

D 7.3 Summary Report on SAPHEA Events

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Executive Summary

From 2023 to 2025, the SAPHEA project actively contributed to advancing geothermal district heating and cooling (geoDHC) across Europe through a coordinated series of public events, thematic workshops, and national seminars. These engagements served not only to disseminate SAPHEA's tools and findings, but also to gather valuable feedback, co-develop solutions, and support capacity-building at all levels — from local heat planners to international policy actors.

1. Introduction

This deliverable provides a comprehensive summary of all personal, hybrid, and online events organized and supported by SAPHEA. Its purpose is to document the project's outreach and capacity-building activities, which play a crucial role in equipping stakeholders with the skills and knowledge needed to implement geothermal heating and cooling (geoHC) solutions.

These activities directly support SAPHEA's mission to accelerate the transition to fossil-free, sustainable heating and cooling in Europe. They are closely aligned with the project's objectives to strengthen local and regional capacity, promote market uptake, and foster cross-sector collaboration. The events also contribute to SAPHEA's key performance indicators, including the number of stakeholders engaged and trained, and the creation of a broad community of geoHC ambassadors.

2. Summary of Events

The table below gives a structured overview on the events SAPHEA was organizing and co-organizing, also providing a short description of each of them later on.

Table 1: Overview of SAPHEA events

Name	Type	No. of persons	Date	Country	link
GeoDHC days 23	Personal	193	19. - 21.9.2023	Aarhus, Denmark	https://www.egec.org/events/geothermal-district-heating-and-cooling-days-2023/
GeoDHC days 23 workshop	Personal	~80	19. - 21.9.2023	Aarhus, Denmark	
GeoDHC days 24	Personal	117	9. - 11.9.2024	Paris, France	
GeoDHC days 24 CT-Workshop	Personal	~90	9. - 11.9.2024	Paris, France	
GeoDHC days 25	Personal	161	20. - 22.5.2025	Vienna, Austria	https://www.geothermal-days.eu/dhc-days-2025

GeoDHC days 25 workshop	Personal	~80	20. - 22.5.2025	Vienna, Austria	
National event Germany	Personal	42	29.4.2025	Munich, Germany	https://www.cee.ed.tum.de/hydro/evnts/article/29-april-2025-workshop-integration-der-geothermie-in-die-kommunale-waermeplanung-in-bayern/
National event Italy	hybrid	56	6.6.2025	Rome, Italy	https://gogeothermal.eu/updates/geothermal-energy-for-district-heating-discover-the-results-of-the-saphea-project-presentations-now-available/
National event Austria	Personal	12	23.6.2025	Vienna, Austria	
Adressing challenges for geoDHC development through gamification	Personal	16	16.6.2025	Turin, Italy	
Workshop on Integrating Geothermal into Local H&C plans	online	127	26.6.2025	Online	https://www.egec.org/events/geothermal-district-heating-and-cooling-days-2023/
Webinar on the SAPHEA Market Uptake Hub & Tools	online	~70	26.6.2025	Online	https://gogeothermal.eu/updates/join-us-explore-the-saphea-tools-and-market-uptake-hub-for-geothermal-dhc/
SAPHEA booth @ Euroheat & Power	Personal	~450	3.- 5.6.2025	Prague, Czech Republic	

3. Event description and Outcomes

3.1 Geothermal District Heating and Cooling Days (GeoDHC Days)

Each year, SAPHEA played a central role in the Geothermal District Heating and Cooling Days, an annual forum organized by the European Geothermal Energy Council (EGEC) in collaboration with national hosts.

GeoDHC Days 2023 – Aarhus, Denmark:

Hosted by VIA University College and supported by SAPHEA and the COST Action Geothermal-DHC CA-18219, APHEA held its first thematic workshop on business and financing models for geothermal heating and cooling networks, gaining critical insights into stakeholder perceptions and funding challenges.

