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## Editorial

Dear Members and supporters of the RHC-Platform

In the first half of 2012 we achieved at least two results worth celebrating: we reached the milestone of 600 stakeholders registered as Members of the RHC-Platform, and we successfully held our largest ever Annual Conference.

We have come a long way since the RHC-Platform was established, three and a half years ago, based on the experience of the Solar Thermal Technology Platform. Since then, we have trebled our membership which today includes industry and research experts from 25 EU Member States as well as several partner countries.

The support and active collaboration of this broad community of Members is crucial in the pursuit of our mission: i.e. to maintain Europe's scientific and industrial leadership in renewable heating and cooling technologies.

We are delighted with the outcome of our 2012 Annual Conference, which counted around 300 participants from 28 Countries.

The success of this joint venture between the RHC-Platform and Euroheat & Power exceeded the expectations of the two organisers, providing unprecedented opportunities for dialogue and interaction between the stakeholders of the renewable energy supply side and actors of the district heating and cooling sector.

We are grateful to our top-level speakers and chairpersons, including the European Commission, the Mayor of Copenhagen and Denmark's Minister for Climate, Energy and Buildings, for having ensured the highest standard of programme quality.

Following the launch, at the Annual Conference, of three new RHC-Platform publications dedicated to Strategic Research Priorities, respectively for Biomass, Geothermal and Cross-cutting technologies, the time has come to develop a common Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) which analyses both technological research and strategic priorities to unlock the huge potential of renewable energy sources to satisfy the thermal energy demand in Europe.

The current EU debate surrounding the definition of Horizon2020, the successor to the FP7 programme, provides an appropriate political framework for this discussion.

To achieve Europe's energy strategy, it is vital that sufficient resources are dedicated to research, development, as well as demonstration projects, to decarbonise the heating and cooling markets. The upcoming SRA of the RHC-Platform, which is being developed by a dedicated group of

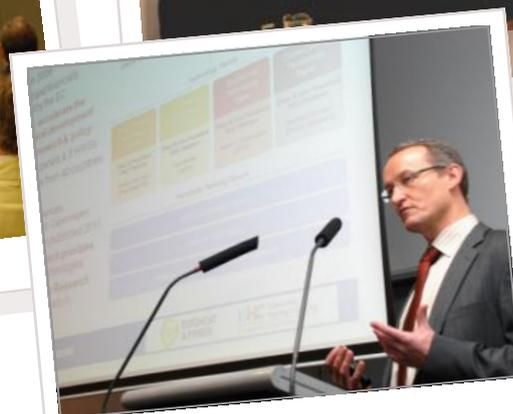


experts, is expected to provide guidance on the future spending priorities of the EU and to set the right framework conditions for the private sector to invest in these energy technologies.

I wish you an enjoyable reading,

*Simone Landolina*  
EUREC Agency,  
Coordinator of the RHC-Platform's Secretariat

## At the Annual Conference on Renewable Heating and Cooling Copenhagen, 26 and 27 April 2012:





## News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The Solar Thermal Strategic Research Priorities (SRP) document, due to be launched at the RHC-Platform Annual Conference in Copenhagen at the end of April, is now at the final revision stage. This process should be concluded before the end of the summer break, in parallel with the development of the Common Strategic Research Agenda (SRA) of the RHC-Platform.

Both the latest version of the Solar Thermal SRP and the Common SRA were reviewed at the last meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) of the European Solar Thermal Technology Panel (ESTTP), held on 31 May 2012. These were in fact the key discussion points at this meeting.

A review of the various R&D programmes, currently ongoing in several countries, also took place and an update was given by members of the Steering Committee. Besides, ESTIF presented the evolution of the European solar thermal market over the previous years, as well as the latest data for 2012. This provided useful background information for the Steering Committee to assess the role that the ESTTP and R&D can play in the future strategic development of solar thermal.

With regard to membership of the Solar Thermal Panel of the RHC-Platform, there has been a slight increase since the beginning of the year. The total number of ESTTP members at the end of May was almost 300; these members are from 37 different countries and the majority from EU member states. Some members are from outside Europe, such as the United States, China, Australia or India, amongst others. While in terms of distribution per type of activity, most of the ESTTP members come from industry (44%) and from research or academia (30%).

