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CENTRE FOR RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY HELLAS



CPERI

Chemical
Process and
Energy
Resources
Institute

Achieving a Carbon-Neutral Europe: CCUS & Hydrogen

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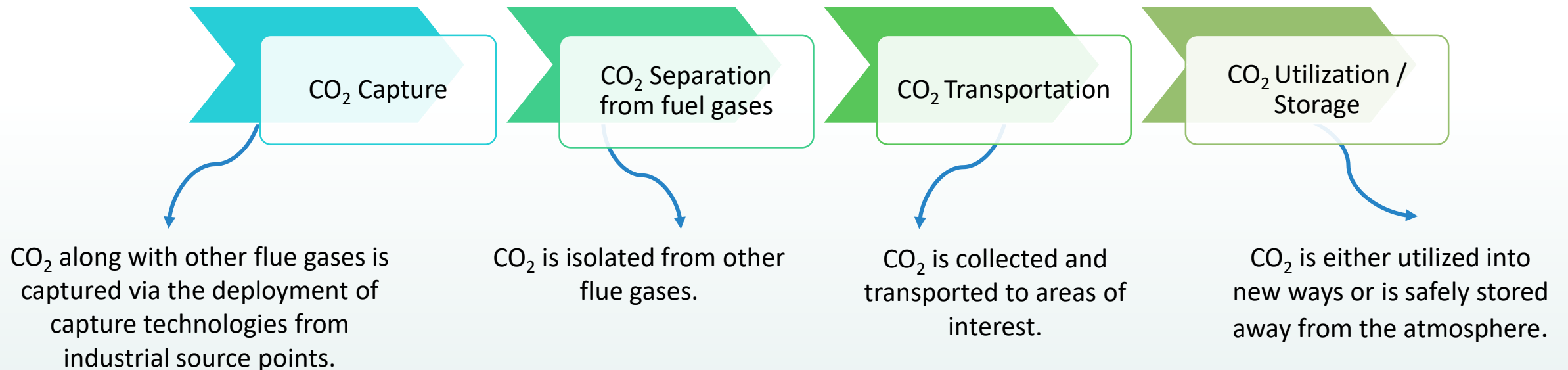
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CCUS value chain

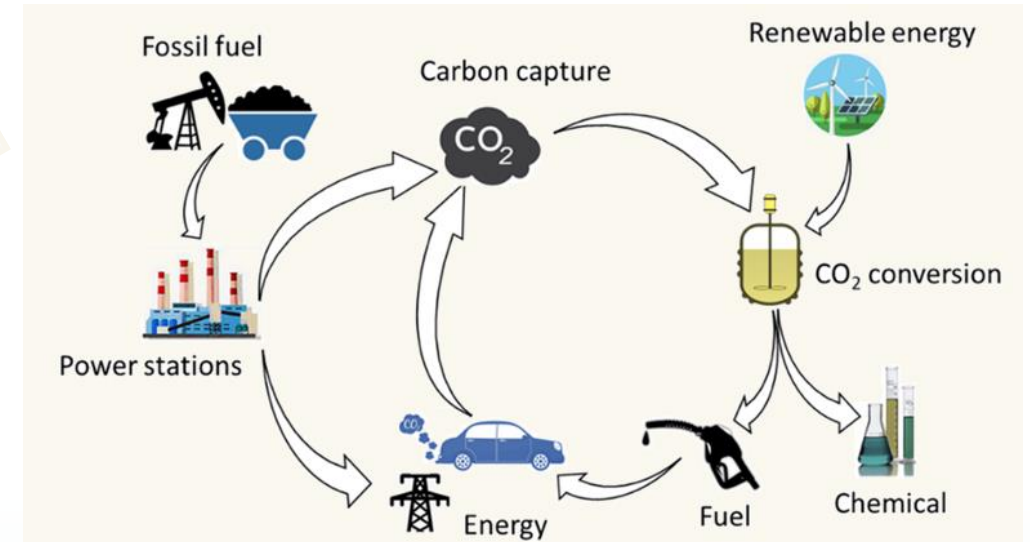
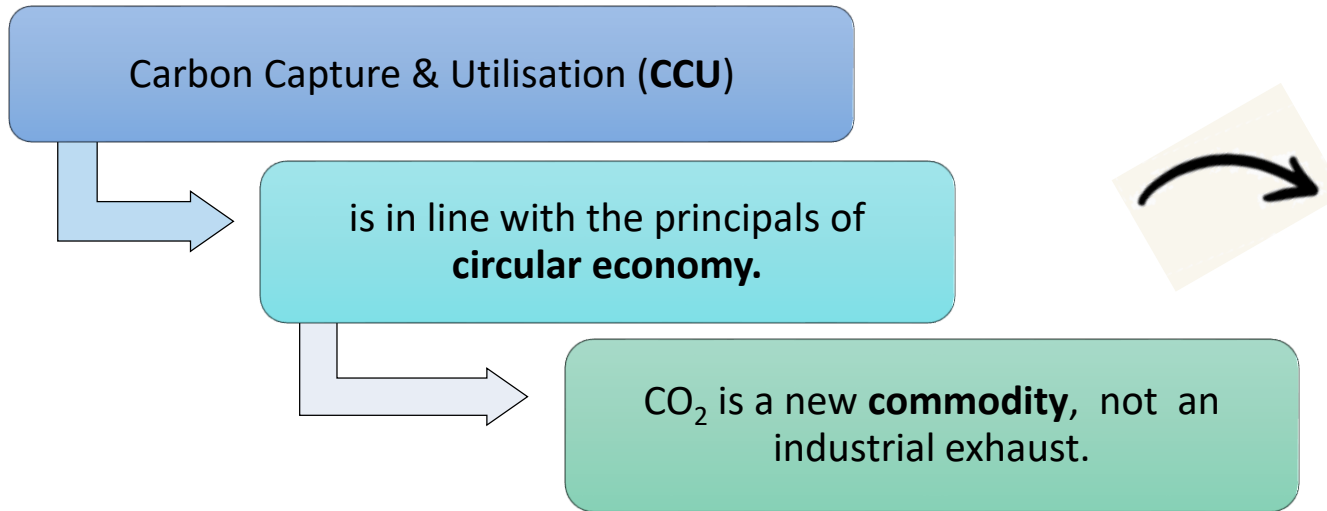
Carbon capture, utilization and storage (**CCUS**) ⇒ a suite of technologies that can play a diverse role in meeting global energy & climate goals.

CCUS ⇒ valuable tool for the decarbonisation of the industrial sector.

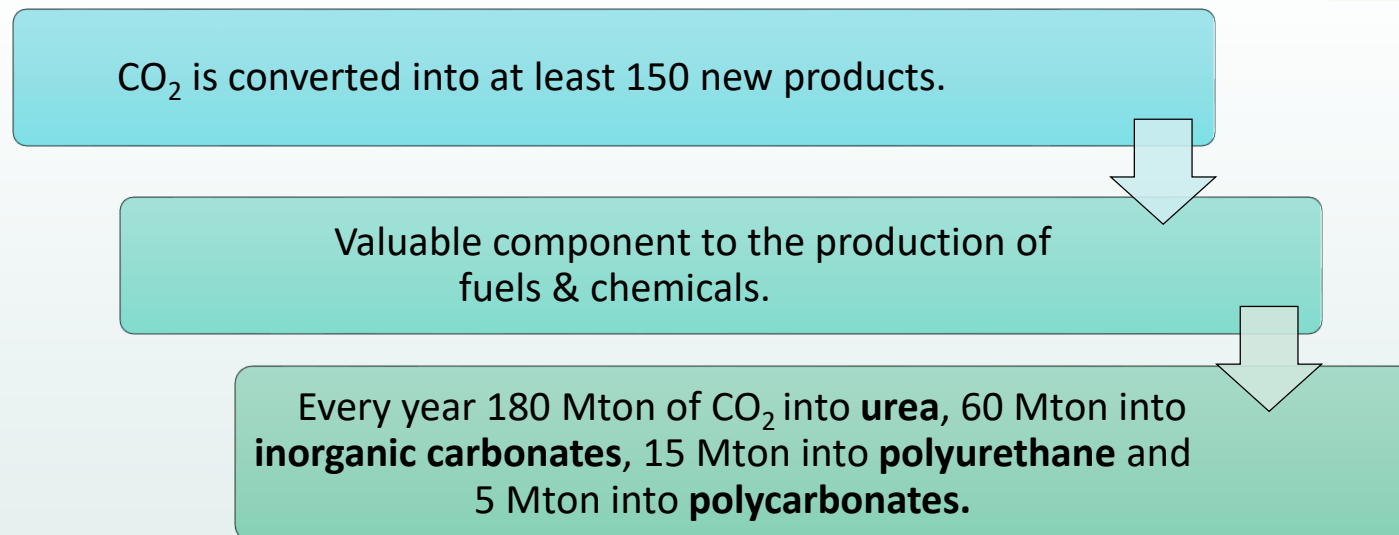


CCUS captures CO₂ from large point sources (power generation / industrial). If not being used on-site, CO₂ is compressed, transported & **injected into geological formations for CO₂ storage.**

CCUS value chain: CO₂ Utilisation



*The different services the CCU can offer
(Source: Adamu et al., 2020)*



CCUS value chain: CO₂ Geological Storage

1. Storage above-ground: ⇒ in tanks
2. Underground storage: ⇒ in geological formations (permanent/long-term storage)
⇒ using CO₂ for EOR (Enhanced Oil Recovery)
3. Alternative CCS solution: ocean CO₂ storage or Bioenergy production with CCS (BECCS).

CO₂ reservoir prerequisites: (1) permeability, (2) thickness, (3) depth, (4) the occurrence of an overlying cap-rock.

CCS = sequestration of CO₂ into geological formations.

Underground geological formations suitable for CO₂ sequestration are:

