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Pannonian Basin Decarbonisation Hub

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29 October 2026, Zagreb Tamas Solymosi

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Agenda

01 What is the Pannonian Decarbonisation Hub?

02 What are its key goals, who are the founding members?

03 Energy projects funded in the I3 2a call in the past 4 years

04 Potential collaboration – why move from Horizon funding?

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01 | What is the Pannonian Decarbonisation Hub?

The Hub is a **collaboration framework** of likeminded experienced energy specialist regional legal entities to tackle **regional strategic energy and water issues**.

The Hub aims to function as an umbrella organisation of relevant public and private bodies, national industry associations and forum for relevant significant firms.

The Basin is bound together by **multiple shared factors**:

- Severe vulnerability to **LNG imports** and **water stress**
- **Geothermal** and **waste** (heat, etc.) **utilisation** potential
- Relevant **EU Directives** to be implemented (EED, EPBD, etc.)

- Decarbonisation: key for decreasing natural gas and LNG imports, a security (e.g. key infrastructure) & macroeconomic imperative.

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Share and benchmark relevant data, information and best practices

- Develop databases to facilitate improved regulations, project development
- Learn from each-others' successes and problems, foster knowledge exchange

Facilitate cooperation, mobilise public and private sector financing

- Facilitate a more attractive investment environment, innovation, cross-border projects, business and public sector relationships and work-force development
- Serve as an umbrella organisation and a professional advocacy platform

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02 | Who are the founding members?

8 organisations from 5 countries of the Pannonian Basin

- Energy Institute Hrvoje Požar (Croatia)
- Local Energy Agency Pomurje (Slovenia)
- EMEF Ltd.; Hungarian Geothermal Association and Hungarian Heat Pump Association (Hungary)
- Green Energy Association (Romania)
- Geothermal Ukraine and GeoInnovate Solutions (Ukraine)

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03 |Energy projects funded in the I3 2a call in the past 4 years

1 hydrogen project (typically with **3 countries) funded each year**

Approximate **EU funding provided by country** indicated in the table below (EUR m)

	LV	EST	NL	SI	HR	IT	BE	ES	PT	BG
H2Value	1.55	1.36	0.08							
NACHIP				2.40	2.30	2.81	0.12			
NASCHA				3.60	1.72	2.58				
H2BLUE								4.53	0.39	0.30
Total (23.75)	1.55	1.36	0.08	6.00	4.02	5.39	0.12	4.53	0.39	0.30

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04 | Potential collaboration – why move from Horizon funding?

Potential (illustrative) fields of collaboration

- electrification of heating of public and commercial buildings, with special emphasis on waste heat utilisation (e.g. spas, DHC, municipal wastewater, data centres) and increasing the energy security of energy intensive critical infrastructure
- sectoral databases, open data, benchmarking, municipal heating and cooling plans
- nature-based solutions

Why move from Horizon funding to other business models?

- Skyrocketing number of proposals (well-written, with AI), very low chances
- Even proposals reaching maximum points are not funded
- Much time spent on proposal preparation
- Long lead periods between idea and actual project realisation

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Thank you!

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