



ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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PROJECT NEWS



ȘCOALA ȘI GRĂDINIȚA DIN COTUL MORII AU ASIGURATĂ INDEPENDENȚA ENERGETICĂ DATORITĂ SISTEMULUI MODERN DE ÎNCĂLZIRE CU BIOCUMBUSTIBIL

A modern biofuel heating system has been launched on 7 November at the school and kindergarten from Cotul Morii of Hincesti District. These premises – attended by more than 250 children and teaching staff – are heated now with biofuel produced locally. The Community has no access to the heating network fuelled with natural gas.

After the 2010 floods, Cotul Morii has been rebuilt from scratch, including the public institutions. *“We are impressed by the changes you managed to have done in the last three years. A school and kindergarten with modern infrastructure, a heating biofuel system that would ensure their energy security – all of these are the outcomes of the Community initiative, perseverance and efforts made for a better future for everybody. These are values the European Union supports in full”*, Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, has stated.

The Energy and Biomass Project investment in designing and installing the heating system in Cotul Morii amounted to \$88,647 – this money has been allocated from European funds. The Community contributed with MDL 133,465 out of the local funds.

This money has been invested in spatial planning, for hiring an Engineer and a Technical Manager, and for purchasing briquettes for one heating season.

“The biomass-based heating plant helped us have the school and kindergarten built in record time. The construction works were not stopped in winter time thanks to the supplied heat. As a result, nowadays the village children attend their own school and kindergarten, which along with the comfort of a modern building, provides them with heating comfort thanks to the heat generated out of the locally produced biofuel”, Lucia Guștiuc, Mayor of Cotul Morii, has mentioned.

Cotul Morii is one of the eight communities from Hincesti District, which have their schools and kindergartens connected to biofuel heating plants. *“The school and kindergarten from Cotul Morii serve as an example of effective transposition of the Government goal to employ the renewable energy sources, to ensure energy security and energy efficient use. By having chosen environment friendly technologies we actually develop the country economy. As for the bioenergy – this is an opportunity for new biofuel generation businesses, new jobs, money invested in the Republic of Moldova and for enhanced energy security”*, Valeriu Lazar, Vice Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, has asserted.

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The Interactive Map of Communities that have their public institutions heated with biofuel is available at www.biomasa.aee.md.



JOURNALISTS GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE PELLET MANUFACTURING PROCESS

A group of journalists visited the production line of one of the largest pellet manufacturers from the Republic of Moldova. The business was launched in 2012 in Ocnita by Sergiu Ovcinikov. *"I was impressed by the Europe experience in biofuel production. Biomass is commonly used in Europe. I travelled a lot and I have noticed that Germans and Austrians heat their dwellings with pellets"*, Sergiu Ovcinikov mentioned.

The biofuel produced by the pellet line owned by Sergiu Ovcinikov has been already supplied to many schools, kindergartens, and households throughout the Republic of Moldova, including those that have switched to biomass energy thanks to the financial support provided by the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass". The maximum capacity of this pellet line is 11 thousand tonnes per year, which is a sufficient quantity for heating the District social institutions in case the latter decide to switch to pellet-based heating.

The same day, the journalists visited "Moldagrotehnica" located in Balti – the single undertaking that manufactures pellet- and briquette-fuelled boilers for large and small enterprises, and for households. The undertaking is heated with bioenergy supplied by the boiler manufactured at "Moldagrotehnica".

QUALITY OF BIOFUEL REGULATED BY EU STANDARDS

The Ministry of Economy has submitted the Regulation on Solid Biofuel to governmental institutions for reviewing. This document sets forth the solid biofuel categories, the minimum quality requirements, the criteria for labelling, the conditions for solid biofuel marketing, as well as the market surveillance requirements.



The employment of renewable energy sources, especially biomass, is the core of the country energy policy derived from the field-related national strategic documents, pursuing the objective to have by 2020 20% of energy produced from renewable energy sources.

