

# 7th International Conference on Smart Energy Systems

4th Generation District Heating, Electrification,  
Electrofuels and Energy Efficiency

21-22 September 2021, Copenhagen

#SESAAU2021

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## Smart energy system analyses, tools and methodologies

**Lorenzo Casseti:** Realization and energy assessment algorithm of a Horizontal Packed Bed Regenerator for Thermal Energy Storage

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# District heating distribution grid costs: a comparison of two approaches

Mostafa Fallahnejad

7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Smart Energy Systems  
21-22 September 2021  
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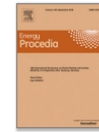
# Motivation

THE 16<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
on District **Heating** and **Cooling**



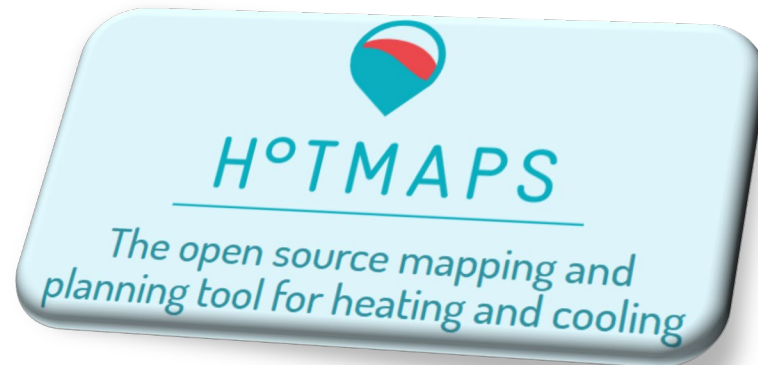
Energy Procedia

Volume 149, September 2018, Pages 141-150



Impact of distribution and transmission  
investment costs of district heating systems on  
district heating potential

Mostafa Fallahnejad <sup>a</sup>, Michael Hartner <sup>a</sup>, Lukas Kranzl <sup>a</sup>, Sara Fritz <sup>b</sup>

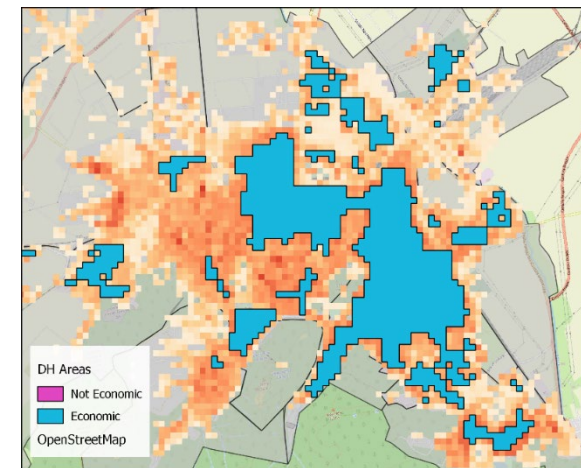
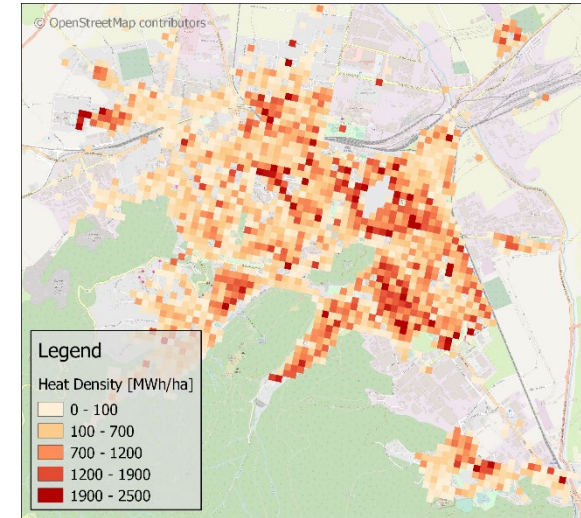


How well the obtained values for  
pipe costs and pipe length based on  
the effective width concepts fit the  
reality?



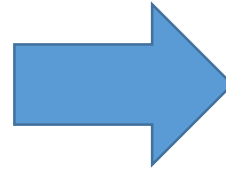
## What did I do in my paper?

