



ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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PROJECT NEWS



Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies and Ideas has been launched within the National Contest Moldova Eco-Energetica

The Award Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies advancing innovative and efficient technologies and the Fair for Funding the Eco-Responsible Project Ideas in the area of Renewables and Energy Efficiency were launched on 28 October 2014 at a public event conducted at the Greenhouse located in Onitcani Village, Criuleni District. These new competitions are part of the National Contest Moldova Eco-Energetica.

"The Business Story of Onitcani is quite impressive for the Republic of Moldova. It is remarkable that the greenhouse is operated with no seasonal breaks, being supplied with biofuel-based energy produced in the Republic of Moldova. This is an example of a business-model in terms of production efficiency due to the use of advanced technologies, and applied energy efficiency and security measures. The development of new businesses like this one makes an



outstanding contribution to developing the Moldovan economy, thus enhancing competitiveness of Moldovan agricultural products on both the domestic and European markets", Andrian Candu, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, mentioned.

The Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies is open for economic entities, public institutions, research institutions that bring modern innovative technologies in the area of renewables and energy efficiency to the market of the Republic of Moldova. The Application files are available at www.aee.md and shall be submitted during 28 October – 28 November 2014. A group of experts will evaluate the submitted applications in two steps: file assessment and site-visit to check the green technologies.

"Developing modern technologies on the Moldovan market is a need. Economic efficiency, environment protection and energy security – these are key elements that help us live safely in our own country. There are things apparently hard to achieve, but not impossible. This greenhouse is a prodigious example of change. Energy security, clean energy and organic products can be found here, and we would like such products to be spread across the country", Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, asserted.

The Fair of Eco-Responsible Ideas is a competition for funding the proposed investment projects (or for expanding the projects already in place) in the area of energy efficiency and employment of renewable energy sources through granting technical and financial assistance aimed at developing/implementing projects in the targeted area. Participants shall present their project proposals in front of potential partners, donors and investors. The Application files are available at www.aee.md.

"How can we achieve a sustainable development – this is a topic featuring on the Agenda of the Republic of Moldova, as well as on the Global Agenda. The Republic of Moldova has brought its significant contribution to two topic areas currently under global debates, i.e. Equity and Green Development – two indispensable parts of the country development", Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, stated.

The Winners of Eco-responsible Companies and Ideas Competition and those of Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest will be awarded at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Awarding Ceremony to be conducted on 5 December 2014.



Moldova Eco-Energetica Awarding Ceremony to take place on 5 December

The City of Chisinau will host Moldova Eco-Energetica Ceremony on 5 December 2014 to award 13 most successful projects using and fostering renewables and energy efficiency. As many as 55 files embarked in the Contest, most of them competing under the categories of Best Solar, Geothermal and Bioenergy Projects. Innovative projects in the use and promotion of renewables and energy efficiency were filed by individuals, public institutions, private entities, representatives of the civil society, Mass-media during the contest period: 5 March – 5 August 2014.

The contest participants submitted their files under nine categories, including 12 subcategories, representing the best ways of using renewables and energy efficiency, as well as their promoting categories.

The submitted files were evaluated by 16 experts grouped in four assessment panels. For each category the evaluators used specific appraisal criteria outlined by the Regulation on organising and holding Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest 2014. Each panel included four experts representing the state agencies working in the area of renewables and energy efficiency, notorious people from the Energy Sector, representatives of the Academia and civil society, journalists, Mass-media and communication officers. The files enrolled into competition were considered in three stages:

1. evaluation of files by the assessment panels;
2. field checking visits conducted for the top three files selected from each category;
3. decision taken by the Coordinating Board.

The Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest 2014 winners will be announced and awarded with trophies and other valuable prizes at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Ceremony to be conducted in Chisinau on 5 December 2014.



