







GEOTRAINET Update: training structure complete, curricula revision, and modular approach

Burkhard Sanner, Philippe Dumas, Isabel Fernandez, Robert Gavriliuc, Javier Urchueguía

Geotrainet aisbl, 2, place du champ de mars, 1050 Brussels, Belgium

b.sanner@egec.org

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1. THE REASON FOR GEOTRAINET

Further success of Shallow Geothermal energy systems relies on adequate ground coupling installations, designed and constructed with good knowledge and workmanship. Opportunities for the necessary education, training, and eventually certification of persons for both the design and the construction (drilling, installation) of the ground side for shallow geothermal systems in the past only existed in a few countries. These countries are those with an early and strong ground source heat pump (GSHP) market. The same skills and technologies for ground coupling are required for underground thermal energy storage (UTES). In the most recent years, several independent training activities have been started in a number of countries, reacting either to quality concerns of industry or authorities, or to EU-

Directive 2009/28/EU. Coordination and harmonisation on the European level is needed, as well as providing training opportunities for countries without existing schemes.

2. STATUS OF GEOTRAINET

The results of EU-project Geotrainet (2008-2011) and the work done for transforming these results into a continuous training scheme had been reported at EGC 2013. Meanwhile, the required legal entity to manage this scheme had been created end of 2013, and started is legal existence in spring 2014. The first courses after the end of the original project in January 2011 have been carried out in 2013 and 2014. In 2015, the European Training Committee (ETC) has been created, to oversee the revision of the curricula and to co-ordinate the national training activities. The European level (figure 1) thus is fully operational, at least in theory.

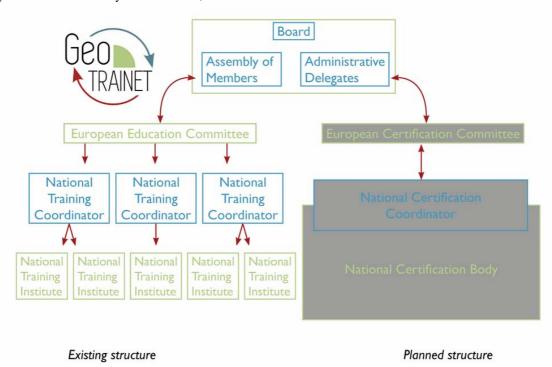


Figure 1: Structure of Geotrainet; training side is operational in a preliminary status since 2014

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The task of the ETC is to define the contents of the curricula, the approach how these contents will be transformed into practical training, and how a meaningful, fair and verifiable examination can be ensured. A modular approach seems to be the most appropriate, allowing for different levels of preeducation, various technological sub-sectors, and national requirements.

The revision of the curricula and didactic material could not be finished yet as planned, due to personnel reasons within the ETC. A new chairman will have to be appointed, and it is hoped that the important work of the ETC can resume soon.

Nevertheless, a short course had been prepared for EGC 2016, to be held on 19.9.2016 in Strasbourg, as update for trainers and other interested persons.

The most active country within Geotrainet currently is Spain, where the national coordinator Geoplat had organized a course already in November 2014 (fig. 2) in Madrid, and is planning the next course for November 2016 in Barcelona.

More information on the development and new events will be given through the Geotrainet website at:

http://geotrainet.eu/



Figure 2: Flyer from the Geotrainet course in Madrid 2014