



## ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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## Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Newsletter

### Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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# PROJECT NEWS



## First BIOFORUM in the Republic of Moldova

The first Forum dedicated to the production of bio-fuel and the use of biomass energy in the Republic of Moldova will be conducted on 18 July 2014 in Chisinau. The event organised for the first time in the country will gather together local manufacturers of solid biofuels and managers of public institutions which have been connected to biomass heating systems.

Topics such as biomass potential for the production of energy in the Republic of Moldova; the necessary methods and tools to ensure high quality biomass fuel will be discussed amongst others at this event. An exhibition of solid biofuels manufactured in Moldova will be displayed during the event. Also, the manufacturers will present the test certificate for the fuels produced, which certifies the quality of briquettes and pellets.

The event is organised by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project in partnership with the Energy Efficiency Agency.

## Sumer Camp ENERDEL opens its gates in July

More than 80 children will attend Summer Camp Enerdel from July 8 through July 17 open in Raculesti Village, Criuleni District. The Summer Camp is an initiative launched by the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, currently at its third Edition.

The children come from those rural communities and districts where in the course of 2013-2014 Moldova Energy and Biomass Project installed biomass heating plants at the expense of European funds. For ten days, VII-VIII-grade school children from 13



districts and ATU Gagauz Yeri will learn how to generate energy out of renewable sources and how to use it in the most efficient way. The children attending the Summer Camp will have more interactive and practical activities: they will build up models of PV panels and wind turbines; collect the garbage from the neighbouring villages; visit institutions, households using heat, power and hot water produced on the basis of solar, wind and biomass energy; clean out Ivancea Village; conduct a fashion show where the garments are made out of eco materials; and show a play on renewable energy where children are both producers and actors of the play.

Training sessions and practical lessons will be conducted by teachers of physics, biology with experience in teaching topics on renewables.

Summer Camp "Enerdel" is part of the Educational Initiative aimed at fostering renewable energy sources and energy efficiency launched by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, financed by the EU and co-financed and implemented by UNDP Moldova. The Educational Initiative covers those communities that have their public institutions connected to biomass heating systems within Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. Since the launch of the Project (2011) and up until now, this course has been taught in 352 schools across the country, involving approximately 19,000 school children.

The Educational Initiative on renewables and energy efficiency is conducted in partnership with the Continuing Education Institute and with the Republican Centre for Children and Youth "Gutta-Club".



### SUN DA-I FEST gathered together thousands of advocates of ECO energy

“Stefan cel Mare” Public Garden gathered on 29 June together thousands of people at SUN DA-I FEST – a Festival of ECO technologies and products, culminated with a concert of live music powered by solar energy. The Festival ended a range of events unrolled from June 23 through June 29 within the European Union Sustainable Energy Week. SUN DA-I FEST is organised by the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, the Energy Efficiency Agency and FurioSnails Band.

*“I am impressed by how the European Union Sustainable Energy Week is concluded in the Republic of Moldova. It has been a week during which the attention of thousands of people has been focused on efficient use of energy and on the employment of renewables with the aim to keep our country and Planet cleaner”, Tudor Copaci, Deputy Minister of Economy, present at the event, has stated.*



This is the second Edition of SUN DA-I FEST, the first one being organised last year. The current Edition, along with the live concert with musical instruments powered by solar energy, offered an exhibition of ECO technologies and innovations. Festival participants have had the chance to watch “live” operation of renewable energy technologies (wind turbines, solar collectors, photovoltaic panels, geothermal pumps and biomass boilers) and got acquainted with success stories of people who heat their dwellings with geothermal and biomass energy, light their houses with solar and wind-based energy, and have solar water heating systems. Also, young people – advocates of ECO energy, presented their innovations, which assist us in generating clean energy, cutting down the energy consumption and, thus, lowering the power bill amounts.