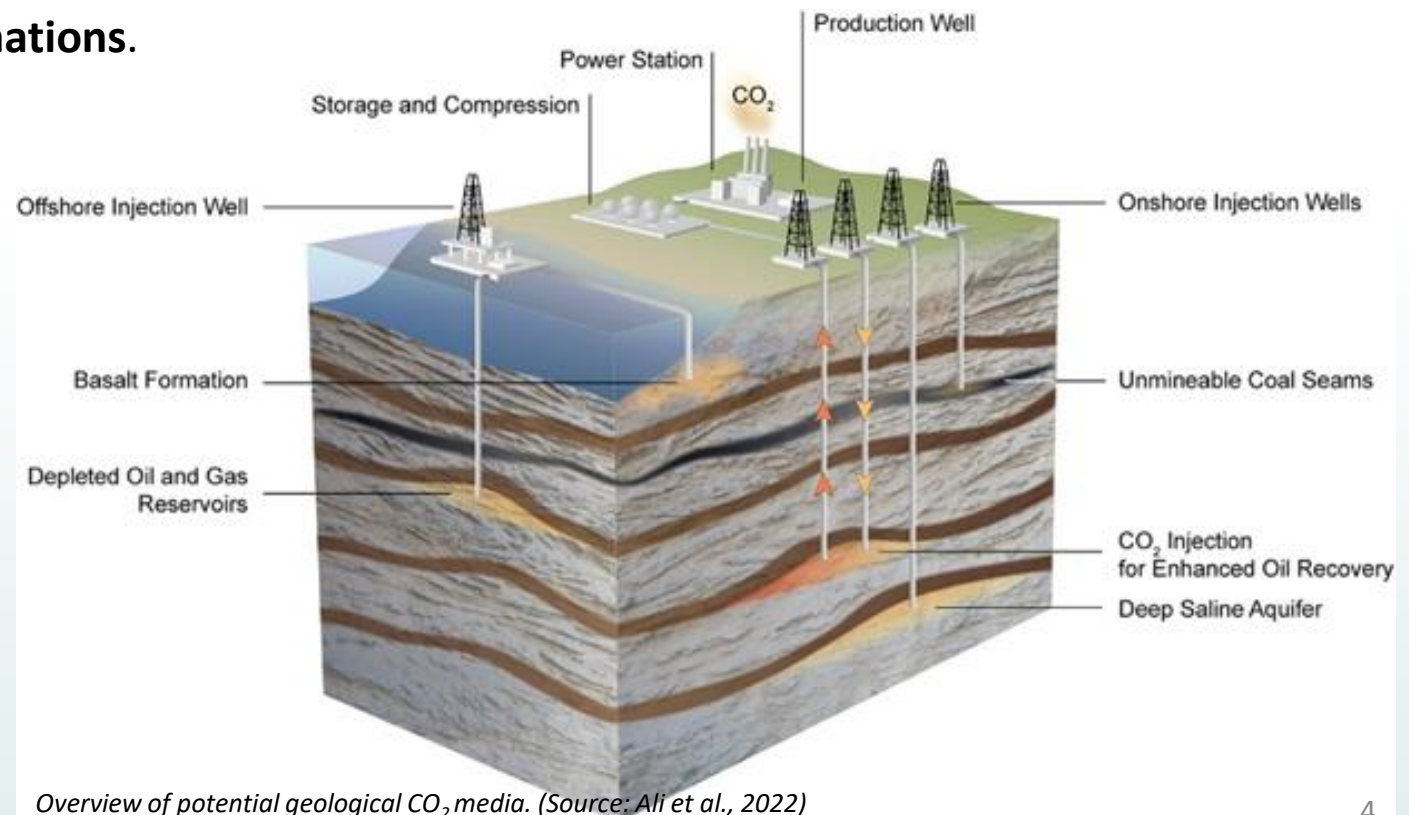
Deep Saline Formations

Abandoned Coal Mines/Salt Caverns

Depleted Hydrocarbon Fields

Coal Seams

**Basaltic, ultramafic rocks & sandstones
(CO₂-mineralization)**



Hydrogen Value Chain (2)

H₂ Production

The H₂ production methods are codified by color.

- **Black/Grey H₂**: Generated via hydrocarbons. High CO₂ emissions.
- **Blue H₂**: Generated using hydrocarbons, combining CCUS.
- **Green H₂**: Produced by water electrolysis, using RES. Zero CO₂ emissions.
- **Purple H₂**: Produced by water electrolysis, using nuclear power.
- **Turquoise H₂**: Generated by fossil fuel pyrolysis.
- **White H₂**: Naturally occurring in underground geological formations.

H₂ Transmission and Distribution

The transportation of H₂ can be accomplished via various transport routes.



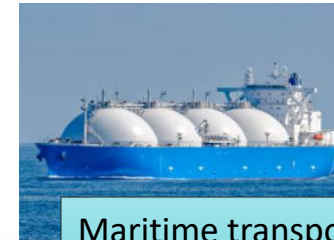
Pipeline Network



Road network



Railway network

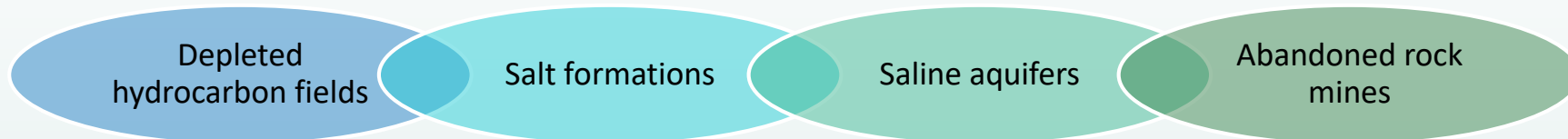


Maritime transport

H₂ Storage

H₂ can be stored either **aboveground** in storage tanks, or **underground** in geological formations.

- **Geological settings** optimal for H₂ storage are:



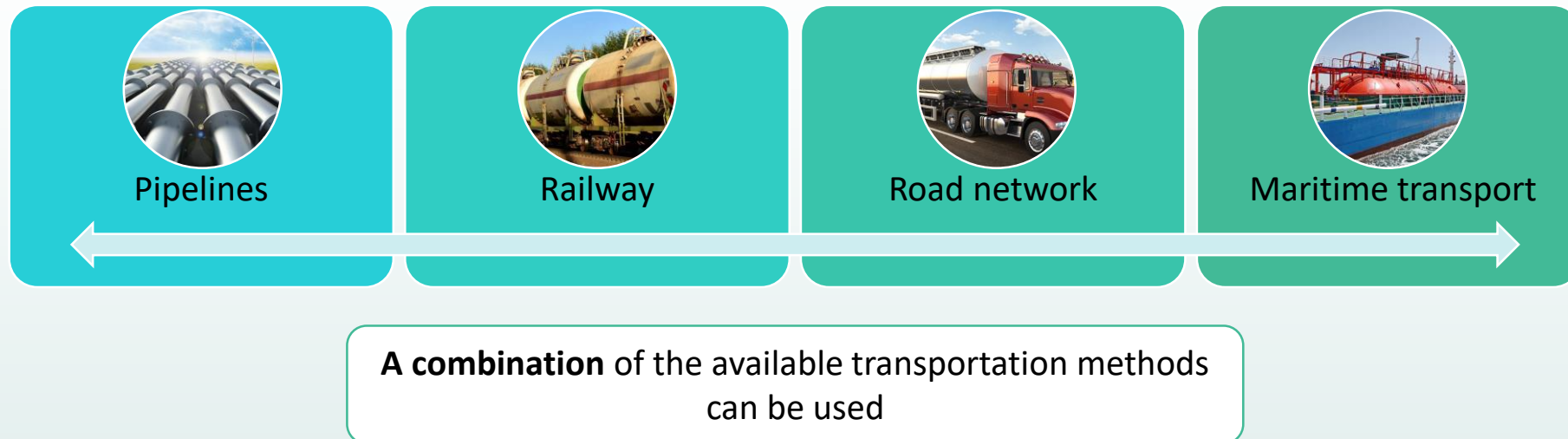
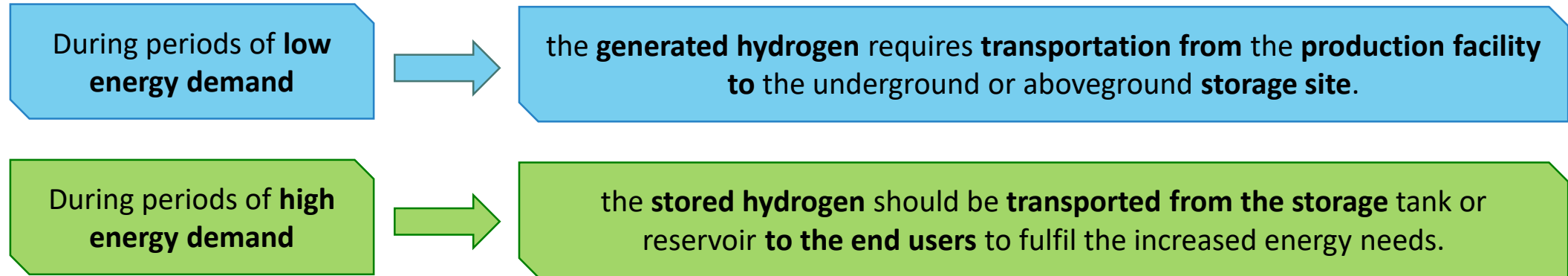
H₂ Utilisation

The already generated and stored H₂ can be utilised to cover the energy needs.

- H₂ is withdrawn from the storage site and properly processed to obtain a form that is suitable for use by consumers.
- H₂ can be utilised to **fuel vehicle, generate electricity or heat**.

H₂ value chain: Hydrogen Transportation

- ✓ In the hydrogen value chain, **transportation** is identified **at two key points**:



H₂ value chain: Hydrogen Storage

Two **categories**
of H₂ storage:



Aboveground H₂ Storage

⇒ Storage tanks (method Power-to-Gas (P2G))



Underground H₂ Storage

⇒ Saline aquifers

⇒ Abandoned mines

⇒ Depleted oil & gas fields

⇒ Salt formations

UHS in Abandoned mines

- **Existing cave** → no drilling is needed.
- **Possible availability** of **facilities** and **machinery** that can be used after necessary adaptation.

UHS in Saline aquifers

- **Experience** due to decades of **storing natural gas** in **aquifers**.
- **Requirements:**
 - > **porous formation** capable of retaining H₂
 - > **impermeable formation** to prevent migration

H₂ value chain: Hydrogen Storage

UHS in Salt formations

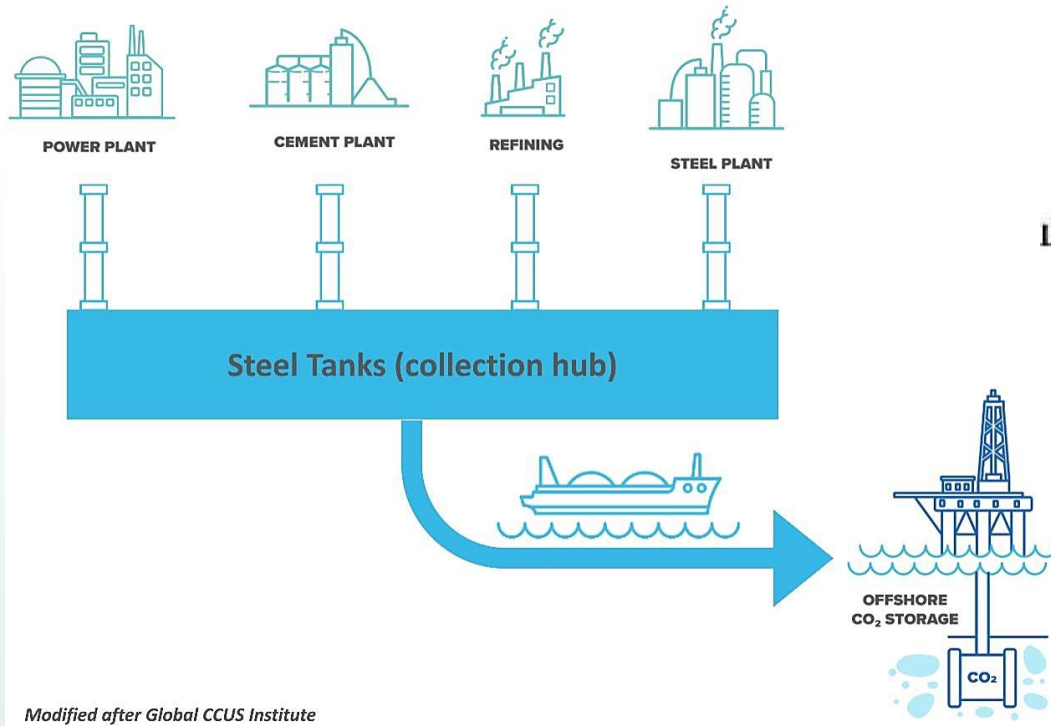
- **Large capacity and capable pressure conditions.**
- Relatively inexpensive excavation.
- **Higher rates of hydrogen storage and extraction → flexibility** to supply energy to the grid when required.

