

The following 15 policy measures were developed within the EU-funded Greet GEO project based on regional policy analysis, value chain benchmarking, stakeholder consultations and innovation ecosystem assessments carried out across the participating regions and aim to support the deployment of deep and shallow geothermal energy by addressing financial, regulatory, technical, market and governance barriers while strengthening regional innovation ecosystems and interregional cooperation.

04

Streamline Permitting Procedures

Regional and national authorities should review existing permitting frameworks and identify opportunities to simplify procedures, improve transparency and strengthen coordination among authorities involved in geothermal project approvals, as well as explore opportunities for cross-border regulatory cooperation, including the mutual recognition of technical qualifications, certifications and geothermal drilling licences where equivalent standards exist. Existing industry guidance may provide useful reference points for the harmonisation of technical, safety and operational requirements.

05

Integrate Geothermal Energy into Regional Planning

Geothermal energy should be systematically incorporated into regional climate, energy, innovation and economic development strategies. Attention should be given to regional energy planning, spatial planning, heating and cooling strategies, industrial development policies and Smart Specialisation priorities to ensure greater policy coherence and project visibility. This integration can also support long-term investment certainty and facilitate the development of district heating, industrial heat and building decarbonisation projects.

06

Support Demonstration and Pilot Projects

Public support should prioritise demonstration projects capable of validating innovative geothermal technologies, reducing perceived risks and increasing confidence among investors, public authorities and end-users, these should include pilot projects, living labs, demonstration buildings, site visits and project showcase activities capable of communicating the practical benefits of geothermal solutions.

07

Strengthen Research–Industry Collaboration

Regional innovation policies should encourage closer cooperation between research organisations, universities, industry actors and public authorities. Joint research projects, innovation partnerships, technology transfer initiatives and collaborative innovation platforms can accelerate commercialisation and market uptake. Stronger collaboration can also improve access to geological data, technical expertise and innovative business models while supporting the development of region-specific geothermal solutions.

01

Establish Regional Geothermal Investment Support Facilities

Regional authorities should establish dedicated support mechanisms to help geothermal project developers prepare investment-ready projects and access available funding opportunities by providing technical assistance, feasibility studies, business case development, financial modelling and guidance on regional, national and European funding instruments. Major attention should be given to the needs of SMEs and municipalities, which often lack the resources required to develop bankable geothermal projects.

02

Develop Geothermal Risk-Sharing Mechanisms

Public authorities should promote financial instruments to reduce geological, exploration and investment risks associated with geothermal projects prioritizing SMEs and smaller-scale geothermal projects. Risk-sharing schemes, guarantee mechanisms, exploration funds, drilling support programmes and public-private financing instruments should help cover geological uncertainty, drilling risks and early-stage project development costs.

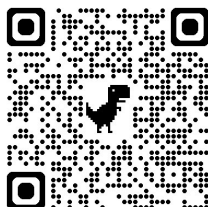
03

Create Regional Geothermal One-Stop-Shop Services

Dedicated geothermal one-stop-shop services should be established to provide coordinated support for project preparation, permitting, financing, technical requirements and regulatory procedures, facilitating coordination between water, environmental, mining, planning and energy authorities while providing clear guidance to project developers, municipalities, SMEs and investors



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08 Promote Integrated Geothermal Energy Systems

Regional authorities should encourage integrated geothermal solutions that maximise resource utilisation and improve system efficiency. Greater attention should be given to cascade use concepts, thermal storage applications and cross-sector integration opportunities linking geothermal energy with district heating, cooling, buildings, agriculture and industrial processes.

09 Strengthen SME Support Services

Regional support programmes should provide targeted advisory services, mentoring, project development assistance and business support tailored to SME needs, including energy audits, standardised business case templates, ROI calculators, project preparation assistance, advisory services and support for the development of turnkey geothermal solutions. Helping SMEs understand the economic benefits of geothermal investments and navigate available financing opportunities should be a key focus.

10 Strengthen the Role of Intermediary Organisations

Energy agencies, cluster organisations, chambers of commerce, development agencies, geothermal associations and innovation support organisations should be further empowered to facilitate stakeholder cooperation, improve information exchange and support project development activities. They should also act as facilitators between project developers, municipalities, financial institutions and public authorities, supporting project matchmaking, communication activities, knowledge transfer and policy networking.

11 Improve Access to Finance for SMEs

Regional authorities should facilitate stronger connections between SMEs and financial institutions, including commercial banks, public development banks and specialised investment funds. Improved access to financing is essential for increasing SME participation in geothermal markets and supporting the development of viable business cases. Specific instruments may include dedicated geothermal loan products, green loan schemes, guarantee mechanisms, leasing models, ESCO approaches and blended finance solutions tailored to SME investment cycles and financing needs.

12 Develop Regional Geothermal Skills Programmes

Targeted education, training and certification programmes should be established to address workforce shortages and strengthen implementation capacity among engineers, installers, project developers and public administration staff. Training programmes should include installer certification schemes, vocational education, engineering capacity building and specialised training for municipal officials, permitting authorities and project evaluators involved in geothermal development.

13 Increase Public Awareness and Societal Acceptance

Communication and awareness-raising activities should focus not only on geothermal technologies themselves, but also on their practical benefits, including energy cost savings, competitiveness, energy security, resilience and decarbonisation outcomes. Transparent information sharing, demonstration projects, monitoring data, feasibility studies, sector-specific case studies and early stakeholder engagement can contribute significantly to improving public acceptance and market uptake.

14 Strengthen the European Geothermal S3 Partnership

Regional authorities should actively support the further development of the emerging European geothermal Smart Specialisation partnerships through interregional cooperation, knowledge exchange and joint innovation activities. This should focus especially on the creation and implementation of S3-based geothermal roadmaps that provide practical implementation pathways and can support long-term cooperation, investment planning and policy learning across European regions while strengthening the foundations of future European geothermal S3 partnerships.

15 Establish Regional Geothermal Data and Knowledge Platforms

Regional authorities should support the creation of shared geothermal data repositories and knowledge platforms providing geological information, market intelligence, technical guidance, regulatory information, case studies and good practices. Improved access to reliable information can reduce project uncertainty, strengthen decision-making and accelerate project development. Wherever possible, these platforms should facilitate interregional data sharing, improve access to subsurface information and support long-term knowledge sharing, interregional cooperation and evidence-based policy development.