The next meeting of the ESTTP Steering Committee is scheduled for 1 October 2012, in Brussels.

For more information please contact: Pedro Dias, [pedro.dias@estif.org](mailto:pedro.dias@estif.org).



## News from the Biomass Technology Panel

Biomass is the most important short/medium term source of renewable heating and cooling and to unlock its full potential, substantial intensification of research and development activities is required. The Biomass Panel has published its *Strategic Research Priorities for Biomass Technology* - outlining key research and development needs of the sector - at end of April 2012. To secure future biomass supply, efforts are needed to develop sustainable and efficient supply chains for biomass, including residues and wastes, implying research in cultivation and harvesting practices, logistics, as well as processing and upgrading technologies. Substantial improvements in terms of emissions and efficiency are still required for biomass combustion technologies at all scales and research must particularly focus on:

- Reaching a 50% reduction target for real life emission (particles and volatile organic compounds) from fire wood stoves;
- Reaching a 20% increase of real life efficiency of small scale biomass central heating systems, including hybrid system application with other renewable heating and cooling technologies;
- Delivering a substantial improvement of load and fuel flexibility of medium scale combustion technologies whilst maintaining or even lowering emissions;
- Delivering a substantial increase of electric efficiency of large combined heat and power plants by increased steam parameters of the steam cycles;
- Ensuring an overall improvement of components and system design for district heating and cooling (DHC) as well as for industrial applications.

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems must be further developed to enhance the efficient use biomass. Small and micro scale CHP constitutes a high energy efficient solution. Co-generation and tri-generation (heat-power-cold) are promising concepts for industry and DHC networks. Highly efficient large-scale or industrial CHP with enhanced availability and increased high temperature heat potential should be developed.

For more information, please have a look at the publication *Strategic Research Priorities*

for *Biomass Technology* which can be downloaded on the RHC-Platform website (<http://www.rhc-platform.org/publications>).

The Biomass Panel of the RHC-Platform organized a joint workshop “Biomass Supply Challenges: How to meet biomass demand by 2020” with the *European Biofuels Technology Platform*. The half-day workshop was held in Rotterdam on 15 March 2012 in co-operation with World Biofuels Markets 2012. The workshop gathered approximately 60 participants from various sectors across Europe to discuss the challenge of providing reliable volumes of biomass to all sectors (transport, electricity, heat) at competitive cost, while meeting sustainability criteria. The presentations of the workshop are available on in the Members Section of the RHC-Platform website.



## News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

The Geothermal Panel of the RHC-Technology Platform has had a busy and reflective first semester of 2012, with the publication of the *Strategic Research Priorities for Geothermal Technology*. You can now find this document in a pdf version online on the [RHC platform website](#).

At the same time, the TP Geoelec has published a complementary *Strategic Research Priorities for Geothermal Electricity* which can be found on the [EGEC website](#).

The next period now leads into the last phase of implementing these Strategic Research Priorities. The work of the Geothermal Panel will be crucial in underlining the role of geothermal in the heating & cooling sector in Europe, especially as we move from the established FP7 to the development of the new Horizon 2020 framework programme.

A workshop of the geothermal panel will be organised in Brussels on 4 September 2012. This meeting will represent an excellent opportunity to learn more about the FP7 call published in July 2012. We also intend to review the results of different geothermal R&D projects ongoing in Europe.



## News from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel

The end of July 2012 will mark the first year of activities for the current Steering Committee (SC) of the Cross-cutting Technology Panel. It is a good opportunity to look back at the main achievement of this group of experts, which is spearheading the work of this Panel, and to make plans for the future.

The publication “Strategic Research Priorities for cross-cutting technology” (April 2012) is a landmark document produced thanks to the collaboration of over 35 experts.

The Steering Committee played a major role with most SC Members involved as co-authors in the production of the new report.

The document emphasizes the need for a system perspective in the implementation of the research and innovation priorities. Numerous applications of cross-cutting technologies are identified which are at various stages of development; they all, however, require R&D support to reduce costs and improve the relative performance.

It is now time to move from the determination of the needs to the implementation of this comprehensive agenda for scientific and technological research.

