



ENERGY AND BIOMASS



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Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Newsletter

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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PROJECT NEWS



2012 MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA AWARDS CONTEST HAS BEEN LAUNCHED

The largest Contest aimed at awarding the most successful initiatives in the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Sector has been launched. The Ministry of Economy and the Agency for Energy Efficiency have inaugurated the start of MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA Contest at a Press Conference held on 2 July 2012.

The Contest goal – a first-time event for the Republic of Moldova – is to support the most important initiatives in energy production, transmission, distribution and efficient consumption out of renewable sources, as well as in development and promotion of modern technologies and innovations in the area of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency.

“The Context we have launched today demonstrates our support extended to those who think strategically, act responsibly, having created new business opportunities in the energy sector and ensured regional development by creating new jobs in different communities of the country”, Valeriu Lazar, Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Economy has stated.

The Contest has been opened for public institutions, private sector representatives, NGOs, foundations, initiative groups, media, academia and individuals who successfully implemented notable, innovative and ambitious initiatives in the area of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency. The Contest participants will compete for the following instituted categories:

1. Best Project in Solar, Wind, Hydraulic, Geothermal Energy;
2. Best Project of the Year in Biomass-, Biogas-, Biofuel- based Energy;
3. Best Energy Efficiency Project in the public and/or private sector;
4. Best Initiative for Raising Public Awareness;
5. Best Educational Initiative in Promoting the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency;
6. Best Initiative of the Youth.

“MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA Contest calls to action the whole country. We intend to prove, through this Contest, that we are efficient, innovative and competitive, whether it is a public institution or a private company, household consumers, especially young individuals, who would have to cope, in a more or less predictable future, with the traditional energy resource shortage challenges”, Mihai Stratan, Director of the Agency for Energy Efficiency has pointed out.

MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA Awards will be granted on a yearly-basis, in November, at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Festivity. This Contest has been launched at the initiative of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by UNDP Moldova.

More info about Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition you can find on www.aee.md

ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED IN FLORESTI, BASARABEASCA, CAHUL, CIMISLIA AND RETURNED TO ATU GAGAUZ YERI

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has been launched in five new Districts and returned to ATU Gagauz Yeri. During July 10-20, 2012 the Project Team will present the information about the Project at public meetings conducted in Floresti, Basarabasca, Cahul, Cimislia and in ATU Gagauz Yeri as well as the requirements to be met by the communities in order to connect their schools, kindergartens, com-



munity centres and other municipal institutions to biomass-based heating systems with the financial support provided by the Energy and Biomass Project. Mayors, agricultural entrepreneurs, directors of municipal institutions from all District villages are invited to attend these public meetings. The decision to return to ATU Gagauz Yeri has been taken by the Energy and Biomass Project Board, composed from representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Agency for Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, Alliance for Renewable Energy, UNDP Moldova and the EU Delegation in Moldova.

“All rural communities are encouraged to take advantage of the chance to install efficient biomass-based heating systems in their municipal institutions. The villages willing to participate to the contest will have to go through several selection phases and to demonstrate the following:

1. evidence of a reliable source for supplying straw bales and of funds to purchase fuel,
2. availability of appropriate municipal buildings to be connected to straw-fuelled heating system,
3. availability of premises for the storage of straw bales,
4. community commitment and motivation to access alternative sources of heating”, Alexandru Ursul, Manager of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project pointed out.

Since May 2011 and through June 2012, the Energy and Biomass Project covered 17 districts, and 83 villages from those districts were selected to connect their municipal institutions (98) to biomass-based heating systems. The largest part of the costs necessary for installing the alternative heating systems is covered by the Energy and Biomass Project, and the

villages contribute with at least 15% of the investment total value.

More information about the selected rural communities, the type of boiler plant installed, the investment value, and the number of beneficiaries is available at: <http://www.undp.md/projects/Biomass/Sisteme%20de%20incalzire%20instalate%20in%20institutiile%20publice%20urale.pdf>

ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT WILL FUND THE HEATING SYSTEM INSTALLATION IN THE SCHOOL OF COTUL MORII VILLAGE AFFECTED BY 2010 FLOOD

Approximately 40.000 people from 48 villages, where the Energy and Biomass Project was launched during the first half of 2012, will benefit directly from new biomass-based heating systems and from an enhanced heating comfort. These are just a few of Project accomplishments presented at the Project Board sitting held on 06 July 2012 chaired by Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Economy Valeriu Lazar.

