

## Press Release

February 28th 2008

**Pool heating in balance with environmental and economical demands**



# Solar energy keeps temperature in outdoor pools on a comfortable level

Jumping into the blue water of a pool is one of summer's greatest pleasures. Providers and owners of open-air swimming pool in Europe pay several million Euro each year to maintain water temperature. Rising costs for fossil fuels and ecological disadvantages from their use present owners - mostly local authorities - with many challenges. The use of solar energy offers a convincing alternative that has the added benefit of meeting economical requirements. Scientists from ttz-Bremerhaven and their international partners from the EU-project SOLPOOL will accelerate the spread of solar-thermal systems. On March 14<sup>th</sup> 2008, the first Workshop in Germany will take place in Munich. The partners will encourage knowledge-transfer with similar workshops in eight other countries.

**Bremerhaven, February.** On a hot summer day, the pool is the focal point for young and elderly people. Everybody who is looking for cool refreshment appreciates a temperature of 20 °C. The necessary energy for heating up the water is provided for free during the summer time: the power of the sun guarantees comfortable temperatures even on cloudy days. A lack of reliable information and only few network activities in the industry are the reasons for the slow increase in spreading solar-thermal systems. The participants of SOLPOOL will change this situation by providing information on potentials, sponsorship and economic aspects in free workshops.

„The material costs for implementing solar-thermal systems are relatively low, because the temperature the absorber has to tolerate does not exceed 25 °F. “Since water runs through the facility during the heating process, additional tanks for storage are not necessary”, reports project manager Leire Sarachaga from Umweltinstitut, Environmental Department of ttz-Bremerhaven. Nevertheless, only 725 of the 3.500 public swimming pools in total have been equipped with solar-thermal systems by 2004. In other European countries, implementation of solar systems for warming water is even more in the fledgling stages. When the project ends in April 2009, the use of solar energy in the testing regions should have increased by 10%, considering the objective target of the SOLPOOL partners.

In order to facilitate contact with users and experts in the testing regions, a database is to be developed. Another item developed by SOLPOOL is a calculating tool named “Impact Advisor”. It considers the details of the individual case, such as pool size and climatic factors, as part of a feasibility study. The third important method is to offer workshops for owners and providers and, eventually, also for installers of solar-thermal systems in Germany, Greece, Czech Republic, Slovenia, France, Hungary and Italy. The project partners intend to reach half of all people in charge of public

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outdoor pools with this offer. After a period of substantial data collection, the partners strive to establish solar-thermal systems as a Best Available Technique for heating outdoor pools. If it is accepted as an industrial standard, the number of users will rise considerably. With reference to the ecological aims for Europe, a vital progress could be made from this initiative. Particularly, if private pool owners follow the successful example of public providers, the effect would be even more outstanding.

For further information:

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