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In June 2016 the European Commission published an Issue Paper on SET-Plan Actions No 1&2 on the topic 'Deep geothermal Energy'. The DHC+ Technology Platform welcomes the paper and the efforts taken by the European Commission.

The paper covers technical issues around deep geothermal energy. In the introductory part it is rightfully outlined that there are different sectors or applications that can use geothermal energy including District Heating. DHC+ welcomes the notion that DHC is the most promising sector for the utilisation of this energy source. Geothermal has a big potential to cover energy needs in the building sector and especially in urban areas. However, this potential and the positive notion do not translate into actions in this paper.

The EU Heating & Cooling strategy outlines that the decarbonisation of the heating & cooling sector is a complex task that calls for the innovative use of a variety of technologies. With a developing building stock, smart DHC solutions need to be rolled out and solutions that allow for the utilisation of deep geothermal energy in low-temperature grids need further attention. At the same time, the decarbonisation of industrial processes creates differing requirements due to high-temperature processes. On top of this geothermal systems can also provide energy for cooling solutions or function as storage.

Targets

In line with the above stated, DHC+ would like to point out that the targets expressed in the paper purely focus on the source side but neither on different applications nor on the interaction between different requirements and the sourcing. Therefore, DHC+ calls for an additional target on next generation geothermal district heating and cooling.

Actions

Equally, DHC+ calls for actions in the fields of next generation DHC and geothermal storage to support the further roll-out of deep geothermal energy while increasing the cost-efficiency. Actions could include the realisation of new geothermal DHC, the integration of geothermal energy in existing grids and the combination of geothermal with other sources in multi-source grids. In parallel, the further development of geothermal storage and its integration in DHC needs attention and further activity.



Reactions to the draft issue paper on 'Deep Geothermal Energy' under Actions 1 & 2

The DHC+ Technology Platform is an initiative set up under the umbrella of [Euroheat & Power](#) and represents the voice of Research & Innovation for District Heating and Cooling in Europe and beyond. <http://www.dhcplus.eu/>