GeoDHC Days 2024 – Paris, France:

In collaboration with AFPG and the COST Action Foliage CA-21156, SAPHEA facilitated a cross-thematic workshop focused on de-risking greenfield projects. Discussions spanned the full lifecycle of geoDHC development and explored how SAPHEA's research and Market Uptake Hub can support early-stage planning in new markets.

GeoDHC Days 2025 – Vienna, Austria:

Co-organized with GeoSphere Austria and Geothermie Österreich, the 2025 edition focused on demonstrating the finalized Market Uptake Hub and its associated tools. Participants had the opportunity to explore the platform hands-on and engage directly with the developers, reinforcing SAPHEA's commitment to usability and practical implementation.

3.2 National Events: Local Engagement, Targeted Impact

SAPHEA also organized targeted national events to address specific regional contexts and challenges.

National event Germany (Munich)

Hosted by Technical University Munich, this event explored the integration of geothermal energy into municipal heat planning. The dialogue centered on geothermal potential, data accessibility, and planning processes — key outputs of SAPHEA's Work Package 2.

National event Italy (Rome)

This June 2025 event spotlighted SAPHEA's full results, offering stakeholders a walkthrough of the Market Uptake Hub, financial tools, and scenario catalogues in a national context.

National event Austria (Vienna)

Organized by GeoSphere Austria, this event created a space for interdisciplinary exchange across EU-funded projects working on the heat transition. After panel discussions, participants engaged with hands-on demo stations showcasing SAPHEA's tools.

3.3 Innovative Learning Through Gamification

SAPHEA's commitment to accessible, user-centred learning was brought to life through the “Choose Your Own Adventure” (CYOA) Gamebook.

Workshop in Turin (June 2025)

The University of Turin led a train-to-practice seminar using the Gamebook, designed to guide non-expert users through key technical, financial, and social decision points in a geoDHC project. Participants explored SAPHEA's tools in a narrative, gamified environment — lowering barriers and fostering deeper understanding.

3.4 Workshops and Webinars: Expanding the Dialogue

SAPHEA also reached wider audiences through interactive online formats.

Workshop on Integrating Geothermal into Local H&C plans

Co-hosted by e-think with GeoSphere Austria and Energy Cities, this online workshop featured planning approaches from Vienna, Munich, and Brussels, showcasing real-world examples of geothermal integration into local strategies. Participants accessed open-source resources and discussed municipal planning needs.

Webinar on the SAPHEA Market Uptake Hub

Organized by the University of Turin with support from COST Action Foliage CA-21156, this webinar introduced participants to SAPHEA's digital platform, tools, and datasets. The session emphasized how planners, policymakers, and energy professionals can use the Hub in early-stage project planning.

3.5 Sectoral Engagement: Euroheat & Power Annual Conference

A major outreach milestone was SAPHEA's participation in the Euroheat & Power (EHP) Annual Conference 2025 in Prague. Through a dedicated exhibition booth, the project team disseminated the Market Uptake Hub, technical toolkits, and key project findings to hundreds of energy professionals from across Europe. This highly visible platform enhanced SAPHEA's credibility and helped embed its outputs into broader district energy discussions.

4. Conclusions

Across three years of regional and European outreach, SAPHEA has not only built awareness of geoDHC but also established strong connections between its research, tools, and the real-world needs of its stakeholders. These events provided both a platform to disseminate innovations and a space to listen, refine, and adapt the project's outputs.

Through its involvement in over a dozen high-profile events — from Aarhus to Vienna, from online webinars to flagship European conferences — SAPHEA has successfully established itself as a leading voice in the renewable heating and cooling sector. The project's tools and outputs have not only been widely disseminated, but actively tested, adapted, and embraced by practitioners, planners, and policymakers.

SAPHEA's strategic use of hands-on workshops, national seminars, and interactive resources like the Gamebook ensured that knowledge did not remain abstract — it became usable, local, and actionable.

5. Annexes

You can find more documentation in the digital annex: <https://gitlab.com/saphea-h2020/deliverables/-/tree/cf4ba7bfeccd5eb0e7ee6264e15a64cdf50a7a4c/D7.3%20Summary%20report%20on%20SAPHEA%20events>