The second half of this year will therefore be devoted to the production of the Implementation Roadmap for district heating and cooling, thermal energy storage, hybrid systems and heat pumps. Our work to pave the way for the development of this roadmap will start with the next SC meeting, which will take place at the beginning of October 2012.

# Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform

Following the launch in 2012 of the SET-Plan Initiative on Smart Cities and Communities, the European Commission has backed the establishment of a “Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform”.



**Smart Cities**  
and Communities

The primary aim of the Platform is to stimulate the emergence of smart cities by bringing stakeholders together from across Europe to exchange ideas, launch projects and improve policy at local, regional, national and EU level.

The Platform supports the SET-Plan towards its goal of an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and aims at accelerating the development and market deployment of energy efficiency and low-carbon technology applications in the urban environment. More specifically, the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform is related to the SET-Plan in three ways:

1. it will develop a Roadmap for Smart Cities;
2. it will identify strategic priorities (to be financed in the framework of Horizon 2020 and/or of other European / national / local funding schemes)
3. it will identify key innovations and develop implementation toolkits including funding opportunities for those.

At the heart of the Platform is the community website <http://eu-smartcities.eu> and a set of four Working Groups (WG):

- Energy Efficiency and Buildings
- Energy Supply Networks
- Mobility and Transport
- Finance Coordination Group

A key objective of the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform is to identify a number of ‘technology innovations’ for smart cities. The Platform’s WGs are expected to become the space where innovative “Solution Proposals” (SPs) are discussed and selected to be implemented in European cities. The first meeting of all Working Groups took place in Brussels on **5 June 2012**.

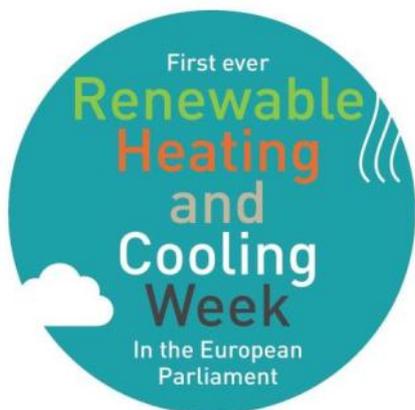
SPs can be proposed by any registered member of the Platform, irrespective of whether a member or not of a WG. The ‘innovation’ should be presented by using the ‘Solutions Proposal’ template which will soon be available on the website. At the end of the process, the WG decides on whether to select the SPs which will be promoted as Key Innovations (KIs) for boosting EU Smart Cities, and for which the WG will develop implementation ‘Toolkits’, in coordination with the Finance Group.

The Secretariat of the RHC-Platform established a very constructive dialogue with the organisations managing the Smart Cities Stakeholder Platform. As a result, each of Working Groups includes at least one person who holds a decision-making position in the RHC-Platform. In particular the following experts have been selected:

- WG1 - Energy Supply Networks:  
Michael Monsberger (AIT / Steering Committee CCP); Edoardo Calia (ISMB / Steering Committee CCP); Philippe Dumas (EGEC / Secretariat RHC-Platform)
- WG2 – Energy Efficiency - Buildings:  
Gerhard Stryi-Hipp (Fraunhofer ISE / RHC-Board Member / Steering Committee ST Panel); Thomas Nowak (EHPA / RHC-Board Member / Steering Committee CCP).
- Finance Group: Simone Landolina (EUREC / Secretariat RHC-Platform).

## From 14 to 16 May 2012, the RHC Platform organised the first ever Renewable Heating and Cooling Week at the European Parliament in Brussels.

The full programme included a large exhibition on Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies, a policy event and a workshop on geothermal Heat Pumps (Ground-Med project). The events were organized involving major European stakeholders as well as representatives from the Solar Thermal, Biomass, Geo-thermal and Cross-Cutting sectors



During the policy debate on “*The role of Renewable Heating and Cooling in the European Energy Policy*”, Hans Van Steen (Head of Unit in DG Energy, European Commission) presented the EU legislation promoting RES H&C. However, Gerhard Stryi-Hipp, President of the RHC-Platform, pointed out that the EU energy policy does not equally focus on electricity, transport and heating and cooling. In this context, he called for more support for Renewable heating & cooling, notably for the development of smart thermal grids and for thermal energy storage.

