

Novak, Julie Friddell, Katarina Marojević, Catarina Castro, and the TRANSGEO Partners

# Agenda for today's webinar (90 minutes)

- Welcome, introduction to TRANSGEO, well reuse in central Europe Hannes Hofmann
- TRANSGEO products and outputs
  - Reuse technologies, Engineering Workflows Hannes Hofmann
  - Criteria Catalogue, Database, Well Assessment tool Ferenc Fedor
  - Socio-Economic Analyses Matej Prkič
  - Policy/Legal Analysis Monika Hölzel
  - Feasibility Studies, pilot site case study Tomislav Kurevija
  - Transnational Strategy and Action Plan Ema Novak
- Opportunities to engage products and stakeholder meetings Julie Friddell
- Questions and discussion
- Invitation to connect via social media/email list



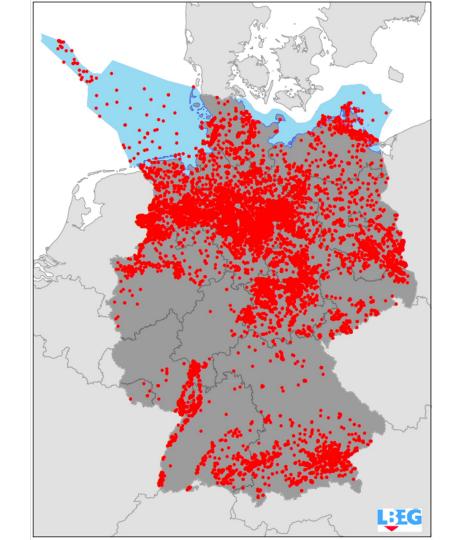




# Why reuse old wells?

# There are thousands of oil & gas wells in central Europe

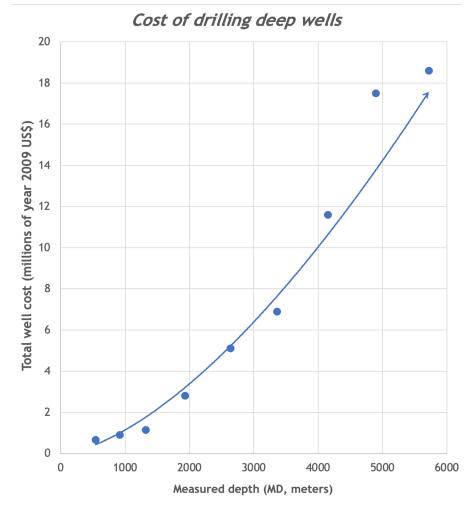
- Germany: >20.000 (Jordan et al., 2022)
- Hungary: >8.000 (pers. comm.)
- Austria: >4.000 (pers. comm.)
- Croatia: >3.000 (Kurevija and Vulin, 2011)
- Slovenia: >100 (pers. comm.)



# Why reuse old wells?

# Reduction of high up-front investment

- New deep wells cost € millions, often >50% of the total geothermal project cost
- Millions of € can be saved by reusing existing wells



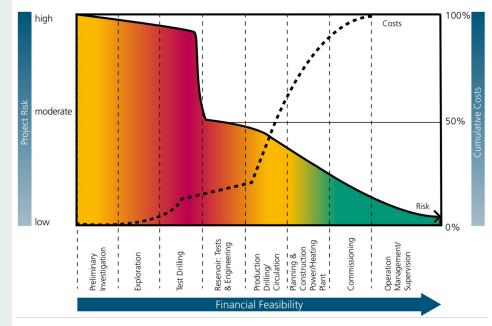
<sup>(</sup>after Tester et al., The Future of Geothermal Energy, 2006) (Data from Joint Assoc. Survey on Drilling Costs, indexed to 2009 US\$)

# Why reuse old wells?

## Reduction of exploration risk

- The biggest hurdle for geothermal development is the geological uncertainty associated with the high upfront investment for drilling
- Knowledge about the subsurface reduces barriers for large-scale and fast geothermal development

# Development phases of a geothermal heating plant, with cost progression



Bracke & Huenges, 2022

# TRANSGEO - transforming abandoned hydrocarbon wells for geothermal energy production

- 11 Partners
- 5 Countries: Germany, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia
- Budget: 2.61 Million € (80% ERDF funding)
- May 2023 April 2026
- Lead Partner: GFZ Potsdam
- https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/transgeo/