- ▶ Input GIS layers:
  - Heat demand density map – 1ha resolution
  - Gross floor area density map – 1ha resolution
- ▶ Consideration of evolving market share and heat demand on DH areas
- ▶ Use the concept of effective width for the calculation of investment costs in each hectare.
  - **Effective width:** relationship between a given land area (plot ratio,  $e$ ) and the length of the district heating pipe network within this area.
- ▶ Calculate potential DH areas (coherent areas) with
  - an average distribution grid costs below a certain level, and
  - annual heat demand of above a given threshold.

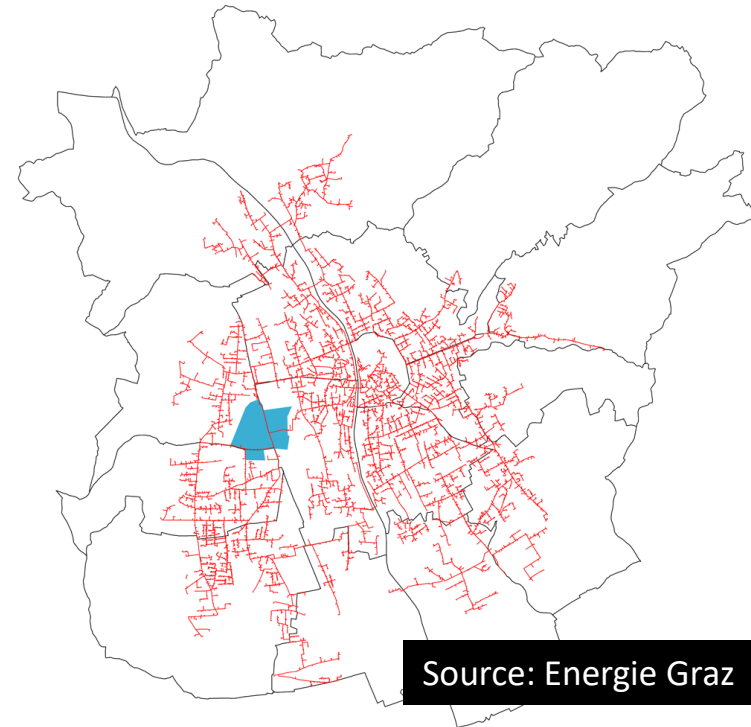
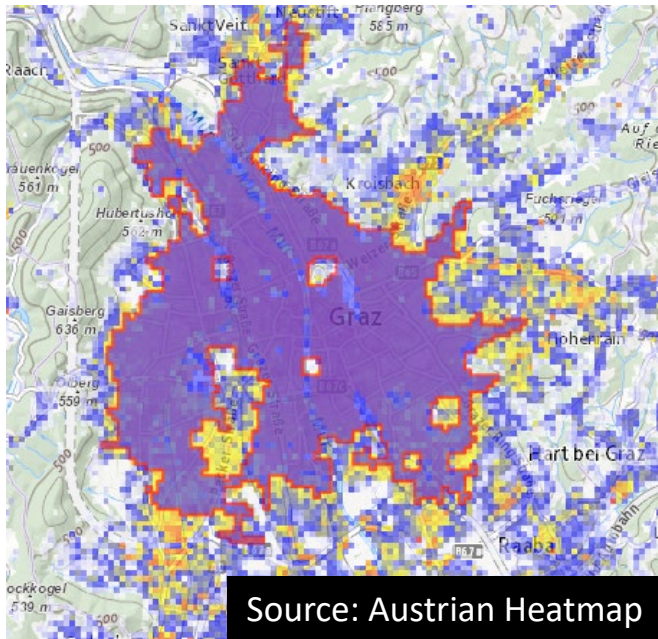


