



NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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Guvernul Republicii
Moldova



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60 initiatives from local communities for connection to biomass heating systems are to be evaluated



60 initiatives from local communities were selected in a call for proposals for local public authorities, during July 5–20, to be evaluated for connecting public institutions to solid biomass heating systems. The decision was taken by the Energy and Biomass Project Selection Committee, which has 9 members – representatives of ministries and relevant institutions, as well as donors.

The 60 applications for the installation of biomass boilers and solar panels, which were submitted by public institutions, will be participatively evaluated by community members and presented to the Selection Committee for investment phase approval. The applications elaborated by local communities will be analyzed according to certain selection criteria,

including capacity to mobilize the community and local resources so as to contribute with 15% of the total project cost, technical feasibility of the selected premises, capacity of the community to supply enough quality biofuel, appropriate biofuel storage capacity, involvement of the community in the development of the Project Application and cost estimation, and motivated staff in the boiler room in order to ensure the sustainable operation of the heating system.

It should be noted that the Energy and Biomass Project II has installed 29 solid biomass heating systems with EU funding, while 27 beneficiaries of the Energy and Biomass Project I will receive funding to install solar panels to heat up water.

Moldovan vocational schools offer new vocational programmes – Forestry, Energy Plants and Biomass Boiler Operation



The biofuel market has rapidly developed over the past years, offering state of art technologies, which require qualified staff in areas, which, until recently, were not studied in the Moldovan vocational schools. Hundreds of new attractive jobs were created, from processing of agricultural biomass to production, installation and operation of biomass boilers.

To help the country keep pace with these developments, the Energy and Biomass Project encouraged the vocational schools in Orhei and the Cuhurestii de Sus village in the Floresti rayon to introduce the pilot module Energy Plants – a Renewable Energy Source and the vocational school no.3 in Chisinau – the Solid Biofuel Heating Systems module.

Besides acquiring theoretical knowledge, the students enrolled in these programmes have direct access to modern technologies, as these schools have and use their own biomass heating systems. Energy plants – willow and energy acacia – were planted on several hectares in Orhei and Cuhurestii de Sus. The plantations of willow and energy acacia will be maintained by the school's students and will support the theoretical knowledge they will gain from the new Energy Plants – a Source of Renewable Energy module introduced for future foresters. When mature, the energy willow will be used to heat the cafeteria of the Orhei school. To be

able to do that, the school in Orhei will receive a chipper to chip the willow stems to turn them into fuel and a solid biofuel production line. The bio fuel will be used for the new heating system expected to be installed at the vocational school, the total investments exceeding 100,000 Euro granted by the European Union under the Energy and Biomass Project.

There are many businessmen who would like to start this kind of business with energy plantations in Moldova, but because it is a new industry, they face lack of qualified professionals. The new course responds to the new market demand and supports the development of a new branch in the biomass energy sector, Vladimir Bragaru, owner of the first energy plantation in Moldova, says.

At the same time in the vocational school no.3 in Chisinau a modern laboratory was installed and connected to the biomass heating system. It was equipped with real-time operating biomass boilers of different technologies.

The studies cover the full process, enabling the students to learn the full production cycle – from planting and maintenance of energy plants to the processing of biomass on own briquetting lines and heating the school with biomass.

Vocational school teachers received training to teach new courses



From August 15 to 19, the Biomass and Energy Project delivered training to 10 teachers from the vocational schools in Cuhurestii de sus, Floresti and Orhei to teach the new biomass energy related modules, thereby responding to the demand of qualified staff in the developing energy industry.

It should be noted that since September 1 this year these schools have been offering two pilot courses *Energy Plants – a Renewable Energy Source* and *Solid Biofuel Heating Systems*.

PURE
DROP

Sweden's per-capita consumption of wood pellets is more than 20 times that of the United States. If every American consumed as many wood pellets as every Swedish citizen does, pellet consumption in the U.S. would soar to over 60 million tons annually, instantaneously tripling the total global market.

Journalists are invited to training in best practices for reporting on biomass fuel



The Energy and Biomass Project invites local journalists to apply for the training course on efficient reporting of and professional approach to the issues related to the energy sector and promotion of renewable energy sources, especially biomass, nationwide.

Who? The journalists will be trained by two national experts: Oleg Stiopca – technical expert in energy and biomass and Ludmila Andronic – journalism and communication expert, who will help them get a better understanding of the status of the energy sector in Moldova, how various technologies can be implemented to reduce the country's dependence on the external energy sources and, in particular, of the use of biomass as the most important alternative source of energy for our country.

When? 16 – 18 September 2016.

Where? Costesti Tourist Complex, Costesti village, Ialoveni rayon.

Remember: For two and a half days the participants will have the opportunity to learn about the stages/steps taken in this sector at national level, and about the news and trends internationally. They will also be engaged in role plays, practical exercises and study visits to private companies and public institutions, which have already implemented the new biomass technologies, and at the end of the training the participants will be able to:

- Write media materials about biomass from the economic, social, environmental and innovational perspective, using specific terminology and content;
- Evaluate the possibility of implementing various energy forms in order to reduce the dependence on the external energy sources;
- Identify web resources and make the information user-friendly for the players in the biomass energy sector;
- Use the „zoom out" and „zoom in", "story telling" techniques when writing articles etc.
- After the training, the journalists will write an article about the study visit they will undertake during the training, which they will publish/broadcast.

