

N°9 – October 2007

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Editorial – Athens workshop



Workshop 6 of the ENGINE project “**Increasing policy makers’ awareness and public acceptance**” was hosted on the 13th and on the 14th of September 2007 in Athens. The workshop was held at Hotel Holiday Inn and was attended by 35 participants from 12 countries. 15 ENGINE representatives had the opportunity to share their knowledge and their personal experience on policy makers’ awareness and public acceptance that they have gained through several case studies.

The goal of the workshop was to bring together experts to exchange ideas on policy makers’ awareness and public acceptance on geothermal projects that faced strong opposition nowadays from politicians, neighboring communities or environmental pressure groups.

The workshop focused on the presentation of certain case studies that could be really didactic examples and also on the proposition

of certain measures towards the increase of knowledge and flow of information in order to increase the public perception and acceptance. The priority of the specialised workshops is to compare experiences and promote discussion and this was something that was achieved in this workshop. The three sessions hosted a total of 15 presentations. The files of both presentations and abstracts are already available on <http://conferences-engine.brgm.fr/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=7> following the link [Timetable](#).



The main conclusions that were drawn from the workshop as far as it concerns the public perception and acceptance are:

1. *Initial development/Public acceptance.*

It was found that many elements of the complex nature of geothermal energy can be the reason for weak public support in some areas. A lot of work is necessary to change the resistance by involving public groups, building up public understanding, confidence and acceptance, making the process transparent through spreading honest information in an understandable way. Communication thereby needs to be information-oriented as well as dialogue-oriented always regarding the culture and cultural level in question. Sometimes, it's better to start with smaller projects to accommodate local people to the presence and benefits of a new energy source, than to go immediately into completion of big projects.

2. *Environmental impact / environmental acceptance.*

The development of a geothermal project can have environmental impacts to a certain extent. Elements of the impact can contribute positively or negatively to local public opinion, depending on the quality of the organizational approach of project development, quality of project design, organization of work during construction and completion, and quality of the

operations. General positive opinion can be reached when most of the elements are done in a proper way. Therefore, environmental standards and regulations covering the use of geothermal energy need to be set up and observed by the government.

3. *Political acceptance.*

Political support for geothermal development is important as a support to get public acceptance and as support to get necessary State support for the initial development phase. Political support can comprise independent information campaigns, financial support (e.g. research funding, guaranteed feed-in tariffs) and determining administrative and regulatory standards.



In addition, social acceptability is one of the most important parts of the process of geothermal energy development in a specific environment and should be taken into account. In order to attain social acceptability, the project activities should not result in drastic changes from the regular conditions of the area, and the affected sectors should be able to see some advantages issuing from the project. Social acceptability of a profit-purported project is the condition upon which the technical and economic objectives of the project may be pursued in due time and with the consensus of the local communities which can be gained by acting in consonance with the dynamic conditions of the environment, and in the respect of the people's health, welfare, and culture. It is not possible to complete a successful project if initially not identifying the elements of the local environment, which can influence its social acceptance and not designing honest organizational, technical, economic, and other solutions in order to prevent the development of negative opinions.

Next ENGINE meetings

[Leiden, workshop 7, 8-9/11/2007](#)

Deadline for registration: 30/10/2007

The ENGINE workshop 7 “Risk Analysis for Development of Geothermal Energy” will be held in Leiden, the Netherlands at “Naturalis” - National Museum of Natural History on 7 to 9 November 2007.



Leiden, NL.

The workshop is planned with presentations of (invited) speakers on day one and thorough discussions on Risk Assessment and preparational discussions with regards to the EGS -Reference Manual on the second day. The anticipated themes deal with a compilation of decision and risk management methodologies for geothermal assets. The workshop will focus in particular on lessons learned and best practice guidelines for Decision and Risk management for scenario and parameter uncertainty in asset

[Vilnius, Final Conference, 13-14/02/2008](#)

Deadline for registration: 25/01/2008

The ENGINE Final Conference will be held at Le Meridien Villon Resort & Convention Centre, Vilnius, Lithuania, February 13-14. The aim of the conference is to present the main results of the ENGINE project to show that (1) the framework of activities has been updated as a result of the coordination action through the contribution of all partners and associated partners; (2) there is a sound knowledge shared by a renewed scientific community and a strong motivation to face challenges through innovative research projects; (3) priorities have been established in research needs leading to several proposals of spin-off projects and to the setting up of the project for an European Geothermal Drilling

development. The themes will largely build on results from WP 6, 7 and 8.