UHS in Depleted oil & gas fields

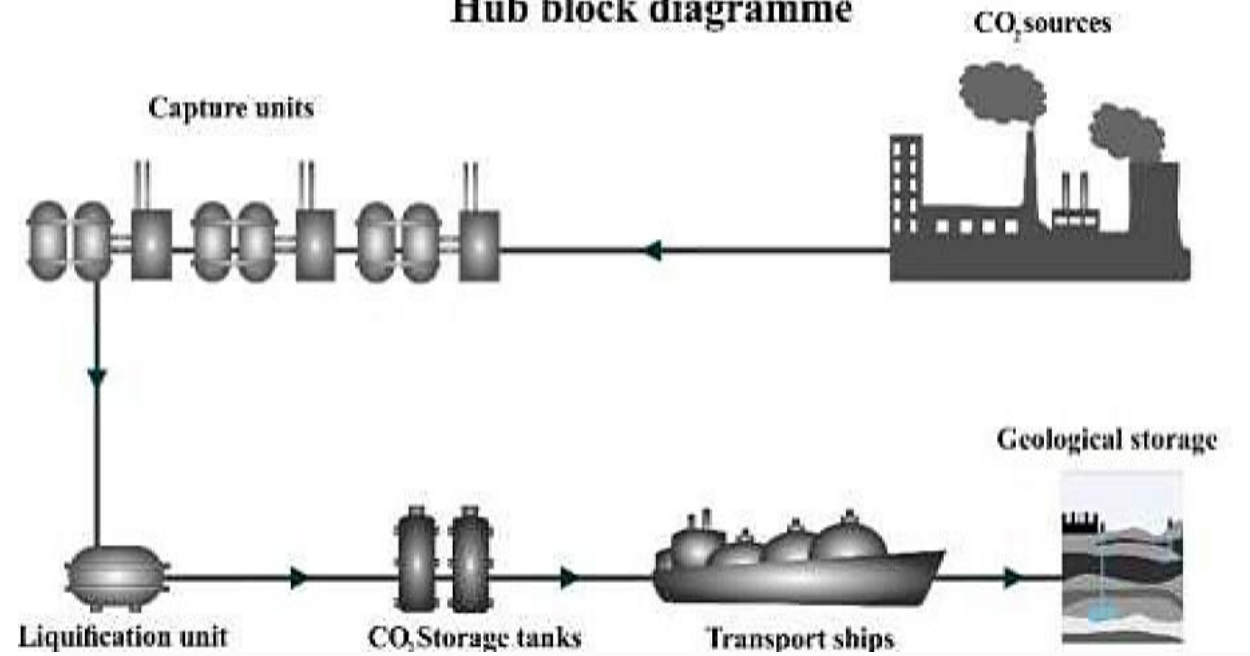
- **Optimum conditions** for gas storage.
- Years of **experience**, advanced **technological resources**, **existing facilities**.
- **Availability of** a residual gas quantity, which can be used as **cushion gas**.

CCUS & H₂ hub networks

Hub block diagram displaying the overall land-based hub architecture.



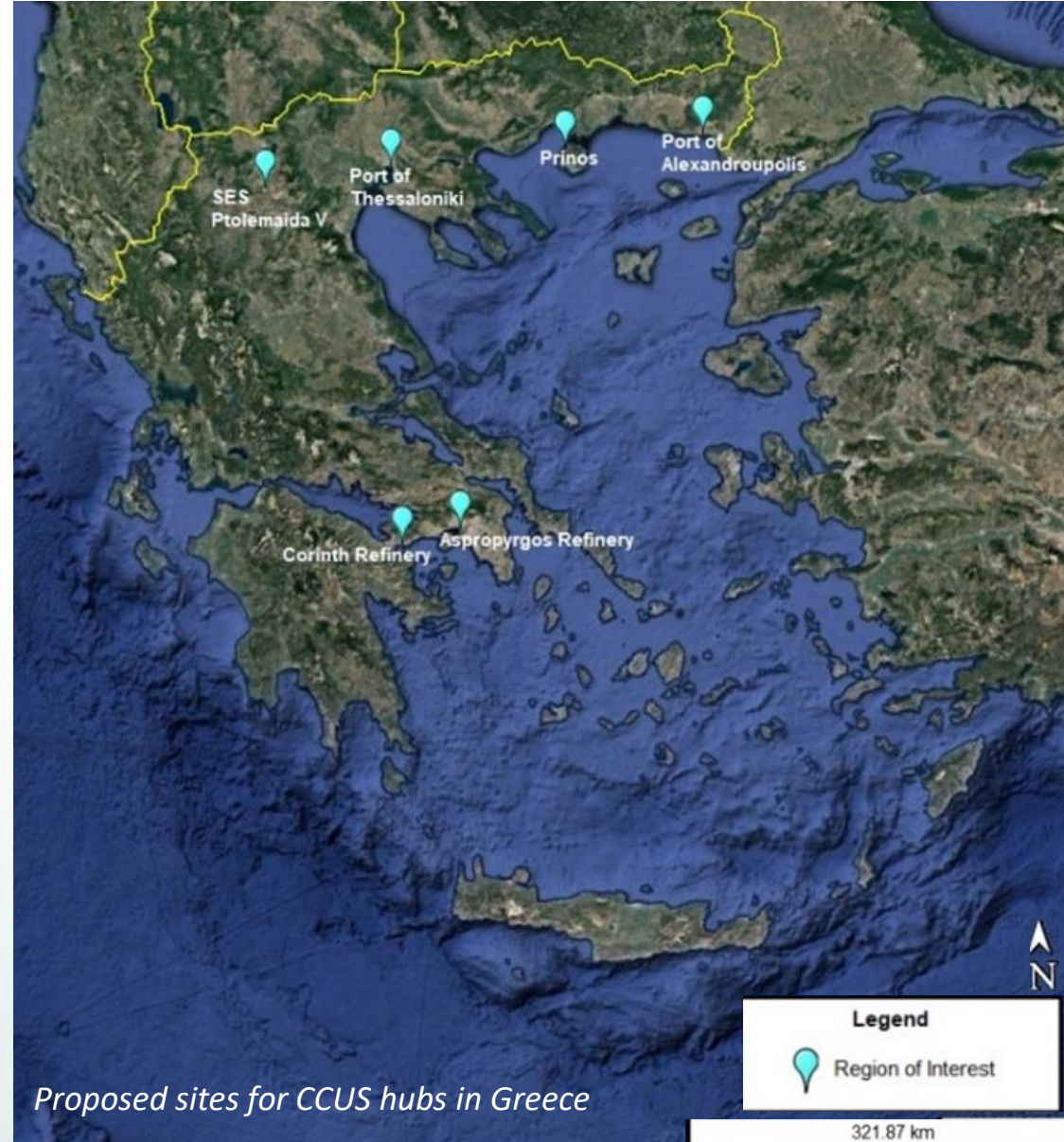
Hub block diagramme



The envisaged CCUS hub and cluster network

Proposed CCUS hubs in Greece

- Proposed sites for **CCUS hubs** in Greece:
 - Thessaloniki port** → nearby CO₂ emission centers: (a) Western Macedonia industrial region, (b) Thessaloniki cement & oil industries. CO₂ transfer via ships in Greece/abroad.
 - Prinos** → promising storage sites.
 - Alexandroupolis port** → connects several local industries for CCU.
Advantage: geopolitical significance (supply hub for NATO Alliance's defense).
 - Ptolemaida** → nearby CO₂ emission sources (coal power plants) & potential storage sites (Mesohellenic Trough). CO₂ transfer via pipelines/railway.
 - Corinth & Aspropyrgos** → major CO₂ sources (oil refineries). CO₂ transfer via ships in Greece/abroad.



CO₂ Capture in Greece (1)

- CO₂ captured → CO₂ separated from other fuel gases via: (a) pre-combustion, (b) post-combustion, (c) oxy-fuel combustion.
- Major emission sources:
 - a. **Sector of energy & industrial sector:** stationary sources, i.e., power plants & factories.
 - b. **Sector of energy:** fossil fuel-powered power plants & refineries.
 - c. **Industrial sector:** iron industry, steel industry & cement industry.

► Potential CO₂ capture sources in Greece:

1. *Ptolemaida V power plant.*
2. *Cement industries (e.g., TITAN Cement)*
3. *Oil & gas refineries (e.g., Motor Oil, Energean)*



Ptolemaida V plant (source: <https://energypress.gr>)

- Ptolemaida V: a **CO₂ capture-ready facility**, will contribute to the security of national energy supply.
- Started operating in 2022 → will convert to another fuel / technology by **2028**.
- **Potential storage:** Prinos basin, Middle East & North Africa for EOR (Red Sea, Egypt), Northern Europe (offshore storage).

CO₂ & H₂ Transportation in Greece – Available Infrastructure (1)

Ports (e.g., Piraeus port, Thessaloniki port) → space for **industrial & commercial activity** → can support numerous **ships & boats** (passengers / cargo)
→ **CCUS hubs**

► Greek railway network:

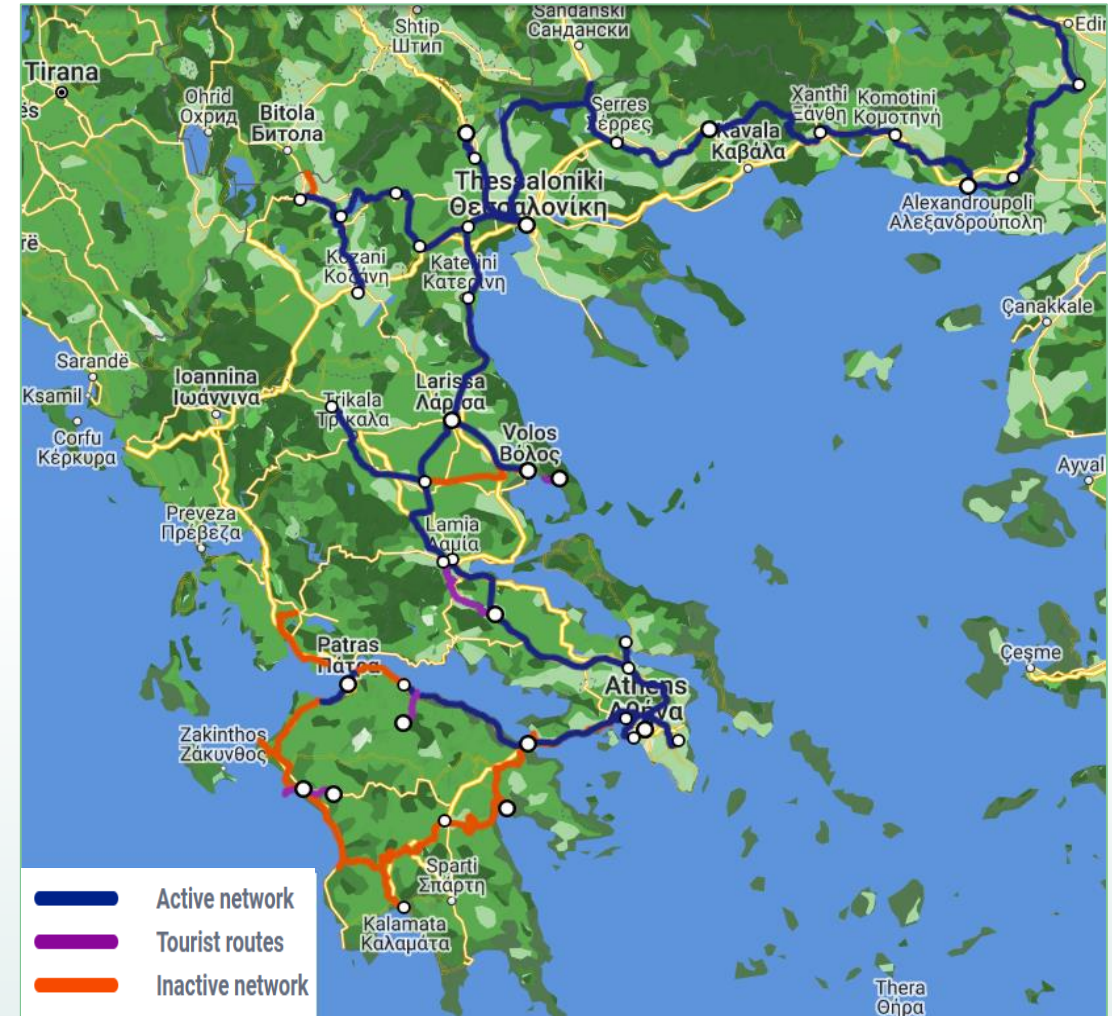
Western Macedonia (standard gauge line)

