

#2 NEWSLETTER

HeatInvest

October | 2026

Enhancing Cluster Development and Investment Readiness of the Heat-pumps and Geothermal Energy European Value chain

Over the past months, the HeatInvest project has concluded its benchmarking activities, including regional innovation ecosystem mapping across partner regions and a comprehensive market analysis. These results provide a solid foundation for the project's next phase, focused on accelerating the heat pump and geothermal value chains, particularly in less developed regions.

In parallel, project partners participated in study visits and knowledge-exchange activities, fostering capacity building and sharing best practices across regions. In addition, the HeatInvest developed a Funding Opportunities Database, which is integrated in the project website. These efforts aim to reduce innovation gaps, strengthen regional ecosystems, and support the uptake of sustainable heating and cooling solutions throughout Europe.

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Budget

1.492.877,91€



Partnership

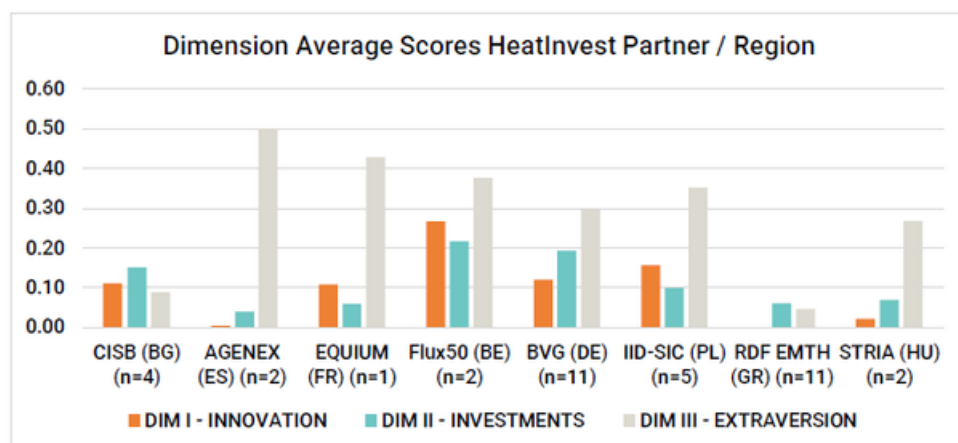
9 Partners -8 Countries



Duration

01.09.2025 - 31.08.2027

Innovation Mapping and Assessment Results & Market Analysis



HeatInvest's baseline assessment reveals a mixed innovation landscape across participating regions. While some SMEs demonstrate strong innovation and export performance, many face challenges related to limited private investment, uneven innovation capacity, and weak collaboration networks. The findings highlight the need for stronger financing mechanisms, knowledge sharing, and interregional cooperation to help innovative solutions progress from development to large-scale market deployment.

In addition, HeatInvest completed a comprehensive market analysis of the European heat pump and geothermal sectors, examining market trends, regional differences, and deployment opportunities across partner territories. The study shows that while renewable heating technologies are gaining momentum across Europe, market uptake remains highly dependent on local conditions, including workforce availability, access to finance, project development capacity, and supportive policy frameworks.

