



NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY AND BIOMASS

CONTENT



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Guvernul Republicii
Moldova



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Energy and Biomass Project has launched a series of final meetings with Project's beneficiaries



Moldova Energy and Biomass Project launched a series of final meetings with Project's beneficiaries. The Project will organize public meetings in every district of the R. Moldova with managers of public institutions connected to biomass heating systems from the European funds, mayors of communities that switched to green energy, biofuel producers, and energy managers.

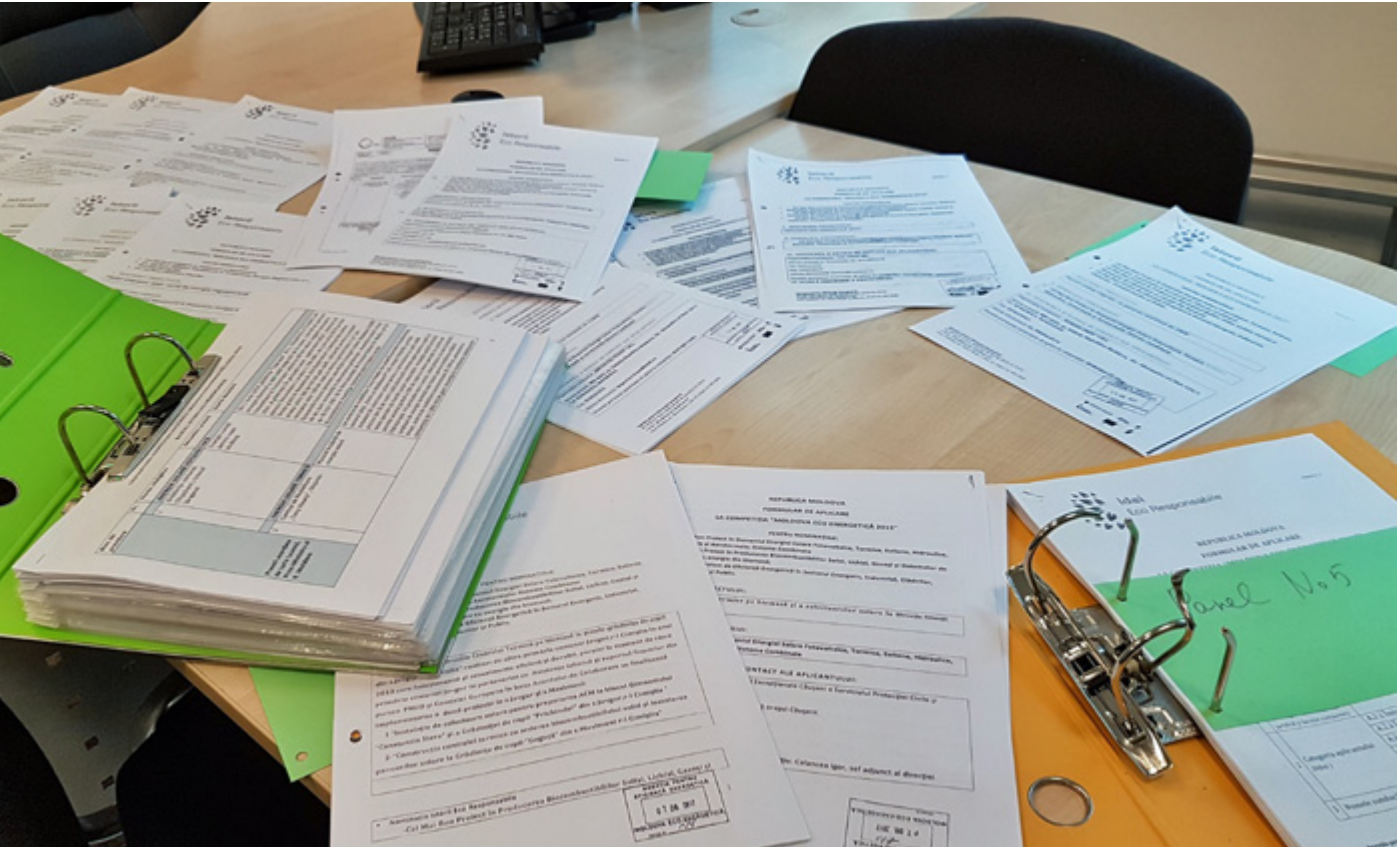
The Project experts will present the outcomes of Energy and Biomass Project activity in the country and in each district. In turn, the beneficiaries of biomass heating systems will share the success stories and lessons learnt in using locally produced energy. The beneficiaries will receive a roadmap with actions and relevant contact details, which will help them ensure proper operation of biomass heating systems.