**LBGR** 









Landesamt für Bergbau, Geologie und Rohstoffe Brandenburg













PÉCSI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM

UNIVERSITY OF PÉCS

#### **Associated Partners**



C GeoSphere Austria



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA **GOV.SI** 



Geologischer Dienst Nordrhein-Westfalen – Landesbetrieb –









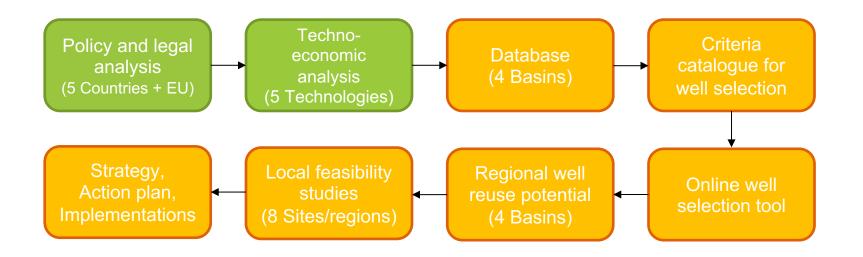




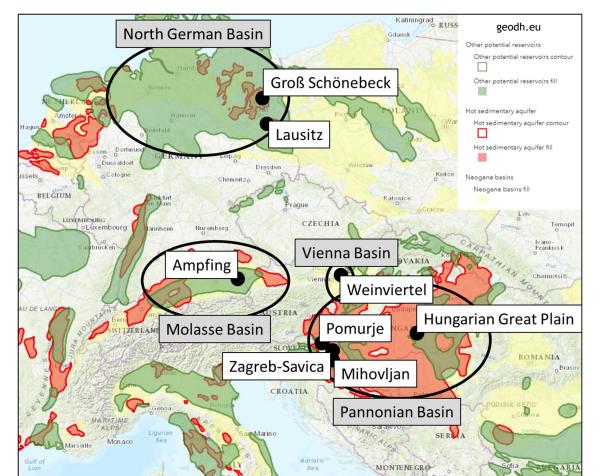




# What is the potential for geothermal energy development from oil and gas wells in central Europe? How to exploit it?

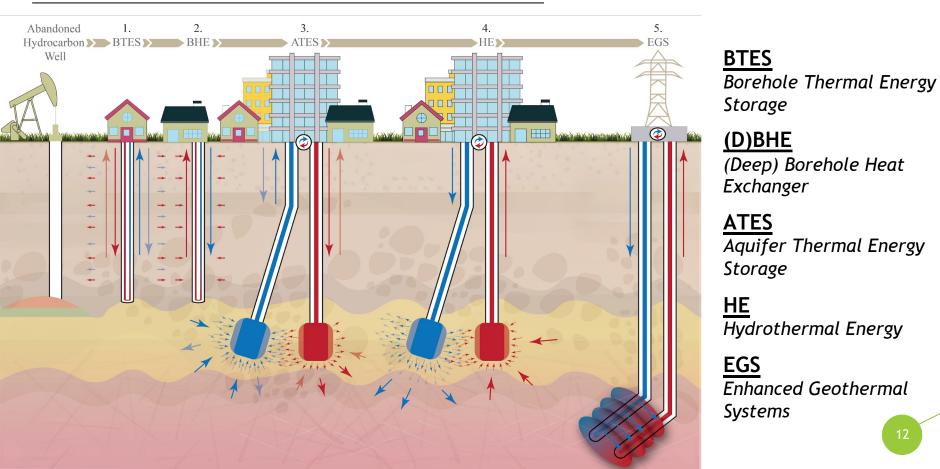


# **TRANSGEO - 4 Basins, 8 Pilot Sites/Regions**

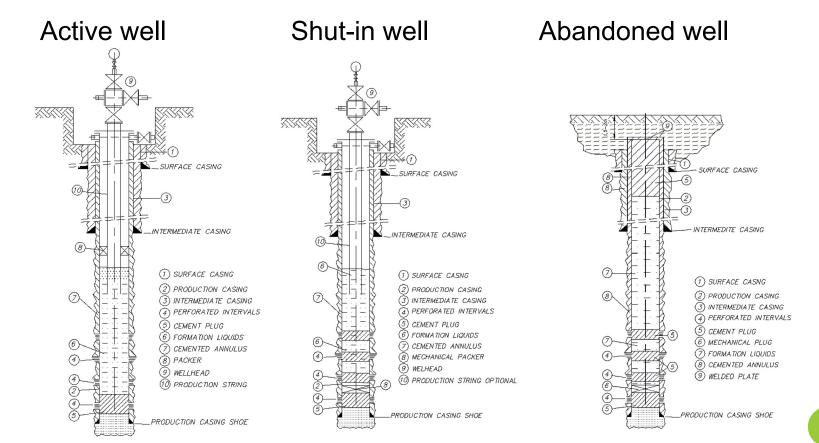


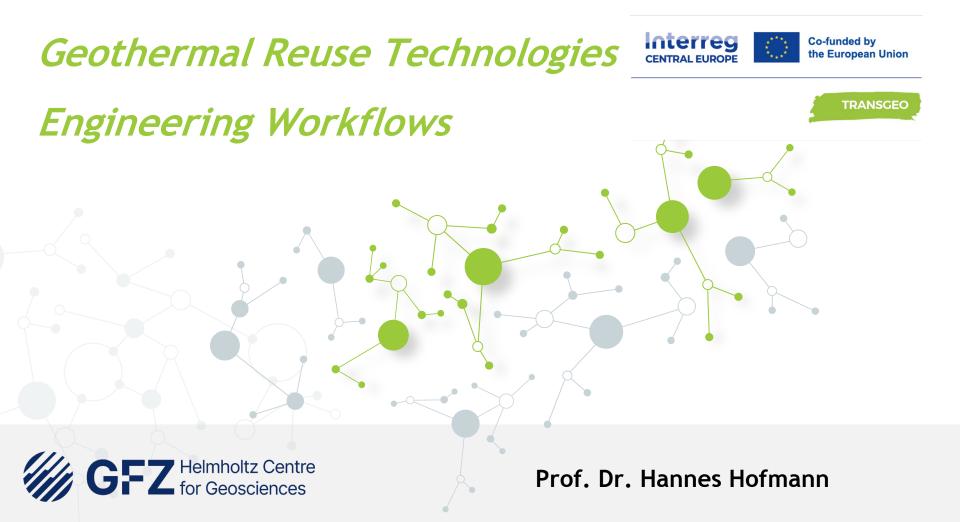
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# **5 Geothermal Technologies**



# Active or shut-in wells = most suitable for reuse





## Well reuse workflow



1) Feasibility assessment & business model

- Data access
- Identification of potentially suitable well(s) & customers
- Initial feasibility
- Feasibility study
- Investment decision



2) Ownership transfer & permitting

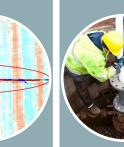
- Private contracts (liabilities)
- Licenses for heat (oil/gas) exploration and production Permits for

activities

(workover,

operation)

• Hydraulic tests (open systems)



3) Reconditioning & revaluation

- Detailed
- Drill site const. and access • Workover (open/
- clean/repair well)
- Logging and integrity tests



4) Well completion

- Cementation
- Deepening/sidetrack
- Perforation

• Tubing

• Downhole pump

 Monitoring devices



5) Surface infrastructure

Heat exchanger

- District heating network
- Pipes, pumps,
- Depending on resource and application



