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Editorial:

Dear Members and Friends,

As the strength of the European Renewable Heating and Cooling sector relies on the high quality of its technologies, a continued focus on R&D is fundamental to support European competitiveness and to ensure the uptake of renewable technologies.



That is why, as EUREC President, I am proud of our engagement in the RHC-Platform. EUREC is the voice of renewable energy research in Europe, representing European Research Centres active in renewable energy. We work to enable innovation and technology transfer by connecting research and industry through project development and to identify research needs. Our vision is to enable R&D for innovative and integrated renewable energy solutions and to promote sound policy making in renewable energy R&D. The RHC-Platform is indeed an excellent instrument to achieve these goals in this sector.

I am very pleased that the Platform is so intensively and actively working on multiple fronts. First of all, a group of experts from each panel started working on a 'Common Roadmap'. This document takes over the work done by the four individual technology Roadmaps and explores the interconnectivity

of the different RHC technologies. It will also analyze the benefits of RHC for Europe, for example in terms of energy imports reduction and jobs creation and it will look at how investments in the RHC could be encouraged. It goes without saying that your inputs are always appreciated at any stage of this process, please send your contribution to: info@rhc-platform.org.

You will have a chance to discuss the Common Roadmap at a new forthcoming event of the RHC-Platform to be held in Brussels on **22 May: “2030 Reasons to Integrate Renewable Heating and Cooling” - Innovation, Technology Development and Market Uptake**. It will be a unique opportunity for networking and expressing your views on the RHC priorities in the context of the research and innovation challenges, the transformation of the energy system and the European policy landscape.

Furthermore, I would really like to thank all the members who replied to the survey on the activities you would like the Platform to undertake in the near future. You will find an article on the results gathered so far on page 3. Your feedback is vital to us and, if you have not yet replied, please complete the survey form [here](#).

Over the last few months we also followed quite closely the SET-Plan Integrated Roadmap providing significant inputs in Part I (Energy Efficiency) but also in Part II (Competitive, Efficient, Secure, Sustainable & Flexible Energy System) and in Part III (Cities, Communities & Market Uptake). We are trying to give adequate space to any RHC technology.

Last but not least, a big thank you to all the Members who volunteered to contribute to the four individual technology roadmaps which are now being finalized. These publications are a key milestone to turn the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda into concrete actions.

I wish you an enjoyable reading.



Keith Melton
EUREC President

Get Your Best Ideas Funded

Next EUROGIA2020

Project submission deadline:

16 May 2014

eurogia²⁰²⁰

is a bottom-up, industry driven, market oriented programme

which addresses all areas of the energy mix, from renewable energy to efficiency, and reduction of carbon footprint of fossil fuels.

All innovative project ideas, which will reduce the carbon footprint of energy production and use, potentially qualify for EUROGIA label.

This quality label facilitates the access of project ideas to the national and regional funding, and also to the interested customers.

Although the label is very selective, the goal of EUROGIA2020 is to help important collaborative project ideas to become reality. Between the years 2008 -2013, 29 transnational projects were labelled representing close to 200 M€ of project costs.

Successful national funding is helped by the fact that the public authorities from EUREKA Member countries liaise closely with EUROGIA2020 throughout the project evaluation process.

The process is one of continuous submission, with four cut-off dates per year. **16 May 2014** is the next cut-off date.

Application conditions and details of the submission process can be found at: www.eurogia.com

or by contacting the

EUROGIA2020 Secretariat:

Email: nilatmaca@eurogia.com

Tel: + 32 2 502 18 14.

Results of the survey on future activities of the RHC-Platform

Thank you for completing the survey! As new challenges for the RHC-Platform lie ahead we are discussing which activities are the most important for Members. As a basis for this discussion, it is crucial to better understand how Members can benefit from the Platform's future activities. That is why we are very grateful for your reply to the survey launched in the previous edition of the newsletter.

