

## Developing methodologies for the integration of low-grade energy sources into high-temperature district heating networks

Dear readers,

I am delighted to share with you the latest updates from the **Low2HighDH project**. With the first six pilot sites now selected, we are moving from planning into action. This is a key milestone for our consortium, as we begin to demonstrate how renewable and innovative solutions can transform district heating across our regions.

During my recent visit to the **DH site in Rukla, Lithuania**, I had the chance to meet with local partners and see first-hand the opportunities and challenges we will address together. It is inspiring to witness the commitment of communities and operators to make their heating systems cleaner, more efficient, and future-proof.

At the same time, I was honoured to present the project at the **21st CYSENI Conference in Lithuania**, where we engaged with stakeholders from across the energy sector. Events like these are vital for building awareness, fostering collaboration, and ensuring that the lessons from our pilots are shared widely.

Thank you for following our journey — your support and interest are essential as we work towards a more sustainable energy future.

Warm regards,

**David Pérez**

Project Coordinator, Low2HighDH

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## Six Pilot Sites Selected

The **real work with district heating sites in Low2HighDH has officially begun!**

We are proud to announce the first **six pilot sites** that will pave the way for transitioning from fossil-fuel-based high-temperature systems to low-temperature and renewable-based solutions:

- **Slovakia:** DH Petržalka, DH Stará Ľubovňa
- **Lithuania:** DH Rukla, DH Karmelava
- **Poland:** DH Wągrowiec, DH Rydułtowy

These sites mark the starting point of the project's practical activities and will demonstrate how different local conditions can successfully integrate sustainable heating solutions.

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## On the Ground: Visit to Rukla

In June, our coordinator David, together with local partners, visited the **DH site in Karmelava, Lithuania**

This first on-the-ground exchange with site operators underlined the importance of working closely with local communities and energy providers to understand their specific needs and opportunities.

Pictures from the visit (courtesy of Rolandas) highlight the enthusiasm and readiness of the operators to start the transformation.



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## Low2HighDH at the 21st CYSENI Conference

Low2HighDH was presented at the **21st International Conference of Young Scientists on Energy and Natural Sciences Issues (CYSENI 2025)**, held in Lithuania.

Our coordinator David introduced the project's goals, the selection of pilot sites, and the technologies under investigation. The event provided a great platform to raise awareness about district heating decarbonisation and to connect with researchers, policymakers, and practitioners who share the same vision of a sustainable energy transition.



## Innovative Technologies Under Investigation

At each pilot site, Low2HighDH is exploring a **range of renewable and innovative technologies**, carefully tailored to the local context:

- **Water-to-water heat pumps using rivers and lakes**
- **Air-to-water heat pumps harnessing ambient heat**
- **Geothermal energy combined with heat pumps**
- **Integration of residual heat**
- **Optimised use of existing biomass cogeneration**
- **Seasonal thermal energy storage (TES) to balance supply and demand**

These solutions will be combined into flexible, efficient, and future-proof district heating systems.

