming period.

The meeting was attended by members of the project teams from all partners engaged in the Danube GeoHeCo project. Discussions included future project activities to be implemented in the next period, as well as an upcoming in-person partners' meeting planned for November 2024.

The Danube GeoHeCo project is funded under the Interreg Programme for the Danube Region 2021-2027, with a total project value of 2,481,000.00 EUR (co-financed by the European Union in the amount of 1,984,800.00 EUR, or 80%). The project implementation period is from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.



Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. Photo

Presentation of the Danube GeoHeCo project at the meeting of the focus group of the ESINERGY project

Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. during the first focus group meeting of the ESINERGY project, informed key stakeholders in Medjimurje County about the implementation of the Interreg Danube GeoHeCo project – "Fostering the implementation of shallow geothermal hybrid heating and cooling systems in the Danube Region".

The ESINERGY project, financed under the Interreg Danube Region Programme, involves project partners from 12 countries within the Danube region. Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd., Croatia, is proud to participate as a project partner in ESINERGY. During the implementation of both the ESINERGY and Danube GeoHeCo projects, we will strive to find joint synergies to enhance their impact and effectiveness.



Medjimurje Energy Agency Ltd. Photo

Budapest based Ambassadors of EU visited geothermal installations in Szeged

The Trio Presidency of the Council of the EU (Spain, Belgium, Hungary), the Csongrád-Csanád County Government Office, InnoGeo, SZETÁV, and the Municipality of Szeged co-organized a visit for the Budapest based ambassadors of European Union countries to the geothermal installations in Szeged on 19 June 2024.

The top diplomatic envoy was given a presentation at the DH Company of Szeged about the ongoing geothermal developments including the GeoHeCo project and they visited a geothermal drilling rig.

InnoGeo Research and Service Ltd., Hungary, has actively participated in the development of several geothermal systems, and was a key player in the implementation of the Mórahalom, Makó, Csongrád, Lenti geothermal DH's as well as in switching the municipal DH of Szeged to geothermal, and it is one of the Partners at the project Danube GeoHeCo.

Within the project Danube GeoHeCo, Innogeo Research and Service Ltd will support the implementation of the planned project investment at the pilot location at SZETAV (District Heating Company of Szeged) in Szeged.

The EU ambassadors, national and regional officers who visited the geothermal installations including the GeoHeCo pilot site in Szeged were:

H.E. Mr. Jeroen VERGEYLEN H.E. (Ambassador - Belgium), H. E. Mr. Alfonso DASTIS (Ambassador - Spain), H. E. Mr. Christo Stefanov POLENDAKOV (Ambassador -

Bulgaria), H. E. Ms. Eva DVOŘÁKOVÁ (Ambassador - Czechia), Ms Kaisa LEIDY (Chargé d'affaires a.i. - Finland), Ms. Christiana MARKERT (Deputy Head of Mission/Chargé d'Affaires a. i. - Germany), H. E. Mr. Ragnar ALMQVIST (Ambassador - Ireland), H. E. Ms. Agnese KALNIŅA (Ambassador - Latvia), H. E. Mrs. Désirée BONIS (Ambassador - Netherlands), H. E. Mr. Gabriel-Cătălin ȘOPANDĂ (Ambassador - Romania), H. E. Dr. Mr. Marjan CENCEN (Ambassador - Slovenia), H. E. Ms. Diana Helen MADUNIC (Ambassador - Sweden), as well as Ms. Monika MOLNÁR (Head of Department, Csongrád-Csanád County Government Office - Hungary), and Mr. Viktor KECSKÉS (Head of Department, Ministry of EU Affairs - Hungary).



InnoGeo Research and Service Ltd photo

Project Danube GeoHeCo Logo:



Follow the implementation process of the Danube GeoHeCo project through the project web site and related social media:

Project Danube GeoHeCo Web page:

<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/danube-geoheco>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/danube-geoheco/>



<https://twitter.com/DanubeGeoHeCo>



www.youtube.com/@InterregDanubeGeoHeCo

A grid of logos for various project partners and funding bodies. The logos include: MEDIMURSKA ENERGETSKA AGENCIJA d.o.o., CROST, FORSCHUNG Burgenland, LEA Pomurje, GeoZS, INNOGEO, TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ-NAPOCA, and THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY BAKA. The text below the logos states: 'The Danube GeoHeCo project is funded under the Interreg Programme for the Danube Region 2021-2027, with a total project value of 2,481,000.00 euros (co-financed by the European Union in the amount of 1,984,800.00 euros, or 80%). The project implementation period is from January 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.'