In the survey it was asked to give a rating on a scale from 1 to 10 to the activities below. The results out of 76 replies – as at 28 February - are as follows:

Implementation Strategic research innovation agenda / Roadmaps	Promote Roadmap priorities and strengthen relations with new investors and new donors	Analysis and follow-up of the technological, regulatory, financial and market context	Monitoring of call for proposals	Dedicated brokerage events and opportunities for EU projects partnerships	Website becomes brokerage space where organisations can propose projects and find partners	Annual conference
8	7.6	7.5	7.3	6.9	6.8	6.7

The results show that Members recognize the role and added value of the Roadmaps and the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. It will, therefore, be vital to focus on the implementation and on the promotion of these publications; even in relations to new public and private donors, and investors. Analyses and access to information also seem important. In addition, Members would like the Platform to support activities related to new calls for proposals and help find new partners. More generally, all activities appear to be more or less of equal importance (there is only a difference of 1.3 point between the higher and the lower rating).

Thank you also for your concrete suggestions regarding further activities. Here is a summary of your proposals: strengthening relationships between academia and industry; reference list of best practice applications showing energetic and economic results for investors, information about new potential technologies.

There is still time to reply to the survey [here](#) and it takes less than 2 minutes to complete it.

Fostering cooperation at national level

On 3 March 2014 some representatives from national platforms and national associations joined the RHC-Platform Board meeting in Brussels to discuss how to foster cooperation between the RHC platforms.

Speakers included Piotr Swiatek, FP7 National Contact Point Energy based in Germany, Sandra Frias from Bioplat/ Geoplat (Spain), Cornelis Erwin, VITO (Flanders) and Charlotte Andersdotter, Vinnova, Sweden's Innovation Agency. Relevant Board Members also spoke about their experience at national level in Austria, France, Germany and Poland.

At the meeting, participants discussed how to enhance collaboration between existing national structures, as well as between these and the RHC-Platform.

Helping broaden participation within Member States through cooperation with networks/partnerships at national level is also part of the core activities identified in the strategy for European Technology Platforms: ETP2020 (July 2013; European Commission). This effort may also have a positive outcome in strengthening relations with industry, SMEs and the RHC-Platform. An idea that came up during the meeting, was to have an 'antenna', i.e. a representative of the RHC-Platform at Member state level. Reciprocally, the Platform could act as multiplier of activities occurring in a country and that have relevance at European level. National structures representing RHC technologies are welcome to contact provaggi@eurec.be to express their interest and ask for more information.

Towards a common RHC roadmap!



The RHC Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA), published in 2013, identifies the research and innovation activities as well as the investments needed to make RHC technologies cost-competitive in all market segments (residential, non-residential, and industrial) in both the short term (by 2020) and in the medium term (by 2030).

The implementation of the SRIA technological and non-technological priorities will be crucial towards a strong push for a renewable energy paradigm, providing European citizens with affordable and sustainable heating and cooling.

Currently, the four RHC panels (solar thermal, biomass, geothermal and cross-cutting) are finalising their own technology roadmaps, investigating implementation measures for the Strategic Research Priorities for each technology.

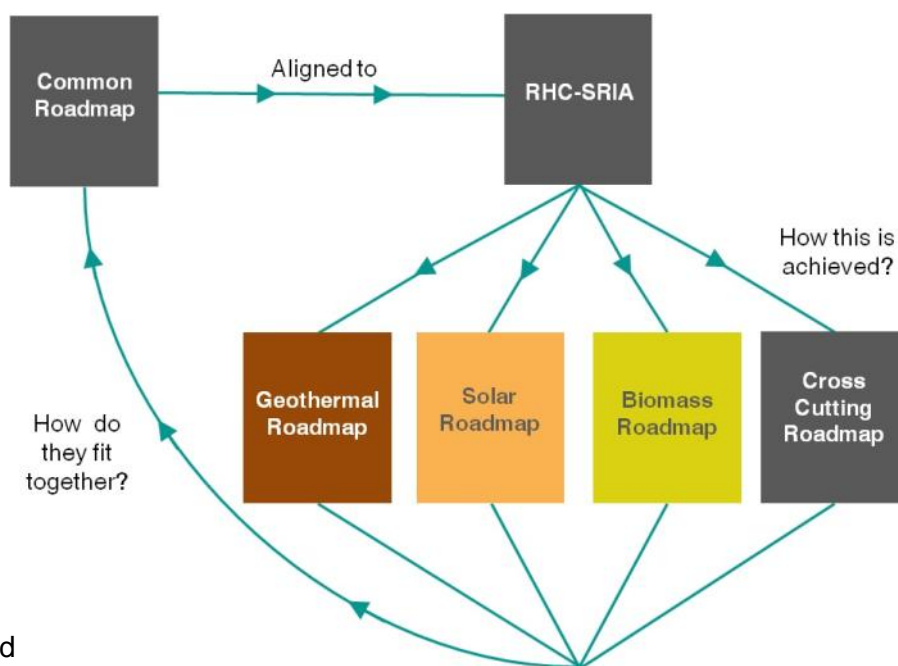
Following these efforts, made in connection with each technology Roadmap, the next step will be to draft a 'Common Roadmap', a single shared Roadmap for all Renewable Heating and Cooling technologies. This will present an integrated vision of the research implementation priorities.

