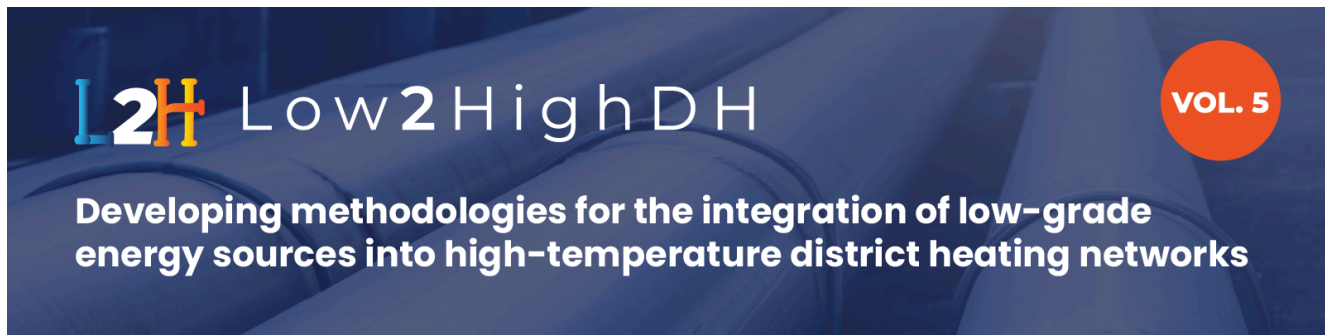


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From Plans to Action: Low2HighDH completes the roadshows across 10 pilot district heating systems



After nearly three years of collaboration, technical and financial analyses, and stakeholder engagement, the Low2HighDH project has reached one of its most important milestones.

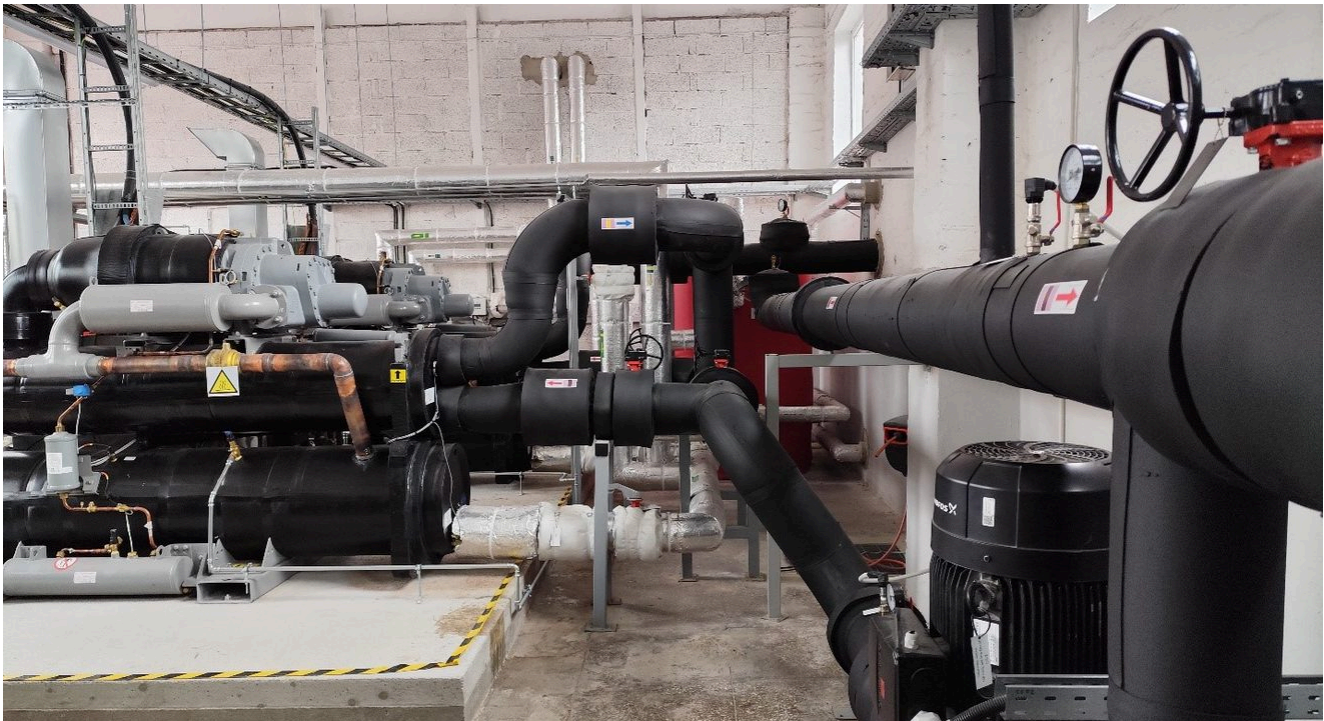
Over the past months, project partners completed a series of roadshows across the **10 pilot district heating systems** in **Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia**. During these meetings, they presented the final

