

News from GEOTRAINET (Geo-Education for a sustainable geothermal heating and cooling market). Intelligent Energy Europe Project: IEE/07/581/S12.499061

vided a very rich forum for the GSHP sector. The feedback of the participants in the courses has allowed refinement and improvement of the course programmes.



GEOTRAINET is a European initiative supported by European Commission's "Intelligent Energy". As was presented in the European Geologists n° 26 and 28 the objective of this project is to develop European Education programme as an important step towards the certification of geothermal installations. From the different groups of professionals involved in a GSHP, the GEOTRAINET project is focused on two target groups: designers (those who carry out feasibility and design studies) and drillers (who make the boreholes and insert the tubes).

The duration of the project is 30 months from 1 September 2008.

It will result in an education programme, didactic materials, training courses and development of an e-learning platform. Training structures in eight EU countries will be established for professionals of the geothermal sector. A programme and all registration details for all the courses is available on the Geotrainet webpage: www.geotrainet.eu

So far, we have conducted five training courses of the eight courses under his project.

The main preliminary lessons learnt from this first half part of the project are:

The group of experts was drawn from professionals with the full range of qualifications and experience relevant to the sector of GSHP. The expert platforms created provided a very complete vision of the curricula necessary for designers and drillers. By working together, experts from different countries have provided a very rich exchange of practice between the countries. Similarly, the involvement of participants from different countries and with a range of experience and qualifications has pro-

A strong demand exists from the GSHP market for training activities for designers and for drillers. The two courses held during this period could not accommodate the large number of applications who wished to attend. The demand for certification also appears to be very high, especially in the countries with less developed GSHP markets.

The demand for courses in European countries is also high: there have been more countries expressing interest in organizing courses than the eight countries planned during the GEOTRAINET project period. Based on the impact of the European Directive on promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources, there is a very high demand to provide training courses in all EU countries. The first and third courses of GEOTRAINET were oriented to prepare trainers in Europe and they have been a success. The work on the Education structure in Europe carried out in the WP5 of this project will be an important reference for this demand.

Dr. Isabel Fernandez Fuentes, EFG Office Director

News from Euro-Ages (European Accredited Geological Study Programmes).

Eur-Ages Final Conference, 22 October 2010 at the Hotel Ében, 15-17 Nagy Lajos király str., 1148 Budapest, Hungary. www.euro-ages.eu.

Over the past year, the partners in the EURO-AGES project have worked towards developing a European qualification framework for geology, in the first and second cycles defined by the Bologna process, based on learning outcomes rather than input factors

(course curricula). The objectives of the work are to increase transparency of Earth Sciences qualifications across Europe and therefore to facilitate improved academic and professional mobility across Europe. At the same time, the project aims to encourage students and graduates in the field of geology, as well as professional geologists, to pursue Life Long Learning. The project objectives are being achieved through a structured exchange of best practices, expertise and country characteristics of professional practices in geology in the different European countries. The project has identified important reference points for quality assurance and related recognition issues focused on learning outcomes.

The project is supported by the European Commission, DG Education and Culture.

The final conference will be held on the occasion of the conclusion of the Euro-Ages project in Budapest, Hungary on 22 October 2010.

During the plenary session on the first day, participants will be briefly introduced to the Euro-Ages Framework Standards and Accreditation Criteria that have been elaborated and tested by the Project Consortium.

The nature and objectives of a future Euro-Ages Quality Network will be presented. The latter is envisaged to ensure the sustainability of the Euro-Ages project results through the award of a Euro-Ages Quality Label for successfully evaluated first and second cycle programmes in the field of geology. Aspects of field-specific quality assurance will be discussed by a panel drawn from academics and representatives of industry.

The conference programme and registration form are available on the Euro-Ages website: <http://www.euro-ages.eu>

News from GsF

The Haiti Disaster Two Water Supply Projects to start basic reconstruction

During January and part of February 2010, the whole World followed with great concern the Haiti Disaster and many have taken direct part in humanitarian aid.

