

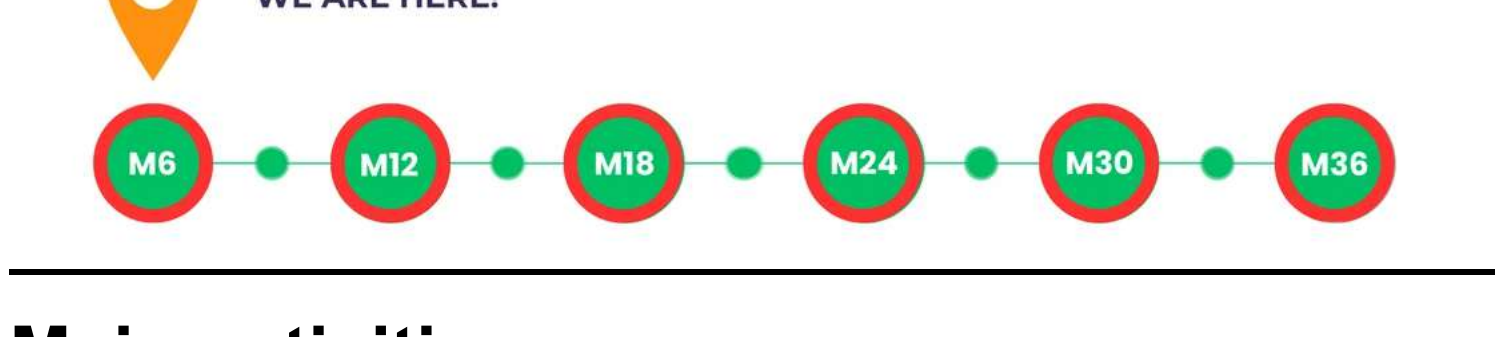
Welcome to EXQUISHEAT Project Newsletter!

Decarbonising industrial heat is one of the key challenges of the energy transition, and the **food and beverage sector** offers significant potential for progress. Many food production processes require both heating and cooling, creating valuable opportunities to improve efficiency and recover waste heat.

EXQUISHEAT, funded by the LIFE programme and launched in October 2025, aims to accelerate the uptake of **industrial heat pumps** in the food industry. By analysing key production processes and working closely with industry stakeholders, the project will identify optimisation opportunities and develop **standardised, replicable heat pump solutions** tailored to the needs of food manufacturing.

The project also fosters dialogue between **technology providers, food companies, and energy experts**, helping to bridge the gap between innovative solutions and real industrial implementation. Through collaboration, knowledge sharing, and practical examples, EXQUISHEAT seeks to demonstrate how industrial heat pumps can support **more efficient, competitive, and climate-friendly food processing across Europe**.

In this newsletter, you will find updates on our activities, upcoming events, and insights from the sector. **Stay tuned and join us on this journey towards a more sustainable food industry!**



