



NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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Ungheni district council enters into public-private partnership agreement on biomass heat supply



The first public-private partnership agreement under the second phase of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project (MEBP) was signed between Ungheni district council and Green Energo. The latter is expected to install two biomass heating systems, take over the management of 5 boilers running on briquettes and implement energy efficiency measures in public premises. The total investments will amount to 3.3 mln MDL, and the construction works will start this year.

This is the first of the five tenders announced in the districts selected by MEBP and Energy Efficiency Agency for PPPs for biomass heat supply services. MEBP will provide 100 thousand USD to the local government of each of the five districts to establish PPPs in order to address, among other things, the

issue of the fuel quality, sustainability of the heat supply services and energy security of the beneficiary localities/institutions, while contributing to local development by creating new jobs and increasing the incomes to the local budgets.

The EUR 9.41 mln MEBP II is a three year project, funded by the EU and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme, which started in 2015 and is expected to end in 2017. It is a continuation of the first phase that was implemented between 2011 and 2014 with a total budget of 14.56 mln. EUR granted by the European Union (14 mln EUR) and UNDP (560 000 EUR).

About 70 managers of public institutions learned how to make proper arrangements for public procurement of biofuel



About 70 managers of public institutions, directors of schools and kindergartens, mayors and representatives of district councils received training in proper application of the procedures of public procurement of biofuel. The training sessions started in July and were held in Chisinau, Cimislia, Balti, Cahul and Edinet.

The participants learned new methods of sustainable procurement of solid biofuel, including how to prepare the technical specifications, hold the public tender, and evaluate bids. All the trainees received a Guide to Biofuel Procurement and a package of document templates that may be used during the procurement procedure.

The Guide to Biofuel Procurement was published by the Energy and Biomass Project to make it easier for the project beneficiaries that installed biomass boilers in more than 190 schools, kindergartens and public institutions to procure biofuel.

The Guide to Biofuel Procurement underpins the new public procurement law, which became effective on May 1, 2016.

It explains the legal terms that are used in the procurement process, such as the types of tenders and the contracts stipulated in legislation, tender threshold levels, and teaches readers, among other things, how to prepare the technical specifications of biofuel, evaluate the bids based on the energy content of biofuel, how to draft and manage contracts, and how to do the laboratory testing of biofuel.

32 public institutions qualify for final evaluation



On October 21, 2016 the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project (MEBP) evaluation panel selected for final evaluation 32 out of 46 project applications for installation of biomass heating and/or solar collectors with EU funding, rejecting 8 project proposals because they did not meet the eligibility criteria. Other 6 applications were included in the waiting list. The approved 32 project proposals will be subjected to the final evaluation by MEBP consultants, including the energy efficiency experts, in November 2016.

The MEBP evaluation panel has 9 members designated by ministries and major industry institutions and development partners, more specifically the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, the Ministry of Regional Development and Constructions, the Ministry of Education, the Energy Efficiency Agency, the Energy Efficiency Fund, the EU Delegation to Moldova, UNDP Moldova, and MEBP.

The first thing that a community should do to apply for EU funding provided through the Energy and Biomass Project is to send a letter of intention. After that, the local committees develop the project proposals for installation of biomass heating systems (and, where appropriate, solar collectors). The MEBP experts evaluate the energy performance of the selected buildings and recommend the technical parameters of the renewable energy technologies and what to do to improve the energy efficiency of the buildings. The final evaluation of the project proposals submitted for financing will focus on the mobilization of local funds, availability of biofuel, technical and energy feasibility of the buildings to be connected to heating systems using bioenergy and solar energy and proper estimation of the project budgets.

See below the 32 project proposals, which qualified for final evaluation:

No	District	Village	Institution	Area, m2
1	Cantemir	Ghitosu	primary and nursery schools	295
2		Enichioi	nursery school and the physicians' office	972
3	Căușeni	Chircăieștii Noi	nursery school and the village hall	711
4		Baurci	nursery school	185
5		Taraclia	social center	357
6	Criuleni	Cruglic	nursery school	720
7		Pașcani	nursery school	1370
8	Dondușeni	Moșana	middle school	1048
9		Pocrovca	middle school	795
10	Edineț	Tîrnova	middle school	2170
11	Fălești	Făleștii Noi	middle school	2200
12	Florești	Gvozdova	nursery school	337
13	Glodeni	Ciciulea	middle school	1723
			nursery school no.1	645
14		Cobani	nursery school	532
15				
16	Hîncești	Obileni	nursery school	1496
17	Leova	Cneazevca	nursery school	600
18	Nisporeni	Iurceni	nursery school	1145
19	Ocnîța	Unguri	middle and nursery schools	1377
20	Rezina	Mateuți	nursery school	515
			village hall and public library	482
21		Pripiceni-Răzeși	healthcare facility	515
22				482
23	Sîngerei	Chișcăreni	village hall	730
24		Sîngereii Noi	school gym	902
25	Strășeni	Lozova	nursery school	3385
26		Vorniceni	village hall	594
27	Ștefan Vodă	Caplani	nursery school	1136
28		Copceac	nursery school	1114
29	Ungheni	Buciumeni	nursery and middle schools	1982
30		Bușila	nursery school	1649
31	Taraclia	Ciumai,com. Vinogradovca	vocational school no. 13	6777
32	UTAG	Cazaclia	community center	980