## Possible answer to the raised question

Get Potential DH  
areas

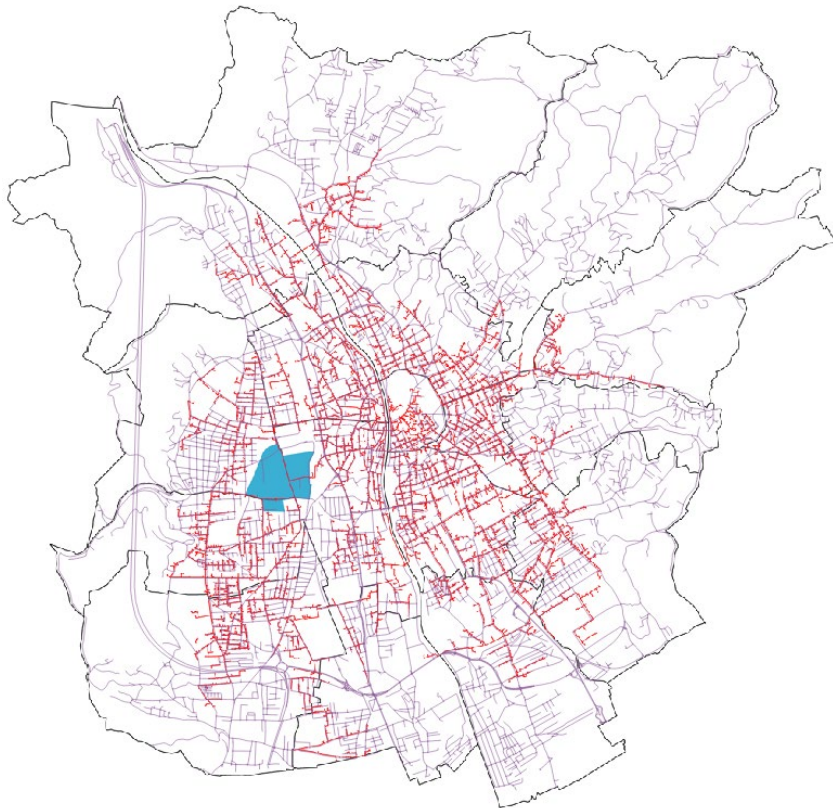


Compare with Existing  
DH grids



## What's the challenge?

- ▶ Data of DH grid is not available everywhere.
- ▶ Having sufficient data on grid, I still need to estimate the costs... and...



What if I also need to find and calculate the optimal pipeline routes?



# DHMIN\*

- ▶ MILP model for single-commodity energy infrastructure network systems
- ▶ It finds maximum revenue tradeoff for the size of network
- ▶ I/O & main features:

### Inputs

- Peak loads,
- Heat source availability & redundancy,
- Existing pipelines,
- Oblige pipe construction on certain routes,

### Outputs

- Grid topology
- Heat sale [MWh]:  
supply – heat\_losses
- Revenue made via heat sale [€]  
 $FED * heat\_sale\_price$
- Distribution grid investment (annuity) [€]

\* Reference: Dorfner, Johannes. "Open Source Modelling and Optimisation of Energy Infrastructure at Urban Scale", 2015.