To apply send your CV and your own material on this issue (optional) to the following email galina.garaba@communications.md.

The participants' travel expenses will be reimbursed based on the travel ticket. The training course is free of charge. Accommodation, food and all the necessary training materials will be provided.

46 applications have entered Moldova Eco Energetica 2016 Contest



46 applicants, including individuals, public institutions, private companies, representatives of the civil society and mass media, responded to the call for applications that was open from March 5 to August 5 and have entered the Moldova Eco Energetica 2016 Contest with innovative projects related to the use and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The applications will be reviewed by five evaluation panels made of independent experts and representatives of relevant government agencies operating in the renewable energy and energy efficiency sector. The evaluation will be a thorough, transparent, professional and deliberative process, consisting of three stages:

Stage I: Desk evaluation;

Stage II: Evaluation on-site;

Stage III: Evaluation by the Board and final decision.

The winners of Moldova Eco Energetica 2016 will be announced and awarded during the Moldova Eco Energetica Gala to take place on December 2, 2016.

Moldova Eco Energetica has reached its sixth edition this year. It is the biggest contest to reward successful renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives and its goal is to support the best initiatives in efficient production, transmission, distribution and consumption of renewable energy, as well as in the development and promotion of modern renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and innovations.

For more information about Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest visit the website www.mee.md

Moldova Eco Energetica Contest is organized by the Energy Efficiency Agency under the auspices of the Ministry of Economy at the initiative and in partnership with the Energy and Biomass Project Moldova.

Moldovan young people bring renewable energy in their communities and families



Imagine a windmill that combines technologies used since the Middle Ages with the most modern research. It is efficient and doesn't pollute the environment since it doesn't produce CO₂. Imagine it also saves money that would otherwise be spent on electricity.

Fourteen-year-old Denis from Baurci village in southern Moldova went beyond imagining. He designed a prototype.

"I made it from waste or readily available materials, such as polystyrene, cardboard, ice-cream sticks, bottle caps, etc. I will show it to my schoolmates and tell them more how to protect the environment through the use of renewable energy," explains Denis as he shows his invention.

Passionate about green energy, Denis created a little green world/master studio at home, where he builds wind turbine, solar panel and biomass boiler mock-ups. He dreams that one day he will be able to turn his prototypes into functional devices to make life easier and more sustainable for those he loves.

Denis designed his windmill prototype at the fifth ENERGEL, a summer school organized by the [Energy and Biomass Project](#).

The 10 days of summer school were full of activities. Young energy promoters took part in interactive activities, debates, waste upcycling masterclasses, construction of green technology prototypes, cleaning of green spaces in the surrounding areas and many other green energy activities. They even conducted experiments to generate electricity from citrus fruits or pickled cucumbers.

Fourteen-year-old Ana Maria, fond of upcycling, transformed her old jeans into two eco bags. She also coached others on how to use their creativity to make use of unwanted stuff. At the end, a pile of garbage was transformed into a small exhibition: vases, cups, plates, eco bags and wallets.

"It is amazing how every year ENERGEL demonstrates how important sustainable energy is for the planet and how entertaining it can be. Each of us can be part of the process to change the way we use energy, in which children have a key role to play," believes Pirkka Tapiola, the EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.



Since ENERDEL summer school was launched in 2012, more than 330 children from across Moldova have attended. They all studied the Renewable Energy Sources curriculum, a new course launched at schools in communities where the Energy and Biomass Project had installed biomass heating systems.

The curriculum teaches children in 7th and 8th grades how the sun, water, plants and wind can protect the planet and increase the country's energy security. The first learning course on energy efficiency in the school programme, it introduces the issue of energy efficiency and renewables in an engaging way.

In 2013, the Ministry of Education introduced a Renewable Energy Sources curriculum for the 5th to 9th grades as an optional course for schools throughout Moldova. Since then, the number of schools that joined this educational initiative has tripled. More than 22,000 students from 370 schools have become green energy promoters.

"I am inspired by the children's excitement and by how much they know about renewable energy. The solutions they come up with to use renewable

energy and keep the environment clean are impressive. Thanks to these enthusiasts, we can progress more in achieving one of the major Global Goals to improve everyone's access to accessible, viable, sustainable and modern energy," says Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Moldova.

Having this educational opportunity, through both the curriculum and the summer schools, is an important step towards engaging young people around a significant issue in Moldova. Back home, young people act as promoters of green energy and engage their peers in activities like cleaning, innovation master classes, debates and workshops.

Some of them have already made their career choices: they will become green energy engineers or environmentalists.

The 2015–2017 Energy and Biomass Project is a three-year project funded by the European Union and implemented by UNDP. It is the second phase, building on the success of the original project launched in 2012.

The Newsletter is produced by the Energy and Biomass Project II. The project has a total budget of 9.41 million euros, granted by the European Union and it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme during 2015–2017.

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

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