The Energy and Biomass Project activity report for the first half of 2012 and the activity program for July-September 2012 were presented at the Board sitting as well. The Board Members followed up the request, submitted by the authority of Cotul Morii Village from Hincesti District, which was flooded in 2010, to install a modern biomass-fuelled heating system in the village school currently under construction. The design and installation works of the new heating system will be commenced this summer to be completed by the beginning of the next heating season.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Board is chaired by Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister of Economy Valeriu Lazar, and comprises representatives of the Ministry of Economy, the Agency for Energy Efficiency, the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Environment, the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, Alliance for Renewable Energy, UNDP Moldova and the EU Delegation in Moldova.

BUSINESSMEN AND PUBLIC AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED TO THE LARGEST EUROPEAN BIOMASS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Agency for Energy Efficiency, and businessmen from the biomass technology sector and Energy and Biomass Project experts participated to the 20th Edition of the European Biomass Conference and Exhibition held in Milano on June 18-22, 2012. The eleven representatives from the Republic of Moldova took part to presentations, seminars, working groups on technical innovations

and development of international markets for producing and using biomass energy. More than 300 presentations and other events were conducted during the Conference in parallel with the Exhibition covering all the aspects related to biomass used for energy purposes. Here are some of the subjects tackled at the Conference: "Status and Future of Biomass Assessment for Energetic Use in Europe; Energy Crops and Woody Biomass Production: Cost Comparison; Perennial Grasses: Important Biomass Source; Design and Optimization of Ponds for Microalgae Cultivation: Tools and Strategy".

The Moldovan representatives of public institutions and private sector had the opportunity to get in touch with the largest players from the European biomass market. Businessmen from Moldova, mostly producers of biomass fuel and suppliers of biomass-fuelled heating systems, established co-operation ties and partnerships with European businesses from this sector.

The Energy and Biomass Project supported logistically and financially the participation of Moldovan representatives to the Biomass Conference and Exhibition, 2012 Edition.

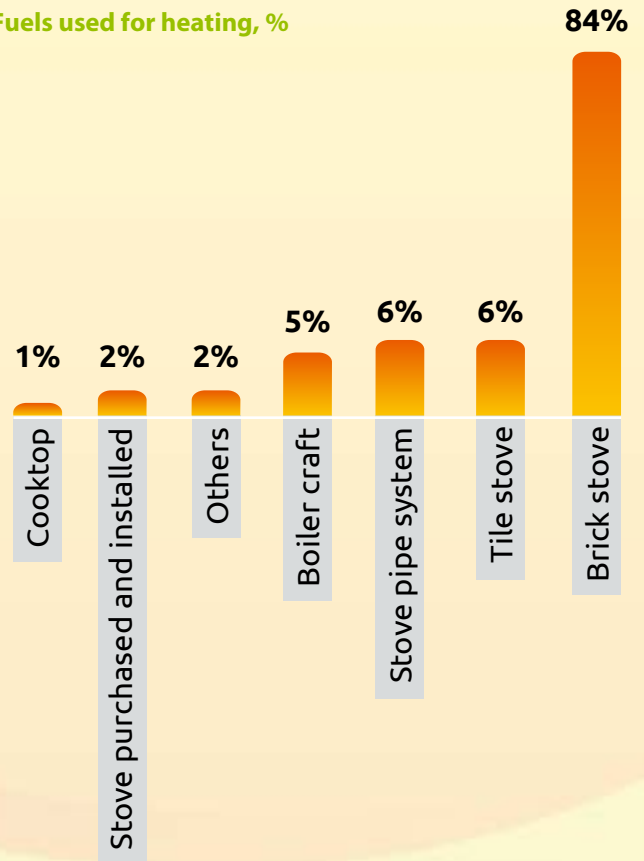


More information about this event is available at: <http://www.conference-biomass.com/>

EACH RURAL HOUSEHOLD HAS ENOUGH BIOMASS FOR HEATING ITS HOUSE IN WINTER TIME

"Each rural household produces three tons of biomass annually, which could be used for energetic purposes and cover the heating needs during the whole heating season", this is one of the main conclusions drawn by the Market Study concerning the solutions available for biomass-based heating of rural households, conducted in the framework of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. By having converted this biomass into fuel, each household with an area of 150 m² may save up to 50% of the costs for heating and hot water.

Fuels used for heating, %



This volume of biomass, suitable for energy production, may serve also as a market niche for the producers of biomass fuel, which could offer briquette- or pellet-production services to the households willing to switch to biomass-based heating solutions. The Study reveals also that offering such services would determine a price reduction of final products (briquettes / pellets) and enhance the energetic safety of the households located in the rural area of the Republic of Moldova.