- Polykastro – Idomeni variant (new layout)
- Kommanos – Kozani (Public Power Corporation)

Peloponnese (standard gauge line)

- Rododafni – Rio, Isthmus – Loutraki
- Isthmus – Ag. Theodoroi (connection with Motor Oil facilities)

- **Larger volumes of CO₂ & H₂ and longer distances than trucks.**
- **Transportation tanks: materials compatible with CO₂ and H₂ properties to prevent any leakage due to corrosion.**



Existing railway network of continental Greece (Source: www.ose.gr)

CO₂ & H₂ Transportation in Greece – Available Infrastructure (2)

CO₂ & H₂ transportation infrastructure → pipeline networks

- ▶ CO₂ and H₂ transport by retrofitting existing gas pipes:
- I. Existing NG pipeline network → can be **adapted** to transport CO₂ and H₂ → **Reduces the costs** of constructing a new transport network.
- II. The **adaptation** of the existing network for natural gas is **required due to the different properties of CO₂ and H₂ gases** compared to natural gas, which **may cause corrosion** of the existing pipes.

CO₂ & H₂ transportation infrastructure → shipping via Greek ports



Projected expansion of the European H₂ pipeline network by 2040
(Source: [EHB](#))

CO₂ Storage sites in Greece (1)

- Preferable types of CO₂ geological storage formations in Greece:

Saline formations

Oil and natural gas reservoirs

Un-mineable coal areas

Organic-rich shales

- Potential CO₂ geological storage sites in Greece with estimated storage capacity in Mt:

1. *Mesohellenic Trough (216-1,435 Mt)*
2. *West Thessaloniki – Epanomi field (640 Mt)*
3. *Prinos – South Kavala (35 Mt)*
4. *Volos basalts (2 Mt) – not preferable*



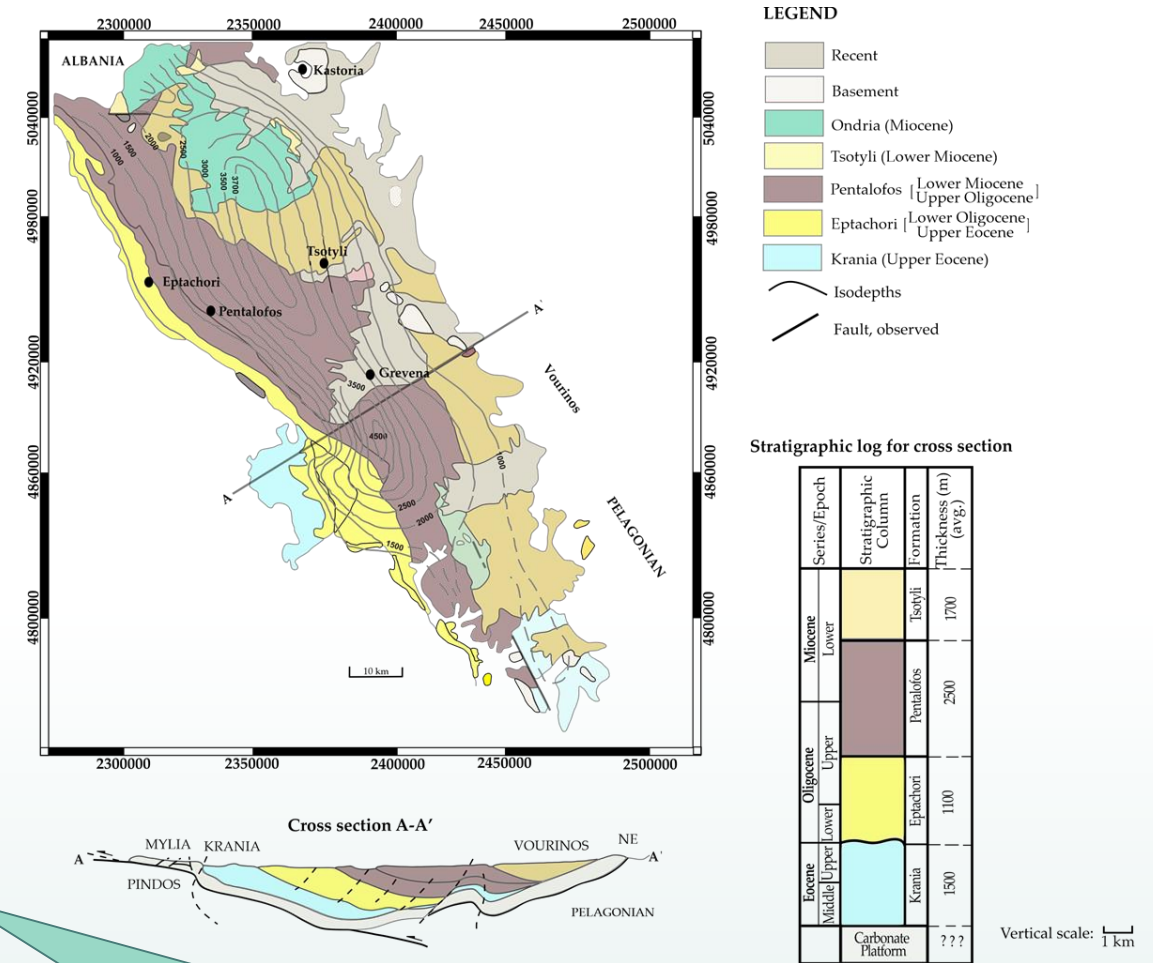
CO₂ Storage sites in Greece (2)

1. Mesohellenic trough sandsones

Acceptability criteria	Mesohellenic Trough
Storage Capacity (Mt)	216 – 1435 (Pentalofos + Eptachori formation)
Injectivity	Good (15% porosity)
Integrity	2 confining zones at depth
Depth (m)	2500

2. West Thessaloniki – Epanomi field

Acceptability criteria	West Thessaloniki	Epanomi Field
Storage Capacity (Mt)	640	2
Injectivity	Low porosity & permeability	Low porosity to tight
Integrity	1200	1600
Depth (m)	900 - 2400	2600



Estimated NG reserves in the **Epanomi field** ~ 500 million m³ of:

- 71.8% hydrocarbon gases
- 26.6% non-hydrocarbon gases (including 22.6% CO₂)

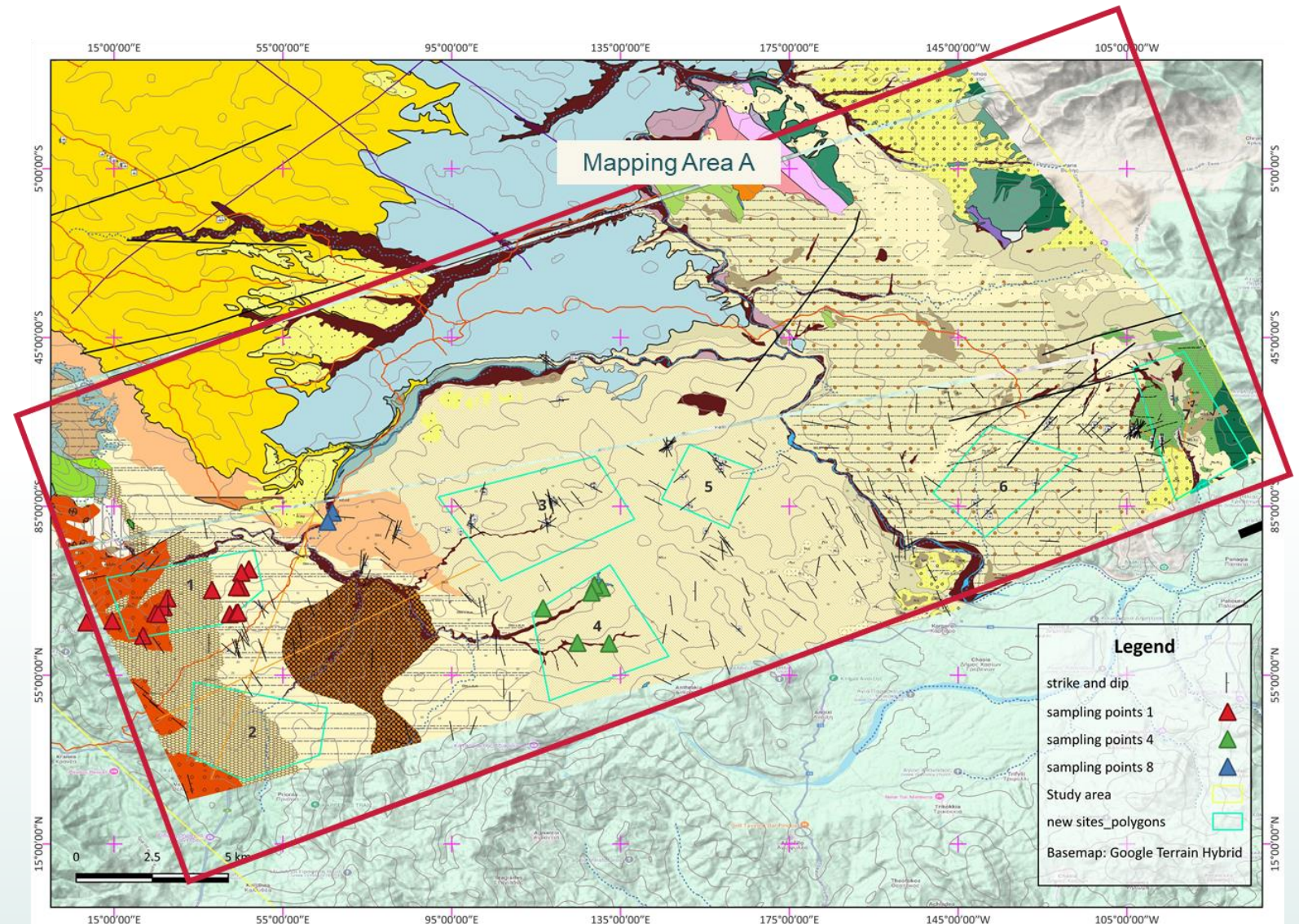
CO₂ Storage sites in Greece (3)