*“The European Union Sustainable Energy Week in the Republic of Moldova has brought ECO technologies closer to people who have watched “live” operation of renewable energy technologies, discussed the issue with promoters of green energy. This has been a special week when the Republic of Moldova signed the Association Agreement, which is supposed to help modernise the country”, Whicher Slagter, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Moldova, has mentioned.*





The Festival comprised a Fair where craftsmen impassioned by genuine stuff exposed their handmade decorative items, jewellery, and paintings (created out of natural products) for sale. Eco advocates have had the chance to buy notebooks, pens made out of recycled paper and pasteboard, table clocks powered by water or solar energy, solar chargers for mobile phones, etc. Visitors participated in master classes aimed at recycling waste materials, sewed bags out of advertising banners, coloured a whole urban ward built out of recycled pasteboard. Those people who are fond of rally will have the chance to tour "Stefan cel Mare" Public Garden on four motorbikes driven by solar energy instead of gasoline and Diesel fuel.

*"Pure energy! We have it at Sun Da-i Fest! Clean energy that is available for all: this is one of the UNDP mandates worldwide. The Sun, wind, water, and biomass are reliable energy sources that help us keep our Planet clean. They help us have our own energy produced in our own country. And this means safety, new jobs, new businesses and new investments in Moldova",* Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Resident Representative of UNDP Moldova, asserted.

The Festival has culminated with a concert of live music involving such bands as Concordia, Univox, Laura Bodorin, Winona Ryderz, FurioSnails and Toulouse Lautrec (Romania) who have their musical instruments powered by solar energy.

The photovoltaic panels have been granted, free of charge, by the French Company Solar-Tech, specialised in installing photovoltaic panels in the Republic of Moldova.





### Moldova Energy and Biomass Project opened the European Sustainable Energy Week

The EU-UNDP financed Moldova Energy and Biomass Project and its Partners participated in launching the European Sustainable Energy Week in the Republic of Moldova, comprising interactive activities and “live” shows of power generation based on Mother-nature sources. School students studying the Subject on Renewables presented their eco innovations to the public on 23 June in Stefan cel Mare Public Garden, including:

- A school desk fitted with light and fan without any connection to the power grid;
- A wind turbine built out of a barrel;
- A solar stove for drying fruit;
- A solar umbrella to cook sandwiches;
- Mobile phone batteries, flash-lights powered by solar and wind energy;
- Master-class on the application of drawings on eco-cloth.

Visitors of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project pavilion had the chance to see biofuels manufactured in the Republic of Moldova and drove, free of charge, motorbikes fuelled by solar energy produced by young people.

The European Sustainable Energy Week was conducted under the slogan: “One Small Step for Man. One Giant Leap for Europe” and consisted of actions aimed to promote the renewables and energy efficiency solutions. The events pursued the goal to disseminate the best practices and inspire the people to get new ideas for developing a more sustainable environment.

The Republic of Moldova works actively to strengthen energy efficiency and encourage the use of renewable energy sources and upgrade its energy infrastructure. The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 and the National Renewable Energy Action Plan for 2013 - 2020 set up ambitious targets for promoting sustainable energy within the country in line with the EU targets such as:

- Production of 20% of energy used by the country out of renewable sources by 2020;
- At least 10% of fuels consumption come from biofuels;
- A 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels;

Together we have launched the first Edition of the European Sustainable Energy Week in the Republic of Moldova!

### Leova District holds the leading position by the number of public institutions heated with bioenergy

25 schools, kindergartens and community centres of Leova District will switch to biomass-based heating during the next cold season and will benefit from a single service management unit. These are the key provisions of the first Bioenergy Sector Public-Private Partnership Model launched in Leova District on 28 May.

*The Public-Private Partnership Agreement has signed by Leova District Council and Company “Green-Farm” SRL, selected as winner of the tender organised by the local authority. “We are the first District in Moldova to set up a Public-Private Partnership between the District Council and an economic entity, promoting the development of biomass-based thermal power generation infrastructure and establishing integrated units for its management”, Eufrosinia Gretu, President of Leova District, asserted.*



This year, “Green-Farm” Company will install modern pellet-fired heating plants at 19 public institutions of Leova District, the investment being valued at circa EUR 500,000. Thus, Leova District will hold the leading position by the number of public institutions heated with bioenergy, totalling 25 schools, kindergartens and community centres, including those installed at the expense of the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project resources and of other Partners.