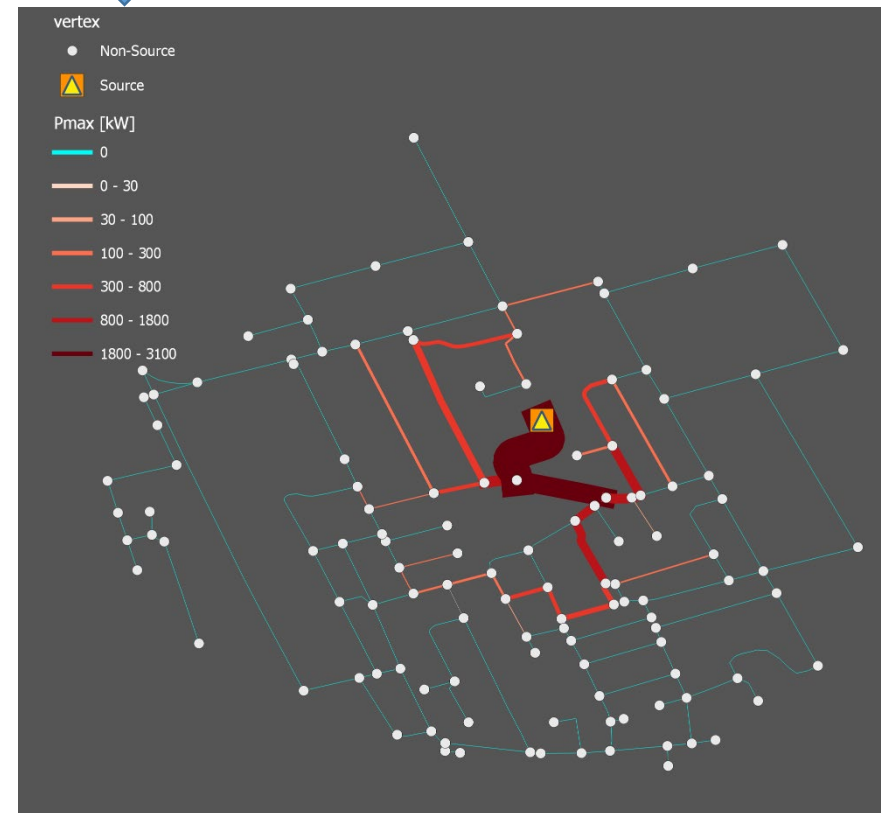
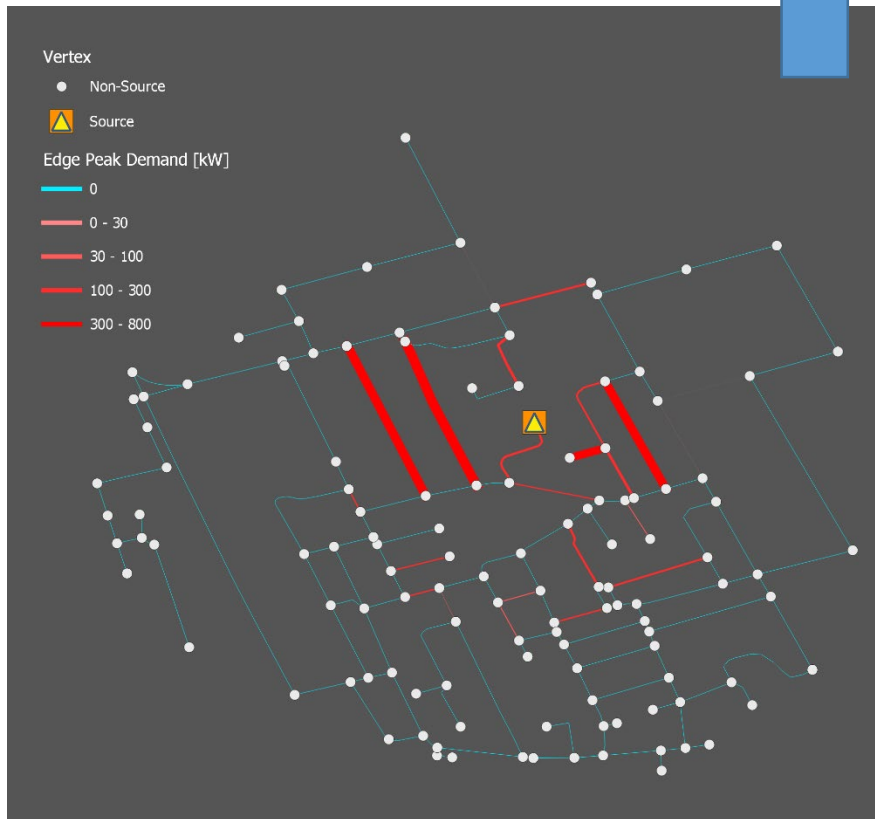


# DHMIN Model

Calculation by DHMIN

Edges' Peak Demands [kW]

Max Power Flow [kW]

