



## ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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# Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Newsletter

### Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

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# PROJECT NEWS



**MOLDENERGY 2012**

## THE MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT PARTICIPATES AT MOLDENERGY EXHIBITION

The Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will participate at the MOLDENERGY 2012 Exhibition. The International Specialized Exhibition of power-saving technologies, gas-supply, heating and air-conditioning systems will be held from 14 to 17 March in Chisinau at "Moldexpo".

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will have a public presentation during the works of the exhibition. All persons interested to learn more about the project and to speak to the project experts are invited to approach the project stand.

MOLDENERGY 2012 is at its 16-th edition. In 2011, 50 companies took part at the exhibition. The exhibi-

tion was attended by 10.000 visitors. 90 % of visitors were experts from the energy field.

## THE KINDERGARTEN FROM ERMOCLIA IS HEATED WITH BIOMASS-BASED ENERGY

The kindergarten from Ermoclia, Stefan Voda district, is the first institution heated with energy produced from local agricultural residues, with the support of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. Starting from 2012, 170 children are enjoying the warm premises of the kindergarten heated with energy obtained from biomass. "The rooms are as warm as when we used to heat the kindergarten with gas. The only difference is that heating is twice cheaper now. For example, previously, for a period of 13 days we spent on average 13-15 thousands of lei, but now we only spent 7 thousand lei", says Svetlana Şargarovschi, Director of Ermoclia kindergarten. She already has plans to reinvest the savings for rebuilding the children playground.

The idea to get heated with locally produced energy was seized by Ermoclia authorities from the very first day. Inspired by the successful examples of other communities from the rayon which use biomass for heating, the villagers participated in the competition announced by the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and





co-funded, and implemented by UNDP Moldova. As a result of a rigorous selection and evaluation process, the project submitted by the kindergarten from Ermoclia came to life.

To install the biomass-based heating system, the kindergarten benefited from financial support of about 1 million lei from the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, an investment covering the technical design and construction of new biomass boiler plant, connection of boiler plant to power and water supply nets, construction of external networks for heat distribution, the thermal point, and other works. The community has also contributed by investing 426.000 lei – money used for installation of new double-pane PVC windows and outside doors, additional works at existing heating system, thus increasing the energy efficiency level of the kindergarten building, as well as, building of the storage for baled straw, and other works.

### 3 figures on the advantages of energy from biomass:

1

Only the biomass used for energy purpose - straw, branches and agricultural wastes - can cover up to 20 percent of the total annual energy consumption in the country.

2

The fuel obtained from biomass is equivalent to 70% of imported natural gas.

3

All schools and kindergartens from Moldovan rural communities can be heated with energy obtained from biomass

### Energy can be affordable for everyone

Valeriu LAZĂR,  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy:



*"This kindergarten marks the beginning of wide-scale use of biomass-based fuel in the Republic of Moldova and creates premises for an entire new industry. In addition to reducing the consumption of imported energy sources, we will introduce agricultural waste into economic circuit".*

Dirk SCHUEBEL,  
Head of the European Union Delegation to Moldova:



*"Europe shares with Moldova the recognition that our citizens need a secure supply of energy at affordable prices. That is why EU policy focuses on creating a competitive internal energy market offering quality service at low prices, on developing renewable energy sources, and promoting energy efficiency measures. I am confident that this event will significantly contribute to the promotion of renewable energy in Moldova and it will serve as a catalyst for a wide use of biomass-based fuel in Moldova".*

Kaarina IMMONEEN,  
UNDP Moldova Resident Representative:



*"The kindergarten from Ermoclia is one of the 43 public institutions from the 8 districts of the Republic of Moldova selected in 2011 to benefit from installation of biomass-based heating systems within the framework of the Energy and Biomass Project. In 2012, 12 new districts of Moldova have the chance to heat their schools, kindergartens, and community centers with biomass-based energy. Hence, by 2014, at least 130 rural public institutions throughout Moldova will be heated with locally produced energy. We welcome the commitment of the Republic of Moldova to improve its energy system so that energy is more affordable to everyone".*

### STEFAN VODA DISTRICT IS LEADING ON BIOMASS ENERGY USE



*Biomass boiler in School of Antonesti village*

Stefan Voda district is fully connected to natural gas. Hence, district authorities aim that by the end of the year 25% of consumed energy comes from renewable sources. "Continued increase of natural gas price, low salaries and dependence on external suppliers were the main reasons why the new type of energy became attractive" stated Vasile Buzu, chairman of Stefan Voda district. "I am proud that due to Energy and Biomass Project, 11 villages in the district will heat the schools and kindergartens with energy from biomass" explained V. Buzu.

