



Policy brief: Competitiveness of clean energy technology – Geothermal Energy

October 2023

Headline findings

- Geothermal energy has the highest capacity factor of all renewable energy sources and low operating costs.
- Geothermal direct heat has seen steady growth of **9%** since 2010 in the EU, especially for heating and cooling.
- The EU has a strong position in research and innovation with R&I funding from the European Commission and Member States putting the EU in the lead worldwide in terms of public support for the sector between 2010 and 2020.

Key (competitiveness) challenges for Deep Geothermal

Challenge 1

The availability of a skilled workforce as well as equipment and materials is a challenge.

Challenge 2

Cheaper and more reliable exploration services are needed.

Challenge 3

The availability of subsurface data remains limited, leading to high acquisition costs.

Key policy recommendations

Recommendation 1

Streamline geothermal projects' permitting and regulatory processes to reduce administrative burdens and uncertainties for investors.



Recommendation 2

Ensure sufficient availability of skilled workforce, equipment and materials for the sector.

Recommendation 3

Improve availability of subsurface data to reduce development risks.



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