For immediate release
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Final release of the Hotmaps toolbox for strategic heat planning

Hotmaps heating and cooling (H&C) planning toolbox is now available to support public authorities, energy agencies and urban planners in **strategic H&C planning** on local, regional and national levels.
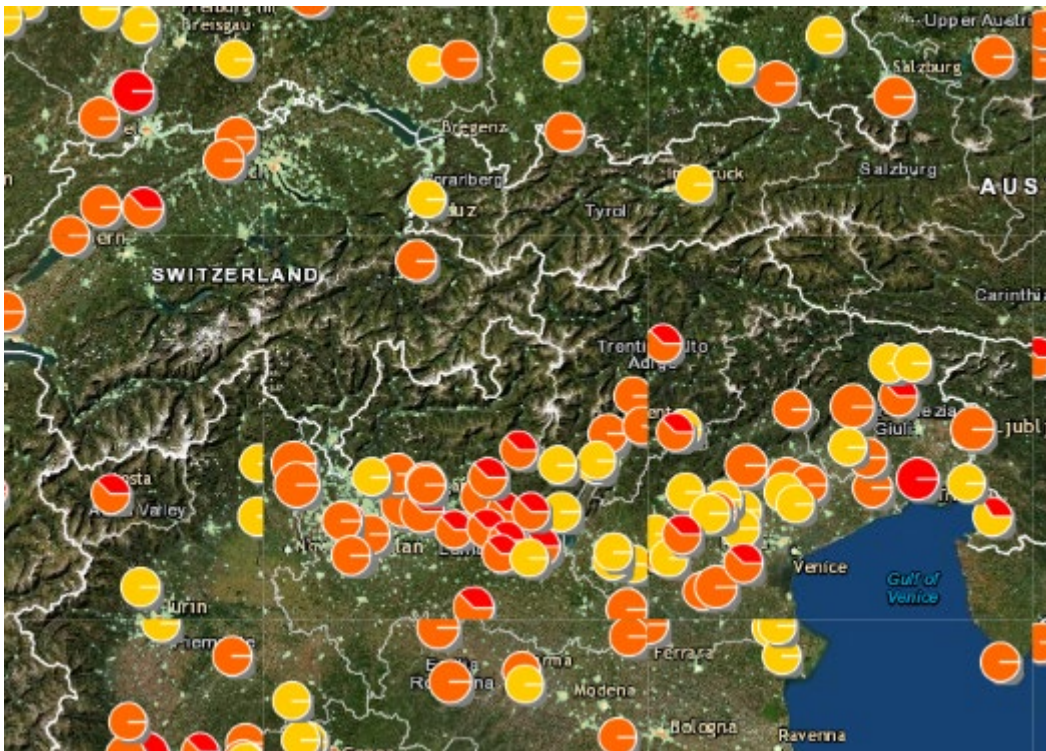
The aim of strategic energy planning is to promote the transition to a more **flexible integrated energy system with focus on energy efficiency and renewable energy**. In most European cities and regions, there is a need to better identify, analyse and map resources and solutions to reduce energy demand on one hand and to meet the demand with efficient, cost-effective and greener energy sources on the other hand.

Hotmaps wants to address this challenge. It was developed in the past 4 years in the framework of an EU funded project. It allows browsing through a European map and retrieving information on space heating and hot water demand, CO_2 emissions as well as potentials for renewable energy supply like solar energy on a spatially disaggregated level. Users can select their regions and geographical scale of interest from a 100x100m resolution up to Country level for the whole EU28. For a more detailed analysis, they may also upload their own data in their private user accounts.

A group of experts from leading research institutions in Europe[1] developed the software and tested it with the pilot areas involved in the project through the city network Energy Cities: Kerry County (Ireland), Milton Keynes (UK), Aalborg (Denmark), San Sebastian (Spain), Bistrita (Romania), Geneva (Switzerland) and Frankfurt-am-Main (Germany). Each of them had different needs related to their planning, but the toolbox turned out to be very useful. The **final version** of the software was released earlier this month and it is now available online.

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[1] 1 TUWien Energy Economics Group - Technical University Vienna; Hes.so – University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland; eurac – Institute for Renewable Energy; eThink – Energy Research; PlanEnergi; Aalborg University Department of Planning.

According to Jeremy Draper, Senior Practitioner for Milton Keynes' municipality: *"The Hotmaps toolbox has been useful to identify and verify additional resources in our area, not just for heating/cooling networks, but other sources of locally generated energy." "We lacked a planning tool to, first, identify local energy resources and second, adapt them to urban development and the high concentrations of energy consumed throughout the municipal territory"* - said Etienne Favey, Energy Officer for the City of Geneva - *"Hotmaps brought real and important benefit to the planning process, especially for the discussion with stakeholders."*

Screenshot from the Hotmaps planning tool - Credits: Hotmaps project

Further information:
Access the tool at: www.hotmaps.eu
How to use: https://www.hotmaps-project.eu/how-to-use/
Learn more: http://www.hotmaps-project.eu
Contact: info@hotmaps-project.eu

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