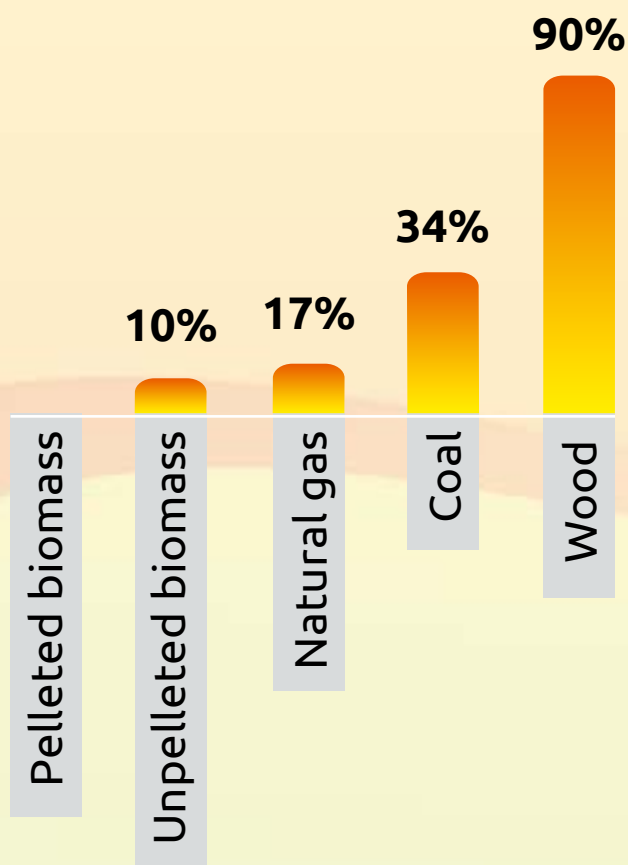
According to the Study, at present there are more than 40 producers of briquettes and pellets in the Republic of Moldova. The production of modern biofuel is at the incipient phase, and the sector develops sporadically underpinned by the strong motivation of producers to learn the production technologies and to assess the profitability of this activity. Also, the sector is characterized by the lack of homogeneity in terms of technologies used by producers, the geographical distribution and the type of biomass used in the production process.

Concurrently, the consumption of this modern biofuel by households is limited so far (90% of households are wood-heated and 34% – are coal-heated), and is similar to the use of modern solutions for biomass combustion (briquette-/pellet-fuelled boiler plants). 84% of rural households have

brick stoves for heating, only 6% have an industrial boiler, 2% have homemade boiler, and 5% have a system consisting of stove and pipes.

The Study was conducted among a sample comprising 1,300 households from 10 districts, and the margin of error is $\pm 2,7\%$.

Type of equipment used for heating,%



DROCHIA, RASCANI AND EDINET DISTRICTS HAVE GOT THE HIGHEST ENERGETIC POTENTIAL OF BIOMASS

“We can produce 21.042 TJ of biomass energy annually, which could cover 22% of the total energy resource needs of the Republic of Moldova. Hence, circa 48% of natural gas imports could be cut at the account of biomass resources”, these are some of the key conclusions drawn by another Study conducted within the Energy and Biomass Project. The Study was developed by IDIS Viitorul and pursued the goal to estimate the energetic potential of biomass from agricultural crops at the level of regions and districts.

The Study took into account the waste from the main agricultural crops, concurrently having mentioned the significant quantities of biomass, which could be derived from other types of crops

and grasses, like reeds, wild shrubs, energetic plants, etc.

According to the performed computations, each of the considered regions, i.e. the Northern (10647,63 TJ), the Central (3744,76 TJ), the Southern (5034,40 TJ) and ATU Gagauz Yeri (1503,20 TJ), has sufficient local biomass potential to launch profitable businesses in the area of briquette and pellet production, having used the raw material predominant in its area. Below we presented top three districts with the highest energetic potential of biomass:

The Northern Region:	<i>Drochia (1420.63 TJ), Rascani (1331.31 TJ), Edinet (1083,46 TJ)</i>
The Central Region:	<i>Ungheni (538.42 TJ), Orhei (438.61 TJ), Hincesti (426.71 TJ)</i>
The Southern Region:	<i>Stefan-Voda (1056.30 TJ), Cahul (880.87 TJ), Causeni (679.99 TJ)</i>

Along with the identified factual data, the Study reveals also a series of gaps in the sector of biofuel production. At present, the production of briquettes and pellets is governed by no legal act. Also, there are no national standards in place relating to biofuel, which would contain the technological norms, quality requirements, caloric limits for each type of products, etc. and contribute to fuel quality control. The Study Authors point out the need to amend some legislative acts and grant some tax incentives and facilities to import technologies, machinery and equipment into the bio-energy sector, resulting in lower production costs and, implicitly, in lower costs of delivery.