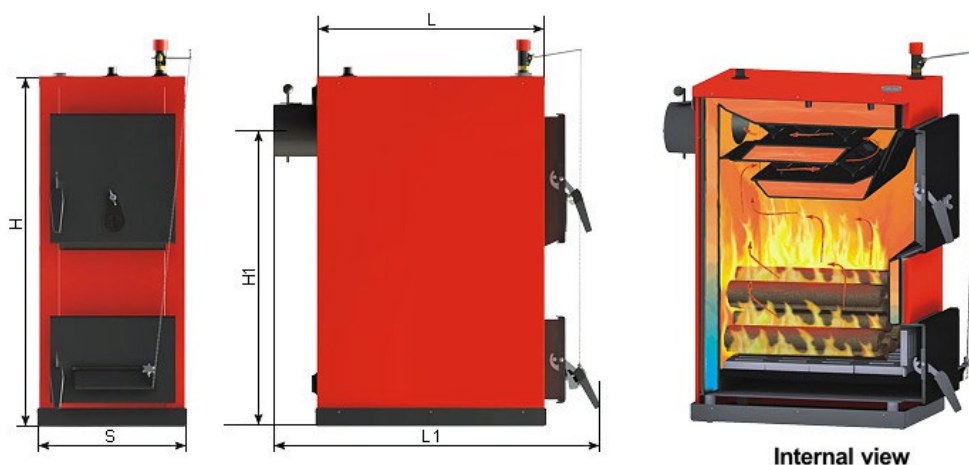
Hence, the use and employment of the biomass energy potential involves partial replacement of the consumed fossil fuel by solid biofuel, such as briquettes and pellets, obtained from processing vegetal biomass, used as raw material for producing solid biofuel.

In order to have positive impact on the environment, and, by default, on the population's health, it is absolutely necessary to comply with certain technical norms concerning the production and use of solid biofuel. This Regulation has been drafted just to cover the lack of a specific normative act comprising the binding technical requirements for biofuels, having contributed to the assurance of public health, energy security, environmental protection, and protection of consumers' interests.

This Article has been taken from the Newsletter (No. 2, October 2013) of the Ministry of Economy of the Republic Moldova.

MICROENTERPRISES FROM THE RURAL AREAS MAY BENEFIT FROM SUBSIDISED INSTALLATION OF BIOMASS BOILERS

Following numerous requests, the Management Board of the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass" decided at its sitting held on 8 October to grant the micro-enterprises access to subsidies for the installation of modern biomass boilers. Thus, the micro-enterprises that, within the meaning of the Law on Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, have up



to nine employees and annual sales as well as assets worth up to 3 Million MDL will be able to receive subsidies in the amount of 30% of the boiler costs but not more than 1000 EUR.

So far, the Programme has been targeting the households only. Hence, six households have already biomass boilers installed, and have been refunded 30% of the costs incurred in this regard. Other 32 families are in the process of having modern biomass boilers, either manufactured or assembled in the Republic of Moldova, installed.

Also, the boiler capacity limit of 25 kW has been excluded; therefore the Programme is expected to cover the dwellings with the area exceeding 250 square metres as well. The Programme aimed at granting biomass boilers to households under advantageous conditions is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Agency in partnership with the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass". Hence, at least 600 families will be able to purchase modern biomass boilers under this Programme, and get back 30% of the incurred costs at the expense of the EU funds.

Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy Valeriu Lazar, who chaired the meeting, had asserted that the micro-enterprises would have a real opportunity to cut some of their energy costs thanks to modern technologies and develop the service infrastructure in the rural area to the benefit of villagers.

AMENDED PROCEDURE FOR BRIQUETTING LINE PURCHASE AND DELIVERY BY ENTERPRISES – BENEFICIARIES OF THE EU-UNDP FUNDED PROJECT "ENERGY AND BIOMASS"

The procedure for briquetting line purchase and delivery to enterprises – beneficiaries of the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass" has been amended at the last sitting of the Management Board. Thus, in order to expedite the procurement

process of briquetting lines, under leasing conditions, the obligation to involve public procurement procedures has been eliminated, while the money for purchasing the briquetting equipment is to be transferred to the Supplier chosen by the Beneficiary, based on a tripartite contract signed by the Energy Efficiency Agency, Supplier and Beneficiary.

This Component of the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass" provides also for equipment leasing for a three-year period with no interest, zero VAT and exemption from customs duties on importing the equipment for manufacturing solid biomass fuel. The maximum allocated amount is 750 thousand MDL. Under this Programme, the first six Beneficiaries will get briquetting lines in early December.