The beneficiaries from Ștefan Vodă and Telenești districts met in October. The meeting calendar can be accessed under Events tab on www.biomasa.md.

Currently, 207 schools, kindergartens, community centers from all districts of the R. Moldova are connected to biomass heating systems. Over 190.000 persons benefit of safe, locally produced energy.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, phase II, is a three year project implemented in 2015–2017. The total budget of the Project is 9,41 million Euro funded by the European Union and is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It is a continuation of Project's Phase I implemented in 2011–2014, with a total budget of 14,56 million Euro, funded by the European Union (14 million Euro) and UNDP (560 000 Euro).

Evaluation of files submitted to Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition



35 files submitted to Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition, 2017 Edition, compete for the title of the Best Project in using or promoting renewable energy sources and energy efficiency. The files were submitted by individuals, public institutions, private companies, mass media and NGOs.

The names of first three finalists that compete for awards are already known. The winners of trophies will be selected after the field verification visits and their approval by the Coordination Board of Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition. The files of participants are assessed by 18 experts, grouped in five appraisal panels. The evaluation and selection process of winners is supervised by the Coordination Board of Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition. The winners will be announced and awarded at Moldova Eco-Energetica Gala, 2017 Edition, which is held traditionally at the beginning of December.

The files submitted by category, are assessed in three stages: (1) consideration of files by the evaluation panels, (2) verification field visit, and (3) decision of the Coordination Board of Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition. Every submitted file is assessed based on specific evaluation criteria for each category, which are included in the [Regulation on Competition Organization](#).

Decisions of Coordination Board are adopted based on the majority vote of the present members. The members of the Coordination Board cannot vote for projects where they were donors, co-founders, co-initiators or involved in their implementation. The Coordination Board consists of 11 members, who represent the line ministries, local authorities, civil society, academia and donors.

Moldova Eco-Energetica Gala is announced for the 8 of December



The 2017 energy sector winners will be awarded prizes at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Gala to be held on 8 December 2017. The award ceremony will culminate the number of events dedicated to eco-energy sector to be organized on the 6-7 of December.

The events aim at supporting the most important initiatives in the field of efficient energy production and

consumption, modern technologies implementation, development and promotion, as well as innovations in the given field. These are going to be accompanied by an exhibition dedicated to modern technologies in the field of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The Agenda of events can be found at www.mee.md and www.biomasa.md.

Free training courses for operators of biomass heating plants installed with support of Energy and Biomass Project.



87 operators of biomass heating plants installed with European funding under the Energy and Biomass Project, have passed a set of training courses at the Construction Excellence Centre. The 40-hour courses are free of charge and are intended for the beneficiaries of the Energy and Biomass Project. By the end of November, 50 operators will improve their knowledge of green technologies usage.

The training courses take place at the Operators Training Centre established with the support of the Energy and Biomass Project. The centre is equipped with biomass heating plants fuelled by two types of biofuel (briquettes and pellets), as well as with solar collectors connected to green heating systems. "The technologies operate in real time mode, so that operators learn practical issues related to the proper management of the equipment. We have supported the establishment of this centre in order to ensure operators' access to training after

project's completion", stated Lina Acălugăriței, capacity development specialist for the Energy and Biomass Project.

The trainings are carried out by experts and practitioners from renewable energy sector. "The operators are taught how to organise their workplace to secure safe operations of the biomass heating plant, how to efficiently manage the heating system and ensure its maintenance, what actions should be undertaken in case of a system failure and how to check the quality and the compliance of the biofuel, depending on the heating plant. The operators also learn how to properly maintain the solar systems for hot water production", noted Andrei Binzari, specialist at the Training Centre.

The Operators Training Centre was set up in December 2016 under the Construction Excellence Centre, an institution accredited by the Ministry of



Education, Culture and Research to provide training on management of biomass heating plants and solar systems meant to produce domestic hot water.

"When the biomass heating plant was put into operation, I was concerned about how to handle so many buttons and how to cope with all maintenance steps. Everything that is new scares you at first. The on-site trainings held at the heating plant were very useful for me. But you still face unusual situations throughout the maintenance process. The seminars conducted at the Training Centre helped me find answers to all my questions. And the experience shared by colleagues from other schools and kindergartens, whom I met at the training, was of great help to me", said Nicolae Enache, operator at the heating plant in the village of Bratuleni, Nisporeni district.

Over 200 public institutions in the Republic of Moldova have been connected to biomass heating systems and 1,000 households are heated by green energy thanks to the support of the Energy and Biomass Project,

funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

More information about the Operators Training Centre is available [here](#).

