

EEA Grants Geothermal Energy Match Making Event
Reykjavik 23 Oct. 2019

Pórir Ibsen, Ambassador, and representative of Iceland within FMC

Welcome to Iceland. Pleased to see this interest in match-making with Icelandic operators in the field of geothermal energy.

I take this opportunity to thank Orkustofnun, the National Energy Authority, for the initiative to organize this event. Useful to arrange this event back-to-back to the SDEC and thus allow delegations the opportunity to take part in a larger programme on geothermal energy.

The third funding period of the EEA Grants 2014-2021 looks promising. Iceland especially welcomes the enhanced bilateral emphasis during this period. This match-making even is in part facilitated by the new emphasis on bilateral relations.

The Energy Programmes in Bulgaria, Croatia, Poland and Romania, offer ample opportunities for funding geothermal energy projects. In that regards, house heating is of particular relevance. The role of the EEA Grants is to support projects that enhance social and economic cohesion in Europe. Sustainable, reliable and environmentally sound central heating is fundamental for social progress and well being.

This we experienced in Iceland when we started in earnest to use our geothermal resources during the last century.

No longer did we need to spend our hard-earned currency on imported oil. Quality of life was improved with better house heating and availability of warm water. Not to mention the side benefits of warm swimming pools, increased greenhouse production of vegetables, snow-thawing systems and hot pots on the patio. But here I am speaking to the converted and thus no need for elaborating in detail the advantages of geothermal energy.

You will have the opportunity today to meet representatives of key actors in the geothermal energy sector of Iceland. Apart from extensive experience from Iceland, many have been involved in geothermal projects in the recipient countries of the EEA Grants, such as Poland, Portugal and Croatia.

This is your opportunity and I wish you a productive match-making.