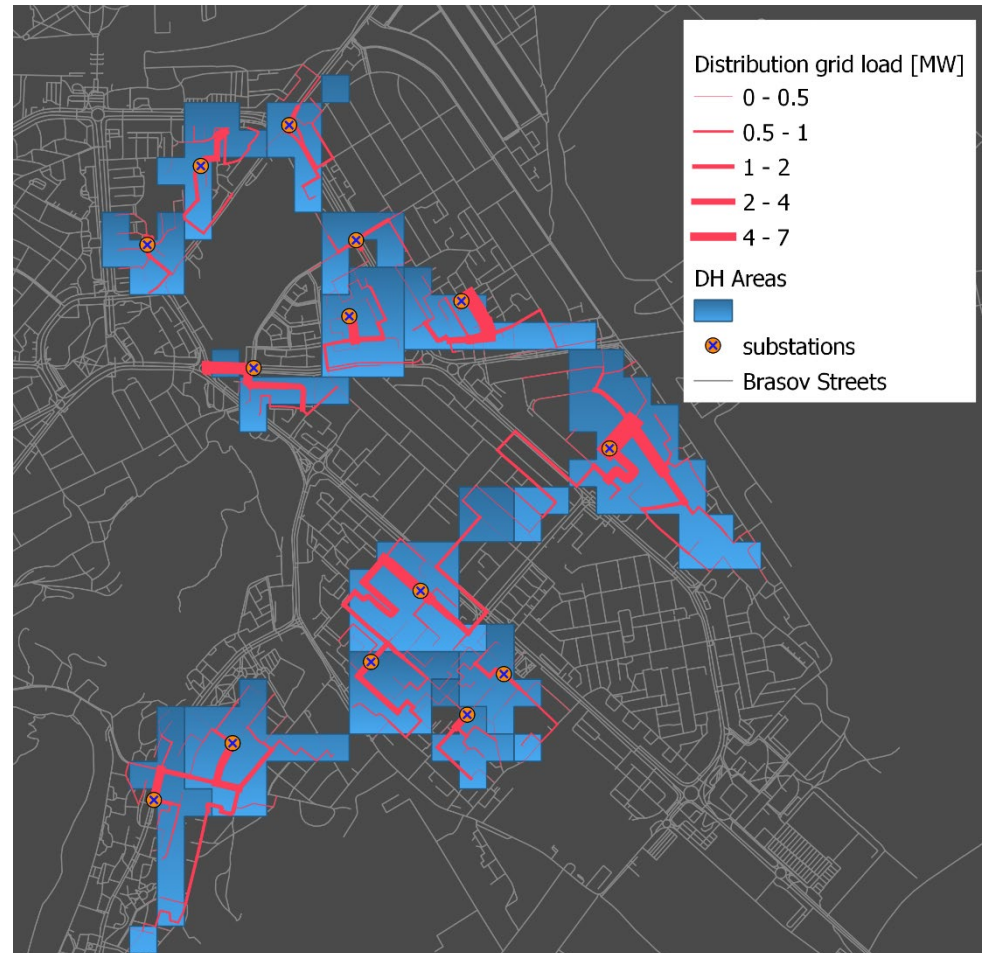


## Steps take for the case study

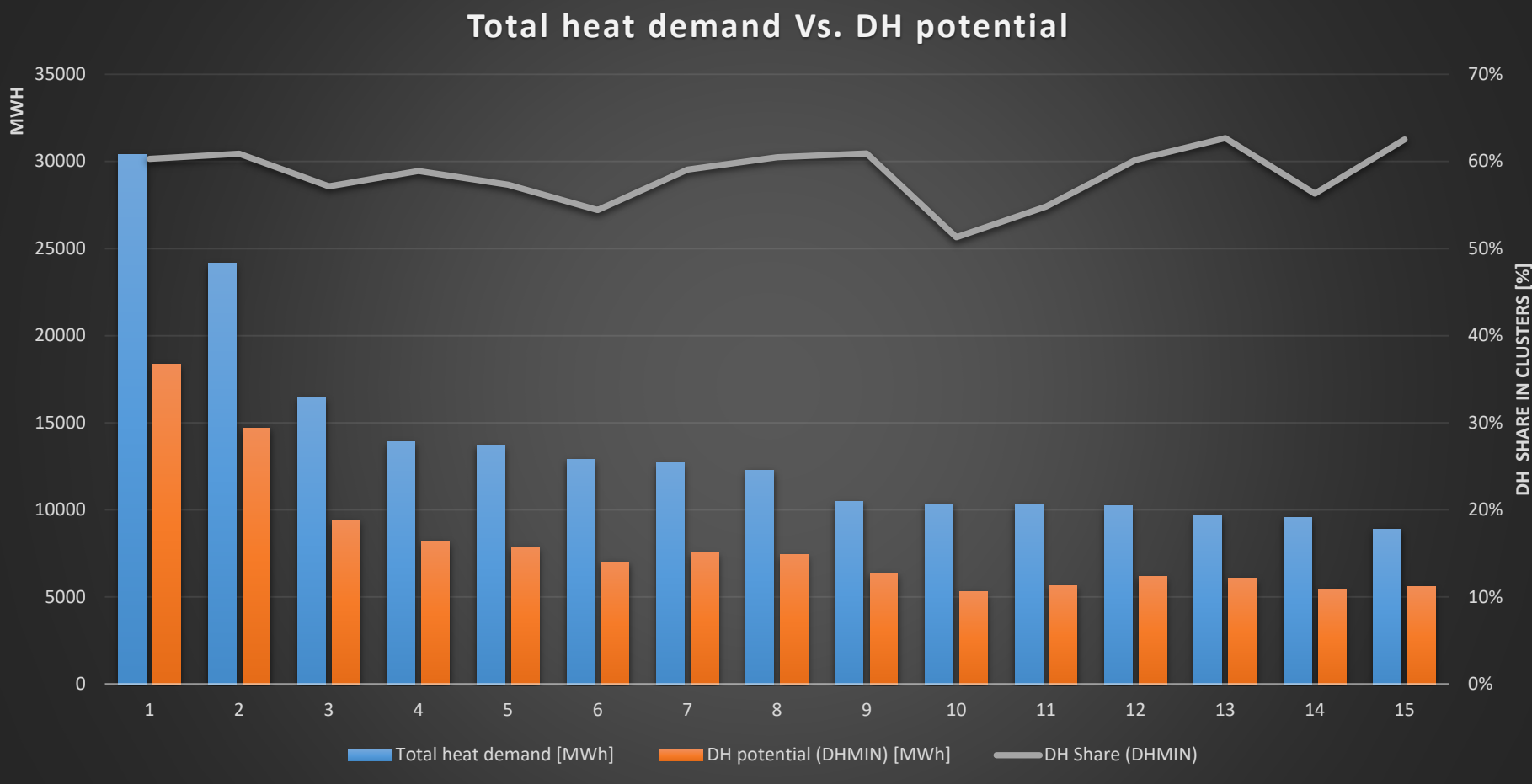
- ▶ Case study: Brasov, Romania.
- ▶ Inputs:
  - Horizon: 16 years
  - Market share: start → 16% ; end → 62%
  - Grid cost ceiling: 27 EUR/MWh
- ▶ Run the model for DH potential areas obtained by approach based on the effective width concept.
- ▶ To do the calculation by DHMIN in a reasonable time, coherent areas obtained by the first approach were broken to smaller areas with a minimum peak load of 3.5 MW (for a substation).

# Coherent areas & distribution grid

- ▶ Blue regions are obtained from the first approach (15 areas).
- ▶ Based on the 1<sup>st</sup> approach, the DH potential in these areas are set to 62% of the total demand.
- ▶ For each region, DHMIN was run separately.
- ▶ Red lines show the extension of grids and line capacities obtained from DHMIN.
- ▶ The grids are extended as long as they are economic.