• Long-term heat

and/or

work

electricity

production

Monitoring

program

Maintenance

7) Plug & abandon

- Cementation of the well
- Remediation
- Proof of financing and expertise for P&A required at the start of the project

#### Link to Workflow reports:

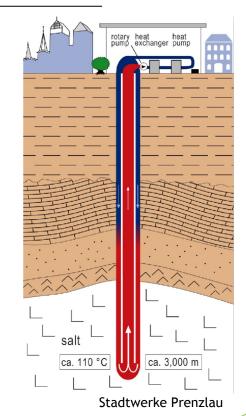
https://www.interreg-central.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/TRANSGEO-D1.1.6-Engineering-Workflows-FINAL-December-2024.pdf

# **Deep Borehole Heat Exchangers: Key aspects**

- Classic reuse, but low energy yield
  - ~ ~50 to ~500 kW (depending on well length and temperature)
- Economically challenging, but better than new well
  - ✓ Cost for reuse >100.000 € (100k to >500k €)
  - ✓ Cost for P&A >100.000 € (200k to 1.000k €)
  - ✓ + Operating costs >10.000 €/a
  - ✓ Revenue >10.000 €/a (10 ct/kWh & 50kW ⇒ 50k €/a)

#### For economic reuse

- The well must not yet have been abandoned
- The final abandonment must already be financed
- The heat consumer must be in the immediate vicinity
- The wellbore integrity and diameter should be recently confirmed by logging and testing
- $\checkmark$  PE should be used instead of steel pipes, where T allows
- A high geothermal gradient and thermal conductivity helps



# Hydrothermal Energy: Key aspects

#### **Option 1: Co-Production**

- GWR/OWR can be <<10% in old reservoirs
- >10 L/s water production rate possible (>2.5 MWth)
- Only installation of a heat exchanger and consumer required

#### Option 2: Water production from oil/gas reservoir

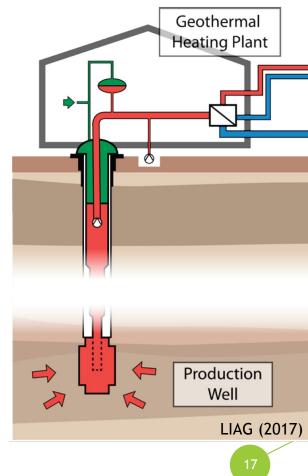
- Low reservoir pressure after decades of production
  - ➡ use for injection
- $^{\circ}$  Low relative permeability of water due to residual oil/gas
  - ➡ use "dry" exploration wells

#### Option 3: Deepening into a geothermal reservoir

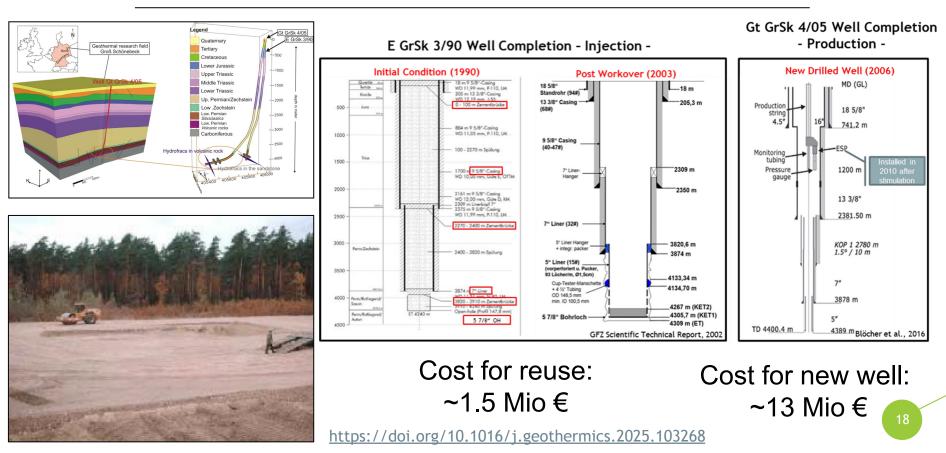
• Frictional pressure losses due to small well diameters

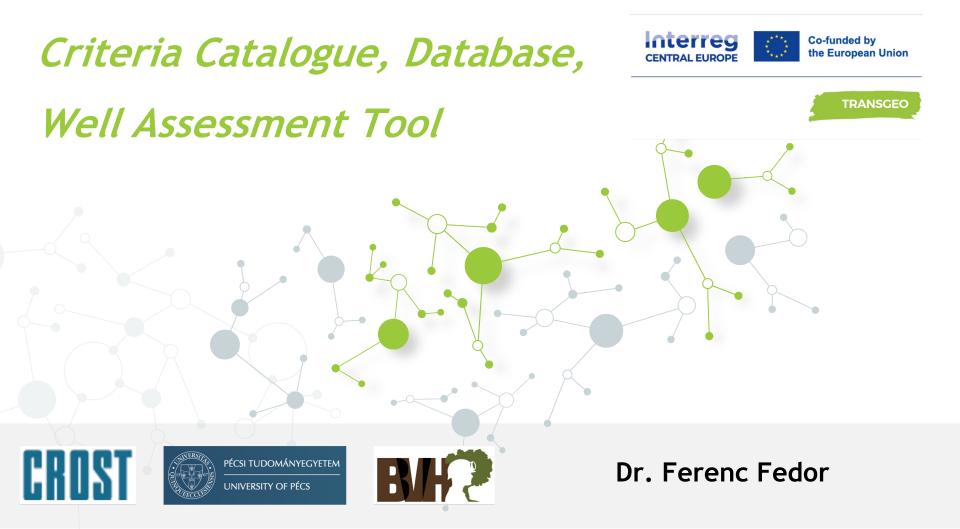
#### Option 4: Perforation of a shallower reservoir

Reservoir access and integrity can be challenging



# Example Groß Schönebeck: Reuse of an abandoned gas exploration well as geothermal injection well





**Criteria Catalogue:** summarises, evaluates and weights all relevant factors affecting the repurposing potential of wells and surface infrastructure, including technological, geological, thermal, political and socio-economic factors.

