New EU energy policy initiatives

Geothermal Innovation Days

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Summary

- Recent EU policy and legislative developments
- EU geothermal energy R&I

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Recent initiatives from the European Commission

- Renewable energy – legal framework after 2030: will seek to **secure reliable, affordable, homegrown energy** for European citizens and industry (planned by end 2026)

- EU Electrification Action Plan (July 2026): speed-up the electrification of the EU energy system. Electrification target of 46% by 2040 (from the current 23%)

- Industrial Accelerator Act: Commission proposal (March 2026) - new measures to increase demand for low-carbon, European-made technologies and products

EU R&I policy – geothermal energy

- Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan

- Horizon Europe – EU R&I framework programme 2021-2027

SET Plan

- Objective: **support the development of** clean, efficient and cost-competitive **energy technologies** through **coordination and collaboration** in clean energy research and innovation (R&I), bringing together European **industry, academia and governments** of the SET Plan countries.
- Initially established in 2007

- R&I cooperation through Implementation Working Groups (IWGs) and European Technology and Innovation Platforms (ETIPs)

- Recent and ongoing activities
  - New SET Plan governance adopted (November 2025)
  - IWG geothermal re-established (February 2026)
  - IWG mandate defined (March 2026)
  - Definition of a Thematic Vision (June 2026)
  - Update of Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) (by November 2026)
  - Definition of Implementing and Investment Commitments (by Q1 2027)

SET Plan

- **Implementation and Investment Commitments**
  - Map how the different countries and stakeholders intend to contribute to the SRIA implementation
  - List of actions and resource allocation relevant to acheive the identified objectives
  - Means and resources that European public and private actors have at their disposal for addressing the SRIA

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Horizon Europe

- Work Programme 2026-2027
  - Support to the SET Plan stakeholders' groups in geothermal energy (opens on 03.12.2026 and closes 31.03.2027, 0.38M€, duration: 1.5 years)
  - Clean Industrial Deal calls (next one opens 12.01.2027 and closes 15.09.2027, 140M€)
  - Resource assessment for deep sedimentary and basement reservoirs (opened on 04.08.2026 and closes on 01.12.2026, 18M€)
  - Horizon Prize on lithium production from geothermal plants in Europe (opening expected for Q1 2027, prize awarded in Q4 2030, 4.5M€).

Horizon Europe 2028-2034

- Commission proposal adopted on 16 July 2025, as part of the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034
- Proposed budget: 175 b€
- Horizon Europe - Four pillars
  - Pillar I: Excellent Science (~€44 billion)
  - Pillar II: Competitiveness and Society (~€75.8 billion)
    - Collaborative R&I activities under 4 policy “windows”: 'clean transition and industrial decarbonisation', 'health-biotech-agriculture and bioeconomy', 'digital leadership', 'resilience and security-defence industry and space'
  - Pillar III: Breakthrough innovation (~€38.7 billion)
  - Pillar IV: European Research Area (~€16.2 billion)
- Close link with the **European Competitiveness Fund on Pillar II**
- Ongoing negotiations between European Parliament, Council and Commission:
  - Council partial general agreement (26 June 2026)
  - European Parliament negotiation position by November 2026

Horizon Europe 2028-2034 – European Partnerships

- Ongoing public consultation (close 16 October 2026)
  - Specific questions on future Joint Undertakings (Treaty-based partnerships, requiring the establishment of a legislative act)
  - Set of questions on the portfolio of partnerships in HE 28-34

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Thank you



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