Mesohellenic trough sandstones

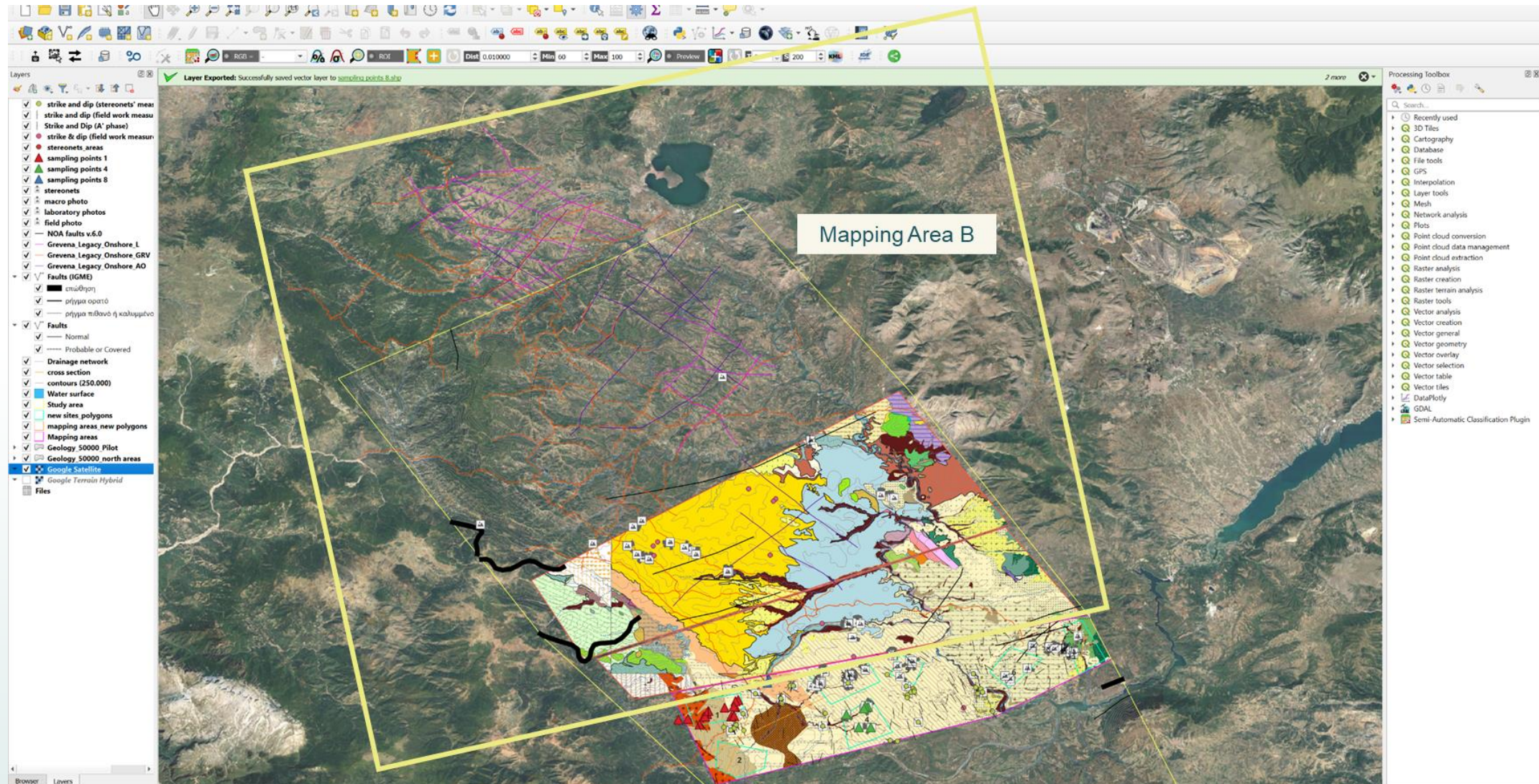
➔ The region is **studied** within the EU-funded project **PilotSTRATEGY** ➔ **CERTH** is one of the participants



- Data collected & organized in Geopackages for QGIS analysis:
 - Strike & dip measurements
 - Sampling points
 - Seismic Data
 - Visual material (sample photos, graphs, etc.)
- **Mapping Area A: 90 % complete**



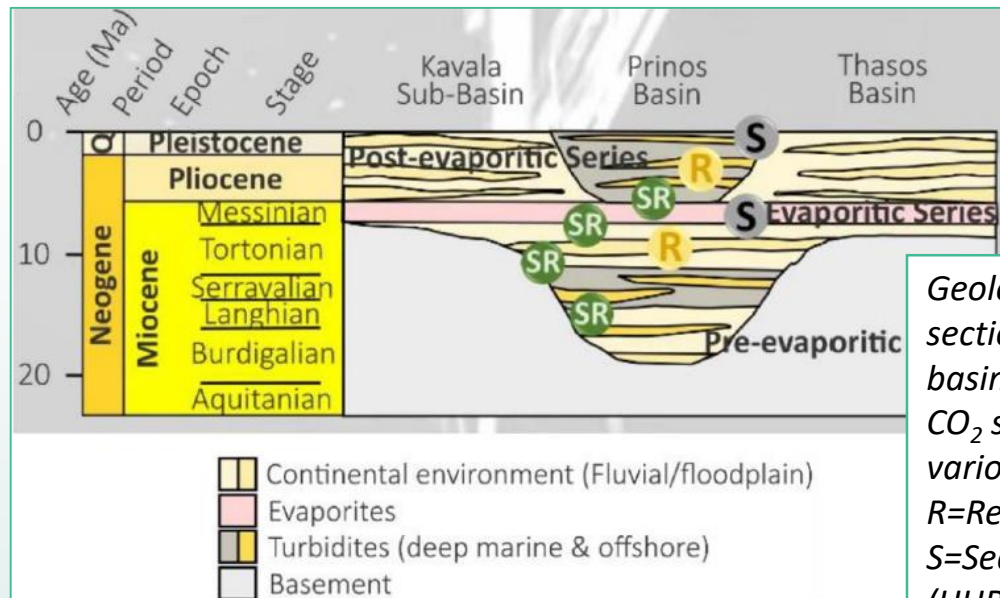
► **Mesohellenic trough Mapping Area B:** Currently mapping to cover the total area of Seismic data.



CO₂ Storage sites in Greece (5)

3. Prinos basin – South Kavala

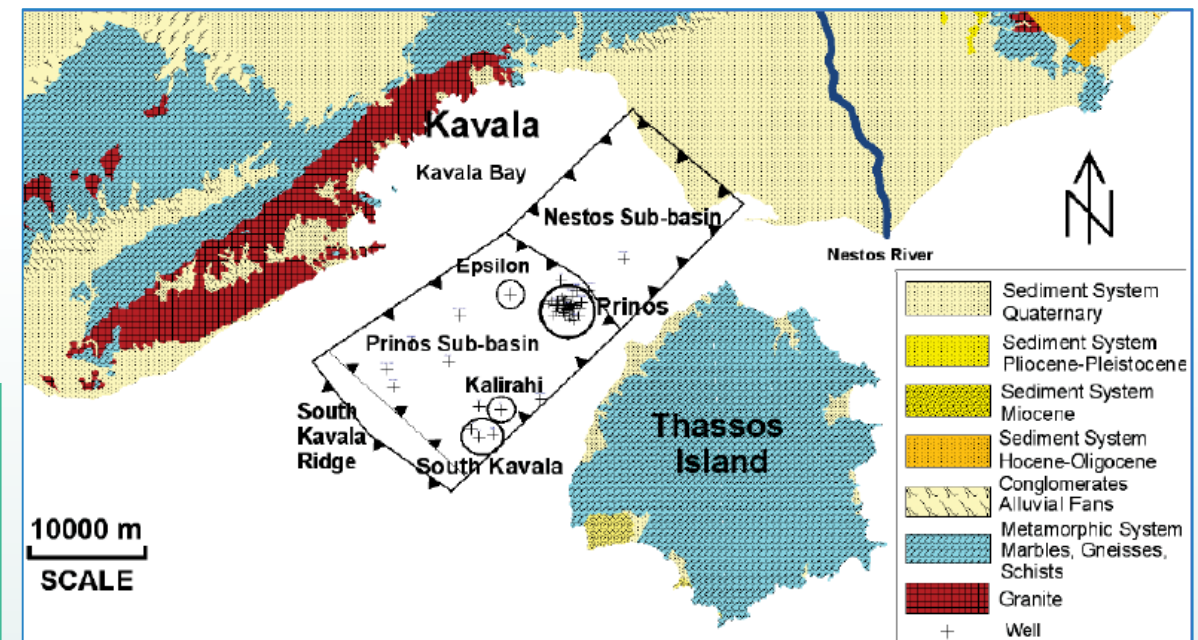
Acceptability criteria	South Kavala	Prinos Basin
Storage Capacity (Mt)	35	
Injectivity	Average to Good (15% porosity)	
Integrity	2500 - 2850	1600 - 1730
Depth (m)	1600	1600



Geological section of Prinos basin & possible CO₂ storage at various depths. R=Reservoir, S=Seal/Cap-rock (HHRM., 2020)

4. Volos basalts

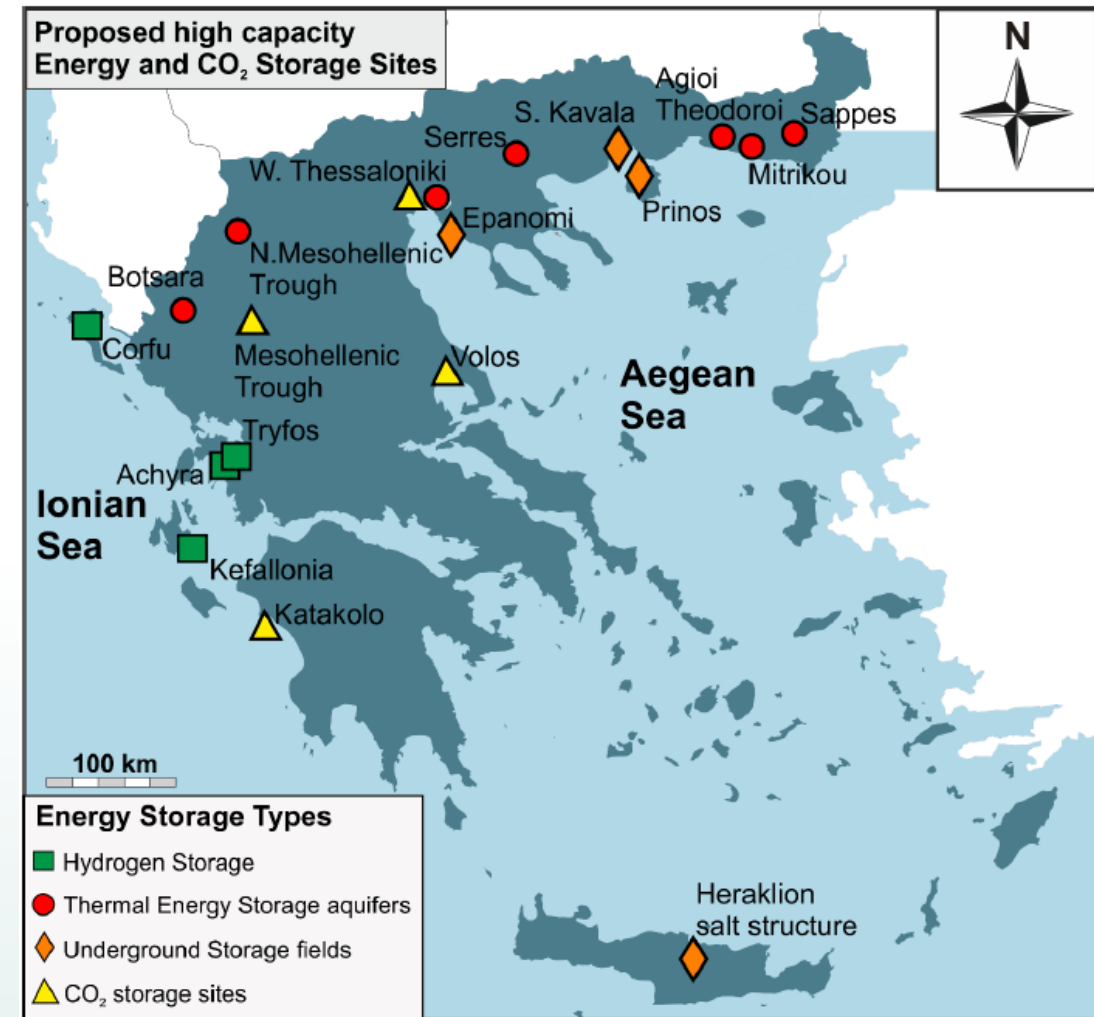
Geological Formations	Storage Capacity (tn)
Basalts	43,200