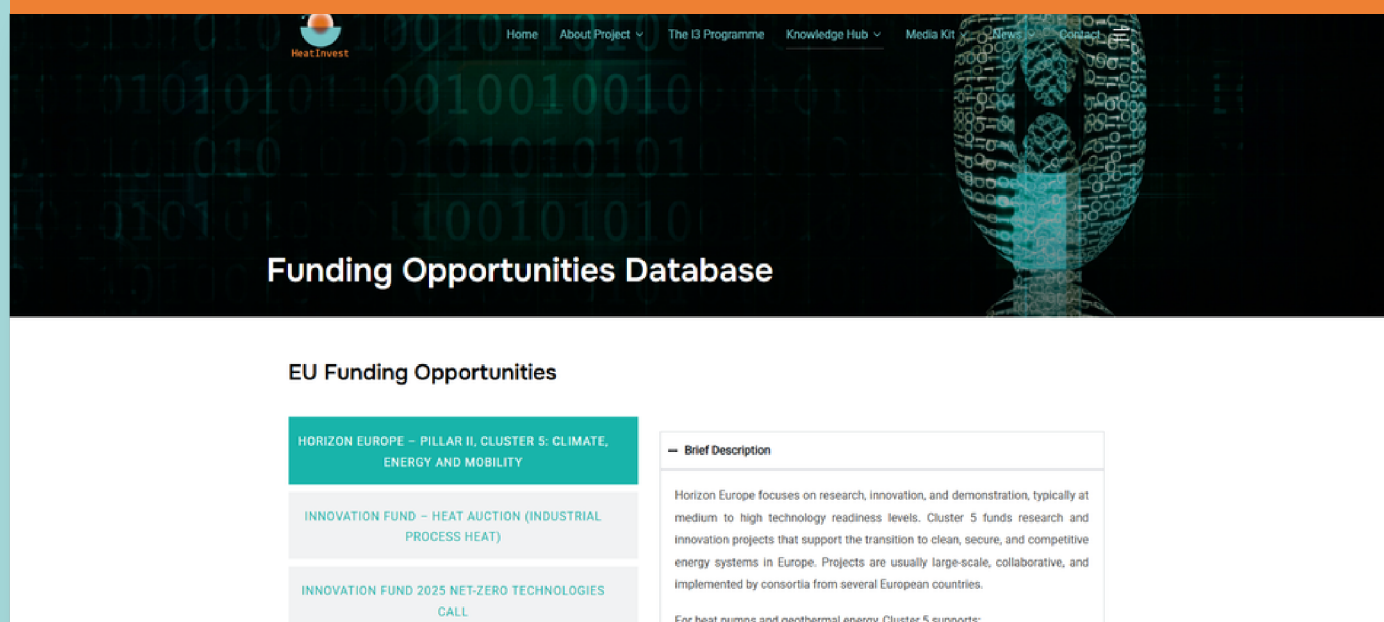
The findings provide valuable guidance for regions seeking to accelerate renewable heating deployment and strengthen investment readiness across the heat pump and geothermal value chains.

Key Takeaways



1. Focus business planning on realistic market segments.
2. Invest in implementation capacity, not only technology promotion.
3. Build stronger project pipelines and bankable demonstration cases.
4. Encourage business-model innovation alongside technology uptake.
5. Draw more systematically on interregional good practices.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES DATABASE



Tailored Opportunities Database

One of HeatInvest's first key project results is now live.

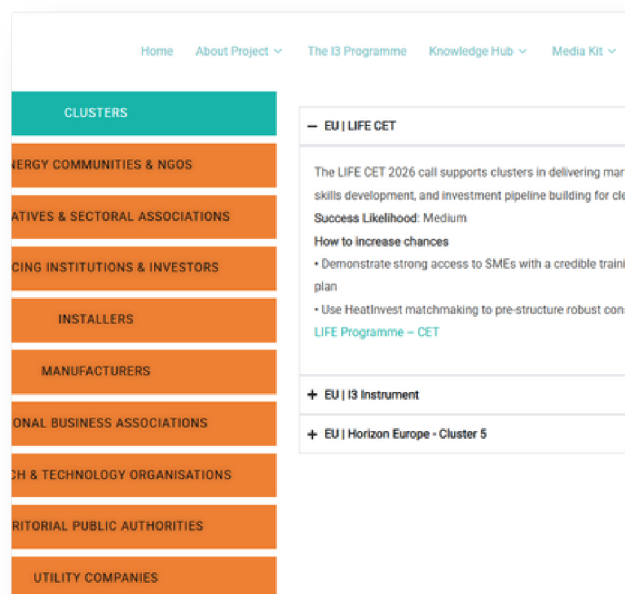
With the support of the entire partnership, STRIA has developed the Funding Opportunities Database, now available through the HeatInvest Knowledge Hub.

The database is designed to help stakeholders identify financing opportunities that can support innovation and investment across the heat pump and geothermal sectors.

The platform includes:

- European funding programmes
- Country-specific financing opportunities for participating regions
- Tailored funding recommendations for different stakeholder groups
- Guidance on suitable financial instruments and investment approaches

By making funding opportunities more accessible, the database supports stronger investment readiness and helps regions bring sustainable heating and cooling projects closer to implementation.



STUDY VISIT IN GHENT

In May 2026, HeatInvest partners gathered in Ghent, Belgium, for a two-day study visit hosted by FLUX50. The programme combined expert presentations with visits to leading demonstration sites, showcasing innovative heat pump technologies, district heating systems, geothermal applications, and industrial decarbonisation solutions.