THE SMALLEST VILLAGE FROM GAGAUZIA WILL HEAT ITS PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS WITH BIOMASS-BASED ENERGY

Chisinau, May 19: The smallest village from ATU Gagauz Yeri will be prepared for winter. The public institutions from Carbalia will be heated during the next winter with briquettes, modern biomass-based fuel. The launch of the heating systems in the community center and the kindergarten from Carbalia was organized on Saturday, May 19, during the Europe Day in ATU Gagauz Yeri.

Carbalia village has 555 inhabitants and is located far away from the city, having only two buildings used as public institutions: the kindergarten and the community center which also hosts the premises of the mayor and the health facility. “Until this year we were heating the kindergarten with gas, while the



community center was not heated at all due to lack of financial resources. Thanks to donors, we found the most convenient and the safest energy source: heating with locally produced energy”, stated Constantin Gaidarji, the Mayor of Carbalia, during the heating system launch event.

There are a lot of benefits for Carbalia village deriving from shifting to biomass-based energy: use of locally produced energy from agricultural waste, assurance of energy independency for the public institutions from the village, creation of new jobs, and environment protection. Besides, thanks to the new heating system, the building of the community center will be fully used, offering premises for Mayor’s Office, Health Center, and Post Office – for all public services to be focused in one single building.

The costs for installing the new heating systems in both public institutions for a total amount of 52.245 Euro were covered by the Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by UNDP Moldova. The community also contributed with an investment of 7.852 Euro – money invested in rebuilding the internal heating system, replacing the windows and doors in the community center so as to increase the energy efficiency of the building.

Due to these two institutions heated with briquettes, a local farmer from the neighboring community created a new business and other new jobs: he purchased a briquetting line and will supply briquettes to the kindergarten, community center, and last but not least to local people.

“The Republic of Moldova has a significant potential for producing its own energy. The use of biomass, along the wind and solar energy and energy efficiency activities represents the start of an entirely new industry for our country, which will

create hundreds of new jobs”, stated Valeriu Lazăr, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy.

„Europe, as well as Moldova, shares the believe that the our citizens need sustainable energy at low prices. European Union and other donors are ready to offer the assistance to Republic of Moldova in order to diversify the energy sources and improve energy efficiency. At the moment, Moldova Energy and Biomass project, financed by European Union, aims to increase the use of technologies on biomass, it is the most ambitious initiative for promotion of renewable energy in Moldova”, declared Dirk Schuebel, the chief of the Delegation of European Union.

Gagauz-Yeri is one of the first 4 regions in which the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project launched its activities in 2011. With the support of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, alternative biomass-based heating systems were installed in 2 villages (Carbalia and Copceac) from the region: in 2 schools, 1 community center, 1 kindergarten, and 1 service center, the total number of beneficiaries exceeds 10.000 persons.

EU DAYS IN CHISINAU AND COMRAT

The Energy and Biomass Project Team participated at the events dedicated to the EU Days in Chisinau and Comrat (12 May – in Chisinau, 19 May – in Comrat). The Project was very active in organizing knowledge quizzes about renewables and energy efficiency for children and adults; presented information about the benefits of biomass energy. “Biomass is the energy laying under our feet. Let us not walk it over! We can produce our energy



and avoid our dependency on imports of Russian natural gas. Biomass is cool!", these are some of the messages written-down on paper by the people who visited the tent of the Energy and Biomass Project in Chisinau and Comrat. The most active participants were given t-shirts, bags, caps, pens, desk-calendars, leaflets, brochures, posters, markers, crayons, colouring albums and other useful things.

CONTEST FOR SELECTING A COMPANY TO BE SUPPORTED IN ADOPTING CO-GENERATION TECHNOLOGIES

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, in co-operation with the Agency for Energy Efficiency, is pleased to announce the CONTEST for selecting a company/firm from the agro-industrial sector to be supported in adopting co-generation technologies.