More information in this regard is available at: www.biomasa.aee.md





60 FILES SUBMITTED TO MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA, 2013 EDITION

60 files submitted to Moldova Eco-Energetica, 2013 Edition, will compete for the title of the Best Project in using or promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The files have been submitted by individuals, public institutions, private companies, Media and NGOs.

The names of the first three Finalists competing for the Trophy within eleven award categories are already known. The Trophy winner will be selected after the field checking visits and after the public presentation of Success Stories of the first three Finalists. The files submitted by the Contest participants are subject to evaluation by 16 experts grouped in four assessment panels. The evaluation process and the selection of winners are supervised by the Coordination Board of Moldova Eco-Energetica. The winners will be announced and awarded at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Festivity, 2013 Edition, to be held in early December in Chisinau.

SUCCESS STORIES OF WINNERS OF MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA CONTEST, 2012 EDITION, HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN ONE MAGAZINE

More than 20 Success Stories in using and promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency in the Republic of Moldova, information on activities carried out by the energy sector key actors, as well as the news of the National Contest Moldova Eco-Energetica 2013 are available for readers in Moldova Eco-Energetica Magazine.

This is the first edition of the Magazine, which is supposed to be published annually. It comprises the success stories of Moldova Eco-Energetica Finalists, as well as articles dedicated to accomplishments in the area of renewable energy sources and energy



efficiency.

"By cutting the consumption and diversifying the energy sources we will become more competitive economically, more protected socially and more sustainable ecologically. The Magazine offers on its pages the most successful stories in the area of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and will serve as an impetus for the development of the energy sector, having encouraged institutions, individuals to follow the best practices", Tudor Copaci, Deputy Minister of Economy asserted at the Magazine launching event.

The Magazine is a joint initiative of the Energy Efficiency Agency and of the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass". *"I welcome the launch of Magazine "Moldova Eco-Energetica", which would help us learn about the initiatives unrolled within the sector from a single source and combine the endeavours to achieve tangible outcomes. I am confident that the Republic of Moldova will have a more efficient energy sector supported by the population and civil society, which would be active participants in the change",* Mindaugas Kacerauskis, the new Political Adviser of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, pointed out.

The event was attended by the Success Stories Actors, Ambassadors, representatives of institutions related to the renewables and energy efficiency sector, of international organizations from this sector and partners. *"The Magazine launched today hides on its pages stories of people who have got the courage, initiative and entrepreneurial spirit to launch*

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new technologies, as well as the actors who have ensured them with a favourable environment. The Magazine shows the effort made by every actor to develop the sector of renewables and energy efficiency: public authorities that have developed the expected policy and incentives; private sector and entrepreneurs that modernise the market; Academia that conduct the research; Media and the youth who help the people change their mentality and behaviour, and the last but not the least, the Development Partners, banking sector that support the aforementioned endeavours”, Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Resident Representative of UNDP-Moldova, mentioned.

or how to supervise its proper operation during the cold season. The Guide covers also the cases of plant potential failures and the appropriate troubleshooting solutions. Likewise, the Guide contains specific information for different types of heating plants depending on the biofuel used: straw ballots, briquettes, pellets and mixed/combined.

The Guide is equally recommended to public institution managers with the aim to ensure maximum efficiency of heating systems and thermal comfort during the cold season. The Guide is available in Romanian and Russian.



**ÎNDRUMAR
PENTRU OPERATORII
CENTRELOR TERMICE
PE BIOMASĂ**



8 STEPS FOR EFFICIENT BIOMASS HEATING

This is the title of a billboard to be placed at each biomass heating plant established with the support provided by the Energy and Biomass Project. The billboard covers the key steps to be followed throughout the year by operators and managers of institutions connected to bioenergy-based heating systems in order to ensure proper operation of heating plants.