The Energy and Biomass Project, stage II, is a three-year project implemented throughout the period 2015-2017. The Project has a total budget of 9.41 million Euros allocated by the European Union and it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It follows up the first stage of the project, implemented in 2011-2014, with a total budget of 14.56 million Euros, provided by the European Union (14 million Euros) and the UNDP (560 000 Euros).

For more details about the Energy and Biomass Project, biomasa.md or the [Facebook profile](#).

Video story about the Operators Training Centre is available [here](#).

Ludmila Abramciuc: We all started in garages but, thanks to the EU, we reached a new qualitative level



Ludmila Abramciuc and her husband Ivan Damaschin launched their business in 2008, back when biofuel was a novelty in Moldova and a market for it didn't exist. Now, in 2017, they can produce enough biofuel to heat almost 80 schools. *"If back when we were starting up our business, people were asking what briquettes were, now consumers know the types of briquettes and thoroughly choose the product that suits them best"*, says Ludmila Abramciuc.

The family company "Ecobricheta" LTD is located in Balti municipality and provides biofuel for the northern part of the country. During 9 years, the company has changed several locations, and this year bought a 5,000 square meters' workshop in one of the industrial areas of the city. Now, they are adapting the new building

to the production process, setting up storage spaces for raw materials and finished products, positioning briquette production lines, which need wide spaces and solid flooring.

Currently, "Ecobricheta" has three briquette production lines operating at the same time, and they expect their number to grow. 30 of the company's employees or subcontracted staff deal with waste transformation into biofuel and its delivery to the beneficiary.

Ludmila Abramciuc and her husband Ivan Damaschin are beneficiaries of the Energy and Biomass Project Leasing Programme, thanks to which they have benefited from biofuel production equipment from European funds, with the possibility of paying for it in installments, with 0% VAT, bank fees and other charges.



"Ecobricheta" LTS targeted from the very beginning household consumers. "Unlike our colleagues, other producers of briquettes, who chose to work with public institutions, we went to villages, gradually informed people and created a loyal customers network", says Ludmila Abramciuc. More than half of Moldovan families use individual heating stoves, and briquettes have a 50% higher yield than firewood, with a consumption of over 130 thousand tons in 2015. By replacing firewood with briquettes, consumers not only reduce their costs, but also reduce deforestation.

Concerned with environmental issues, the two business partners have expanded their business into a related area – recycling of rubber wastes. The equipment has been purchased and tested; it will produce biogas through pyrolysis and it will be used to dry raw material for briquettes – wood sawdust and sunflower husks.

Now, "Ecobricheta" LTD buys sunflower residuals from farmers and oil factories from Balti, Nisporeni and Ciadir-Lunga. However, with growing demand, the price for raw materials goes up as well – if three years ago, a ton of sunflower husks costed 400 lei, now it is three times higher, 1300 lei. That is why the two producers are forced to import raw materials from Ukraine, and in the future they intend to produce it themselves. They rented 62 ha of agricultural land where they will plant energy willows, a plant that grows up to 3 cm per day and generates cca 25 tons of wooden mass per ha. This will generate a big part of the necessary raw materials.

Thanks to trainings and study visits to European countries, organized by the Energy and Biomass Project, they understood that knowledge was at the center of everything, told Ludmila Abramciuc: "All biofuel producers began their activity in garages and abandoned industrial spaces; the majority didn't have plans for businesses or a clear vision of the business. However, we saw how automated and well-organized such productions are in the EU and we invested to reach a new qualitative level".

The Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, in its second stage, is a three-year long project implemented between 2015 and 2017. The project has a total budget of 9.41 million Euro granted by the European Union and it is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. It continues the first stage of the project, implemented during 2011–2014, with a total budget of 14.56 million Euro, granted by the European Union (14 million Euro) and UNDP (560,000 Euro).

For more information about the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, see www.biomasa.md website or the [Energie din Biomasa Facebook profile](#).

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Notes for editors:

Briquette – type of solid fuel in form of briquettes, obtained by pressing at a high temperature certain types of vegetal residues and with certain humidity. When producing briquettes only natural lignin is used – lignin, found in vegetable residues.

Rubber pyrolysis – high temperature rubber processing, without oxygen access. As a result, two fractions were obtained: of liquid fuel and

one of gas, without releasing emissions into the atmosphere. The liquid part can be used as an additive for unleaded petrol or as diesel fuel with better parameters than the existing one, while the gas can be bottled. Both liquid and gaseous fuel can be used as heating sources.

Pellets – type of solid fuel, from vegetables residues, shaped as grains.

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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