These exchanges enabled partners to learn directly from successful projects while exploring opportunities for replication across participating regions.



Nieuwe Dokken | 12.05.2026

Participants visited Nieuwe Dokken, one of Belgium's flagship fourth-generation low-temperature district heating networks. The project supplies more than 400 urban units using locally available renewable heat sources, including wastewater heat recovery and biogas. Operated by the DuCoop cooperative, it demonstrates how innovative technology and community governance can successfully work together in sustainable urban development.



Living Lab Muide-Meulestede | 12.05.2026

The Living Lab showcased neighbourhood-scale geothermal solutions based on Borehole Thermal Energy Storage (BTES) combined with local heat networks. The initiative illustrates how citizens, local authorities, and technical partners can jointly develop fossil-free heating solutions while overcoming technical and financial challenges through shared infrastructure.

Luminus Heatnet | 12.05.2026

One of Belgium's oldest district heating networks, Luminus Heatnet has been operating since 1958 and spans approximately 23 kilometres. The visit demonstrated how existing infrastructure can be modernised through the integration of industrial heat pumps and large-scale thermal storage while progressively transitioning towards low-carbon energy sources.





Daikin Europe R&D Centre | 13.05. 2026

Partners visited the Daikin Europe R&D Centre, a €140 million innovation hub dedicated to developing next-generation air-, water-, and ground-source heat pump technologies.

The programme included demonstrations of advanced testing facilities and presentations on heat recovery technologies, system efficiency, and the Belgian heat pump market delivered in collaboration with ODE Vlaanderen.



Alpro Installations | 13.05.2026

The visit to Alpro highlighted how industrial energy systems can successfully combine combined heat and power (CHP), heat pumps, electric boilers, absorption cooling, and smart automation.

The integrated approach demonstrates how industrial facilities can simultaneously improve energy efficiency, operational flexibility, and emissions reduction.



Ghent University – G-Tech Heat Pump Research Group

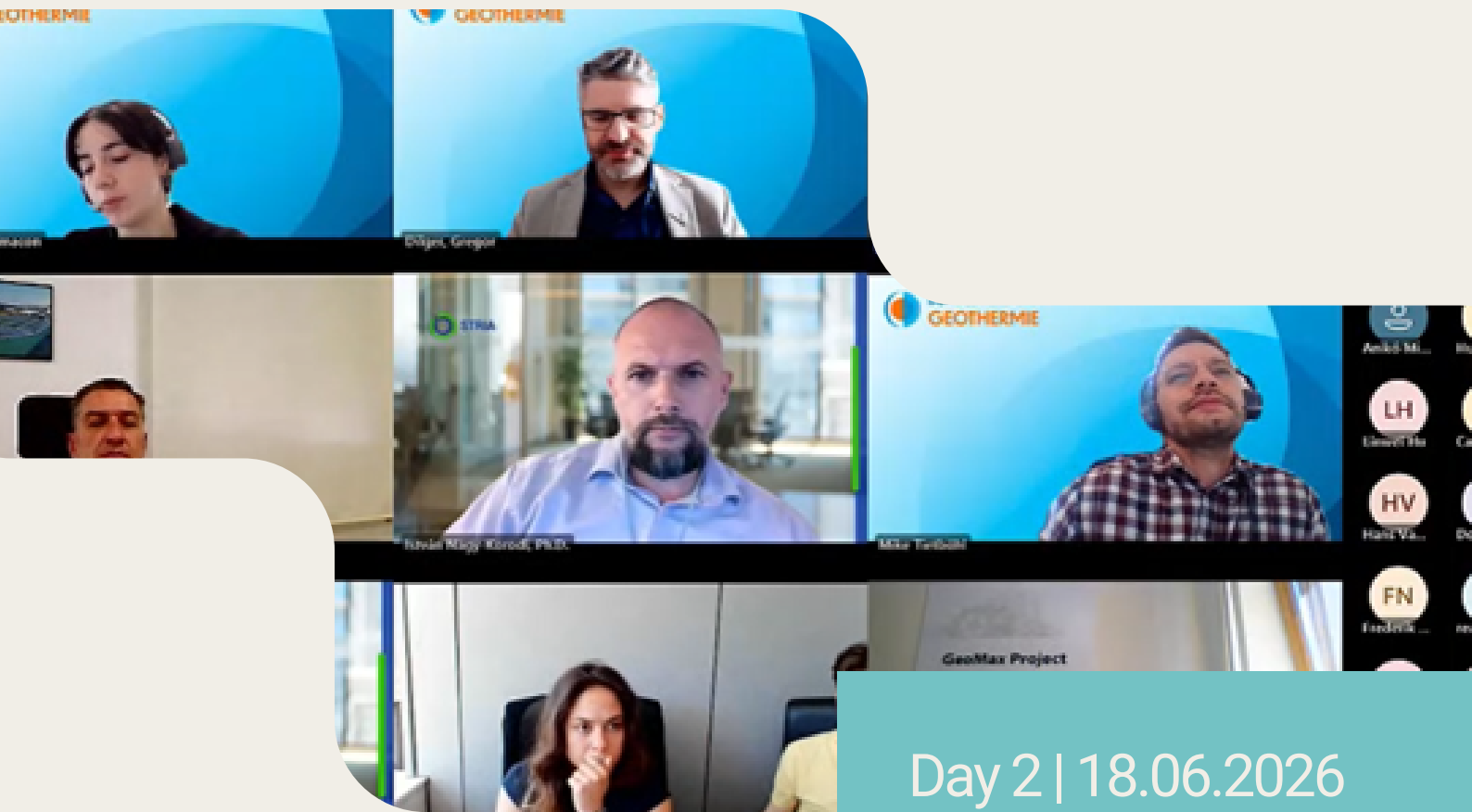
The final technical visit introduced participants to the G-Tech Heat Pump Research Group at Ghent University.