**Relational Database:** collects all available data of deep wells, surface infrastructure, heat transfer and heat demand of customers required to evaluate the repurposing potential of the existing and abandoned hydrocarbon well infrastructure of the targeted rural areas.

Well Assessment Tool: IT-based selection tool for identifying the most promising wells for repurposing and the most suitable reuse technologies, on the basis of the Criteria Catalogue/decision tree.

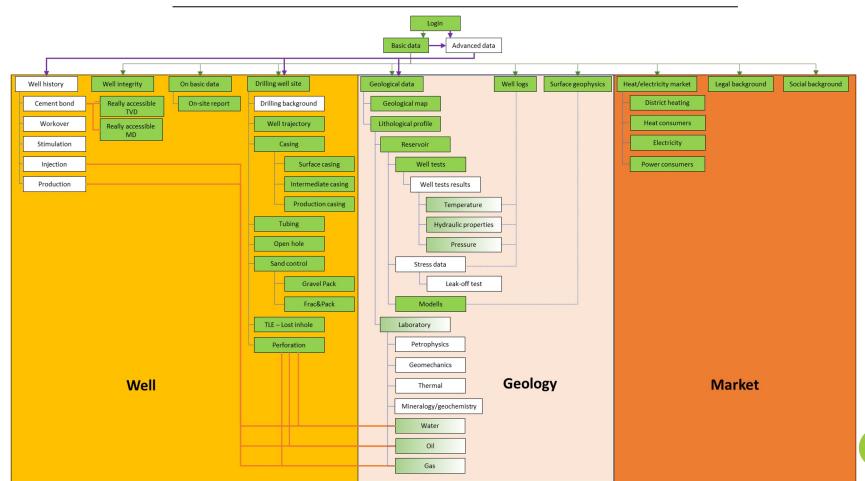
> Available in summer/fall 2025 for review and feedback

# **Criteria Catalogue (Decision Tree)**

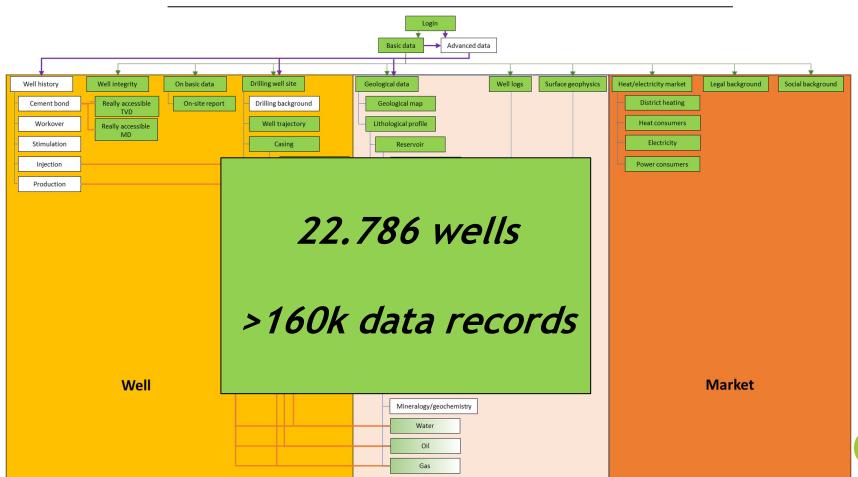
	Technology	EGS	HS		DBHE	BTES	ATES					
	Goal	Electricity (and he	at)	:) Heat								
	Well/Market	W/M										
1	Heat storage		Produ	ction		Storage/p	roduction					
	Well status Well integrity Protected areas	Pr?/Shut-in/TA/PA?/U? No, possible?, proven? Yes, No?	Pr?/Shut-in No, possible Yes, No?	/TA/PA?/U? e?, proven?	Pr?/Shut-in/TA/U? No, possible? Yes, No?	Pr?/Shut-in/TA/U? No, possible? Yes, No?	Pr?/Shut-in/TA/PA?/U? No, possible?, proven? Yes, No?					
2	Market	M/I	M/A/I									
3	Geology BHT Depth Well distance	Cl, Ca, M/P >90 oC >1000 <2 km	Cl, Ca >35 oC >400 <2 km		Cl, Ca, M/P >20 oC >400 irrelevant	Cl, Ca, M/P < 100 oC 3000>D>400 <2 km	Cl, Ca, M/P any >400 <2 km					
4	Mineralogy Water chemistry Gas content Porosity Permeability Water flow rate Productivity Index Minimum casing Impermeable layers Reservoir thickness	qualification qualification qualification < 10% (< 30?) < 10 exp(-14) (-12?) < 50 (< 100?) < 10 >=7 (<7?) No importance irrelevant	qualificatii qualificatii > 30% (an >10 exp(-1 < 100 > 10 >=7 (<7?) No import >10 (>5?)	on on y?) 12) (-14?)	irrelevant irrelevant any any irrelevant irrelevant >=7 (<7?) No importance irrelevant	irrelevant irrelevant any <10 exp(-12) (any?) irrelevant irrelevant >=7 (<7?) No importance irrelevant	qualificationqualificationqualification> 30% (>10?)any> 100 (>50?)> 10>=7 (<7?)need>10 (>5?)					