Moldova Energy and Biomass Project presented its accomplishments at the Press Club devoted to the EU support granted to the Energy Sector

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project presented its activity results at the Press Club titled “The EU energy sector support provided to the Republic of Moldova – accomplishments, challenges and perspectives”, organised by the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova. Some of the Energy and Biomass Project accomplishments attained during its four years of activity and presented at the Press Club are as follows:

- 144 public institutions from 127 rural communities have been connected to modern biomass heating systems;
- 90,389 people, including 26,835 children, come to premises heated with energy generated in the Republic of Moldova;
- Generation of 300 TJ of heat and cutting down CO2 emissions by 30,000 tonnes annually;
- EUR1 million allocated for the procurement, under leasing conditions, of biomass briquetting/pelleting and shredding/uploading lines;
- 30 businesses launched in the area of biofuel generation in the Republic of Moldova;
- 300 new jobs created thanks to the biomass technologies;
- 600 families have subsidised biomass boilers installed in their dwellings;
- 19,000 school children studied the Course on Renewables and Energy Efficiency;
- 34 champions of the eco-energetic sector were awarded at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Ceremony (2012 and 2013 editions).

“At present, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has been given a three-year extension with the aim to increase the number of beneficiaries, give impetus ad sustainability to the development process and scale-up the activities in the energy and biomass area” – the Press Release stated.



52 schools and kindergartens from the Northern Region will be heated this winter with biomass energy

52 schools, kindergartens and community centres from the Northern Region of the Republic of Moldova be heated this winter with the biomass energy. 30.000 persons will benefit from new heating systems, which have been installed by the Energy and Biomass Project from European Funds. These are some of the Project's results that have been presented on 24th of September in Balti, during the North Regional Development Days, 2nd edition, organised by North RDA.

Energy and Biomass Project has provided, also in the Northern Region, through a leasing mechanism, 4 lines of briquettes and pellets production and 2 sets of biomass processing equipment, contributing to the creation of new business and development of the existing ones.

Also, 100 families from the Northern districts of the Republic of Moldova have installed in their own houses biomass boilers, receiving a reimbursement of 1.300 Euro from European funds.

In the Northern region, as well, is situated a company that has benefited of a financial support of 150.000 Euro for the piloting a co-generation project. Sudzucker Company is capitalizing the waste left after the sugar processing and generates heating energy for the company's buildings, electricity for own consumption, but also for national delivery. Due to this unique project in the country, each year, over 70.000 tonnes of biodegradable waste will be converted in energy.

European Union supports the launch of 30 businesses and creation of 100 new jobs in the biofuel manufacturing sector

30 businesses have been launched and developed further, and circa 100 new jobs have been created in the biofuel manufacturing sector thanks to the Leasing Programme implemented by the Energy and Biomass Project over the period 2012-2014. Agricultural entrepreneurs managed to purchase by instalments, at the expense of European funds, briquette/pellet manufacturing equipment and biomass shredding, baling and transporting machines. The equipment has been provided under advantageous conditions with payment settlement by instalments over three years with 0% commission, 0% interest rate and 0% VAT.

The sawdust-based briquette production line was launched in Ghidighici Commune by two Healthcare Professionals and one Economist back in 2013. The young entrepreneurs started their business in the bioenergy sector and purchased, under leasing conditions, the briquetting line. The business idea came to the mind of one of the colleagues who had a biomass heating system installed at his house. And, after having tested the market of biofuel production, they decided to launch a business in the area of biofuel manufacturing. *"This year the business is getting impetus due to the increasing demand. There are time-periods when we work practically non-stop to meet the requests. People know the benefits of biofuel and give it higher priority relative to coal"*, Roman Smolnitchi, one of the Ghidighici briquette production undertaking founders, mentioned.





The biofuel manufacturing market finds itself at an inception stage although it is growing rapidly. Hence, the number of local briquette and pellet producers increased ten times in the last four years, exceeding now 100. The technical capacity of the briquette and pellet production lines existing now in the Republic of Moldova can already replace the imports of coal – circa 150,000 tonnes in the past periods, for which the amount of approximately MDL 400 million was paid out of the country budget.