## Low2HighDH at the Energy and Sustainability Conference 2025 in Chania

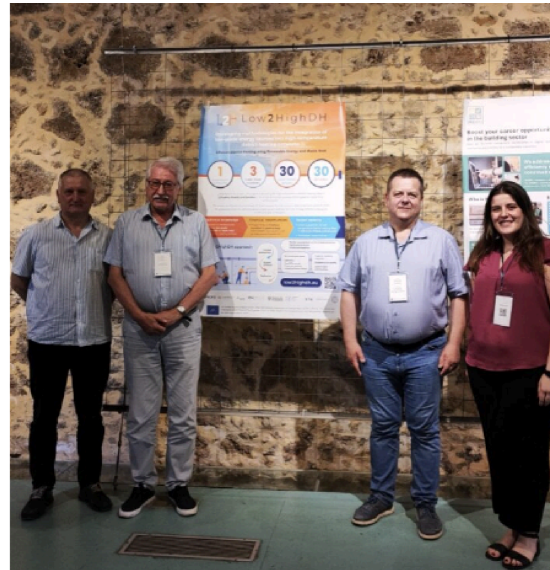
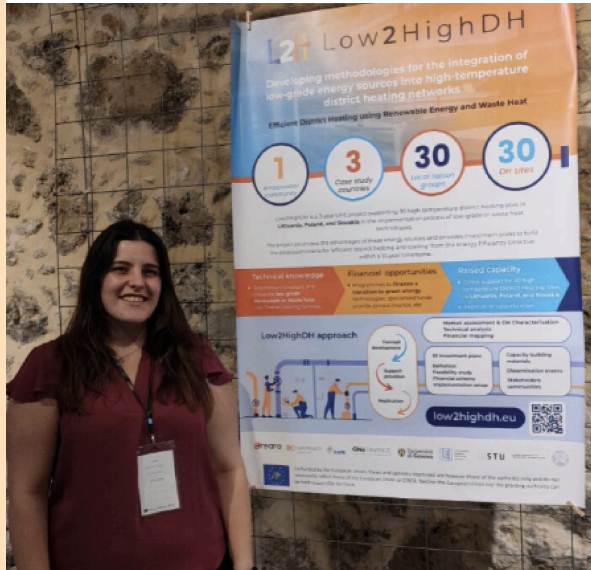
The **Energy & Sustainability Conference 2025** was a two-day international event held on **July 2–3 in Chania, Crete**, focusing on key challenges and innovations in **energy transition, sustainability, smart cities, climate resilience, and renewable energy**. The conference aimed to foster **knowledge exchange and synergies among researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and EU-funded projects** contributing to a more sustainable and decarbonized Europe.

Organized by SHERLOCK EU project (SUPPORTING THE ENERGY TRANSITION OF THE BUILDING STOCK project ERASMUS-EDU-2022-PI-ALL-INNO number 101105629), including the



Technical University of Crete (Alexandros Vazakas) and Università degli Studi di Genova (Mattia De Rosa), the event featured a **hybrid format** with both in-person and online presentations. Participants included academics, energy professionals, policymakers, students, and representatives from EU projects.

The **Low2HighDH project** took part in the conference, delivering an oral presentation during **Session A.3: Energy Efficiency and Retrofitting**, chaired by Prof. Vincenzo Bianco. The presentation, titled "*The Future of District Heating in the EU: Challenges and Studied Solutions*", introduced the project, its context within the EU's energy transition goals, and the technical strategies being studied to modernize and decarbonize district heating sites.



In addition to the presentation, **Low2HighDH** was featured in the **EU project poster exhibition**, alongside eight other projects. Several project partners were present, including **LEI, STUBA** and **UNIPARTHENOPE**. The conference provided an excellent opportunity for the project to **disseminate its work, raise awareness of its goals, and engage with the wider sustainable energy community across Europe**.



# Coming Soon: 2nd Call for Applications

With the first six pilot sites already selected, Low2HighDH is preparing to launch the **2nd Call for Applications**.

This new phase will identify:

- The **remaining four pilot sites**, which will implement innovative low-temperature and renewable-based solutions with full project support.
- Up to **20 replicator sites**, which will follow the pilots, benefit from tailored guidance, and prepare their own decarbonisation strategies.