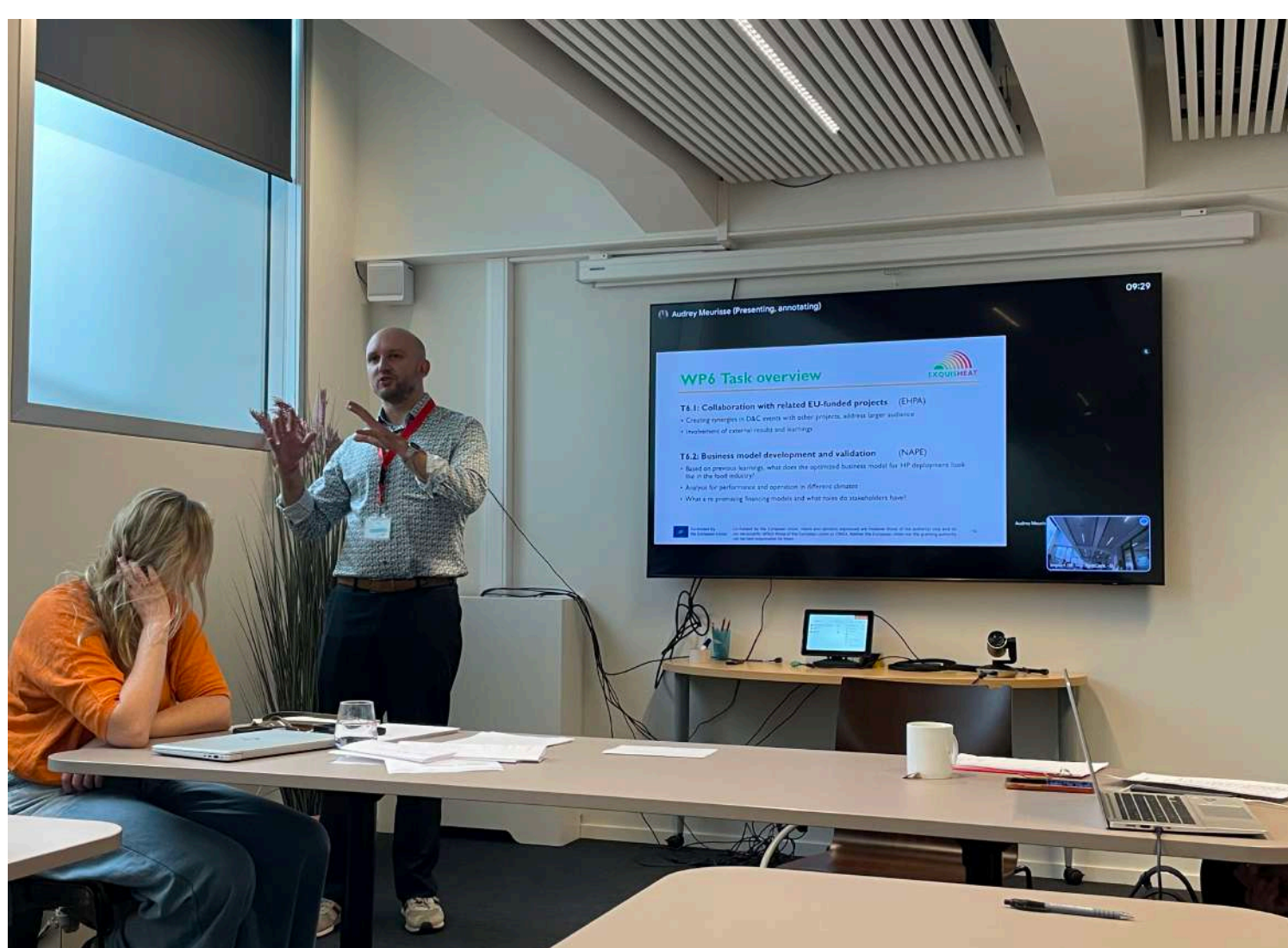
Main activities

EXQUISHEAT Kick Off Meeting



The EXQUISHEAT project officially kicked off on 21–22 October 2025 in Brussels, bringing together the nine project partners from six European countries for the first time. The meeting marked the start of a three-year collaboration aimed at accelerating the decarbonisation of the European food and beverage industry through industrial heat pump solutions.

Before the partners presented their detailed work plans, showcasing the collaborative spirit and strategic direction of the project, CINEA - European Climate, Infrastructure, and Environment Executive Agency, and DG ENER provided the consortium with a comprehensive overview of the **policy framework and how EU energy legislation is facilitating the roll-out of heat pump**, a key component in achieving a sustainable and energy-efficient future.



During the kick-off meeting, work package leaders presented the **structure of the project's seven work packages**.

- **WP1 - Project management and coordination**, led by **Veolia**, ensures the smooth implementation and monitoring of project activities.
- **WP2 - Analysis of industrial processes**, led by **NAPE**, focuses on identifying where heat pumps can deliver the greatest efficiency gains in food production.
- **WP3 - Development of standardised heat pump solutions**, led by **AIT**, will design replicable technical solutions for key applications.
- **WP4 - Stakeholder engagement and barrier analysis**, led by **Food Processing Initiative e.V.**, gathers insights from industry through interviews and workshops.
- **WP5 - Roundtable establishment**, led by **EHPA**, will create a platform for dialogue between the food industry and heat pump suppliers.
- **WP6 - Sustainability, replication and exploitation of results**, led by **dr. Jakob energy research GmbH & Co. KG**, will develop business models, replication studies, and practical tools to support market uptake.
- Finally, **WP7 - Dissemination and communication**, also led by **EHPA**, will ensure that the project's activities and results reach a wide audience across Europe.