- Registration for the workshop is mandatory, deadline October 30, 2007. The online registration form is provided on the workshop website.

- Deadline for abstract submission: October 30, 2007. Please use the online abstract submission form.

- Further information: <http://engine.brgm.fr> following the link Conferences & workshops.

- The flyer of the Leiden workshop is on the next pages.



Geothermal well Bleiswijk, NL.

Program; (4) conditions are gathered to promote these new projects through a common approach between R&D teams and stakeholders. The industrial and educational aspects of geothermal energy are emphasized. An exhibition is planned with the main objective of strengthening and creating links between R&D teams, investors and industry.

The workshop is planned with presentations of invited speakers on specific topics and short poster presentations (5 min) and discussions.

- Registration for the workshop is mandatory, deadline 31 January 2008. The [online registration form](#) is provided on the workshop website.

- Deadline for abstract submission: 10 January 2008. Please use the [online abstract submission form](#).



ENGINE

Enhanced Geothermal Innovative Network for
Europe
<http://engine.brgm.fr>

Workshop 7

Risk Analysis for Development of Geothermal Energy

07- 09 November 2007
Leiden, The Netherlands



BACKGROUND

The workshop is organised within the framework of the EU ENGINE Coordination Action.

AIM OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop includes a number of separate themes. The anticipated themes deal with a compilation of decision and risk management methodologies for geothermal assets. This includes

- 1) Assessment of critical underground uncertainty in terms of exploration risk and reservoir properties, in conjunction with
- 2) Underground and surface development options for enhancing performance and
- 3) Surface energy demand and
- 4) Socio-economic issues/public acceptance

The workshop will focus in particular on lessons learned and best practice guidelines for Decision and Risk management for scenario and parameter uncertainty in asset development. The themes will largely build on results from WP 6, 7 and 8.

PLACE

Naturalis-National Museum of Natural History
Darwinweg 2
Leiden, The Netherlands

REGISTRATION AND ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

For registration please use online registration form at:

[http://conferences-
engine.brgm.fr/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=8](http://conferences-engine.brgm.fr/conferenceDisplay.py?confId=8)

Registration deadline:
30 October 2007

Abstract Submission deadline:
25 October 2007

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Preliminary program

Wednesday 07 November 2007

19.00-21.00 Icebreaker reception

Thursday 08 November 2007

08.30-09.00 Coffee

09.00-09.30 Opening address (Henk Pagnier-TNO)

09.30-11.00 Session 1 - Generic Methods for managing exploration and development risk.

11.00-11.30 Coffee break

11.30-13.00 Session 2 Assessing and managing Techno-Economical uncertainties for Geothermal Assets.

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00- 15.30 Session 2- continued

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-18.00 Session 3 Assessing and managing Organisational and Environmental issues for Geothermal Assets.

18.00-19.00 Drinks

19.30-22.00 Diner

Friday 09 November 2007

09.00 -11.30 Plenary discussion on Risk Assessment in a Multi-Disciplinary Group

11.30-12.30 (Guided) Tour in the Museum

12.30-13.30 Lunch

13.30-17.00 (*Engine partners only*) Towards a European Reference Manual for the development of Unconventional Geothermal Resources and Enhanced Geothermal Systems : linking up WP 6, 7, 8 to WP 9

17.00 Closing address and Drinks

Route map (see map)

From the City Centre, follow the white signs with “Naturalis”:
walk to the train station, cross the railway through the train station; walk around the big medical center (LUMC), the entrance of Naturalis is located in the old Pesthuis.

