HERCCULES & COREu projects: "*Development of the CCUS chain in Greece*"

Kavala, Greece - September 17th 2026

On September 17th, 2026, the European-funded projects HERCCULES: – Heroes in Southern Europe to decarbonize industry with CCUS and COREu: CO_2 Routes across Europe joined forces for the dissemination event "Development of the CCUS chain in Greece", held at the Great Club of Kavala (Megali Leschi Kavalas), Greece. The event aimed to bring together key actors from across the CCUS value chain to exchange knowledge and perspectives on the development of carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) in Greece, addressing the regulatory framework, industrial decarbonization, CO_2 transport and storage infrastructure, as well as opportunities for collaboration between academia and industry.

The event was hosted and organized by CRES with the support of ENERGEAN, EUCORE, Steinbeis Europa Zentrum, LEAP and both of the project's international consortia. The city of Kavala was chosen as it will host the first carbon storage project in Southeast Europe, Prinos CO_2 that is being developed by EnEarth, an Energean subsidiary.

The initiative brought together more than 70 participants from different European countries including consortium members, key local stakeholders from the scientific and industrial communities, academia representatives, legislators, policymakers and regulatory bodies interested in sharing results, perspectives, and technologies related to the CO_2 capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) development in Greece.

Following the welcome words from the deputy Minister of Kavala Mr. Apostolos Moumtsakis and the hosts Markos Damasiotis from CRES and Nikolas Rigas from ENERGEAN, the first session of the day – "*Set the scene*" started with a presentation of the evolution of the CCUS legislative and regulatory framework in Greece, delivered by Efthimios Tartaras from HEREMA, Greece's licensing and management authority for energy resources. Afterwards, Stefano Consonni (LEAP) and Stavros Niotis (PRIME) provided an overview and current progress of HERCCULES and COREu's projects, respectively.

The second session "*Greece's CCUS chain*" initiated with a presentation on decarbonization pathways in cement from an industrial point of view delivered by Stefanos Mastrogiannis from TITAN. While Kleopatra Avraam from DESFA provided an overview of the CO_2 transport infrastructure in Greece. Afterwards, Pantelis Vogiatzis and Paschalia Kiomourtzi from ENERGEAN provided an update on Prinos CO_2, illustrating how the project is strengthening the country's role in Greece's carbon storage landscape and the impact the project has to the national economy, industrial decarbonisation, and sustainable development. Later on, Sotirios Lazaridis, President of the Administrative Committee of the Technical Chamber of Greece – Eastern Macedonia Department, and Ioannis Panagiotidis, President of the Kavala Chamber of Commerce, addressed the audience with welcoming remarks.

To finalize, Andreas Georgakopoulos, Emeritus Professor from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki discussed the potential synergies between university and industry.

HERCCULES: Funded by the European Union. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101096691.
Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

COREu: This project has received funding from the European Union's HE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136217

Together, these presentations demonstrated how coordinated efforts across policy, industry, transport infrastructure, academia, and geological storage are helping to establish a future CCUS value chain in Greece.

Student poster session

The day continued with a poster session from students of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Three posters were presented by the authors: Ernestos-Nikolas Sarris, Nikos Vavlas and Nikos Anterriotis-Kalpakidis.

This session enabled students to engage directly with researchers, industry experts, and policy stakeholders involved in CCUS applied research at the European level, encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences.

Press Conference

Following the engaging presentations, several representatives from local media across the Kavala region—including newspapers, magazines and television outlets—were invited to join the meeting room for the press conference.

The session was launched with a brief overview of the objectives and key achievements of both the HERCCULES and COREu projects, delivered by Stefano Consonni (LEAP) and Stavros Niotis (PRIME). This was followed by an insightful explanation by Markos Damasiotis (CRES) and Sotiris Chiotakis (ENERGEAN) regarding the integration of both projects into the broader CCUS value chain in Greece and the wider impact of the chain on climate action.

The press conference concluded with an interactive Q&A session, during which journalists had the opportunity to engage directly with the speakers.

The event provided an excellent platform for raising awareness and sharing knowledge about the current state of the CCUS sector in Greece, while fostering dialogue between project partners, stakeholders, and the local media.

Visit to Prinos CO_2 Storage project

After a break to taste a Mediterranean lunch, participants had the opportunity to visit Prinos CO_2 Storage project, the first of its kind in Southeast Europe and East Mediterranean. Prinos is located in the vicinity of Kavala, Greece, where its field's reservoirs and underlying aquifers turn it into an ideal carbon storage site. The project is operated by EnEarth, an ENERGEAN subsidiary. The latter is partner in both HERCCULES and COREu projects, focusing on the experimental demonstration, injection and permanent storage of the captured CO_2.

The visit to this strategically important geological site offered participants the opportunity to observe firsthand one of the most significant future applications of carbon storage in the region. The project is expected to pave the way for the development of the first commercial-scale CO_2 storage hub in Southeast Europe and East Mediterranean, reinforcing Greece's pioneering role in advancing large-scale CO_2 storage and supporting the region's low-carbon transition.