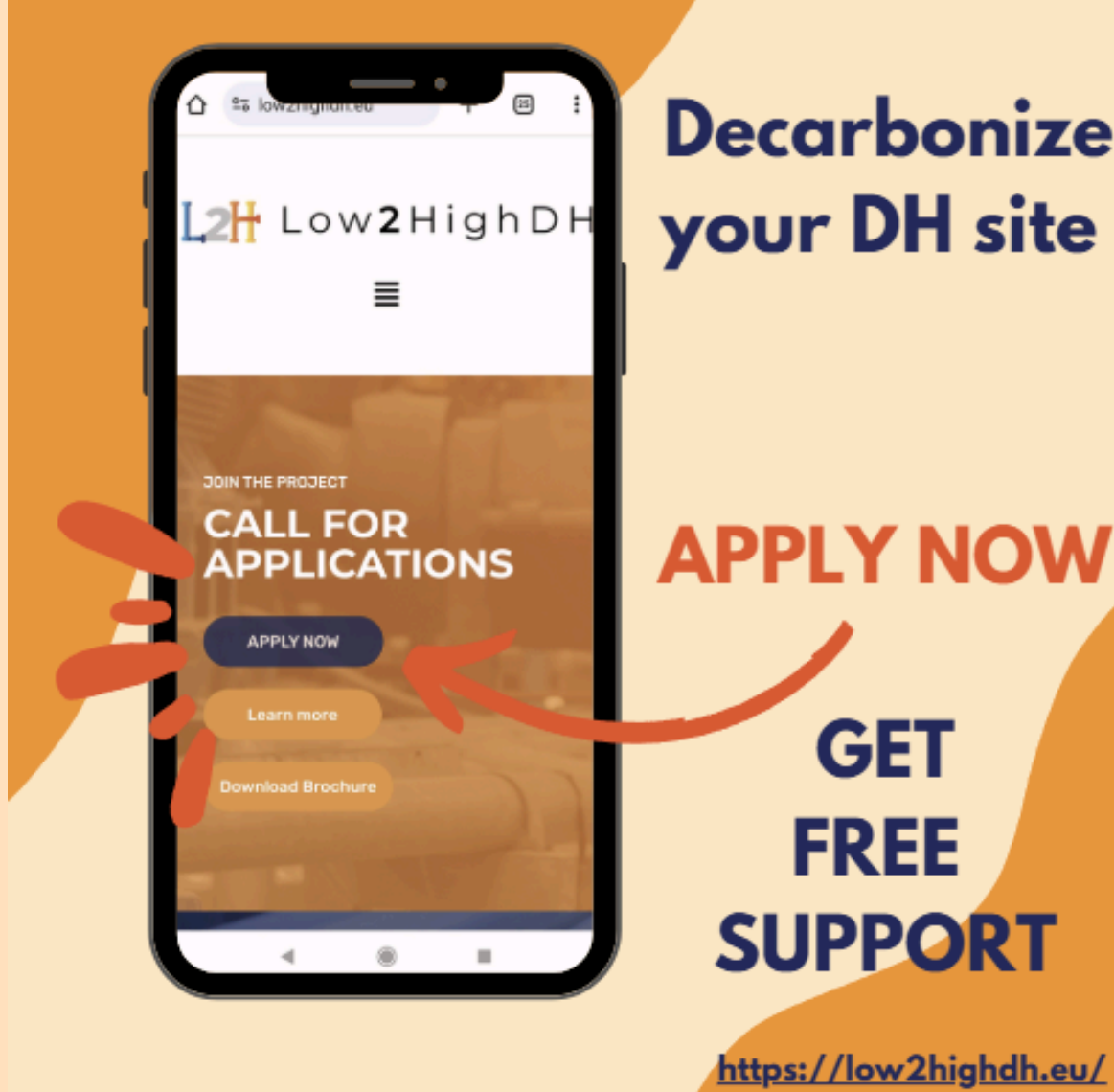
## Why Apply?

Selected sites will receive:

- **Free expert support** from leading energy specialists
- Tailored **technical and economic feasibility studies**
- Guidance on integrating **renewable and innovative technologies**
- Access to a **European network of DH operators, technology providers, and policymakers**
- Visibility as part of a flagship European project driving heating decarbonisation

The call will be launched soon — application details and eligibility criteria will be published on the **Low2HighDH website**.

Don't miss this opportunity to **future-proof your DH site** with Low2HighDH's support.



# Decarbonize your DH site

## APPLY NOW

## GET FREE SUPPORT

<https://low2highdh.eu/>

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## What's Next?

In the coming months after successfully having selected the first 6 pilot sites, we would have our 2nd Call for Applications open so that we select the remaining 4 pilot sites and process the applications for selection of replication sites. At the same time, the consortium will continue engaging with local stakeholders and the wider energy community. Step by step, Low2HighDH is building the foundation for a **cleaner, smarter, and more resilient district heating sector in Central and Eastern Europe.**

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Thank you for joining us on this journey towards a sustainable and energy-efficient future!



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