Two of these communities, Ermoclia and Popeasca, heat the kindergarten and the school since the beginning of the year with locally produced energy. In the other seven villages (*Palanca, Talmaza, Copceac, Olanesti, Viisoara, Rascaieti and Crocmaz*) the works on connecting the heating system to biomass sources have started and shall be finalized by June. The total amount of investment in 11 heating systems in Stefan Voda shall reach 12 million 759 thousand lei, of which 10 million 386 thousand lei are invested by Energy and Biomass Project, and 2 million 212 thousand lei by local communities.

Stefan Voda district is one of the first districts that piloted heating systems using biomass. Four years ago, the lyceum in Antonesti village refused from gas-based heating and switched to biomass sources. The money saved from the payments for biomass heating allowed the community to re-invest this money in installation of biomass heated boilers in the kindergarten and the art center in Antonesti.

The increase of the number of institutions heated with biomass energy resulted in the creation of new businesses, two briquette producing companies already operating successfully in the district.

### MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT LAUNCHED ITS ACTIVITIES IN GLODENI, DONDUSENI, RASCANI AND SOROCA DISTRICTS

In January 2012, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project launched its activities in Glodeni, Donduseni, Rascani and Soroca districts. Mayors, agricultural entrepreneurs, directors of public institutions from district villages attended the public introductory event for the Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by UNDP Moldova.

Rural communities found out details about the conditions that need to be met in order to connect their schools, kindergartens, community centers, and other public institutions to biomass-based heating systems with the support of the Energy and Biomass Project. "All the rural communities are encouraged to harness the opportunity to install efficient biomass-based heating systems in public institutions. The villages participating at the competition will pass through several selection stages, during which they should prove the following: (1) a sound source for biomass based fuel supply and financial resources for fuel purchasing, (2) existence of adequate public buildings to be connected to biomass based heating systems, (3) existence of storage facilities to stock the fuel, (4) community commitment and motivation to access alternative thermal energy sources", affirms Alexandru Ursul, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Manager.

*In 2012, the Energy and Biomass Project will launch its activities in 13 new districts: Donduseni, Floresti, Glodeni, Rascani, Soroca, Anenii Noi, Orhei, Rezina, Soldanesti, Ungheni, Basarabeasca, Cimislia, and Cahul.*



*Launch of Energy and Biomass project in Glodeni*

10/01/2012



It is worth mentioning that in 2011, the first year of the Energy and Biomass Project implementation, 35 villages from 8 districts of the Republic of Moldova (*Stefan Voda, Leova, Cantemir, Hancesti, Telenesti, Sangerei, Falesti, and ATU Gagauz Yeri*) started up projects for installing biomass-based heating systems in schools, kindergartens, and health centers with the project's financial project. As a result, 42 public buildings will be heated with biomass-based energy, over 18.000 persons, of which 8542 children will benefit directly from the new energy source.

The Energy and Biomass Project will be active in all the districts of the Republic of Moldova and will offer numerous benefits for rural communities. By 2014, over 130 rural communities will have sound and sustainable systems of biomass-based energy supply, with potential to be replicated in the whole country. The local energy security and the thermal comfort of many schools, kindergartens, health and community centers will be increased. At the same time, new jobs will be created as a result of establishing new distribution channels for biomass-based fuel at local level, thus contributing to ensuring new income sources and reducing poverty in rural areas.

#### **25 VILLAGES FROM DONDUSENI, SOROCA, RASCANI AND GLODENI DISTRICTS WERE APPROVED FOR FINAL EVALUATION**

41 rural communities from Donduseni, Soroca, Rascani and Glodeni districts expressed the intention to connect their public institutions to biomass heating systems, by sending Letters of Express of Interest to the Energy and Biomass Project. Out of these, 35 communities were found compliant with the minimum selection criteria and have been recommended for review to the Project Selection Committee created in the framework of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. Following the analysis of the offers, 25 communities were approved by the Committee for the final evaluation stage: Glodeni district (*Petrunea, Ustia, Camenca, Fundurii Vechi, Cuhnesti, Cobani*), Donduseni district (*Sudarca, Criscauti, Corbu, Baraboi, Taul*), Soroca district (*Șolcani, Visoca, Schineni, Niorcani, Iorjnita, Badiceni*), Rascani district

(*Duruitoarea Noua, Galaseni, Mihaileni, Borosenii Noi, Saptebani, Alunis, Vasileuti, Stiubeieni*).

