



**UNIVERSITÉ  
DE GENÈVE**

INSTITUT DES SCIENCES  
DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Université de Genève | 66 boulevard Carl-Vogt | CH-1211 Genève 4  
Tél : 022 379 06 46 | Web : [www.unige.ch/sysener](http://www.unige.ch/sysener)

SÉMINAIRE ÉNERGIE – ENVIRONNEMENT  
Conférences 2022 – 2023

**Risk minimization for decarbonizing heating  
networks via network temperature reductions:  
opportunities and challenges.  
Experience from Austria and outlook.**

**Ralf-Roman Schmidt**  
*AIT - Austrian Institute of Technology*

**Jeudi 30 mars à 17h15**

Université de Genève – 66 boulevard Carl-Vogt, 1205 Genève  
Salle 1 (rez-de-chaussée)

Conférence en présentiel suivie d'un apéritif

Diffusion en direct avec Zoom : <https://unige.zoom.us/j/65489922494>  
ID de réunion : 654 8992 2494  
Code secret : 234543

Ces informations sont disponibles sur notre site [www.unige.ch/sysener](http://www.unige.ch/sysener)

## **L'orateur**

**Ralf-Roman Schmidt** is a senior research engineer and is working at the AIT (Austrian Institute of Technology) since June 2009, where he is responsible for the development and management of national and international projects in the field of district heating and integrated energy systems.

His research priorities are decarbonization strategies and sector coupling. He holds key positions in international networks (e.g. IEA DHC ExCo, RHC-ETIP) and received his PhD-degree in the field of thermo-fluid dynamics in 2013.

## **La conférence**

Many large urban district heating networks (DH) are heavily depending on gas. Since the use of renewable fuel alternatives will be very limited in the future, and the connection of more customers to the DH networks can be expected, significant amounts alternative heat sources such as heat pumps, waste heat, solar and geothermal energy will be required to secure and decarbonize the DH supply.

This presentation highlights the opportunities and challenges related to the optimization of the building stock in terms of return temperatures and flexibilities, network hydraulics, bi-directional operation, the integration of seasonal storages, as well as consumer involvement and business models. Also, related uncertainties regarding energy prices, availability of alternative heat sources and seasonal storages as well as implementation of retrofitting and optimization activities will be discussed.