and provided district heating operators and municipalities with practical roadmaps for transitioning from fossil fuels towards renewable and recovered heat sources.

Ten pilot sites, ten tailored transition pathways

The ten pilot sites represent a diverse range of district heating systems operating under different technical, environmental and economic conditions. While each system faces its own challenges, all currently depend heavily on fossil fuels and require locally adapted transition pathways.

In **Lithuania**, the project supported the district heating systems in **Rukla**, **Karmelava** and **Pagiriai**. The proposed investment plans could reduce fossil fuel consumption by **more than 18,300 MWh per year** while avoiding approximately **5,085 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually**. Two of the three Lithuanian pilot sites - **Rukla** and **Karmelava** - are projected to reach **100% renewable heat production**, while **Pagiriai** could increase its renewable share to **50%**.



The four **Polish** pilot sites - **Rydułtowy**, **Wągrowiec**, **Rogoźno** and **Pułtusk** - illustrate the diversity of coal- and gas-based district heating systems currently operating across the country. Their investment plans together could reduce fossil fuel use by **almost 40,000 MWh every year** and avoid around **9,650 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually**. Depending on the site, renewable energy is projected to provide between **66% and 84%** of future heat production.



In **Slovakia**, Low2HighDH worked with the district heating operators in **Petržalka**, **Stará Ľubovňa** and **Kolárovo**. Their proposed investments could reduce fossil fuel consumption by **almost 19,700 MWh annually**, avoiding more than **4,300 tonnes of CO₂ emissions each year**. Renewable energy could supply over **70%** of heat production in Petržalka and Stará Ľubovňa, while **Kolárovo** has the potential to become **fully renewable**.



76,700 MWh every year while avoiding around 21,400 tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually.

Rather than proposing a single solution for every system, Low2HighDH identified the most appropriate technologies based on local conditions. These include geothermal energy, industrial waste heat recovery, river, lake and wastewater heat, mine-water heat recovery, large-scale heat pumps and thermal energy storage - providing practical, site-specific pathways towards cleaner and more resilient district heating systems.

Roadshows: bringing investment plans to local decision-makers

The recently completed roadshows provided an opportunity to present the investment plans directly to district heating companies, municipalities and local stakeholders.



Rather than simply delivering reports, the meetings focused on discussing the proposed technical solutions, explaining the financial analyses, validating assumptions with local operators and identifying the next steps towards implementation. The discussions also highlighted one of the project's key findings: while renewable and recovered heat technologies are technically feasible, successful implementation will also depend on supportive investment conditions and regulatory frameworks that enable long-term planning and cost recovery.

Insights from these meetings led to targeted adjustments to the investment plans, improving their relevance and increasing the likelihood of uptake by pilot decision-makers and key stakeholders.



Building capacity and sharing knowledge

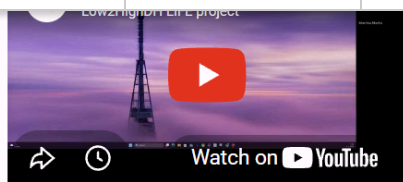
Alongside the development of the investment plans, Low2HighDH implemented a comprehensive capacity-building programme to ensure that its methodologies and experience can be applied well beyond the ten pilot sites consisting of local context analyses, webinars and online training materials, video tutorials and demonstration materials.