A horizontal working group, bringing together experts from each panel, has been created to produce a report to be published in the summer. This report will consider all the research needs in the short, medium, and long term.

The document package will provide a clear path for the whole Renewable Heating and cooling sector to follow, as well as for each technology.

While the RHC-SRIA gives an overview of the research needs for the sector; the roadmaps lay out the specific measures required to meet these needs for each technology.

The common roadmap brings together each roadmap to pinpoint the specific measures for renewable heating and cooling as a whole and how each technology's needs fit together.





News from the Solar Thermal Technology Panel

The Solar Heating and Cooling Research & Innovation Roadmap has been developed by the solar thermal technology panel of the RHC-Platform.

This document represents an important milestone in the implementation of the Solar Thermal Strategic Research Priorities, as well as the RHC-Platform Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda. It showcases three main solar thermal solutions for meeting some important 2020 societal challenges, such as:

- industrial applications,
- retrofitting opportunities and the new-build sector, and
- NZEBs (Nearly-Zero Energy Buildings).

The proposed corresponding solutions put forward are:

- solar heat for industrial processes (SHIP),
- solar compact hybrid heating systems (SCOHYS), and
- the solar active house (SAH).

This Roadmap was available for consultation in February. Solar thermal industry stakeholders had the opportunity to contribute their expertise towards its improvement. The follow-up to this consultation process will be discussed internally during the next ESTTP steering committee meeting, which will take place in Brussels on 11 April.

Full information about this document can be found at www.rhc-platform.org.

The version released for consultation includes contributions resulting from the dedicated validation workshop, held on 22 January 2014 at the Renewable Energy House in Brussels. Presentations given during this workshop are available to download [here](#)



News from the Geothermal Technology Panel

An information day on the EC Horizon 2020 programme was organised on 16 January by the geothermal panel, within the framework of the RHC-Platform.

The meeting was a unique opportunity to learn more about the role of geothermal in [Horizon 2020](#) and the future call for projects, which will be published early in 2014.

The first half of the meeting was spent discussing the most important issues in the geothermal roadmap and considering the next steps.

In the afternoon the group divided into two sessions for deep and shallow geothermal:

The deep session was a roundtable between scientists and the industry for a better understanding on induced seismicity.

For shallow geothermal a brokerage event was held, helping participants to develop project ideas and build consortia with a special focus on calls for geothermal market uptake.

Presentations from the event can be found in the members section of the RHC Platform website.

Due to the success of the event, EGEC organized a further brokerage session during GeoTHERM expo and congress. The eighth GeoTHERM took place, in its well established form, on 20 and 21 February 2014 in Offenburg, Germany.

Within seven years the combination of trade fair and congress has become Europe's leading event for geothermal energy, with 3,492 visitors from 36 nations and around 200 exhibitors.

The session was the occasion to learn more about the opportunities under the funding programme, to ask questions, and to meet potential industrial partners.



News from the Biomass Technology Panel

The Biomass Panel has now finalized the Biomass Technology Roadmap for Renewable Heating and Cooling. Thank you to all who contributed to this process. The document outlines a number of actions and investments needed in the short-term (up to 2020) to implement the biomass strategic research priorities that were identified and published in 2013. The Roadmap focuses specifically on ensuring the commercial availability of reliable, cost-competitive and environmentally-friendly bioenergy heating and cooling solutions for different types of consumers. This document received a strong industry backing following a validation workshop and the list of supporters, along with the document itself will soon be available on the RHC-Platform website. Experts from the biomass panel will, over the coming months, now work in collaboration with experts of the other panels in the drafting of the Shared Technology Roadmap for Renewable Heating and Cooling.