„Biomass energy popularly explained” workshop for journalists in the North region



WHAT? The Energy and Biomass Project invites the representatives of the local mass media to register for the green energy workshop Biomass energy popularly explained, which aims to promote the professional media coverage of issues related to renewable energy sources, particularly biomass.

WHO? The journalists will be assisted 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, what technologies can be implemented to reduce the country's dependence on the external energy sources and, in particular, how biomass, which is the most important alternative source of energy for our country, can be used. The event will also be attended by Moldovan officials responsible for the development of the energy sector and representatives of biofuel producers and donors that are active in the renewable energy sector.

WHEN? 04 – 06 November 2016.

WHERE? Florentina Hotel, 228 Independentei str., Edinet.

REMEMBER! For two and a half days the journalists 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;
- assess the possibility to implement 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.

This is the third and the last biomass energy workshop for journalists. The first two sessions were held in Comrat and Costesti for the journalists in the South and Center regions.

Training center for biomass boiler operators to open in Moldova



A training center will be established in Moldova at the initiative and with the support of the Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), to deliver ongoing and qualified training to the Moldovan operators of biomass heating systems.

There are more than 200 schools, kindergartens, community centers and more than 1 000 households and tens of companies in Moldova using biomass heating systems, which require qualified maintenance.

„This initiative aims at ensuring the sustainability of the interventions of the Energy and Biomass Project after completion. The operators of biomass heating systems that have been installed with the project support are being trained and consulted by the experts and companies that installed the heating systems, and it is critical that this training continues both for the current and the future operators”, says Lina Acalugaritei, ca-

pacity development officer, Energy and Biomass Project.

The Energy and Biomass Project invited public and private institutions to join the competition for the selection of the national partner that will establish the first Training Center for operators of combined and solid biofuel heating systems. The project will grant 25 000 USD to the winning institution, which will also provide co-financing of at least 30% of the grant.

To join the competition, the institutions had to meet the following minimum eligibility criteria:

- To represent a public or private institution;
- Experience in organization of relevant training;
- Good knowledge and understanding of the biomass energy sector in Moldova;
- Demonstrate a good understanding of energy production with the help of solar systems;

- Demonstrate a good understanding of the legal procedures for the establishment of the Training Center and accreditation procedures;
 - Past experience of working with international organizations, in particular UNDP (is an asset).
- The deadline for submission of applications was October 17. The winner will be publicly announced. The project proposals must comply with several requirements concerning the establishment of the Training Center and training delivery:
- before the Training Center's curriculum gets the accreditation of the Ministry of Education, it will need a preliminary operation authorization/ accreditation from the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Vocational Education;
 - the training offer must contain district-level or at least regional-level training;
 - the duration of the training courses must not be less than 40 hours, including 16 hours of practical training with direct access to solid biofuel technology;
 - The training services will be contracted by local governments and public institutions that will delegate operators to training. Given that the goal is to ensure the sustainability of the training center it is critical that the price offer for the training services takes this into account.
- The costs of the training services will be covered by the local governments or the local public institutions.

Managers of public institutions and representatives of local governments to visit the Czech Republic

Between November 20 and 26, 2016 ten representatives of the local public administration and managers of public institutions that have been using solid biofuels as a heating source for at least two years and received EU funds from the Energy and Biomass Project for this purpose will undertake a visit to the Czech Republic to learn and adopt the best EU practices in the management of heating systems running on solid biofuels and to learn new efficient management models. The trip will be organized by the Biomass and Energy Project financed by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

They will visit Prague and Trebic, where biomass is widely used as fuel. Moreover, the Czech Republic is one of the main producers of biomass boilers, the products of which are offered by the Moldovan distributors. The managers of public institutions will have the opportunity to participate in the International Biomass Conference in Trebic organized by the Czech Biomass Association, visit schools, rural communities and small towns to see how the procurement processes and biofuel supply takes place, what are the quality requirements and other information that is important for the smooth operation of the institution.