The Project Selection Committee of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project consists of representatives from the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Energy Efficiency Agency, UNDP and EU Delegation to Moldova.

#### **TEACHERS FROM MOLDOVA ATTEND A TRAINING COURSE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

Over 70 school teachers and directors from 8 rayons of the Republic of Moldova came to Chisinau to find out more information about renewable energy and energy efficiency. They will be the promoters of the educational initiative regarding renewable energy and energy efficiency, which will be launched during the spring of this year, within the framework of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

The educational initiative will cover, at the beginning, 38 schools from the villages which will connect their public institutions to biomass-based heating systems in 2012, with the support of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union, co-financed and implemented by UNDP Moldova. The initiative will include communities from the following rayons: Stefan Voda, Leova, Falesti, ATU Gagauz Yeri, Cantemir, Sangerei, Hincesti, and Telenesti.

Teachers attended two-days training course, held on 27-28 January, 2012 organized by the Continuing Education Institute and the Republican Center for Children and Youth GUTTA CLUB. Experts in renewable energy and educational science presented the teachers the relevant information about the alternative sources of energy, energy efficiency, as well as about modern educational techniques to present the knowledge about renewable energy and its potential for the community, institutions, and families in an interactive and participatory manner.



"It is necessary for the school, through teachers, family, and society to develop constructive actions for the young generation to rationally use natural resources and to harness the renewable energy sources", stated Mariana Goras, Deputy Head of Preschool, Primary and Secondary Education Division, Ministry of Education.

During March – May, over 2.600 of students from the 7th and 8th grades will be involved in different educational activities dedicated to renewable energy and energy efficiency: debates, discussion clubs, excursions, on-line lessons, watching and discussing movies related to alternative energy, exhibitions, competitions of projects about the respective topic, and other.

"It is not only about new knowledge regarding the respective topic. Children will have the chance to see what renewable energy is, especially biomass, how a heating system based on agricultural waste operates in the school, kindergarten, or community center from their village. They will find out the real benefits of accessing alternative sources of energy and will be the promoters of the new energy in their

community, family, circle of friends and relatives. They will become advocates of alternative energy in Moldova", said Natalia Halaim, teacher of biology and coordinator of the SPARE (School Project for Application on Renewable Energy) in Moldova.

#### **EACH HOUSEHOLD HAS ENOUGH BIOMASS TO HEAT THE HOUSE DURING THE WINTER TIME**

"People using natural gas are more likely to change their heating solution to biomass-based one", "An average household produces ≈3t./year of biomass suitable for energy production purposes", "The possibility of collecting and processing available "waste biomass" can cover heating and hot water production costs for 80 m<sup>2</sup>". These are some of the findings of an in-depth survey of current household heating systems in use and an analysis of biomass based energy efficient domestic heating systems, available equipment domestically and internationally and the potential for application in Moldova. The survey results will be presented at a public event. The study covered 1,300 rural households in all districts of Moldova.

### **MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT LAUNCHING SCHEDULE FOR 2012**

<b>January</b>	Glodeni, Donduseni, Rascani, Soroca
<b>April</b>	Ungheni, Orhei, Rezina, Soldanesti, Floresti
<b>July</b>	Basarabasca, Cimislia, Cahul, Anenii Noi

### **PROJECT EVENTS CALENDAR**

<b>March 21</b>	Training on "Biomass baling, briquetting and pelleting" in Balti for entrepreneurs from MEBP districts: Falesti, Telenesti and Singerei
<b>March 23</b>	Project Selection Committee, evaluation of project proposals for investments in communities from Glodeni, Donduseni, Rascani, Soroca districts
<b>April 12</b>	Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Board meeting

### **MOLDOVA ENERGY AND BIOMASS PROJECT LAUNCHING SCHEDULE FOR 2012**

Design and construction of biomass heating systems in Moldova, deadline **26 March, 16.30:**

<http://www.undp.md/tenders/details/502/>

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