Work on the SET-Plan Integrated Roadmap continues to progress with a significant contribution from the Biomass Panel. Bioenergy (heat and power) is prominent, especially as a Challenge in Part II, Heading I: "Making renewable electricity and heating/cooling technologies competitive by 2020 and beyond". Work is being done to ensure that the actions identified by the Biomass Panel are included adequately.

And finally, Lara Mertens has left AEBIOM and her role on the secretariat of the RHC-Platform. We would like to wish Lara the best of luck in her next career challenge and thank her for her tireless work and significant contribution to the success of the RHC-Platform over the last number of years. From now on, you can contact Niall Goodwin at goodwin@aebiom.org for all matters relating to the Biomass Panel.



News from the Cross-cutting Technology Panel

The Cross-cutting panel is currently directing its efforts towards strengthening relations with the Industry players, including SMEs, across the whole value chain.

If, as industry member particularly interested in Cross-cutting technologies, you would like to play a more active role in this panel, please flag your availability by sending a short email to provaggi@eurec.be. We will then contact you and discuss in which way you would like to be more engaged in the panel.

Similarly, we are trying to involve more investment bodies and institutional investors in our panel (and in our Platform too). Should you be aware of an investor who you would like to be associate to the work of the Platform, please write to us at same above-mentioned email address and we shall get back to you.

As Panel, we are continuing to contribute to the European Strategic Energy Technology Plan (SET-Plan) Integrated Roadmap with significant inputs in Part I (Energy Efficiency) but also in Part II (Competitive, Efficient, Secure, Sustainable & Flexible Energy System) and in Part III (Cities, Communities & Market Uptake). Should you like to make a direct contribution, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our work has been particularly significant concerning Heading II of Part 1: Increasing energy efficiency in heating and cooling, in combination with renewables energy use.

Last but not least, the Cross-cutting Technology Roadmap, first of the four Roadmaps to be available online (at www.rhc-platform.org), will represent the starting point for the contribution from our panel to the Common Roadmap.

SAVE THE DATE

Annual Event of the RHC-Platform

2030 Reasons to Integrate Renewable Heating and Cooling Innovation, Technology Development and Market Uptake

We are pleased to announce that the RHC-Platform will host its annual event in **Brussels on 22 May 2014**. We look forward to welcoming you to join us and have your say at this high-profile event. A key focus of the day will be the presentation of the Common Technology Roadmap to a wide range of stakeholders.

Participants from the European Commission and Member States will join Members of the RHC-Platform and major Industrial players in what will be a two-part event. In the morning we hold a **Consultation Forum** on the latest draft version of the Common Technology Roadmap, to obtain feedback, input and endorsement from our group of noteworthy attendees. Information will shortly be available on the prior online consultation in which you will be asked to give your comments on the document. This will help form the basis of the discussion for this session and so we greatly encourage you to take part.

In the afternoon, we take the morning's deliberations into the arena of a high-level policy event. We are delighted that **Ms Marie Donnelly**, Director for new and renewable sources of energy, energy efficiency and innovation at DG Energy, will be present and will deliver a keynote speech on **"The role of Renewable Heating and Cooling in an integrated SET-Plan"**. This speech will form the backbone of the afternoon's debate as we look towards 2030 and discuss with decision-makers the role of RHC in the transformation of the energy system and the role of RHC in achieving the EU energy and climate targets.

You will soon receive an email with further details, including the full programme for the day. We hope that you will find the time to join us in Brussels and have your voice heard on the future of Research, Development and Innovation in Renewable Heating and Cooling.

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact us: info@rhc-platform.org

Forthcoming events

- **11 April 2014**
Steering Committee meeting
of the Solar Thermal
Technology Panel
Brussels (BE)
- **12 to 14 May 2014**
5th European Bioenergy
Conference
Brussels (BE)
- **22 May 2014**
RHC-Platform Annual Event
Brussels (BE)

Publisher



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