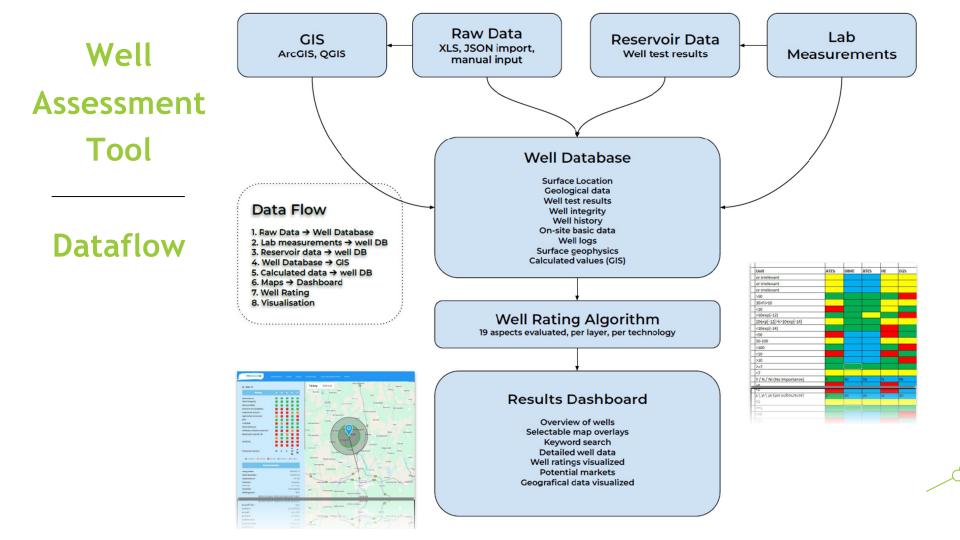
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## **Database structure - flow chart**

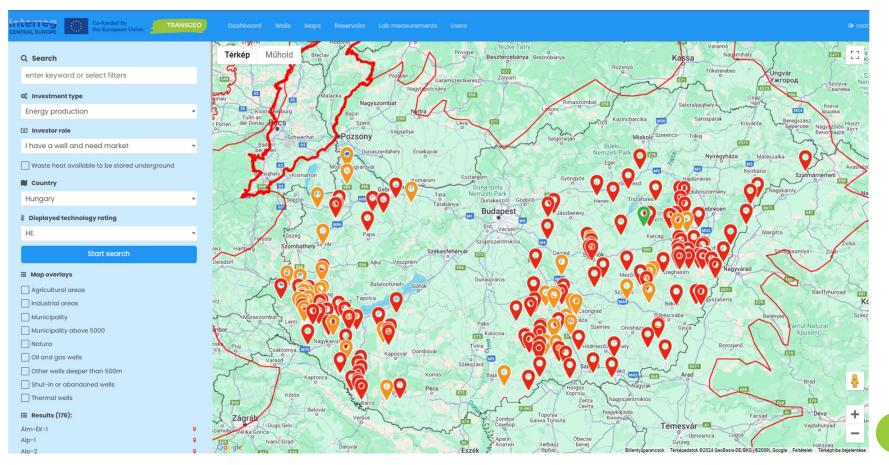


## **Database structure - flow chart**





### Well Assessment Tool: Candidate well identification





### **Goals of Socio-Economic Analysis**

Investigate different sectors for potential application of reuse technologies:

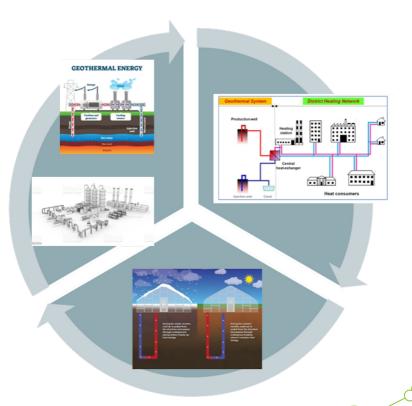
- Industry
- Agriculture
- Municipalities

Recognize and understand the potential and challenges:

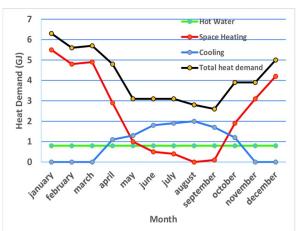
- Geothermal source
- Social view of acceptability and challenges
- Economic feasibility assessment
- Good practices

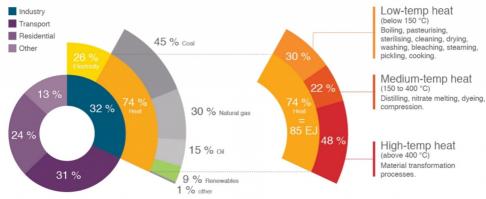
#### Link to 3 reports:

https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/transgeo/?tab=outputs

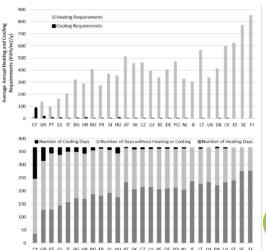


### Demand Patterns, Applicability, and Target Groups

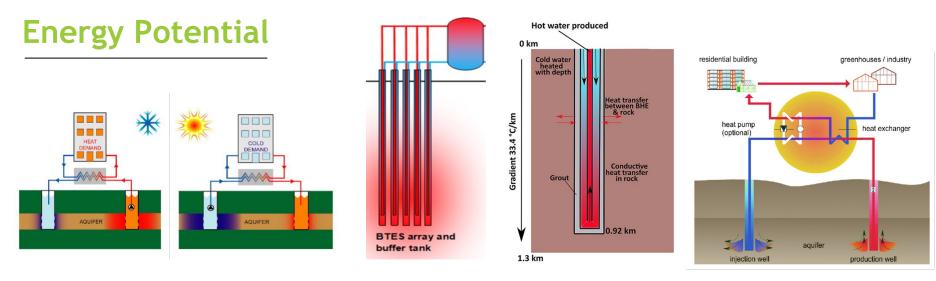




	AUS	TRIA	GERMANY		HUN	GARY	CRO	ATTA	SLOVENIA	
	TWh	%	TWh	%	TWh	%	TWh	%	TWh	%
Industry	84,7	28,8	699,0	29,0	55,0	25,2	13,1	16,9	15,0	26,6
Transport	95,3	32,4	653,0	27,0	56,9	26,0	25,9	33,2	21,8	38,6
Private sector (households)	79,9	27,1	670,0	27,0	74,7	34,2	26,4	33,9	13,8	24,3
% of overall consumption		88,3		83,0		85,4		84,0		89,5
Service sector	28,3	9,6	385,0	16,0	24,2	11,1	9,4	12,1	4,4	7,8
Agricultural sector	6,1	2,1	24,0	1,0	7,8	3,6	3,1	3,9	1,6	2,7
% of overall consumption		11,7		17,0		14,6		16,0		10,5