Most Countries have been represented on site, with volunteer organizations and also Army personnel.

But, at present there is a great "media



silence"! No more television, no more articles/interviews in newspapers and magazines!!

Most of the problems have not yet been solved and the so called "reconstruction" will surely take more than 10 years.

International Aid has reached many areas of the destroyed country, but many poor villages and communities are still without homes and many are almost abandoned.

Between February and March 2010, a preliminary mission was put in place by GsF - Italia - Onlus, who were asked to intervene, by the local ODEMIHF NGO, a non-profit organization helping Haitian people, both in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

The huge and as yet unsolved problem of water supply and water distribution has begun to be tackled. Two water projects have been discussed with the local authorities and technicians; they both concern very poor communities in two different areas:

Tabarre area

Water supply by means of five drilled wells, equipped with solar pumps, suspended water storage tanks and water distribution systems to users, located in the areas of five poor communities in Tabarre Municipality (Port-au-Prince).

Leogane area

Water supply by means of two drilled wells, equipped with solar pumps, suspended water storage tanks and water distribution systems to users: Commune of Ca-Ira and Commune of Guerin, Municipality of Leogane.

Tabarre is an independent Municipality on the outskirts of the capital Port-au-Prince. Drinking water availability is the most urgent problem. The local Partner



ODEMIHF NGO has been asked by the Tabarre Mayor for water supply interventions in some areas, where very poor communities are located and where refugees from completely destroyed areas are continuously arriving.

Five Tabarre areas have been selected, where living conditions are really very miserable and where water is almost completely lacking.

All the Communities in the selected areas have been fully informed about the possible project, are ready to set up appropriate "Water Committees" and are prepared to provide assistance and in-kind contribution to achieve the best results for the different types of work (drilling, pumping tests, submersible pump and solar panels installation, construction of water tanks and water distribution systems). A total population of nearly 30,000 will benefit from the planned project.

The estimated total costs of the Tabarre Project are €254,600. With the local in-kind contribution of around €34,600, the total amount to be financed is of the order of €220,000.

In the Leogane area, two interventions are planned in two different very poor villages; Ca-Ira and Guerin.

In Ca-Ira (about 2,000 people are living in very poor conditions), an orphanage, where 90 little boys and girls were housed, has been completely destroyed and seven of the children were killed.

The two existing shallow-water wells, used by the inhabitants, have been destroyed. The only existing water resource is at present a very shallow hand-dug well, where water is collected with buckets; but the water level dries up quickly and it takes two - three hours before the level is restored and water can again be collected!

A drilled water well is foreseen here (40/50 m deep) with solar panels and solar pump. A water tank and simple water distribution system by means of 4/5 public fountains will complete the project.

In Guerin village, a total population of around 4,000-4,500 is scattered around a large area, living in huts and small houses. No drinking water is available here. People have to walk, or ride bicycles, for 1.5 km. to get to a Shell Petrol Station, where water can be distributed.

The aim of the project is to drill a water well in the village centre (which has been chosen because of favourable hydrogeological conditions), provide the well with a solar system pump, build a

CA-IRA Village: people queuing for water in the only existing shallow well of the village



An existing water well in one of the communities included in the project, with hand pump, now completely dry, closed and out of use

suspended water tank (capacity around 20 m³) and install a gravity water distribution system by means of public fountains (8/10), located in convenient places for the beneficiaries use.

The estimated total cost of the Leogane area project is €110,600. With the local in-kind contribution estimated at €20,600, the total amount to be financed is €90,000.

The future sustainability of both projects (Tabarre and Leogane), once they have been handed to the beneficiaries, will be absolutely guaranteed by the continuous presence on site of GsF local Partner ODEMIHF NGO, by the support of Local Authorities, who greatly appreciate the aim of both projects, and the continuous work and assistance of the different "Water Committees", who will follow up on all project installations.

Locally, resident Friends have also assured their assistance during the different phases of the works and the follow up of both projects.

In order to be completed, the above projects need contributions. For more information:

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