Map of the Prinos-Kavala sedimentary basin and the oil & gas reservoirs in the region (Kiomourtzi et al., 2008)

H₂ Storage sites in Greece

H ₂ storage locations in Greece:	Capacity
1. Corfu	26.600 MWh(e) H ₂
2. Achyra– Tryfos (Central Aitolokarnania)	26.600 MWh(e) H ₂
3. Kefallonia	26.600 MWh(e) H ₂
4. Kavala (plans for underground gas storage facility)	1-2 TWh H ₂

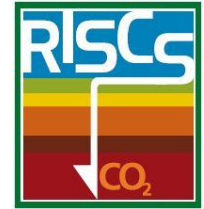


*Potential H₂ & CCS storage sites in Greece
(Source: Arvanitis, Koukouzas, et al., 2020)*

CERTH experience in European CCUS/CCS Projects (1)

Characteristic Examples of CCUS & CCS projects in Greece

Project Title	Start-End	Description
UCG & CO ₂ STORAGE - Study of deep underground coal gasification & permanent CO ₂ storage in affected areas	01/07/10-31/12/12	Evaluating the potential of deep coal seams for UCG & CO ₂ storage via using the same boreholes after technical modifications. Study of technical, environmental, economic factors. Study areas: Dobrudzha Coal Deposit (Bulgaria), Florina Basin (Greece), El Tremedal (Spain).
RISCS - Research into Impacts and Safety in CO ₂ Storage	01/01/10-31/12/13	Assessing environmental impacts of CO ₂ leakage from geological storage sites on groundwater resources, onshore & offshore near-surface ecosystems. Informed policy makers, politicians & general public of the feasibility, long-term benefits & consequences of large-scale CCS.
R&Dialogue - Research and Civil Society Dialogue towards a low-carbon society	01/06/12-30/11/15	Promotion of collaboration between R&D organizations (RDOs) & civil society organizations (CSOs) for a shared vision on the development of renewable energies and CCS, to develop dialogue and joint learning.
ECCSEL - European Carbon Dioxide Capture and Storage Laboratory Infrastructure	01/09/15-31/08/17	Aim & Outcome: to make accessible ECCSEL as a distributed research infrastructure system for European CCUS. ECCSEL is a non-profit organization for the coordinated operation of multiple research facilities.
COALBYPRO - Innovative management of COAL BY-PRODUCTS leading also to CO ₂ emissions reduction	01/07/17-30/09/20	Study of CO ₂ mineral sequestration in fly ash & zeolites. Assessment of possible utilization of post-sequestration products. Outcomes: environmental management of coal mines following their closure & minimizing the environmental impact of hard coal combustion processes.



R&Dialogue



CERTH experience in European CCUS/CCS Projects (2)

Characteristic Examples of CCUS & CCS projects in Greece

Project Title	Start-End	Description
STRATEGY CCUS - Strategic planning of regions and territories in Europe for low-carbon	01/05/19-30/04/22	Strategic plans for CCUS development at short (<3 years), medium (3-10 years) and long term (>10 years) in promising regions of SE Europe corresponding to 45% of EU CO ₂ emissions from industry & energy sectors.
LEILAC2 - Low emissions intensity lime and cement 2: demonstration scale	01/04/20-31/03/25	A new technology for capturing CO ₂ emissions of European cement & lime industries. A demonstration plant capturing 100ktpa of CO ₂ will be integrated in an operational cement plant. Aim: to scale-up to ~20% of a typical cement plant's CO ₂ emissions.
PilotSTRATEGY - CO ₂ Geological Pilots in Strategic Territories	01/05/21-30/04/26	Understanding deep saline aquifers as means of CO ₂ storage in 5 industrial regions of SE Europe, by acquiring new data (seismic, geochemical, etc.).
ConsenCUS - CarbOn Neutral cluSters through Electricity-based iNnovations in Capture, Utilisation and Storage	01/05/21-30/04/25	An industrial plan for a net-zero carbon EU via the utilization of 3 electricity-based innovations: carbon capture based on alkali absorption, conversion of CO ₂ to formate & formic acids for market uses, and a safe cyclic loading system of CO ₂ into salt formations & aquifers for storage.
CEEGS - CO ₂ -based electrothermal energy and geological storage system	01/11/22-31/10/25	Developing a multisector RES storage system including reversible trans-critical CO ₂ cycles, geothermal heat extraction, and CO ₂ geological storage. Aim: assess the techno-economic viability, cover the gaps between the technologies used, raising TRL from 2 to 4.



LEILAC 2 - Low emissions intensity lime and cement 2: demonstration scale

Proposed technology: Scalable & modular design, retrofitted to a **Heidelberg Materials cement plant** with a low-impact integration to its operations.

✓ Demonstration of **alternative & renewable** fuel sources use.



Partners



► Currently working on:

WP5 - Dissemination and stakeholder engagement

► Most recent updates:

- **Task 5.1:** Social Impact Study → analyzing societal impacts of the **CO₂ storage/utilization solution of WP4**.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** → used to give detailed analysis in support of the **Task 4.5 Roadmap (D4.6: CO₂ storage or use roadmap)**.
- Assessment of social & stakeholders' acceptance of the CCUS solution.

WP5 Partners:

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PilotSTRATEGY - CO₂ Geological Pilots in Strategic Territories

Study **deep saline aquifers (DSA)** as means of geological **CO₂ storage** in five **European industrial regions**. New acquired data (seismic, geochemical, etc.) → increase the maturity level for **CCS applications** in DSA.



Partners

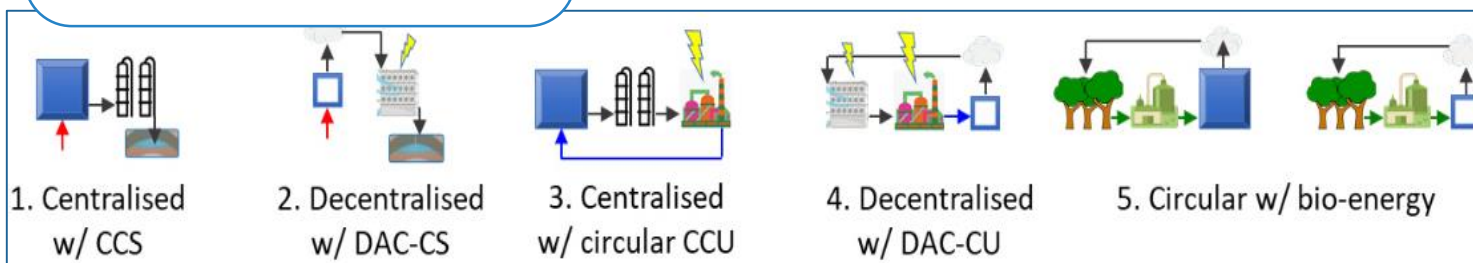


ConsenCUS - CarbOn Neutral cluSTers through Electricity-based iNnovations in Capture, Utilisation and Storage

Measures to make a system net-zero, e.g., CO₂ storage, direct air capture(DAC), biogenic carbon instead of fossils:

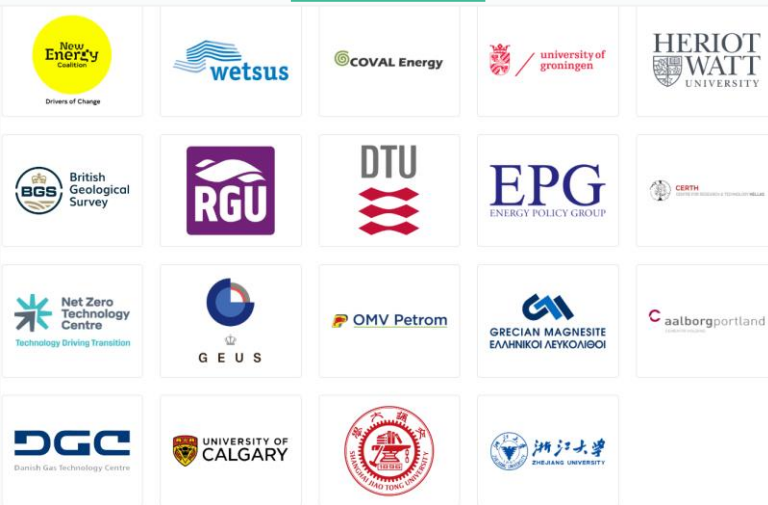
An industrial plan → **3 electricity-based innovations**:

- carbon capture based on alkali-absorption,
- conversion of CO₂ to formate & formic acids for market uses,
- a cyclic loading system for CO₂ storage in salt formations & aquifers.



North-West and South-East Europe CO₂ clusters under consideration in ConsenCUS

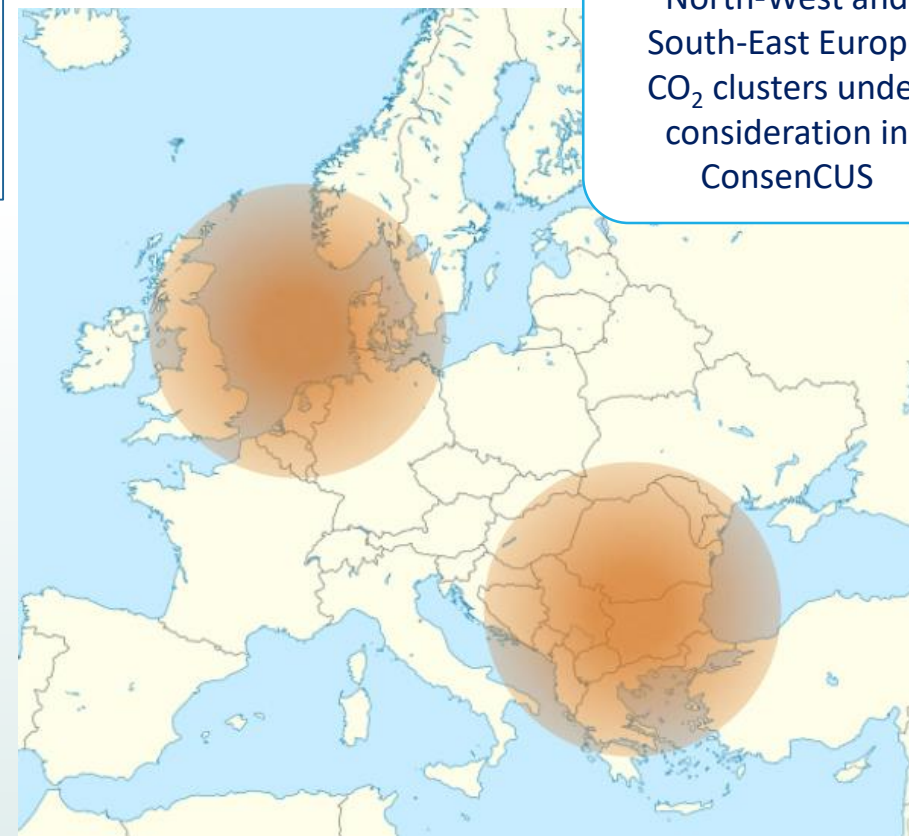
Partners



3 demonstration sites:

- Greece** (Yerakini Mine, Chalkidiki, Grecian Magnesite)
- Romania** (Petrobrazi refinery, OMV Petrom)
- Denmark** (Rørdal cement production site, Aalborg Portland)

► **End goal**: to reach **TRL7**, operating in actual industrial conditions.