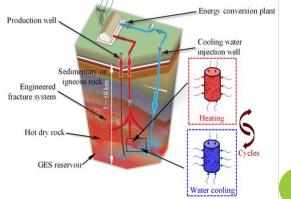


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DBHE -» 0,05-0,5 MWth (e.g., Bundesverband Geothermie, 2024)

- BTES --> 0,05-0,5 MWth
- ATES -» 0,5-20 MWth (Fleuchaus et al., 2018)
- HE ---> 10-50 MWth (e.g., Bundesverband Geothermie, 2024)
- EGS -- 1-5 MWe or 10-50 MWth



		EGS	(2 x 3000 m)	2.100.000 €	150.000 €					
TECHNOLOGY	HUNGARY	/ CROATIA / S	LOVENIA	TOTAL C	COST					
TECHNOLOGY	Workover	Services	Material	BY TECHN	OLOGY					
DBHE (1 x 2000 m)	180.000 -	20.000 -	70.000 -							
	200.000 €	30.000 €	€ 000.08	270.000 - 3	10.000 €					
BTES (1 x 2000 m)	180.000 -	20.000 -	70.000 -							
BTE3 (T X 2000 III)	200.000 €	30.000 €	€ 000.08	270.000 - 3	10.000 €					
ATES (2 x 1000 m)	135.000 -	20.000 -	30.000 -							
ATES (2 X 1000 III)	145.000 €	30.000 €	40.000 €	185.000 - 2	15.000 €					
$HE(2 \times 2000 \text{ m})$	320.000 -	30.000 -	30.000 -							
HE (2 x 2000 m)	350.000 €	40.000 €	40.000 €	380.000 - 43	30.000 €					
$ECS(2 \times 2000 m)$	860.000 -	90.000 -	90.000 -							
EGS (2 x 3000 m)	900.000 €	100.000 €	110.000 €	1.040.000 - 1.	110.000 €					

# Cost estimates

## for WELLS

TECHNOLOGY	AUS	TRIA / GERMA	TOTAL COST	
	Workover	Services	Material	BY TECHNOLOGY
DBHE (1 x 2000 m)	330.000 - 350.000 €	45.000 - 50.000 €	150.000 - 160.000 €	525.000 - 560.000 €
BTES (1 x 2000 m)	330.000 - 350.000 €	45.000 - 50.000 €	150.000 - 160.000 €	525.000 - 560.000 €
ATES (2 x 1000 m)	240.000 - 260.000 €	45.000 - 50.000 €	50.000 - 60.000 €	335.000 - 370.000 €
HE (2 x 2000 m)	510.000 - 550.000 €	55.000 - 65.000 €	50.000 - 60.000 €	615.000 - 675.000 €
EGS (2 x 3000 m)	2.000.000 - 2.100.000 €	120.000 - 150.000 €	100.000 - 120.000 €	2.220.000 - 2.370.000 €

• Well workover

				``	· ·
	H	IUNGARY / CRO	ATIA / SLOVENI	A	TOTAL COST
TECHNOLOGY	Surface/ Downhole pumps	Piping installation	Heat exchanger	Metering system	BY TECHNOLOGY
DBHE	3.000 - 5.000	10.000 -	10.000 -	7.000 -	30.000 -
(distance 50 m)	€	15.000 €	15.000 €	10.000 €	45.000 €
BTES	3.000 - 5.000	10.000 -	10.000 -	7.000 -	30.000 -
(distance 50 m)	€	15.000 €	15.000 €	10.000 €	45.000 €
ATES	15.000 -	10.000 -	10.000 -	7.000 -	42.000 -
(distance 50 m)	20.000 €	15.000 €	15.000 €	10.000 €	60.000 €
HE	20.000 -	160.000 -	60.000 -	30.000 -	270.000 -
(distance 1000 m)	30.000 €	190.000 €	150.000 €	40.000 €	410.000 €
EGS	120.000 -	320.000 -	150.000 -	50.000 -	640.000 -
(distance 2000 m)	160.000 €	380.000 €	500.000 €	70.000 €	1.110.000 €

- Downhole pumps and production string
- Surface installation for distribution
- Heat exchanger
- Metering

# Cost estimates for SURFACE EQUIPMENT

		TOTAL COST			
TECHNOLOGY	Surface/ Downhole pumps	Piping installation	Heat exchanger	Metering system	BY TECHNOLOGY
DBHE	10.000 -	15.000 -	15.000 -	10.000 -	50.000 -
(distance 50 m)	15.000 €	20.000 €	20.000 €	15.000 €	70.000 €
BTES	10.000 -	15.000 -	15.000 -	10.000 -	50.000 -
(distance 50 m)	15.000 €	20.000 €	20.000 €	15.000 €	70.000 €
ATES	25.000 -	15.000 -	15.000 -	10.000 -	65.000 -
(distance 50 m)	30.000 €	20.000 €	20.000 €	15.000 €	85.000 €
HE	50.000 -	200.000 -	60.000 -	50.000 -	360.000 -
(distance 1000 m)	60.000 €	250.000 €	150.000 €	60.000 €	520.000 €
EGS	180.000 -	400.000 -	150.000 -	60.000 -	790.000 -
(distance 2000 m)	220.000 €	500.000 €	500.000 €	80.000 €	1.300.000 €



# Analysis and comparison of the legal, administrative and financial framework for well reuse

- Documentation and presentation of differences and similarities in the political framework conditions at country level
- Providing a list of best practices for policy regulations and incentives to identify bottlenecks and suggestions for improvement (focus on subsurface)
- Results applicable at transnational level

# Analysis and comparison of the <u>legal</u>, administrative and financial framework for well reuse - Examples

Licence systems for geothermal energy production exist in all TRANSGEO countries except Austria.

