

Second newsletter of GeoSmart, the European project aimed at demonstrating innovative solutions to make heat and electricity production from geothermal sources more flexible

At the end of March, the consortium of the Horizon 2020 project, coordinated by TWI Ltd, in which CoSviG participates as a partner, published the second project newsletter, which consists of a collection of articles on the developments and activities of the initiative in recent months.

Among the most interesting articles published in the newsletter is the briefing paper published in December 2021, which describes how geothermal plants can strategically respond to the increasing flexibility required by the European electricity market, to compensate for peak demand and the uncertainty of other renewables such as solar and wind.

The newsletter also presents the results of a survey conducted in September 2021 among Turkish geothermal stakeholders by METU partner, the Middle East Technical University. This involved 15 experts including academics, representatives of research centres, the private sector, development banks, consulting firms and other stakeholders. The issues discussed included socio-economic aspects, such as the lack of awareness and acceptance of geothermal projects, the reduced utilisation of research and development opportunities, and the need to promote collaborations between universities and between industry and academia. On the technical side, reservoir management was addressed, while the market side discussed the competitiveness and status of geothermal energy compared to other renewables, the geothermal component in the energy mix, and the importance of using underground heat for greenhouses, district heating and hybrid plants with a holistic and inclusive approach. The information collected will allow individual interviews with the most representative stakeholders of the Turkish geothermal sector in the coming months.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the article published at the beginning of the year on the stakeholder engagement process that led to the construction of the Balmatt geothermal plant in Mol, Belgium. VITO, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research, launched the Balmatt project in November 2019, with the aim of giving new impetus to geothermal development in northern Belgium.

The full version of the articles mentioned above and other news in the newsletter, such as TWI's participation in the World Geothermal Congress in Reykjavík, are available in English at the following link: <https://www.geosmartproject.eu/news-and-media/2022/geosmart-newsletter-published>.