The Company will be in charge for managing the supply of biomass heat, out of our resources, and for proper operation of biomass-fired heating plants installed at 19 public institutions connected to the biomass heating systems, as well as those six district plants already in place. *“We will hire and cover the remuneration of heating plant operators, and ensure the biofuel supply for the entire heating season. Our company produces briquettes and pellets, has experience in installing biomass heating systems, in 2013 we installed such systems in 35 social institutions. Within the Public Private Partnership agreement we will produce annually approximately 6000-9000 GCal of energy per year”*, Valeriu Plesca, Green-Farm Director, mentioned.

The heating plants installed in those 25 public institutions will be managed by the economic entity for an eleven-year period, and the local authorities will pay MDL 997 for each GCal of energy produced out of biomass. Subsequently, Leova District Council will take over the ownership on heating plants.

The Public-Private Partnership has been launch upon the initiative of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. *“One of the key objectives of the Energy and Biomass Project is the creation of a sustainable market in the biomass sector. The public Private Partnership in the biomass heating services can be an efficient example that offers safety, quality and sustainability for the new heating system in Leova district”*, Alexandre Darras, Project Attaché -Manager of the EU Delegation, stated.

The model piloted in Leova represents the first biomass heat supply service in the Republic of Moldova. Leova District has been selected to pilot such a Public-Private Partnership Model following an open tender conducted to this end and subscribed by 12 Districts that brought 15 Project Proposals. *“The Public-Private Partnership Model combines nicely the incentive for the private sector development to provide integrated energy services and meet the needs of beneficiary institutions, i.e. comfortable indoor climatic conditions and reliable heat supply”*, Valeria Ieseanu, UNDP Moldova Programme Analysts, mentioned.



### Biomass Boiler Caravan Has Reached Balti

More than 500 families have enrolled in the Programme aimed to subsidise the procurement of biomass boilers

The mobile exhibition of biomass boilers intended for households has reached Balti on 22 May, after visiting Stefan Voda, Chisinau and Comrat. Thousands of Balti inhabitants have watched “live” performance of biomass boilers, got acquainted with the types of biofuels produced in the Republic of Moldova and learned about the programmes launched by the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

The Caravan has been launched to promote the Programme for subsidising, with EUR 1300, the procurement of biomass boilers manufactured or assembled in the Republic of Moldova, as well as to foster the use of bioenergy as an environment-friendly and economical alternative to traditional natural gas or coal-based heating. Since the launch of the first Caravan in Stefan Voda (April 2014) and up until now, more than 500 families enrolled in the Programme, preferring to heat their dwellings with eco energy.

Serghei Levinta, an entrepreneur from Balti, has a biomass boiler installed within his undertaking and got reimbursed part of the costs incurrent in this regard. *“The boiler I have selected is 100% manufactured in Balti. I am happy I managed to find a perfect alternative to the natural gas or coal-based heating. The figures speak for themselves. Hence, I heated the*

*800-meter enterprise area with pellets for the first time this winter, and I spent circa 4,000 MDL for this purpose each month. For the sake of comparison, I will mention that the costs incurred to heat the same space with natural gas equalled to 16,000 MDL, and to 10,000 MDL for coal heating. Along with the obvious savings I am glad to heat the enterprise with energy produced locally, in the Republic of Moldova”, Serghei Levinta, one of the Beneficiaries of the Subsidising Programme, stated.*

We would like to remind that Moldova Energy and Biomass Project launched the Programme aimed to subsidise the procurement of household biomass boilers in 2013. *“Any family living in small towns has the opportunity to buy pellet/briquette-fired boilers and be reimbursed 30% of the incurred costs from European funds. In March 2014 the Project Coordination Board set up a single reimbursement amount of EUR 1,300 for each boiler purchased. In this way the advanced biomass technologies have become more affordable”, Nicolae Zaharia, Business Development Officer of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, asserted.*

The boilers exposed by the Caravan are manufactured or assembled in the Republic of Moldova by 17 companies accredited under the Subsidising Programme by the Energy Efficiency Agency – the Project Partner in implementing this Programme. These companies portfolio comprises a wide range of boilers manufactured in the Republic of Moldova or assembled locally from parts made by European manufacturers from countries such as Germany, Poland, Czech Republic, Romania, Latvia and Greece.

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