Well ownership:	HUNGARY	CROATIA	SLOVENIA	GERMANY	AUSTRIA
	<ul> <li>permit holder</li> <li>state owned (600)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>investor/company/ permit holder/ operator</li> <li>after that State of Croatia</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>operator/investor</li> <li>state</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>permit holder/ operator/investor</li> <li>state</li> </ul>	permit holder/ operator/investor
Well ownership/ Liabilities	HUNGARY	CROATIA	SLOVENIA	GERMANY	AUSTRIA
Transfer:	<ul> <li>In case of the state- owned wells the change of the ownership of a well is regulated by the State Property Act.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Possible</li> <li>Transfer of rights and obligations can be partial or wholesome.</li> </ul>	<ul><li>Possible</li><li>With a simple contract</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Possible</li> <li>Transfer of ownership with a contract</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not applicable for single well (so far)</li> <li>Owner changes possible with employees and licence overtake</li> </ul>

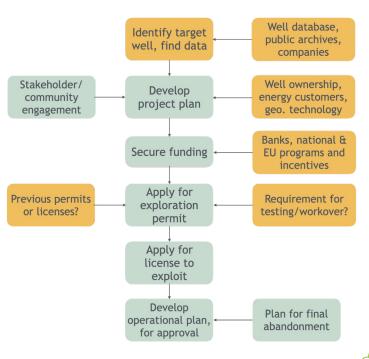
#### (Subsurface) Data ownership and data access:

HUNGARY		CROATIA		SLOVENIA		GERMANY		AUSTRIA	
Basic well data are free Detailed data can be purchased through a one- stop system.	-	Well data are partly free For academic aFnd research use all data are free	-	Basic well data are free: name, location, depth	-	Basic well data are free Other data dependent on type of data and age	•	No data are free - restricted <u>Webmap</u> services of Mining Authority show hydrocarbon licence boundaries	

# Analysis and comparison of the legal, <u>administrative</u> and financial framework for well reuse

#### Entities involved in permitting of general geothermal projects:

- Hungary has a one-stop shop since 2023, online, efficient and fast administration (Geothermal license application process explicitly considers well reuse, unlike other TRANSGEO countries).
- In the other countries permit and license application procedures vary and usually depend on the purpose of the projects and locations
- **Croatia** has a licensing process for acreages and separate applications for project execution within 3 Ministries: Mining Authority within Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning.
- The **Slovenian** licensing procedure includes 3 different agencies located in 2 Ministries. The process is under the supervision of the Inspectorate of Natural Resources and Mining, which is responsible for new and abandoned wells.
- Austria does not have a licensing system for geothermal areas. The process is mainly covered by regulations of the Mining Authority (e.g. drilling) and the Water Act (That is valid for applications using thermal waters. Closed systems, like deep borehole heat exchangers, are excluded)
- In **Germany**, multiple applications for approval are usually required: Mining Authority, Water Authority, state environmental agency, nature conservation associations, district authorities, nuclear waste repositories. There is a new draft law to speed up approval procedures, and revising the Mining Act.



Typical project development process (green), with special considerations for well reuse (orange)

# Analysis and comparison of the legal, administrative and <u>financial</u> framework for well reuse

Question	HUNGARY	CROATIA	SLOVENIA	GERMANY	AUSTRIA	EUROPEAN UNION
National funding			no	no (for HE only)	yes	no (apart from usual EU funding)
Other/alternative funding			yes	yes	no	no (apart from usual EU funding)
Incentives	yes	no	no	no	no	no

While funding for reuse projects is limited, the majority of funding is for geothermal energy projects that include drilling new wells.

## **Outcomes, Barriers and Next Steps**

- Our analysis shows there are no legal barriers to well reuse.
- The largest barriers are financial (and social).
- Must raise awareness and improve access to data and information about availability of wells and how they can be used.
- EU and national governments should provide funding for well reuse.
- A requirement to consider reuse would be important for new strategic planning at national and EU scales.
- **TRANSGEO Strategy and Action Plan** will provide detailed recommendations for concrete steps to take to accelerate well reuse in new geothermal development.

#### Link to policy analysis report:

 https://www.interreg-central.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/D-3.1.1-Policy-Analysis-FINAL.pdf



## Site-specific Feasibility Studies for Well Repurposing

Eight pilot sites with abandoned hydrocarbon wells:

- 1) Ampfing, Germany Hydrothermal energy
- 2) Weinviertel, Austria Borehole Heat Exchanger
- 3) Hungarian Great Plain Hydrothermal energy
- 4) Mihovljan, Croatia Hydrothermal energy
- 5) Zagreb-Savica, Croatia Borehole Thermal Energy Storage
- 6) Pomurje, Slovenia Borehole Heat Exchanger
- 7) Lausitz, Germany Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage
- 8) Groß Schönebeck, Germany Enhanced Geothermal Systems

#### These studies

- Serve as validation and finalisation of the Criteria Catalogue, Well Assessment Tool, and Engineering Workflows for the 5 geothermal reuse technologies
- Are the basis for investment decisions at the pilot sites beyond the project implementation.



### Example - Feasibility Study for the field Mihovljan (Pannonian Basin)

Addresses hydrothermal heat production (HE) from the mature oil field Mihovljan, which will be abandoned after oil production ceases. Mihovljan contains thin sandstone geothermal brine layers above oil saturated layers.

This field could be retrofitted to supply heat to the nearby town of Čakovec through a small district heating network, or provide geothermal heat to the agricultural sector/greenhouses.