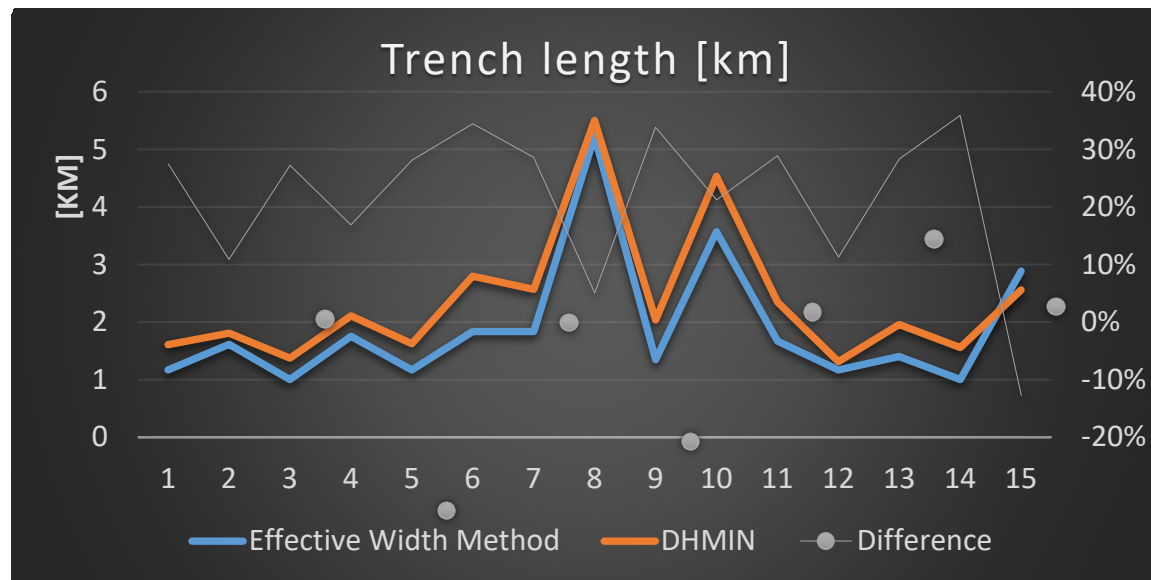
## Indicators





# Trench length

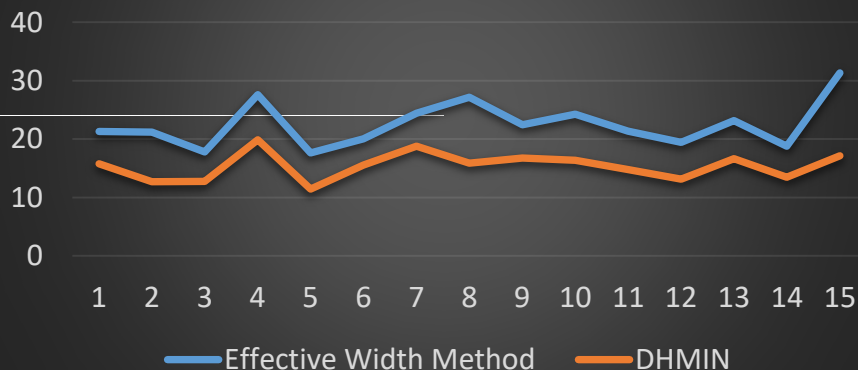
- ▶ DHMIN extend the pipelines as long as they are profitable (not all demand segments are covered)
- ▶ Both approach closely follow the same trench length pattern.
- ▶ The difference is larger in smaller areas
  - Impact from street routes.



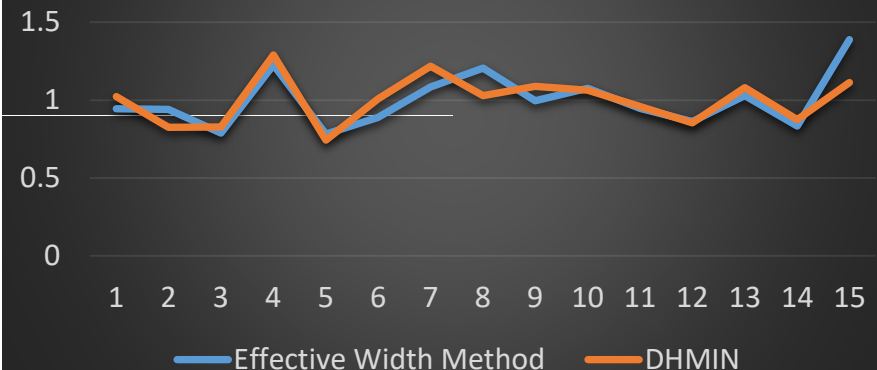
# Specific distribution grid costs

- ▶ Two methods have different cost components, making their comparison difficult.
  - E.g. although DHMIN leads to higher pipe line length, it's lower specific costs:
    - Due to different input parameter structure.
    - Due to the optimization approach.
- ▶ The comparison would be easier if we normalize the specific costs to the average value of each set.
  - Both approaches follow similar pattern.

### Specific distribution grid costs [EUR/MWh]



### Normalized Distribution grid costs



# Conclusion

- ▶ Two approaches were compared in this presentation:
  - Approach I: based on the effective width concept
  - Approach II: based on detailed infrastructure optimization model
- ▶ The differences in the required input parameters, makes the comparison of two models difficult. However, it can be concluded that:

“The results follow similar patterns and values.”
- ▶ The approach I:
  - requires less data and no optimization solver.
  - can be applied to a large area while using approach II for large areas is time consuming.
  - Is suitable for quick analyses and provides acceptable results.
  - If cost parameters are tuned for the case study, provides more accurate results
- ▶ Approach II:
  - provides more detailed metrics and more accurate results
  - But requires more data as well as an optimization solver
- ▶ The results of this presentation needs to be confirmed by further data collection and analyses.

Thank you for your attention!

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