The EU-funded project KeepWarm aims to accelerate cost-effective investments in the modernisation of district heating systems (DHS), particularly in Central and Eastern Europe where DHSs are often still old, inefficient and remain overly reliant on fossil fuels. KeepWarm therefore promotes sustainable pathways to retrofit existing DHS by upgrading their operational efficiency and switching to local greener energy sources.

By and large, energy efficiency (EE) retrofits (e.g. boiler-houses upgrades, reductions of heat loss in the grid, optimised operations, etc.) represent the necessary first steps for many DHSs to address before they can realistically switch to renewables and/or excess heat. Furthermore, it is crucial that political and financial frameworks more strongly support forward-thinking DHSs.

The focus of our first international webinar will look into relevant examples from three of KeepWarm’s target countries, namely: Austria, Czech Republic and Ukraine. Even though the common thread in all three cases will be about DHS-efficiency retrofits, the contexts to be presented still offer sufficient variety for distinct perspectives.

- **Austria**: small DHSs which have already switched to biomass, but nonetheless looking to optimise boiler-houses as well as expand their networks
- **Czech Republic**: large DHSs still not using renewables, but instead focused on fully upgrading from older steam-based systems to a modern hot-water DHS
- **Ukraine**: large DHSs soon to upgrade to biomass, but in the meantime already implementing EE business models demonstrating good financial feasibility

Additionally to these 3 national cases, KeepWarm will also be launching its newest public materials, including its “DHS Showroom” highlighting the work being done by all 23 DHSs participating in the project, meant to inspire further replication and investments.

**Agenda**

10h **Welcome and moderation**: ICLEI Europe, George Stiff and Carsten Rothballer
10h10 **Optimisation of biomass district heating and their economy in Austria**: Chamber of Agriculture and Forestry in Styria, Klaus Engelmann
10h25 **Czech Republic**: Association for District Heating of the Czech Republic, Jolana Bugáňová
10h40 **Energy Efficiency Investment in District Heating in Ukrainian cities**: KT-Energy, Kyryl Tomliak
10h55 **Moderated Q&A**
11h25 **Wrap-up and conclusions**: ICLEI Europe, Carsten Rothballer

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