The subject of this contest belongs to the Energy and Biomass Project activity and relates to piloting a co-generation plant within an agro-industrial enterprise, which shall have its own raw material (biodegradable waste) and prove technical and financial capacity to adopt technologies of such type. Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will support piloting a co-generation plant both technically (development of a feasibility study) and financially, having contributed to the investment costs associated with the direct project implementation.

Companies/undertakings residing in the Republic of Moldova, working in the agro-industrial sector and willing to invest in using co-generation technologies in their premises are invited to apply for the contest. The Applicants are required to fill in the funding request, which can be downloaded from the AEE web page: www.aee.md or get it by e-mail upon request.

The applications to participate to the contest shall be submitted in a sealed envelope with the remark: "CF: PEBM/AEE Co-generare " by 10 September 2012, 16:30 local time, to the following address:

Agency for Energy Efficiency, 1, Alecu Russo Street, 10-th floor, office 1003, MD-2068, Chisinau, Moldova.

Contact Persons:
Dragos Pidleac and Andrei Cucos;

*Tel/fax.: 49-94-44; 31-10-01;
E-mail: office@aee.md.*

The proposals will be evaluated by a panel composed from experts, representatives of the AEE, the Energy Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Moldova, the Ministry of Economy and representatives of the Energy and Biomass Project based on evaluation criteria developed by an international expert.

AGRICULTURAL ENTREPRENEURS CAN LEASE-PURCHASE MACHINERY FOR BIOMASS PROCESSING

The Energy and Biomass Project has launched an activity aimed to lease-purchase equipment for biomass processing: straw baling machinery and bale transporting means. Those agricultural entrepreneurs who would like to purchase equipment on account or on payment by instalment may submit their requests to 2KR, a company that would buy the demanded equipment. The purchasing conditions are identical for all entrepreneurs who will require purchasing the equipment by instalments. Initially the potential recipients will have to pay 40% of the total value of the equipment purchased, and the rest may be settled during the next two years by two equal instalments 30% each.

The loan repayment period is three years. The equipment acquired by lease-purchase will be exempted from VAT, customs charges and bank interest.

For more information please contact:
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SUCCESS STORIES



ENERGEL SUMMER CAMP. It is Cool to be ECO!

80 children from 38 different schools had the opportunity to spend seven days this June in the ECO-themed Energel Summer Camp located in the Ștefan-Voda District. During the one-week camp these children had the opportunity to learn and try new things that others may not do for their entire life.

"I still cannot believe that it only took us one week to produce electricity out of energy from the sun, wind,

water, and biomass. I realised how much energy we can acquire when we manage to do routine things that seem minor at first glance, such as turning off the TV and computer from their standby status, use energy-saving light bulbs, and go to the store with a cloth-made or eco-friendly bag. In other words, be kind with Mother Nature and she will protect you",

Vlada, a school-student from Viisoara Village in the Ștefan-Voda District confessed.

SCHEDULE OF AN ECO SUMMER CAMP

7 June, Thursday,
First Day at Camp

The 80 children arrive to a beautiful and charming location where nature is at your fingertips and you are out of reach from modern information technologies: here cell phone reception is non-existent, and the Internet is on vacation. The children are obviously nervous, being at an ECO Camp for the first time and finding themselves in an adjustment period, but very curious to see what happens next. The preparations for the camp's official opening help them get acquainted with one another more easily. First they set up the ECO-Green Exhibition, and afterward, present their work that had given them the winning ticket to the summer camp. These projects included building schemes of wind turbines, solar collectors and hydropower plants; imitations of biomass-based heating plants; research presented on the benefits generated from using renewable energy sources, posters, etc.



8 June, Friday,
official opening
of Summer Camp
Energel

It is an important day. High-ranking officials from the Ministry of Education, the Energy Efficiency Agency, and the District Council have come along with the Moldovan band FurioSnails! Once the officials arrived in the children's domain, they followed the children's rules: they too were tested on topics including renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. Even Lilian Severin, the lead singer of FurioSnails answered a question. Copies of the textbook "Renewable Energy Sources" were given as prizes for correctly answered questions. This was followed by an open-air FurioSnails concert where everyone sang, danced, and participated in ad-hoc contests. The FurioSnails band members presented CDs with FurioSnails albums, T-shirts with the Band Members' autographs and pictures.

9 June,
saturday

Having witnessed the traditions of a summer camp, the children were grouped into four teams, each with 20 members. The symbolic figure of 20-20-20 is the slogan for the EU Strategy-Commitment to switch to renewable energy, cut the consumption of fossil fuel and increase energy efficiency. Hence, we established four teams named suggestively: Energy, Fire Power, Bio-terra, and Pro-Energy.