“The European Union provides support to the development of the bioenergy sector in the Republic of Moldova through service-oriented measures. Thanks to the investments allocated via the Energy and Biomass Project, 145 schools and kindergartens will enter this cold season having biomass heating systems installed at the expense of European funds, while the biofuel is purchased from domestic producers who have been motivated to launch such a business by the increasing demand as well as by the development programmes, launched by the Project, which are focused on advancing the production of biofuel”, Nicolae Zaharia, Business Development Officer, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, stated.

Based on its mission and expertise, the Energy and Biomass Project is aimed at promoting the establishment of a sustainable biofuel production market, and using the biofuel in both the public and in the residential sectors. As many as 500 families residing in villages and towns across the country have biomass boilers installed at their dwellings, having benefited from a cost refund facility (in the amount of EUR 1,300) at the expense of European means thanks to the Programme launched by the Energy and Biomass Project. This winter, Anatol Fala will heat his house with biomass thanks to the high performance pellet-fired boiler installed at his dwelling. The boiler procurement costs were subsidised from European funds, and he got a refund totalling EUR

1,300. *“Heating the dwelling with locally produced energy ensures its energy security. In winter-time, my family will live in a house heated with biofuel, feeling the same comfort as the felt when the house was heated with natural gas. The boiler I bought with the financial support provided out of European funds is automated: I have remote control over it and I can schedule the indoor desired temperature by day hours and week days”, Anatol Fala, beneficiary of the Programme for subsidising the procurement of biomass boilers, asserted.*

All the information about the Project activities is available at: www.biomasa.md

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project is a four-year project implemented during 2011-2014. The Project total budget equals to EUR 14.56 million, allocated by the EU (EUR 14 million) and UNDP Moldova (EUR 560,000).



Businessmen from the Republic of Moldova to get acquainted with Polish experience on bioenergy development

A group of Moldovan entrepreneurs from the bioenergy sector will travel to Poland for a study tour during 24-28 November 2014. As many as 14 businessmen – representatives of biofuel production companies, biomass boiler manufacturing and assembling undertakings, and Energy Efficiency Agency Officers will visit Polish pellet and briquette manufacturing entities, enterprises manufacturing and supplying biomass boilers to internal and external markets. The visitors will exchange experience with their Polish counterparts, have meetings with entrepreneurs from the bioenergy sector and with the national authorities responsible for the area of renewables and energy efficiency.

This is the third study tour to be conducted by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project for the private sector representatives, the first two study tours being unrolled in the Czech Republic, Poland and Romania during 2013.

HOW TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN HIGH-QUALITY BIOFUELS AND LOW-QUALITY?

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has developed Infographics representing user-friendly biofuel quality testing methods. Please see below the tests you can do on the spot when you have to buy briquettes and pellets.

PELLETS



Place a bunch of pellets in a glass of water.

Quality pellets will keep their shape much longer. Pellet immediate dissolution in the water means poor quality.



High-quality pellets are smooth and hard at touch.

Pellets that crumble upon touch have high humidity and will have low efficiency upon burning.



Vegetal biomass pellets have no harsh odour.

Pellets shall have a neutral odour or a smell associated with the biomass source they were produced from (straw, wood, sunflower, etc.)



Burnt high-quality pellets leave 4% of ash at most.

Such ash is a perfect fertiliser for plants. Large amounts of post-combustion ash denote poor quality of pellets



BRIQUETTES



Leave the briquettes in water for a while. High-quality briquettes sink in the water and dissolve much longer.

Low density briquettes float on the water surface and dissolve pretty quickly.



Drop the briquettes on the floor.

If they crumble then their density is low and you will have to use larger amounts to get the desired temperature.



Low-density briquettes contain less energy; they burn rapidly and give out less heat.



Burnt high quality briquettes leave 6% of ash at most.

Briquettes that leave larger amounts of ash have low heating capacity.



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