Researchers presented their work on next-generation heat pump technologies and demonstrated testing environments where innovative solutions are validated before entering the market.

The study visit concluded with a collaborative wrap-up session, where partners reflected on key lessons learned and discussed how successful approaches could be adapted and replicated across HeatInvest partner regions.

Interregional Demonstration Day

On 16 and 18 June, the HeatInvest Interregional Demonstration Days, organised by [Bundesverband Geothermie e.V. \(BVG\)](#), brought together companies, research organisations, clusters, innovation hubs, and regional stakeholders from across Europe to exchange knowledge and showcase innovative solutions in heat pump and geothermal energy technologies



Day 1 | 16.06.2026

The first day focused on innovative technologies and emerging solutions supporting the wider deployment of heat pumps and geothermal energy. Participants gained insights into the current state of the heat pump market in Hungary ([STRIA](#)), including existing barriers and future opportunities, while learning about hybrid geothermal and air-source heat pump systems designed to improve efficiency and resilience ([GEO Concept](#)).

Other presentations showcased innovative approaches such as transforming wastewater into a renewable source of urban heating through the Riothermal Energy Demonstration Project in Leuven ([AquaFin](#) and [Kelvin Solutions](#)), next-generation heat pump technologies that operate without compressors or refrigerants (presented by [EQUIUM](#)), and the PUMP-UP Project ([PROMEA](#)), which promotes capacity building and innovation across the heat pump value chain.

Day 2 | 18.06.2026

The second day highlighted practical applications and successful regional initiatives demonstrating how sustainable heating and cooling technologies are already being implemented across Europe. Participants explored the use of geothermal energy for drying fruits and vegetables in Xanthi, Greece ([Geothermiki Hellas](#)), learned about vocational education initiatives that are developing the skilled workforce needed for the green transition in Poland ([ID-SIC](#)), and discovered the implementation of a high-temperature Aquifer Thermal Energy Storage (ATES) system in Berlin ([BTB Energie GmbH](#)). The programme also featured innovative residential heating and cooling solutions based on heat pumps in Spain ([AFEC](#)), as well as [Schneider Electric](#) Bulgaria's geothermal system, developed in support of global sustainable development goals.



LOOKING AHEAD

With its analytical work completed and valuable knowledge exchanged across regions, HeatInvest is entering an exciting new phase.

The project's focus now turns towards implementing its capacity building activities, with focus on strengthening investment readiness, supporting regional innovation ecosystems, and facilitating the deployment of sustainable heating and cooling solutions throughout Europe.

Together, the HeatInvest partnership continues to build stronger connections between innovation, investment, and regional development—helping accelerate Europe's clean energy transition.

NEXT STOP

Our next destination is Nantes, France, where EQUIUM will host the HeatInvest partnership this October. Stay tuned!



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Disclaimer:

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