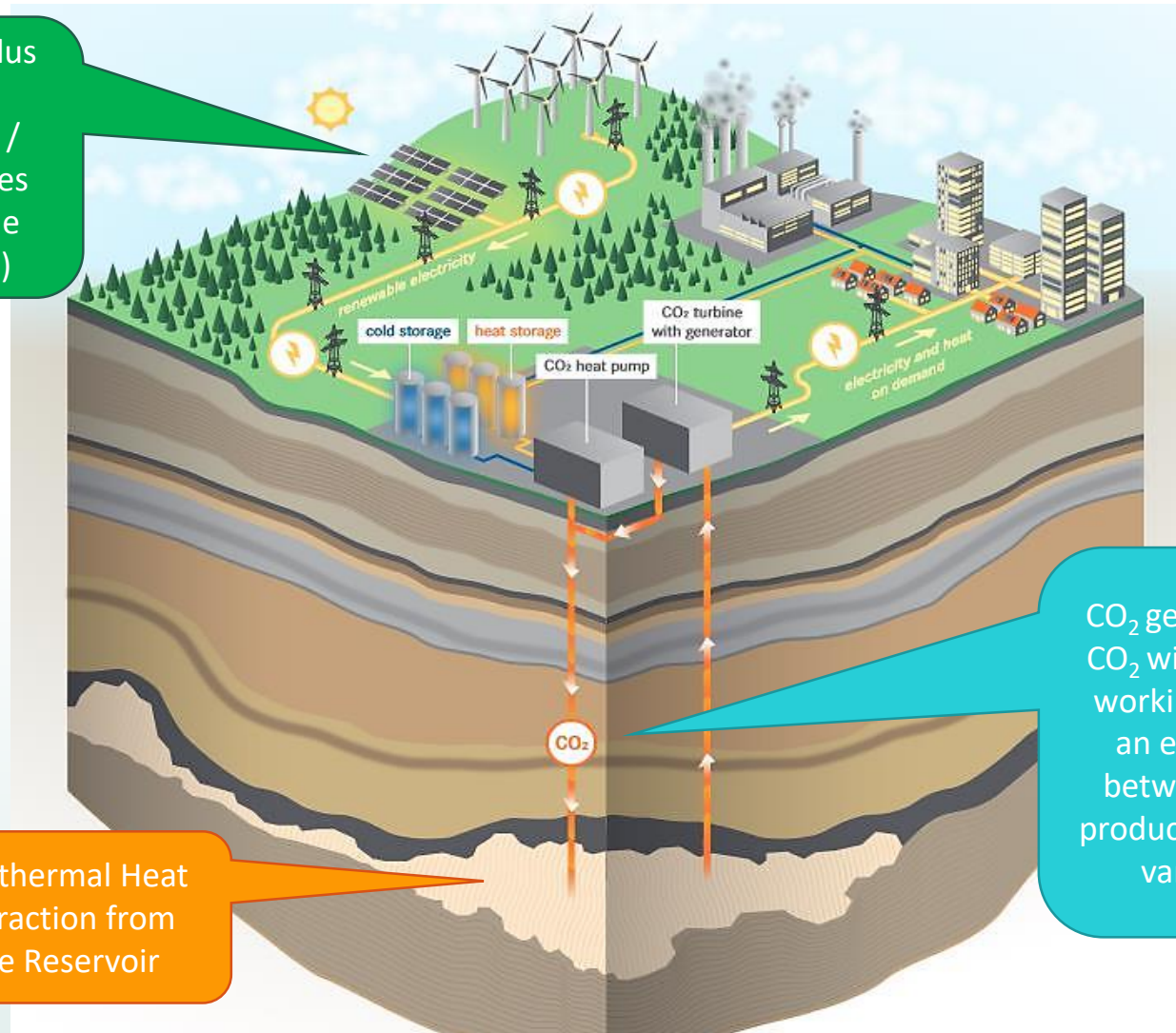
CEEGS - CO₂-based electrothermal energy and geological storage system



CEEGS concept:

✓ A **multisector** renewable energy storage system → reversible trans-critical CO₂ cycles, geothermal heat extraction, and CO₂ geological storage.

Use of surplus energy from wind / solar sources (Renewable electricity)



CO₂ geological storage, CO₂ will be used as the working fluid creating an excess pressure between injection & production wells due to varying density

Geothermal Heat Extraction from the Reservoir

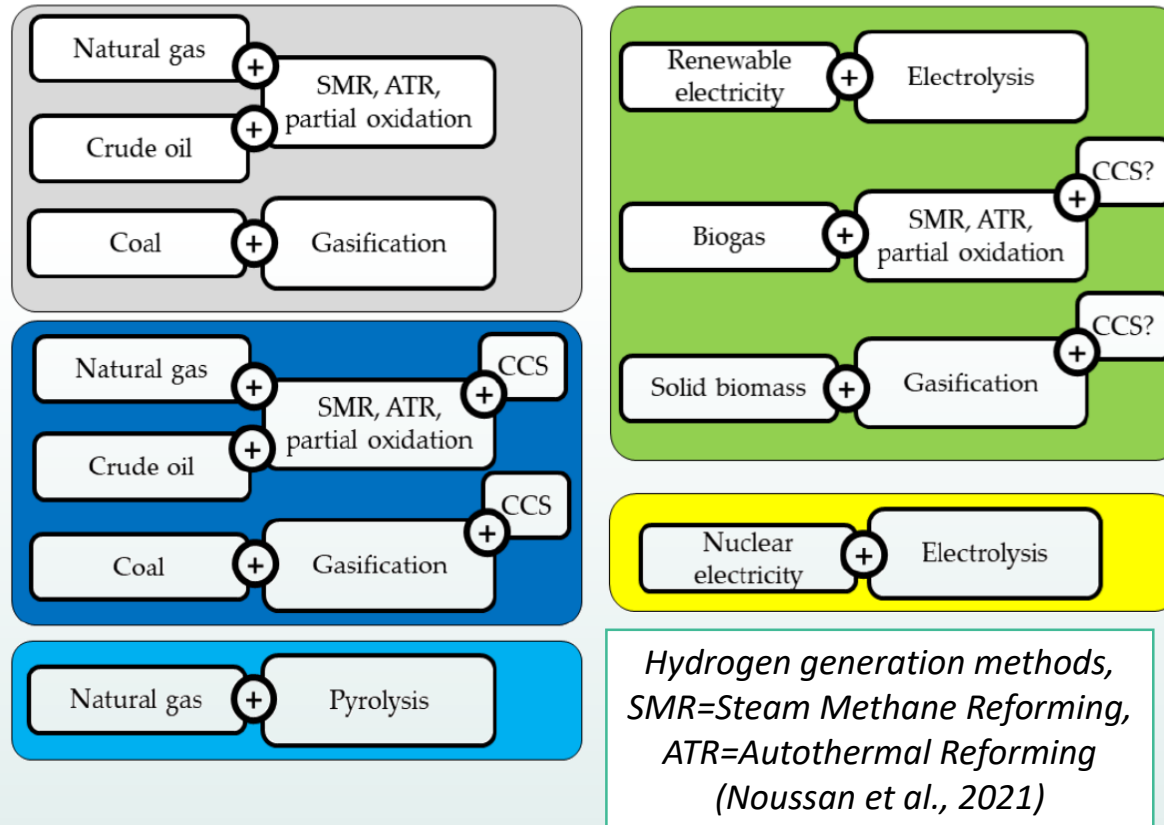
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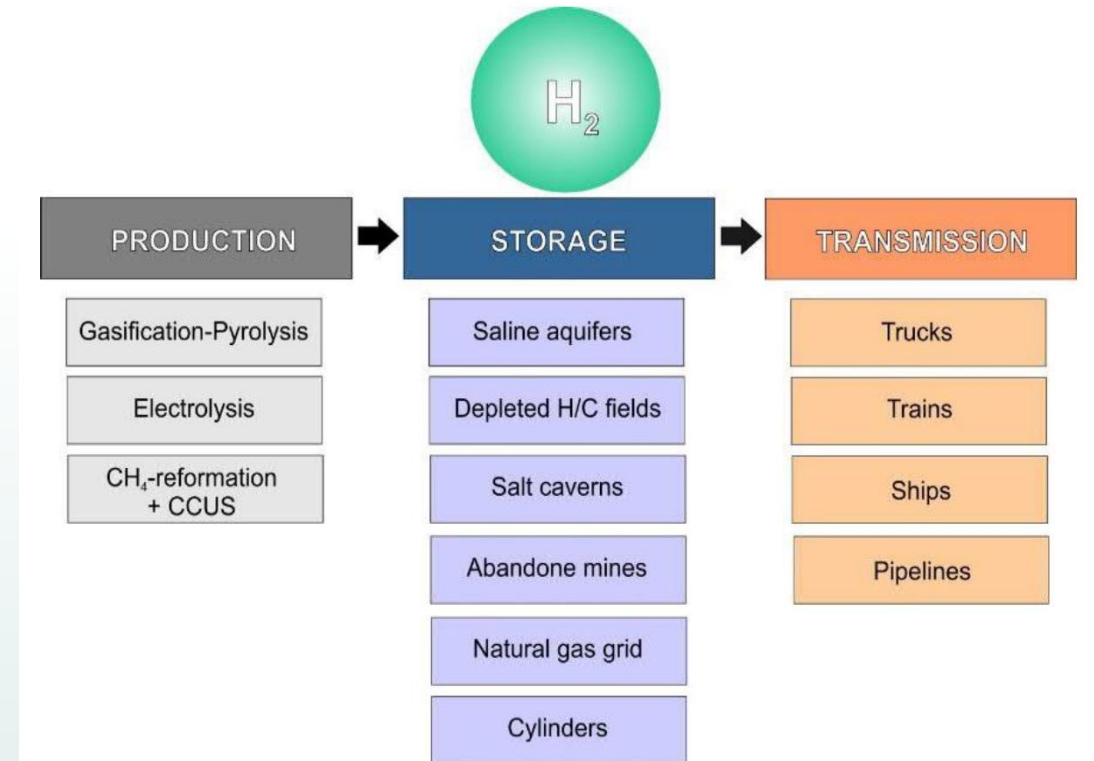
Prospects for combined use of Hydrogen & CCUS technologies

► Synergies of CCUS and the H₂ value chain

- Potential synergies between CCUS & H₂ value chain → reduction of atmospheric CO₂ emissions → sustainable circular economy
- Hydrogen production methods → different colours depending on the generation source.



