

## Geothermal Energy – Capacity building and training in Poland

### Launch of an important international training project for stakeholders from Poland funded by the EEA FM

#### Press Release

At the end of 2020, the '**Capacity Building of Key Stakeholders in the Area of Geothermal Energy**' Project was launched. It is co-financed under the European Economic Area Financial Mechanism within the Program "Environment, Energy and Climate Change" for Poland in the years 2014–2021. The operators of this Program are the Ministry of Climate and Environment and the National Fund for Environment Protection and Water Management.

**The Project partners** are the Mineral and Energy Economy Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences (leader) and the National Energy Authority (NEA, Orkustofnun) in Iceland – leading institutions in their countries in the field of research and use of geothermal energy. It will be implemented in the period 16.10.2020–30.04.2024.

**The Project objective** is to build the knowledge of key stakeholders in Poland in the field of optimal use of geothermal energy and management of its resources, especially for the needs of low-emission heating. In particular:

- To build the knowledge to key stakeholders in Poland regarding optimal use of geothermal energy and management of its resources, especially for the needs of low-emission heating.
- To enhance capacity building and knowledge-based methods, based on long experience of geothermal energy in Iceland. This will be done through good methods, practice, and technologies, with the support of appropriate government initiatives, financial mechanisms, and management strategies.
- To increase energy security, development of low-emission heating, an opportunity to increase social and economic equality by providing clean energy and, inter alia, lowering heating costs.

The Project aim is also to contribute to decrease pollution, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and mitigate climate changes.

**The main Project activities** include capacity building, training activities in Poland, study visits to Iceland, expert study visits to selected localities in Poland prospective for the geothermal uses and report on these visits, information and communication activities regarding the Project and the EEA Funds.

**The Project stakeholders** are representatives of administration at various levels, local governments, operators of existing and investors of future geothermal heating plants, beneficiaries of government support programs, geological administration, research institutions, service providers, consultants, other entities from the geothermal sector.

**The Project will contribute** to geothermal energy uses development in Poland. It will assist investment activities that have been carried out thanks to several state support programs launched from 2016.

**The budget** is about PLN 4 million (€ 900.000)

The Project Opening event (online) is planned for February 2021.

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