BIOMASS HEATING PLANT OPERATORS HAVE THEIR OWN GUIDE

A composed Guide describing the steps to be followed in order to ensure proper operation of biomass heating plants has been produced upon the initiative of the EU-UNDP funded Project “Energy and Biomass”. When there is no training centre in place to provide bioenergy related training to professionals, the Guide intended for biomass heating plant operators constitutes an important source of information the operators can learn from on how to properly manage a heating plant: how to prepare a heating plant for the cold season

OUR PARTNERS



ION TULBU, DIRECTOR OF BRANCH 13, "CONSOCIVIL" SA:

"THE TREND TO CHOOSE RENEWABLE ENERGY, BIOENERGY IN PARTICULAR, BY THE POPULATION IS OBVIOUS"

"Consocivil" is one of the Energy and Biomass Project Partners; the Company has been installing heating plants since 2011 – the first year of Project activity. The "Consocivil" Team offered an alternative of eco heating to 17 Villages from Stefan Voda, Donduseni, Hincesti, Floresti, Cantemir, Leova, Soroca and Cahul Districts.

- Mr. Tulbu, what is the Company Portfolio?

- "Consocivil" was born back in 1968 being named „Grajdanstroy" at that time; it was restructured in 1993 and changed its name as well, being named "Consocivil". This is a Company specialised in construction, and its Portfolio includes the construction of the President Building, the Parliament Building, the Cardiologic Centre, the Pulmonologic Centre, study blocks for many universities, branches of commercial banks, etc.

- The bioenergy heating plants installed with the support provided by the EU-UNDP funded Project "Energy and Biomass" is the first experience of installing renewable energy-based technologies, is not it?

- Yes, it is. I am glad to be one of the Energy and Biomass Project partner-companies, and we set together the foundation of a new industry in the Republic of Moldova – the renewable energy industry. We installed the first bioenergy heating plants in Palanca and Ermoclia Villages of Stefan Voda District, although both communities have had access to natural gas pipelines 100 percent. I am so happy to say that the schools and kindergartens from these Villages are heated with bioenergy the second year in a row although they still have access to the natural gas pipeline. "The temperature within the premises is the same as when you heated the kindergarten with natural gas. The only

difference is the invoice for heating, showing costs twice lower than before", the Director of kindergarten from Ermoclia Village confessed.

- How receptive are the people relative to the new technology?

- All new things are accepted with difficulties. It is obvious. People need to convince themselves that the new energy is more efficient on the basis of success stories of schools, kindergartens, households heated with eco energy. Your Project is the one that breaks the ice. Your mission is far from being easy, although it is certainly a noble cause. Thanks to the investments provided by the European Union, the Republic of Moldova has the chance to reduce its energy dependence towards foreign suppliers. The heating plants installed with the Project support are more advanced and exceed from the technological standpoint many natural gas-based heating plants, including the one from Chisinau.

- What would motivate the population to use renewable energy in their households?

- The trend to choose renewable energy, bioenergy in particular, by the population is noticeable. For the time being, villagers cannot afford to purchase a briquette-fired boiler, but they use briquettes for their stoves and can see the benefits brought by biofuel. One of the key arguments is the biofuel competitive price. We should not forget other benefits as well such as enhancing the energy security of the Republic of Moldova, development of the economy by setting new businesses, new jobs and, also, environmental protection.

- How would you describe the development of the biofuel production market and of the bioenergy production related manufacturing/assembling technologies?

- It is pleasant to see that the number of briquette and pellet producers increased from several units in 2011 to more than 80 registered this year. This increase would enhance competition and require production of high quality biofuel. Along with these classical market rules it is important to certify the products, i.e. the briquettes and pellets. I know that the Ministry of Economy has drafted the Regulation on solid biofuel, currently subject to reviewing by the governmental institutions. This document will oblige the producers to bring high quality biofuel to the market, which, in its turn, would test the efficiency of biomass-based modern technologies and encourage more people to switch to green energy.

- Do you use renewable energy at home?

- At present I do not have this opportunity. However, I managed to pursue my brother who is having his house built now to heat it with bioenergy.



Communities where CONSOCIVIL has installed biomass heating plants under Moldova Energy and Biomass Project: Rascaieti, Palanca, Crocmaz, Viisoara, Olanesti, Ermoclia (Stefan Voda); Baraboi, Corbu, Criscauti, Sudarca, Taul (Donduseni); Cotul Morii (Hincesti); Gura Cainarului, Cuhurestii de Sus, Izvoare, Prodanesti, Stefanesti (Floresti)

Contacts:

29, Sfatul Tarii str, Chisinau, 3rd floor, office 304 Tel.: (+373 22) 839985, Tel/Fax: (+373 22) 839983
<http://www.biomasa.aee.md>, e-mail: ina.zglavuta@undp.org

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