



International Geothermal Association

POSITION PAPER ON DATA COLLECTION

June 2021

*Adele Manzella, Margaret Krieger
Education & Information Committee
International Geothermal Association*

“If you can’t measure it, you can’t improve it,” - Lord Kelvin’s famous truism, as elaborated by management thinker Peter Drucker, certainly applies to geothermal energy. With a clear established system and method data can be quantified, collected, and presented in a comprehensive manner. For a sector, such as geothermal, reliable data collection and dissemination are fundamental to increasing its visibility, improve transparency, and provide insights into a geothermal energy market.

As of current, the geothermal data is quite fragmented in terms of nomenclature and methodology not only within different international energy entities but also within the industry sector itself. This results in misrepresentation of the geothermal energy sector within international energy reports and contributes to confusion between geothermal industry players.

An analysis carried out in the framework of the Geothermal ERA-NET programme in 2015¹ concluded that the discrepancy between geothermal datasets could be solved by setting and using the available data standards and defining terminologies as well as by revising the existing methodology.

Today, data related to the geothermal energy market is increasingly available. As a result, the challenge has shifted from measurement to management (i.e. curation, organization, analysis, and privacy). To address this challenge, since January 2021, the International Geothermal Association has started to build a framework on geothermal data collection methods and standards. This work is led by the IGA Education and Information Committee with the goal to support the process of collecting, storing, and sharing coherent geothermal data.

¹ Geothermal ERA-NET, website: [www.geothermaleranet.is/joint-activities/geothermal-energy-statistics-/](http://www.geothermaleranet.is/joint-activities/geothermal-energy-statistics/)

In March 2021 two groups of experts were formed: one for geothermal power generation data and one for geothermal heating and cooling data. Each expert group has two sets of activities, categorized broadly as data standards revision and data management and analysis. The IGA experts will mainly revise the data collection methods used by the IGA but also by other organizations to encourage coherence.

As an outcome, each group will deliver updated datasets for both power and heat to be used as standards for the IGA data collection. These standards will be used for customized questionnaires for the World Geothermal Congresses Country Updates and proposed for reference to other organizations.

In parallel, management and analysis tools will be established for building an effective and interoperable online database available to different stakeholders (IGA members and partners, energy organizations, research institutions and the general public).

The first round of revisions will be finalized prior the WGC 2020+1 in Reykjavik, Iceland and implemented fully by WGC2023 in Beijing, China.

For more information and questions, please contact:

Margaret Krieger,
Chief Research and Communication Officer
International Geothermal Association
margaret@lovegeothermal.org
www.lovegeothermal.org

For more information on World Geothermal Congress 2020+1, please visit:
www.wgc2020.com