

German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology (BMWi)

Public Outreach Activities in Germany

CO₂ reduction is a top priority on the political agenda in Germany. This is shown clearly by the fact that after 1998 and 2002 it is again mentioned in the coalition agreement between the two parties forming the political basis of the recent German government.

The subject of CO₂ capture and storage is now always visible in political scenarios and statements as well as in the publicity work of the big companies acting in the energy field.

Many individual events are organised on that matter by various organisations and in the framework of different programmes. Around 15 to 20 of those events could be listed within the last year alone, but since these were held in German it seems not useful to provide written documentation and links at this point. The increasing number of participants clearly proves the growing interest and the sensitiveness of this issue.

Furthermore studies were initiated and commenced to deal with public acceptance and the question of how to communicate this issue to a broader audience.

All these actions are clear steps on the way towards coordinated activities.

As part of information gathering and exchange Germany joined the IEA Clean Coal Centre and the Green House Gas R&D Programme. Germany also actively participates in projects and actions initiated by the European Commission as well as in related events e.g. of the IEA.

As one of the actions the setup of a CCS Newsletter in German language should be mentioned which is intended to disseminate CO₂ related issues to an extended audience.

Within the activities in the framework of the GEOTECHNOLOGIEN programme two actions should be mentioned. One is the

Travelling Exhibition: “The world beneath our feet “

The travelling exhibition *The world beneath our feet* dealt with the various opportunities for a sustainable use of the underground. One part of the exhibition was dedicated to the various opportunities of the safe CO₂-storage in Germany. Between March 2004 and October 2005 the exhibition toured to six German cities (Stuttgart, Leipzig, Dortmund, Berlin, München, Bremerhaven) with stops in the world famous technical museums of Munich and Berlin. More than 120,000 visitors enjoyed the journey to the underground and the national media reported on it regularly.

Additionally **regular meetings with politicians and other decision makers** are organised in that context. One example for this is mentioned below.

On November 24, 2004 the R&D-Programme GEOTECHNOLOGIEN organised a public event with Members of the German Parliament and other decision makers in the House of the German Press (Haus der Bundespressekonferenz) in Berlin. More than 160 guests followed the panel discussion with State Secretary Kasparick from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, scientists, and representatives from industry. Members of the German Parliament dealt with/got engaged with/accepted to deal with the CCS topic and discussed the ecological and economic opportunities of this technology with the audience.

A small science fair presented the new developments in this field.