



PROJECT GRETA NATIONAL FINAL CONFERENCE

Ljubljana, 5/12/18

On Wednesday, 5th of December 2018, a national conference on shallow geothermal energy potential took place at Ministry of Infrastructure in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The research team from Geological Survey of Slovenia presented the objectives and results of 3-year long international project GRETA.

The conference was hosted and opened by Erik Potočar from Ministry of Infrastructure who presented the purpose of the conference. Joerg Prestor briefly presented the GRETA project to the participants.

The introductory presentation was given by mag. Dušan Rajver, who briefly described the concepts of shallow geothermal energy exploitation, the development of the geothermal heat pumps market in the EU and Slovenia, and three selected examples of good practices for using geothermal energy that took part in the competition, which was carried out within the GRETA project. There were 23 participants, among which the Nordic Center Planica won. Simona Pestotnik demonstrated the development of database for integration of shallow geothermal energy into energy planning, for instance into Local Energy Concepts. She focused on the results of research in the Cerklje ob Sotli municipality, as one of the pilot areas of GRETA project, and presented some other main results of the GRETA project. Among them is the first Slovenian geothermal educational trail Cerklje ob Sotli. An overview and comparison of regulations and administrative procedures in various countries and regions of the Alpine region was presented by mag. Joerg Prestor. He pointed out some of the main shortcomings of today's regulations in the Alpine countries, and recommended what is the most urgent to regulate in Slovenia. GeoZS, as a Slovenian partner in the project, managed activities in the field of legal regulation of shallow geothermal energy. One of the most important results of the project are the Guidelines for harmonization of regulations in the field of shallow geothermal energy in slovenian language.





The presentation was followed by a brief discussion, which emphasized the great untapped potential of shallow geothermal energy on the territory of Slovenia and the possibility of increasing its use through improved integration into local energy concepts (LEC).

It was pointed out that we need to establish better traceability of existing systems and development of a database from which it will be possible to assess the potential for local communities and select the most effective type of use for a particular location. The development of a database is also needed in order to be able to more closely follow the share of this energy between renewable energy sources, the assessment of the market situation, trends, as well as the risks arising from bad practices. The participants showed interest in all products that facilitate the integration of the data required for the preparation of LEC.

It was pointed out that the mining legislation does not constitute a barrier to the increased introduction of shallow geothermal systems, but there are several obstacles or restrictions from the water sector. The discussion focused on the possible expansion of geothermal heat pumps and their interactions in densely populated areas and aquifers. There was also a question about possible solutions to provide one entry point for applications for obtaining permissions, facilitating licensing and how this was resolved in neighboring countries.

The joint conclusion of the conference was that GeoZS sends Ministry of Infrastructure information on where the final products of the GRETA project will be accessible, especially those that can be used for energy planning and local energy concepts of municipalities.



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