

## New Interreg Project DISCO to Accelerate Waste Heat Utilization in Europe

The newly launched Interreg Europe project **DISCO – Advancing DISTRICT heating and COoling solutions for efficient waste heat utilization** brings together 10 partner organizations from across Europe to test and develop innovative solutions for capturing and reusing industrial waste heat in district heating and cooling systems.

Industries across Europe release enormous amounts of heat into the atmosphere as a byproduct of production. Capturing this heat and using it in district heating and cooling systems could significantly reduce carbon emissions and energy costs. But while technical solutions already exist, many public authorities lack the policy tools and capacity to implement them.

DISCO addresses this by supporting regional and local governments in improving energy strategies, sharing best practices, and testing new policy approaches. The project is led by North Sweden Energy Agency (Energikontor Norr), based in Luleå, Sweden.

*“We see great potential in reusing waste heat from the industry. With DISCO, we want to support public authorities in leading this change — turning existing knowledge into real action,”* says Isabella Katsimenis, Project Manager, North Sweden Energy Agency.

### Regional perspectives at the core

DISCO includes ten partners from all five Interreg Europe zones. Through mutual learning and policy exchange, DISCO will drive forward decarbonisation of the heating and cooling sector and contribute to meeting the EU’s Renewable Energy Directive targets.

Green Hub Denmark, located in Aalborg, Denmark, is one of the ten partners in the project.

“Denmark is often viewed as a frontrunner when it comes to district heating, but that doesn’t mean we have it all figured out – on the contrary. That’s exactly why collaboration is so valuable. Through projects like DISCO, we not only share our own experiences, including best practices and mistakes made along the way, but also learn from the diverse ways other regions tackle their challenges. That’s how we keep pushing forward – together,” says Nikoline Bak, International Project Manager, Green Hub Denmark.

### Project focus areas

The DISCO project runs until 2029, and the partnership will share best practices and improve policy instruments through four thematic areas:

- Technical considerations
- Economic potential
- Regulatory requirements
- Stakeholder cooperation and capacity building

### Project partners include:

- North Sweden Energy Agency, Sweden
- Aalborg Municipality, Denmark
- House of Energy e.V., Germany
- Lower Silesian Voivodeship, Poland
- Municipality of Botosani, Romania
- Province of Drenthe, Netherlands
- CODEMA, Ireland

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- Region of Crete, Greece
- IRENA – Istrian Regional Energy Agency, Croatia
- City of Zrenjanin, Serbia

### **For more information**

Project website: <https://www.interregeurope.eu/disco>

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/disco-project>

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