"Moldovan localities can start piloting production of biofuel from urban biomass waste"

Liliana Nichita

international expert on waste management

In October, the international expert contracted by the Energy and Biomass Project, Liliana Nichita, made an assessment of whether it is possible to use in Moldova the biomass from household waste for energy purposes. To conduct this study the expert visited nine localities all across the country – the towns of Rezina, Cimislia, Orhei, Hincesti and Lipcani and the villages of Congaz, Gura Galbena, Peresecina and Chiscareni. The decision to pilot the production of biofuel from biomass waste will depend on the conclusions of the final report prepared by the expert and the feedback of the MEBP partners. In this interview for the Energy and Biomass Project Newsletter, Mrs. Nichita shares her findings and recommendations for the Republic of Moldova.

You visited 9 localities to conduct the study of the household waste and assess the potential of biomass resource. What are your main findings?

Between October 4 and 19 I visited several Moldovan localities in order to assess the biomass potential in the household waste to possibly organize in future their separate collection and use to produce fuel. The people, in general, except for the people in the rural areas, where they have orchards and prune the trees, don't generate household waste that contains biomass. However, in all the localities, especially in the urban areas, the municipal companies prune the parks and the green spaces and, therefore, the branches that are removed is biomass waste. In Orhei there is

a private company that does these things. In general, the local authorities are interested in using this waste and there are even some places where a pilot project can be launched jointly with the village hall and the municipal company.

Another objective of the study is to assess the waste collection services. Certainly, from this point of view, the towns are much more ahead of the urban areas, especially the towns that received assistance from international projects or the Regional Development Agencies. Moreover, some municipal companies are better equipped than others, but Orhei and Hancesti towns have the most successful waste collection systems. There is a waste facility which meets the standards in Hancesti. In Orhei, in turn, even if it has no authorized waste facility, the place is well maintained and managed.

As for the other landfills across the country, things have to be changed. There, in one place one can find different types of waste, especially construction materials, recyclable waste – plastic products (which are very visible) and less organic waste, in particular in the rural areas. The waste containers or waste disposal machinery are either lacking or are not enough. I have noticed that people always try to do good things with what they have at hand; they improvise, fix and use their resourcefulness to offset the resources that are lacking.

Is a pilot project for using biomass from household waste for energy purposes possible?

Today the raw biomass resulted from tree pruning anyway has to be managed by the relevant municipal companies. The only costs these companies incur are related to tree pruning and transportation. The pilot project aims to build a facility to produce solid fuel from biomass, which will supply heat to the municipal company, and what is left will be sold to public institutions or even to the private sector. Another benefit of this initiative is that the public institutions that use biomass heating will no longer need to stockpile biomass, because it will be supplied by the municipal companies.

We spotted two possible places for such projects – Rezina, where there is enough biomass potential for a steady supply of raw material for the smooth operation of a facility, and Cimislia. In both of them, the local governments are willing to implement such projects, and even if the available facilities are not the most appropriate ones, they are enough to start the projects. Finally, the heating systems in the two localities badly need upgrading. In Rezina, for instance, the municipal company uses wood heating. In Cimislia it uses power heating. The switch to solid biofuel heating will improve the operation of the companies and reduce the heating

costs. After some time, the specialized companies in the two localities will receive additional incomes from selling the biofuel, which will help them develop.

What is Romania's experience in this sector?

Romania launched several projects back in 2000, but they used the waste from sawmills and wood processing facilities. Besides turning the sawdust into biofuel, they also cleaned the rivers and built the first biomass boilers in a couple of localities. Such projects are most efficient in the rural areas, where there are many holiday houses, where it is worth using biomass rather than connecting to the gas network.

When are these two pilot projects expected to start? Can they be replicated in other localities?

The sooner they start the better. Some estimates have yet to be done to identify the best places for such facilities and hopefully the projects will start the next year. Except for Chisinau and Balti municipalities, such projects can be replicated all across the country. The focus should be, however, on the localities with some experience, where there is demand for biofuel, so as to reduce the transportation costs. After two or three years of these projects, as an example of good practice, other localities might follow suit.

PURE DROP

Despite the general impression, the forest areas in Europe are expanding with about 323 thousand hectares per year, which is equal to a football ground per minute. This is why the fuel generated by solid biomass is the most accessible energy source in Europe.

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