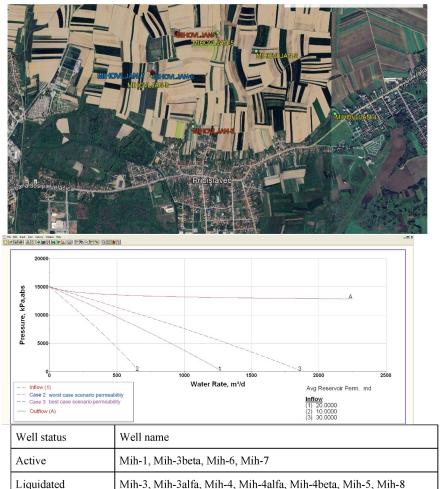
#### Feasibility Study content:

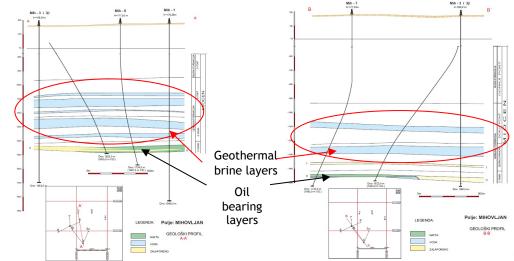
- Geographic location and analysis of spatial planning documentation
- Mihovljan exploitation field well database analysis: well construction, geological-geophysical works and special operations, production tests
- Geological structure of the geothermal reservoir
- Production features of the potential location with quantification of possible brine production from the current well infrastructure and new drilling
- Environmental features of the project from the perspective of environmental impact
- Techno-economic analysis

#### $\rightarrow$ Studies will be available fall/winter 2025/26

#### D.2.3.4 Feasibility study for the pilot field Mihovljan (Pannonian Basin) (expected to be available Fall 2025)

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- 11 well channels drilled; 4 active wells proposed for revitalization and repurposed for geothermal brine utilization
- Two pairs of Production + Injection wells:
  - Mih-1 (P) + Mih-7 (I)
  - O Mih-3beta (P) + Mih-6 (I)
- cca 5-8 l/s @ 82°C per well, mid-permeable (10 20 mD) thin sandstone layers ~ 35 m at 1545 m depth
- Analysis of production & injection pumps power capacities and determination of best possible SPF



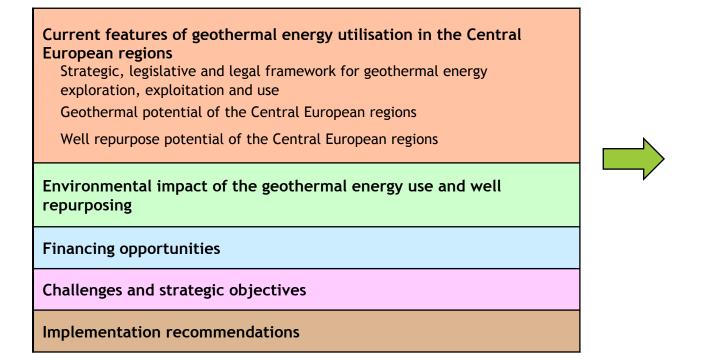
# Why strategic planning?

- Importance of repurposing abandoned wells for energy use
- Lack of necessary resources
- Summarized findings, ideas and recommendations
- Beginning of changes on transnational level



### Transnational Strategy for sustainable development of Central European regions

### - Transition from fossil to geothermal energy use -



Transnational Action Plan

(Strategy available winter 2025/26)

### Transnational Action Plan for the sustainable transition from fossil to geothermal energy use

- Empirical background based on the Transnational Strategy
- Elaboration of the priorities, objectives and measures
- Definition of the legal, human, time and financial resources





Source: Freepik.com

(Action Plan available spring 2026)

## **Outputs/Deliverables**

- Complete available for download from the TRANSGEO website\*:
  - Engineering Workflows (with numerical modelling and literature reviews)
  - Socio-Economic Analyses (3) for Industry, Municipalities, and Agriculture
  - Policy/Legal Analysis (including funding support/incentive programs)
- In preparation:
  - Database and Criteria Catalogue (summer/fall 2025)
  - Well Assessment Tool, and assessment of wells in database (fall 2025)
  - Feasibility Studies of 8 pilot sites (fall 2025)
  - Transnational Strategy (fall 2025) and Action Plan (spring 2026)
- \* https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/transgeo/?tab=outputs





# Input to our Products

Well Assessment Tool - summer/fall 2025
 Transnational Strategy - fall 2025
 Transnational Action Plan - winter 2025/26

# Upcoming Meetings

### Join us for

- Transnational Strategy webinar September 2025
- Well Assessment Tool webinar October 2025
- > TRANSGEO Final conference April 2026

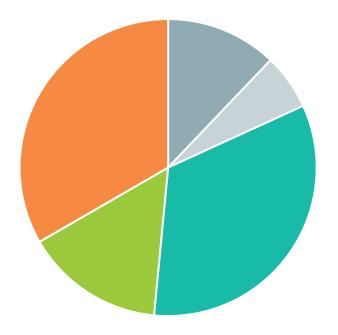
# Upcoming Meetings

### Join us for

- Well Assessment workshops summer/fall 2025
- Pilot site workshops summer/fall 2025
- Transnational Action Plan workshops winter 2025/26

# Discussion, Questions?

Poll: Which reuse technology fits best into the overall strategy for geothermal development?



- DBHE & HE
   EGS & ATES
   PTES
- 3. BTES

# **Opportunities for Collaboration**

- Do you have information to share on new reuse projects, or do you have interest in reusing a well?
- Do you have case studies, best practices, or lessons learned to share?
- Can you suggest or recommend strategies or policy changes to improve the legal and permitting situation for well reuse?
- ➤ Would you like to join our mailing list, to receive information on opportunities to provide input to our upcoming deliverables or to join our meetings and webinars in 2025 and 2026?
- > Would you like to collaborate on planning a well reuse project with our consortium?



TRANSGEO

# Thank you! Connect with us!



interreg-central.eu/projects/transgeo/

in

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