10 June,
sunday

Today is a visit to the Green Museum in Stefan-Voda, a Centre for Consulting, Information and Education on Environment. The Director speaks with passion about the environment, global warming, and natural resources of Stefan-Voda. In the evening the children organise a knowledge show titled "What? Where? When?" on alternative energy topics.

11 June,
monday

The first team of 20 children head to Popeasca Village of Stefan-Voda District to visit Mr. Anton Port, Teacher of Physics who has "privatised" the sun, wind, and water for almost 20 years. "I was not married at that time, I had no place to live; yet I knew I would have a wind turbine in my yard", Mr. Port recalls exactly how he was captivated by the idea of producing energy out of wind, water, biomass, and sun. Today those ideas have come true and one can see in Mr. Port's yard two wind turbines that he both designed and built. Everything in his household moves thanks to the energy produced from natural resources: the land plot is irrigated, the fruit and vegetables are chopped, the oil is made, the food is cooked, and the bread is baked on appliances manufactured by him, operated on the basis of solar and wind energy. It all seems unbelievable unless you see it with your own eyes. In fact the kids were even luckier because Mr. Port was their Teacher at the summer camp as well. As soon as they saw him coming to the camp they "swamped" him with questions such as "What height shall a wind turbine have that I would like to make back home? Is it better to use a parabolic mirror with reflection in a point or in a segment? What diameter shall my installation have?" etc. Many of them walked through Mr. Port's household to discover new secrets on "energizing" the forces of Mother-Nature.

12 June,
tuesday

A conference is organized to promote the renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The children make presentations about the power and benefits of green energy and use the energy in cost-saving way, followed by a question and answer session. The campers then have a task of collecting garbage and plastic waste for a fashion show, and present the garments made out of garbage. Of course, the girls and boys from the camp will be showcasing their “modelling” skills.

13 June,
wednesday

Today the children build, along with Mr. Port and other experts in wind energy, a plant for producing electricity out of wind to be installed on the roof of one of the camp living houses. In the evening, the children decide to make Energel – the summer camp and the Renewable Energy Sources Mascot – the main character of a theatre play. The teams compete to create the best tale about Energel with the best passages being selected for the final play involving the campers.

14 June,
thursday

Another full day with everybody going to the town of Stefan-Voda to clean up the stadium and park surrounding it. Although Stefan-Voda is recognized as a clean town, the children managed to collect enough garbage to fill a whole tractor-trailer and a vehicle for garbage collection. “From this action we would like to convince people to dispose their junk to special trash cans or to authorized places, not anywhere they want. A similar initiative organized in our village helped the inhabitants give up the bad habit of throwing the garbage everywhere”, Adrian, a school-student from Talmază Village of Stefan-Voda District stated.

15 June,
friday

Today is a fashion show with clothing made out of PET, plastic cups and plates, garbage bags, and paper. There is also the last rehearsal of the show Energel’s Adventures: a complex play involving 24 young actors as well as final preparations of the actor’s costumes made from fashion show outfits.

16 June,
saturday

The final day at camp and the presentation of the play. “It is a Play where Energel together with his friend Gutta travel with the time-machine in the future and find Moldova in darkness with scarce oxygen and a lot of dust. They meet a Scientist, named CO₂, who brought the country to that dreadful status, and decide they can prevent the disaster. In the end, they have to run from 2210 and return to 2012 where they rearrange items: use renewable energy, cut the consumption of coal and natural gas, and use the energy more efficiently”, Dan, a school-student from Viisoara Village, Stefan-Voda District tells to the audience. After the show, winners the Energel Summer Camp are nominated by the children and rewarded. At the end of each day the children counted the accumulated points, which, being summed up, identified the winners:

First Place, a Laptop	Dan Nastas, Viisoara Village, Stefan-Voda District, 7-th Grade Roman Panzari, Popeasca Village, Stefan-Voda District, 8-th Grade
Second Place, a Photo camera	Ecaterina Dolinschi, Crasnoarmeisocoe Village, Hancesti, 7-th Grade Cristian Stanca, Marandeni Village, Falesti District, 8-th Grade
Third Place, a Memory Stick	Eduard Doncenco, Rascaietii Noi Village, Stefan-Voda, 7-th Grade VII Dumitru Pruteanu, Talmază Village, Stefan-Voda District, 8-th Grade

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The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union and UNDP.