The participants in the event and the RHC-Platform also recommended that the European Commission dedicate more resources to renewable heating and cooling technologies in the context of the Smart Cities initiative within the SET Plan.

You can find the full press release [here](#).

## Get your best ideas funded

**EUROGIA+** is the EUREKA cluster for low-carbon energy technologies which addresses all areas of the energy mix, from renewable energy to efficiency, and reduction of carbon footprint of fossil fuels.

It seeks collaborative, low-carbon energy related research and development projects. Since it is a bottom-up, industry-driven programme, companies, research centres and universities are submitting projects. If they are qualified, they receive the EUROGIA+ label that enables project participants to apply to funding in their respective country.

The Technical Committee will review the full project proposals which are ready to seek the EUREKA label and eligible for funding by national authorities. The projects submitted in the preliminary project outline format will also be reviewed by the Technical Committee and proposers will be provided the feedback and assistance necessary to move to the full proposal stage.

The technical committee consists of representatives from European national funding agencies, research universities and industrial organizations.

In 2011, nine projects, representing about 50 M€, reached the full project proposal stage; five received the coveted EUROGIA+ label and were funded, while four are currently being improved to reach the required level of quality.

The process is one of continuous submission with four cut-off dates per year. The current call opened on 1 June 2012 and the deadline is **14 September 2012**. Projects submitted by that date will be reviewed by the technical committee on 1 October in Istanbul.

Applicable conditions and details of the submission process can be found on [www.eurogia.com](http://www.eurogia.com) or by contacting the Eurogia+ Secretariat:

E-mail: [contact@eurogia.com](mailto:contact@eurogia.com)

Tel: +32 2 502 1814

## FP7 - Funding opportunities for renewable heating and cooling technologies

The European Commission will publish the last energy calls under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) on 10 July 2012. The major topic of interest is in the call related to Smart Cities and Communities:



- **Demonstration of optimized energy systems for high performance energy districts.**  
Three areas need to be addressed by the proposals: retrofitting of a district towards zero energy buildings; innovative solutions for the medium and low voltage electricity distribution grid; innovative solutions for district heating and cooling energy supply
- **Data centres in an energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly Internet.**  
Since data centres are important energy consumers, this action aims at monitoring their energy consumption in order to reduce it. The use of renewable energy technologies for cooling is also a key area to be investigated by this call.

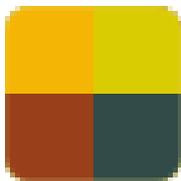
Members of the solar thermal panel may also be interested in the energy call related to:

- **Research and Development of innovative solar thermal facades.**

The secretariat of the RHC-Platform participated to the Infoday, which was organized in Brussels on 4 July, and is available to provide additional information about this last FP7 call.

More information at: [www.ec.europa.eu](http://www.ec.europa.eu)

## Renewable Heating and Cooling: Building bridges between European and national/ local networks



The RHC platform is organizing an event to enhance cooperation at European and national/local level in the renewable heating and

cooling sector in Brussels on Wednesday 5 September 2012.

Heat represents roughly half the final energy demand in Europe and renewable heating and cooling - from all renewable heat sources (biomass, geothermal, solar thermal) - will play a key role in a future sustainable energy system, contributing significantly to urban and regional sustainable energy projects in cities and regions, which makes decarbonisation crucial.

This workshop will support information sharing and knowledge transfer between the European Renewable Heating and Cooling Technology Platform, national Technology Platforms and R&D networks/organizations.

Presentations will focus on the challenges and benefits from the creation of a technology platform aiming to remove technological and technical barriers, present best practice examples and as well as key factors to be addressed.

The objective of this workshop is to raise awareness for key challenges and opportunities to be addressed, enable replication of success stories and provide a forum for discussion to enhance contacts/cooperation between networks/organizations involved in R&D for renewable heating and cooling.

## Forthcoming events

- **4 September 2012**  
Meeting of the Geothermal Technology Panel  
Brussels (BE)
- **05 September 2012**  
RHC-Platform's workshop: building bridges between European and national / local Technology Platforms  
Brussels (BE)
- **1 October 2012**  
Steering Committee Meeting of the Solar Thermal Technology Panel  
Brussels (BE)
- **2 October 2012**  
Board Meeting of the RHC-Platform  
Brussels (BE)

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