

PRESS RELEASE

COAL2GAS FINAL WORKSHOP

27th of June 2017, Craiova – Romania

All partners' countries attended COAL2GAS final workshop organised by ISPE at Casa Universitarilor, in Craiova, Dolj County, Romania on June 27, 2017. The workshop addressed all issues related to COAL2GAS project, including the opportunity of introducing UCG technology in the coal mining industry of the East European countries.

The event on “Enhanced Coal Exploitation through Underground Coal Gasification in European Lignite Mines” was organized by ISPE, Romania and was chaired by dr. Bjorn DEBECKER, Research Programme Officer RFCS, EU DG Research & Innovation (Belgium) and dr. Marian DOBRIN, COAL2GAS Project Coordinator, ISPE (Romania). The event took place at Casa Universitarilor, in Craiova – Dolj County, the most energy intensive region in Romania, including the major part of the lignite safe reserves, 90% being located in Oltenia Basin (Gorj, Dolj, Mehedinți and Vâlcea counties) - Rovinari, Motru, Jilț, Berbești-Alunu, and Mehedinți mining exploitations.

This final workshop aimed to inform, promote and share the availability of the financing sources through RFCS Program 2017, and the results of COAL2GAS project related to the opportunity of UCG technology implementation in the shallow lignite layers of the Oltenia Basin. The event started with a welcome address delivered by dr. Marian DOBRIN, ISPE, followed by an introductory session, three technical sessions and a final concluding discussion and the following topics were disseminated:

- The role, history and current challenges of the coal mining industry in Romania
- Global overview of the deployed UCG technology and European experience with lessons learned from Poland and Slovenia
- Future UCG site selection criteria; Geological tests, experiments and drillings
- Risk assessment; Environmental issues; Monitoring techniques of a potential shallow UCG pilot
- Romanian policies and legislation related to the mining and energy industries
- Technical and economic feasibility; Potential uses of syngas

COAL2GAS project represented a challenge for the coal power industry in Romania and a real opportunity for the Oltenia Energy Complex (CE Oltenia) to think about developing new alternatives, considering the current background at European level in terms of security of energy supply and natural resources import dependence.

Interventions were made during the Q&A session related to the importance of the environmental risk assessment, which needs to be attentively monitored.

This event, organized by ISPE as coordinator of the European Consortium of the COAL2GAS Project, addresses academics - RDI institutes, governmental authorities – Ministry of Energy and the National Agency for Mineral Resources and the business community – consulting, engineering and turnkey projects' developers, and coal lignite mines.

The COAL2GAS project brought together, within its consortium, research teams and industrial actors from most of the main lignite producing countries in the EU, who marked a starting point in assessing whether a shallow UCG pilot can be implemented in Romania, with focus on a safe and environmental friendly operation.