The HERCCULES and COREu projects are both entering pivotal phases that will be critical to the development of regional CCUS clusters and to advancing industrial decarbonisation as a key driver of innovation, competitiveness, and sustainability across Europe.

HERCCULES: Funded by the European Union. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101096691.
Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

COREu: This project has received funding from the European Union's HE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136217

***HERCCULES project in numbers**: start date: 1 January 2023; Total project duration: 60 months; Total budget: €39.627.208,00; EU contribution: € 29.632.076,48; 25 partners: LABORATORIO ENERGIA AMBIENTE PIACENZA (coordinator), EU CORE CONSULTING SRL, ENERGEAN OIL & GAS – ENERGEIAKI AIGAIOU ANONYMI ETAIREIA EREVNAS KAI PARAGOGIS YDROGONANTHRAKON, ENERGEAN ITALY S.P.A., BUZZI SPA, Dyckerhoff Cement Ukraine Private Joint-Stock Company, ANONYMI ETAIREIA TSIMENTON TITAN, SUMITOMO SHI FW ENERGIA OY, SUMITOMO SHI FW ENERGIA POLSKA SPOLKA Z OGRANICZONA ODPOWIEDZIALNOSCIA, AIR LIQUIDE ITALIA SERVICE SRL , AIR LIQUIDE ITALIA PRODUZIONE SRL , AIR LIQUIDE GLOBAL E&C SOLUTIONS FRANCE, FRAUNHOFER GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FORDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG EV, POLITECNICO DI MILANO, THE BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP S.R.L, AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS, CELITEMENT GMBH & CO. KG, UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT, WIETERSDORFER ALPACEM GMBH, ARTIDEK, MTU SHOGENERGY, LAPPEENRANNAN-LAHDEN TEKNILLINEN YLIOPISTO LUT, TECNO PROJECT INDUSTRIALE SRL, SIAD SOCIETA ITALIANA ACETILENE E DERIVATI SPA, ASSOCIAZIONE CLUST-ER ENERGIA E SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE, CENTRE FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES AND SAVING FONDATION, A2A AMBIENTE SPA, ENI SPA, A2A SPA, BUZZI UNICEM SRL, SNAM S.P.A.*

***COREU project in numbers**: start date: 1 January 2024; Total project duration: 48 months; Total budget: €35 696 960.00; EU contribution: € 29.285.939,38; 43 partners: SINTEF ENERGI AS, ENERGEAN OIL & GAS, ENERGEAN ITALY S.P.A., ELPEDISON PARAGOGI ILEKTRIKIS ENERGEIA MONOPROSOPI AE, CAO HELLAS THESSALIKI ASVESTOPOIIA MONOPROSOPI ANONYMI ETAIREIA PARAGOGIS KAI EMPORIAS ASVESTOU KAI LOIPON DOMIKON KAI CHIMIKON ILON, ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS, BUSE GAS S.A., MND a.s., CESKA GEOLOGICKA SLUZBA, UNIGEO a.s., INSTYTUT NAFTY I GAZU – PANSTWOWY INSTYTUT BADAWCZY, LOTOS Petrobaltic S.A., UKRGASVYDOBUVANNYA JOINT STOCK COMPANY, PRIME CARBON STORAGE AND TRANSPORT LTD, GAS VESSEL PRODUCTION PROIZVODNJA IN INZENIRSKE DEJAVNOSTI DOO, MACGREGOR NORWAY AS, CAN systems AS, DESFA, GRTgaz, Open Grid Europe GmbH, RUHR-UNIVERSITAET BOCHUM, Saipem, MOTOR OIL (HELLAS) DIILISTIRIA KORINTHOU A.E., HELMHOLTZ ZENTRUM POTSDAM DEUTSCHESGEOFORSCHUNGSZENTRUM GFZ, ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS , ETHNIKO ASTEROSKOPEIO ATHINON, UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA, STIFTELSEN NORSK INSTITUTT FOR NATURFORSKNING NINA, ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA, BELLONA EUROPA AISBL, SINTEF AS, SVILUPPO TECNOLOGIE E RICERCA PER L'EDILIZIA SISMICAMENTE SICURA ED ECOSOSTENIBILE SCARL, PERSPECTIVES CLIMATE RESEARCH GGMBH, EIDGENOESSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZUERICH, WeAreStarting S.r.l., STEINBEIS INNOVATION GGMBH, NEURALTECH IKE, DOMINA SRL, GERG LE GROUPE EUROPEEN DE RECHERCHES GAZIERES, STARA GLASS SPA, SGRPRO Srl, OpenGoSim Ltd, Glass Futures Ltd.*

For further information, visit the official websites: https://www.herccules.eu/ & https://coreu.eu/

Agenda, slides and "Take away messages" report available in https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.22913605

HERCCULES: Funded by the European Union. This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101096691.
Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Executive Agency (CINEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

COREu: This project has received funding from the European Union's HE research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101136217