Finally, the project meeting ended with two organised site visits: indeed project coordinator **Veolia | Belgium & Luxembourg** brought partners to **Aquiris**, Belgium's largest wastewater treatment plant, where recovered energy is used to support sustainable operations, and **Usquare.brussels**, an innovative redevelopment project using a **large-scale geothermal heat pump system** as part of an urban heat network to provide heating and cooling for the neighbourhood. These visits offered valuable insights into real-world applications of heat recovery and heat pump technologies.

EXQUISHEAT First online workshop



Cutting emissions by nearly 60% is no longer a future ambition for the food and drink industry, **it is already happening**.

This was one of the key messages from the first webinar of the project, organised on the 19 March, part of the **Heat BIG series on large heat pumps**. The session brought together industry representatives, technology providers and experts to discuss how industrial heat pumps are already delivering tangible results in real-world applications.

Concrete examples showed that emissions reductions of up to 59% are being achieved today in energy-intensive processes such as dairy spray drying. **From dairy to brewing, companies are successfully integrating heat pumps into existing systems, reducing reliance on fossil fuels while ensuring stable production.**

Beyond climate targets, speakers highlighted that decarbonisation is increasingly driven by energy security concerns and volatile fossil fuel markets. Electrification is emerging as a key strategy, with industrial heat pumps playing a central role by upgrading waste heat and supplying low-carbon process heat across a wide range of applications. However, the challenge is no longer whether the technology works, but how to implement it effectively. Successful integration requires careful planning, a strong understanding of site-specific conditions, and solutions that fit within operational constraints. Factors such as system design, temperature levels, and market conditions, including electricity and carbon pricing, are critical for scaling up deployment.

In this context, the EXQUISHEAT project aims to support the sector by developing standardised solutions, practical implementation guidelines, and fostering collaboration between industry and technology providers.

As the Heat BIG webinar series continues, the focus remains on turning proven technologies into practical, scalable solutions for a low-carbon future.

[Read the article & download the material](#)

EXQUISHEAT is part of the 2cool2waste cluster



In October 2025, EXQUISHEAT joined the **2cool2waste project cluster**, which brings together other LIFE and Horizon Europe projects working on renewable energy, waste heat recovery, and advanced thermal management.

On the same month, the cluster hosted an interesting webinar "Boosting energy efficiency in industry: proven solutions & real business cases" where EXQUISHEAT had the possibility to be featured.

During the session, the project was introduced to a wider audience of industry stakeholders, highlighting its objectives and its role in accelerating the uptake of industrial heat pumps in the food and beverage sector.

The webinar provided a valuable opportunity to exchange knowledge, showcase ongoing initiatives, and strengthen collaboration across projects contributing to energy efficiency and industrial decarbonisation in Europe.

We are pleased to be part of this initiative. To stay updated on our activities and upcoming developments, follow the cluster on social media.

[Follow the cluster on LinkedIn](#)

Data Collection



EXQUISHEAT is inviting food and beverage companies to contribute to **shaping the future of industrial heat pump solutions**.

The project is currently **collecting anonymised data on industrial processes**, including temperature levels, mass flows, thermal loads, and operational characteristics, to better understand real needs on the ground and develop practical, tailored solutions. By sharing this information, companies can play a direct role in accelerating the deployment of low-carbon heat in the sector.

Interested in contributing? Get in touch with the project team!

[Get in touch](#)

EXQUISHEAT Resources and Materials

Website

The EXQUISHEAT website has been launched on February 2026 and the online platform is now ready to be used as an informative tool for everything related to building a skilled, future-ready workforce in the heat pump industry.

Surfing on our website you will be able to find:

- Project description and updates
- Insights on the food processes the project will analyse
- Opportunities of collaboration between end-users and heat pump manufacturers
- Upcoming events and webinars

Visit the website, explore, and stay tuned for upcoming activities!

[Check out the Website](#)

Press release

In October 2025 the first **Press Release** of the project has been published and different online journals have re-shared it, showing the interest of the public for this crucial topic!

The press release details EXQUISHEAT's objectives and ambitions - You can read the full article and learn more about this exciting initiative here below.

[Check out the Press Release](#)

Interesting upcoming events for the sector

- **Mostra Convegno Expocomfort**, 24-27 March 2026, in Milano
- **Rostra Convegno and Heat Pump Forum**, 16 April 2026, in Copenaghen
- **15th IEA Heat Pump Conference**, 26-29 May 2026, in Vienna

**Stay tuned to know more about the next project activities, share the newsletter with your network and follow EXQUISHEAT online!**

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