- Underground Hydrogen Storage (**UHS**) can be applied at:
 - a) porous lithological formations
 - b) abandoned rock mines
 - c) salt formations



Schematic diagram of the H₂ value chain

Synergies of CCUS and the H₂ value chain (2)

CO₂ & H₂ opportunities in Greece ⇨ Existing technologies & infrastructure



Existing technologies and infrastructure for the implementation of CCUS and H₂ technologies in Greece include:

- **Infrastructure for CO₂ capture** in industry (cement, iron and steel industries) and in lignite plants (e.g. Ptolemaida V plant).
- **Infrastructure for CO₂ and H₂ transportation**, e.g. gas pipeline systems, ports & railways.
- **Geological storage sites.**

Roadmap for CCUS implementation in Greece



Proposed roadmap for CCUS applications in Greece

Current trends in EU & Greece

What is going on in EU now:

- ▶ The promotion of decarbonization solutions for the EU & shift to RES* in order to achieve net-zero
- ▶ The increasing CCUS applications & projects
- ▶ The creation of CCUS hubs & networks in EU

*RES: Renewable Energy Sources

CCUS in Greece:

- ▶ Encouragement of national government to set helping Regulations & Policies in line with the EU plan for net-zero
- ▶ Initiatives for CCUS applications & projects in Greece
- ▶ The integration of CCUS to the industrial & energy sectors

However, Greece:

- ▶ Needs to **update its Regulations & Policies** to align with the EU & actively participate in more CCUS activities & projects
- ▶ Need to **promote research & development** on CCUS
- ▶ Need to **improve the funding mechanisms** for CCUS projects

Projects relevant to CO₂- CCUS in Europe

Characteristic Examples of CCUS projects in Europe

Project	Leading Country	Description
Acorn	UK	Storage in Deep saline aquifer
<u>AC2OCem</u>*	Germany	CO ₂ Capture
Athos	Netherlands	Full-chain CCUS
CarbFix	Iceland	CO ₂ Storage
<u>CEEGS</u> *	Spain	CCS integration to renewable energy storage system
<u>LEILAC</u> *	Belgium Germany	CO ₂ Capture
Northern Lights	Norway	CO ₂ Transport and Storage
<u>RISCS</u> *	UK	Framework management of CCS sites
<u>Strategy CCUS</u> *	France	CCUS scenario development
SCARLET	Γερμανία	Δέσμευση CO ₂

*Greek participation in the European projects mentioned.

Other CCUS/CCS Projects in Greece

Examples of CCUS, CCS and CO₂ capture projects in Greece involving industries of the energy & cement sector

Project	Location	Description
Prinos CCS project (RRF funding, involves Energean)	Greece	CCS application: CO ₂ capture & storage in offshore Prinos semi-depleted oil field & saline aquifer (North Aegean Sea) from local emission sources. Capacity 60.0 Mt (total), Injectivity 1.0 MtCO ₂ /yr (Phase 1) → 3 MtCO ₂ /yr (Phase 2). Potential to include CO ₂ emissions from nearby countries (e.g., Italy, Croatia).
Project IFESTOS (Innovation Fund EU funded, involves TITAN Cement)	Greece, Magoula cement plant	Large-scale carbon capture unit in Magoula (Greece, TITAN), zero-carbon cement → expected to avoid 98.5% GHG emissions during cement production. CO ₂ capture via first- and second-generation Oxyfuel and post-combustion cryogenic capture technologies. Expected to reach TRL 8.
HERCCULES project (Horizon Europe funded, involves TITAN Cement & Energean)	Greece, Italy	CCUS in Italy & Greece: 2 main clusters of emitters → in Northern Italy (a cement and an EfW cluster) & in Greece (a cement cluster). Capturing via advanced oxy-combustion and post-combustion technologies. CO ₂ utilization via mineralization → carbonation. Expected to reach TRL 8.
OLYMPUS project (Innovation Fund, involves Heracles GCC & HOLCIM TECH LTD)	Greece, Evia, Milaki cement plant	Large-scale CCS. CO ₂ capture by: (a) OxyCalciner carbon capture, (b) Cryocap™ Oxy technology (by Air Liquide Hellas S.A.) → capture & purify CO ₂ via oxy-fuel combustion. Expected CO ₂ capture rate = 98%. Sequestration of up to 1 MtCO ₂ /yr in Prinos storage site & achieve avoiding 6.8 MT CO ₂ during 10 years of cement plants operation.
Project IRIS (Innovation Fund, involves Motor Oil Hellas)	Greece, Corinth, Agioi Theodoroi MOH refinery	Incorporation of post-combustion carbon capture at an SMR unit → CO ₂ capture & production of ultra-low emission H ₂ , coupled with a small-scale CH ₄ production unit. Expected CO ₂ capture rate 95% (495 ktpa of 522 ktpa emitted). H ₂ production: 55.2 ktpa (55,280 t/y) with carbon footprint less than 3.0 tCO ₂ /tH ₂

H₂ projects & current trends: European Projects

- ❖ The interest of the **private sector** and **public bodies** has shifted towards **hydrogen** and the potential for the development of its value chain due to:
 - the **potential** of hydrogen as an **energy source**.
 - its **ability** to be **stored** in order to **satisfy energy requirements** during high-demand periods.
- ❖ In recent years, an increasing number of **partnerships** have been established to **develop the various stages of the hydrogen value chain** through the **implementation of projects**.
- ❖ **Indicatively**, some **H₂ projects** in Europe are mentioned:



H₂ geological storage
in aquifers and
depleted
hydrocarbon fields



H₂ geological storage



H₂ geological storage
in porous formations



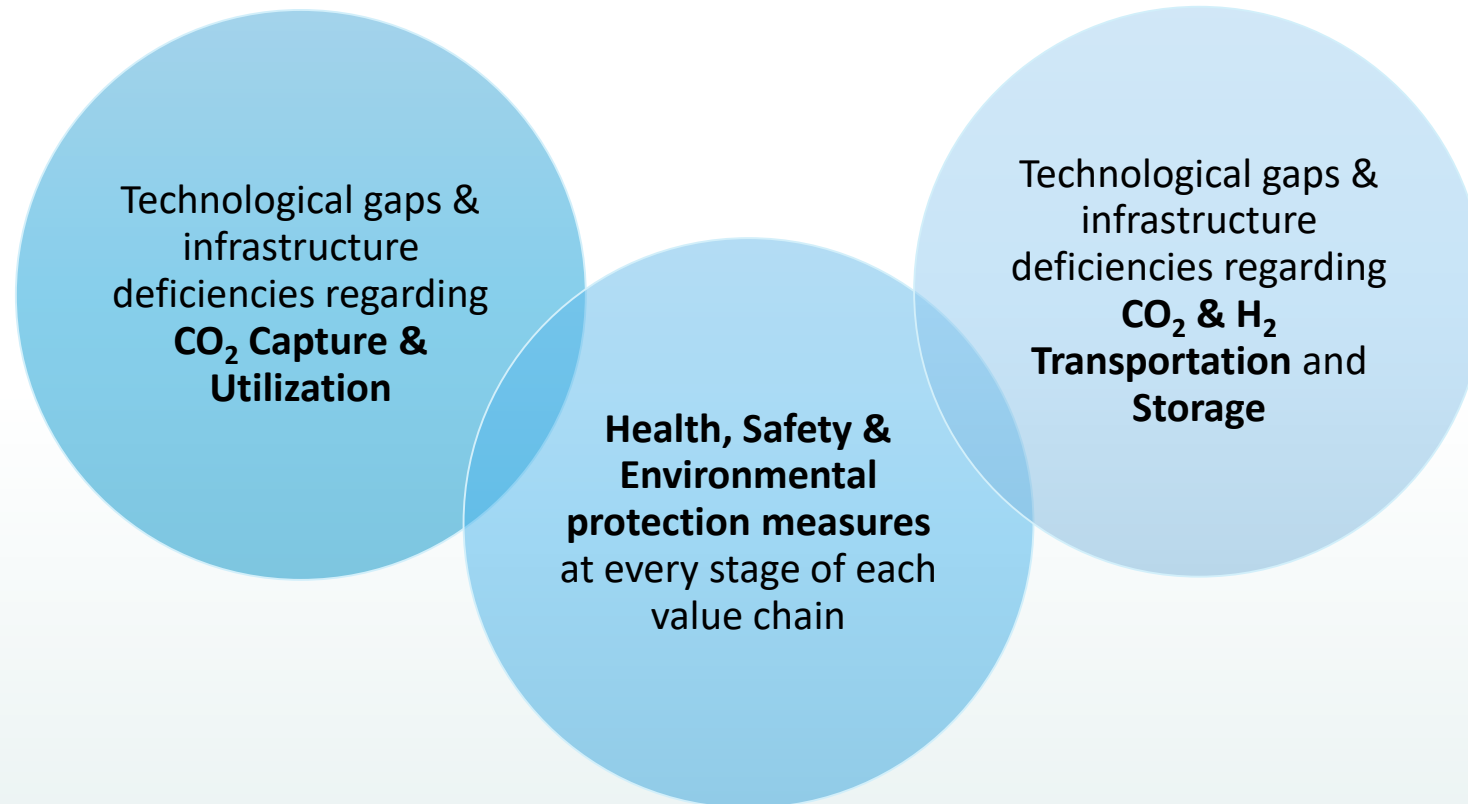
green H₂ geological
storage in salt
caverns



green H₂ generation
using solar power
and storage in salt
caverns

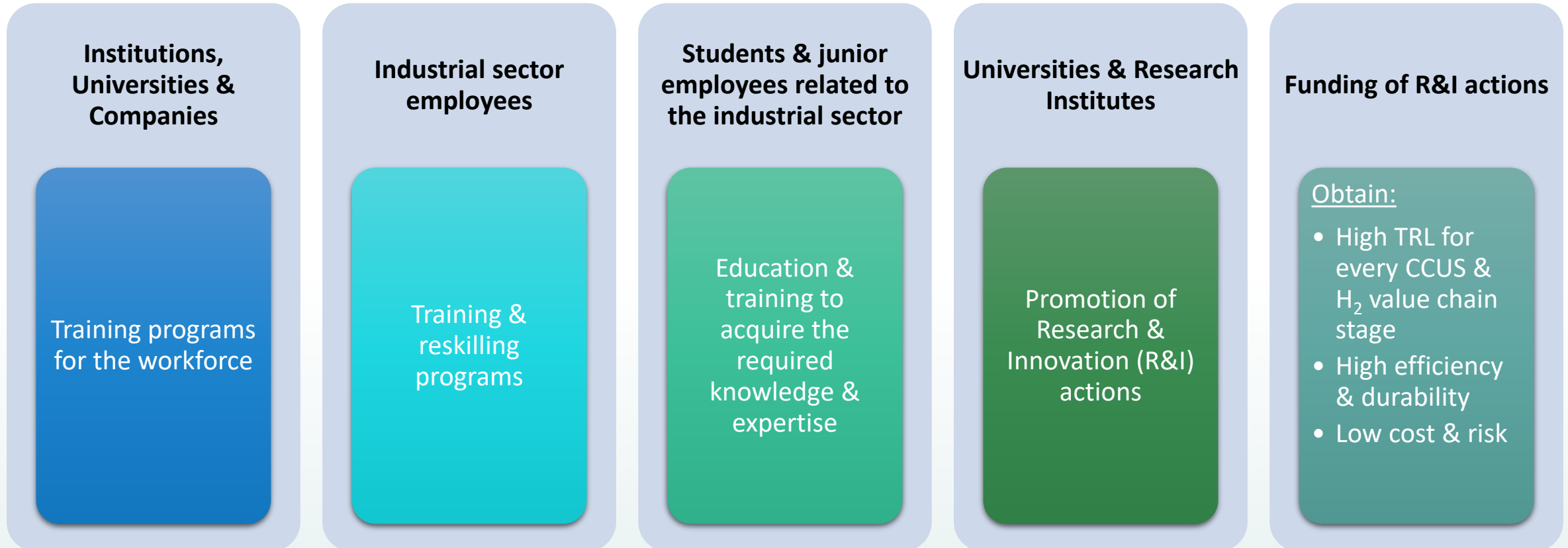
CO₂ & H₂ opportunities in Greece: Gaps & Requirements

- **Technological Gaps & Requirements:**



CO₂ & H₂ opportunities in Greece: Gaps & Requirements

■ Knowledge & Expertise Deficiencies:



Thank you for your attention



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