

Geothermal events in Hungary and Slovakia

June, 2023

Press Release

Hungary

"This is no joke: experts from Reykjavík learn about geothermal energy in Szeged" - was the headline of a leading web media in Szeged, Hungary. However, this was more of a two-way exchange of knowledge. Icelandic and Norwegian experts together with their Polish, Slovak and Hungarian colleagues in the User4GeoEnergy project visited large geothermal projects in Hungary and Slovakia and learned about the latest in the use of geothermal energy in Central and Eastern Europe, in May 2023.

The purpose of the visit was knowledge acquisition and dissemination in the User4GeoEnergy project, which will deliver report in the coming months. The goal of the project is to increase efficiency in the operation of heating utilities with geothermal heat for a long time and improve the environment, reduce greenhouse gases and increase energy security in Europe.

The visit to Szeged was organized by InnoGeo Ltd, a geothermal organization that has long experience in the utilization and operation of geothermal heating systems in various municipalities.

The partners of the project with Orkustofnun are the Mineral and Energy Economy Research Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (MEERI PAS) from Poland, which leads the project, SLOVGEOTERM a.s. from Slovakia, InnoGeo Ltd. from Hungary and NORCE Norwegian Research Center AS from Norway.

The Hungarian visit started in Budapest, but the majority of visits and meetings took place in Szeged, where geothermal energy has long been used for domestic heating and further development is ahead.

On May 8th, the partners of the project presented their organizations and activities at a presentation meeting with more than 30 participants, included representatives from thermal utilities, researchers from the University of Szeged and staff from a number of companies in the South Great Plain Geothermal Energy Cluster. Then the geothermal drilling project was inspected and the largest heat supply in Szeged, where most of the 24 planned boreholes have already been drilled, and increased utilization of geothermal energy is in the area.



Slovakia

The program then continued in Slovakia on May 10th, where the company Slovgeoterm a.s. organized visits, to heating plants, technical study visits and briefings with stakeholders.

The project partners had the opportunity to visit geothermal power plants in Slovakia, where they received detailed technical information. Local operators were also informed about the results of the main results of the User4GeoEnergy project.

The heating utility in Galanta DHS (Galantaterm spol. s r.o.) was then visited, where experts visited the heat exchange station and two process wells. Hitaveitan, a limited company, was one of the first companies in Slovakia that was founded for the purpose of using geothermal energy for heating apartments and producing hot water. The founders of the heating utility were, among others, the city of Galanta, Orkuveita Reykjavíkur, which is still a small shareholder, and Slovgeoterm, a.s. Bratislava. The next stop was Velky Meder, which is the newest geothermal power plant in Slovakia, where the parties were introduced to the operation.

The presentation meeting of the User4GeoEnergy project material was held on May 12th in Bratislava. In addition to the project partners, representatives from various sources related to heating utilities, media, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and universities were present.

Then three new large-scale geothermal projects in Slovakia were presented by their project managers. In particular, these were:

- Geothermal project in the Kosice region
- Geothermal project in the Prešov region
- Geothermal project in the Žiar nad Hronom area.

There is a significant increase in the use of geothermal energy in Slovakia.

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More information about the grant fund of the EEA and Norway for regional cooperation:

<https://www.eeagrants.org/>

More information about the project:

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