The capacity-building programme also included a series of webinars and practical exercises designed to guide participants through the project's methodology, from setting up case studies and engaging stakeholders to understanding technical and financial analyses. By making these materials available online, Low2HighDH has created a lasting knowledge base that can support future district heating projects long after the project's completion.

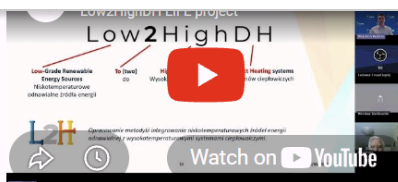
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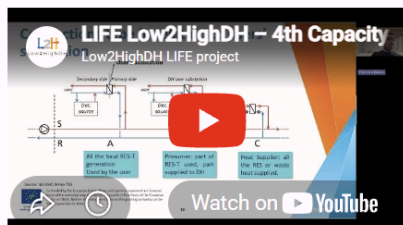
LIFE Low2High District Heating – Introductory Webinar in Slovak (February 4, 2026)



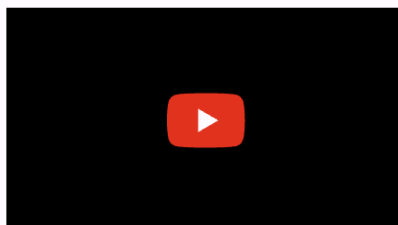
LIFE Low2High District Heating – Introductory Webinar in Polish (February 18, 2026)



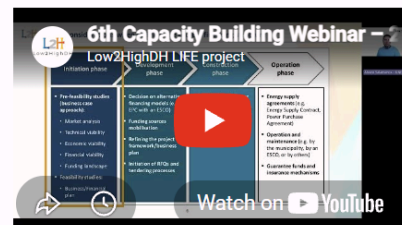
LIFE Low2High District Heating – Introductory Webinar in Lithuanian (February 18, 2026)



LIFE Low2HighDH – 4th Capacity Building Technical Webinar in English (March 04, 2026)



LIFE Low2HighDH – 5th Capacity Building Financial Webinar in EN (March 18, 2026)



LIFE Low2HighDH – 6th Capacity Building Financial Webinar in EN (April 01, 2026)

<https://low2highdh.eu/webinars/>

Knowledge sharing has also been central to the project. Through Local Liaison Groups, National Stakeholder Groups and the Ambassador Community, Low2HighDH brought together district heating operators, municipalities, policymakers, researchers and energy experts to validate the proposed solutions, exchange experiences and strengthen cooperation across the district heating sector.



Sharing knowledge beyond the pilot sites

The experience gained through the ten pilot systems has not remained within the consortium.

Building on the project's methodologies and capacity-building programme, **20 additional district heating systems** have participated in dedicated replication activities, allowing them to benefit from the tools, analyses and lessons learned throughout Low2HighDH. These activities are helping municipalities explore renewable and recovered heat solutions adapted to their own local conditions, extending the project's impact far beyond its original beneficiaries.

By combining practical investment planning with stakeholder engagement, training and replication, Low2HighDH is helping accelerate the transition towards more sustainable district heating systems across Central and Eastern Europe.

Looking towards the project's legacy

As Low2HighDH enters its final months, the project has already delivered substantial results:

- **10** completed technical analyses;
- **10** market and demand assessments;
- **10** financial analyses and comprehensive investment plans;
- Roadshows completed across all pilot sites;
- A comprehensive capacity-building programme with guides, webinars and training materials;
- **20** replicant district heating systems engaged;
- Extensive stakeholder engagement through Local Liaison Groups, National Stakeholder Groups and the Ambassador Community.



More importantly, Low2HighDH has demonstrated that the transition from fossil-fuel-based district heating towards renewable and recovered heat is both technically feasible and economically assessable when supported by robust planning and stakeholder collaboration.

The investment plans developed over the past three years now provide municipalities and district heating operators with practical roadmaps for future investments. As the project approaches its conclusion in September 2026, its legacy is already taking shape—not only through reports and analyses, but through the partnerships, methodologies and knowledge that will continue supporting the decarbonisation of district heating systems across Europe.

The transition does not end with Low2HighDH. It begins with the implementation of the plans the project has helped create.



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