



NEWSLETTER

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ENERGY AND BIOMASS

CONTENT



EU4Energy



Guvernul Republicii
Moldova



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

Over 5 000 residents of Hancesti district have access to renewable energy thanks to EU assistance



Eight villages from Hancesti district connected their schools, kindergartens, and mayoralties to biomass heating systems replacing the gas or coal ones. Two communities succeeded to connect all their public institutions to green energy. The change was possible with the European Union assistance provided through Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

Project beneficiaries met at Cotul Morii village to discuss the impact of transferring the public institutions to green energy and the perspectives of the upcoming renewable energy investment projects.

"I am extremely happy that 12 public institutions – schools, kindergartens and mayoralties – from Hancesti district have participated actively in our Biomass project and are connected to biomass heating systems. Congratulations to all of you for taking this step and

participating in this wave of development of renewable energies in the Republic of Moldova, to the benefit of your citizens", said Peter Michalko, EU Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova.

The school and kindergarten in Cotul Morii, rebuilt after the 2010 floods, were connected to biomass heating systems. More than 250 children and teaching staff enjoy being in classrooms heated with locally produced biofuel. *"I am very proud we use clean energy produced in our country and that the money paid for biofuel stays here, in the country. Moreover, the heating delivery is reliable. We have local energy autonomy", stated Lucia Gustiuc, Mayor of Cotul Morii village.*

Cotul Morii is one of the 8 rural communities in Hancesti district that connected its school and kindergarten to biofuel based heating systems. *"I would like to acknowledge and appreciate the efforts of Hancesti*



district, which is one of the most active in using green energy. Thanks to your collective and decisive efforts, 5,600 people from 8 villages have access to green energy produced locally", said Dafina Gercheva, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Moldova.

Two kindergartens, one school and the mayoralty of Crasnoarmeiscoe village are heated with biomass energy. All started in 2012 when the first kindergarten was connected to green energy. Having a space over 900 m², the institution was heated with wood and coal stoves. Due to outdated heating system, children and teachers spent winters in barely heated rooms. Thanks to the new biomass based heating system, children are not freezing anymore in classes during winters. "The example of this kindergarten motivated us to extend the green energy projects to all public institutions in the community. School and kindergarten infrastructure is modernized, the community is developing, and people want to stay in the village", noted Alexandru Todoseiciuc, Mayor of Crasnoarmeiscoe village.

12 public institutions from Hancesti district are heated with biomass energy, and two have access to hot water produced by solar energy. Overall, 5 600 people from 8 villages (Carpineni, Crasnoarmeiscoe, Cotul Morii, Dancu, Dragusenii Noi, Loganesti, Boghicheni and Obileni) enjoy improved heating comfort thanks to the

European Union support. The investments of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project in Hancesti district accounted for EUR 560.742 of European funds, whilst the communities' contribution accounts for a total of EUR 153.820.

"Being part of the Energy and Biomass Project favours us double. We have more efficient heating systems than the old ones, which have allowed us to reduce the costs of social and educational institutions. New opportunities for economic agents in the agrarian and small and medium enterprises sectors have been created. Now, agricultural wastes are no longer burned in the field, but transformed into biofuel. Finally, new jobs are created, revenue for local budgets are increased and local infrastructure is upgraded," said Ghenadie Buza, President of Hancesti district.

Hancesti district is one of 33 districts that benefited from the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. 209 schools, kindergartens, community centers, hospitals from the country replaced gas and coal heating with biomass based heating systems, contributing thus, to local economic development, enhanced energy security of the country and environment protection.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, Phase 2, (2015–2018), have a total budget of Euro 9.41 million provided by the European Union and is implemented by



the United Nations Development Programme. It is a continuation of the first phase of the project implemented in 2011–2014, with a total budget of Euro 14.56 million offered by the European Union (Euro 14 million) and UNDP (Euro 560,000). The national partner of the Energy and Biomass Project is the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure.

More information on Biomass and Energy Project can be found on biomasa.md and on its [Facebook Page](#).

The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine. It does this by financing projects and programmes that help to reform energy markets and to reduce national energy dependence and consumption. Over the longer term, this makes energy supply more reliable, transparent and affordable, thus reducing energy poverty and energy bills for both citizens and the private sector. More information on: EU4Energy.eu

The producers of pellets and briquettes took part in a presentation session of the new solid biofuels quality standards



Producers of briquettes and pellets from Moldova took part in a presentation session of the new solid biofuels quality standards. The session took place on February 23, 2018 in Chisinau and was moderated by the head of the Solid Biofuel Testing Laboratory, Grigore Marian.

The event participants visited the Solid Biofuel Testing Laboratory and saw the process and the steps of

determining the quality of briquettes, pellets, as well as raw material. They also discussed the evolution of the biofuel market and the new challenges in the sector. The conclusions of the discussions will be presented to the Association of Biofuel Producers and the biomass energy cluster for further actions in order to develop the bioenergy sector in the Republic of Moldova.

Learn more about renewable energy at the joint stand of the Energy Efficiency Agency and the Energy and Biomass Project at the Moldenergy Exhibition



The Energy and Biomass Projects awaits you, on March 21–24, at the Moldenergy Specialized Exhibition. The project will have a joint stand with the Energy Efficiency Agency, where visitors will be able to find information about the activities undertaken to promote renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, business opportunities and public policies in this field.

On the first day of the exhibition, the Energy Efficiency Agency, in partnership with the Energy and Biomass Project, will organize an information workshop entitled "Current Situation in the Field of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources in the Republic of Moldova". The workshop will present the provisions and implementation measures of the Law on the Promotion of the Use of Renewable Energy, the

Projects on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Sources, Information on New Biofuel Quality Standards and Testing Methods, etc..

The exhibition's schedule will include master classes, round tables, presentations of energy efficiency innovations and networking events.

MoldEnergy, at its 12th edition, is an international exhibition specialized in energy conservation technologies, thermal installations and fossil and renewable energy supply installations, air conditioning equipment.

8% VAT on the supply of heat generated from solid biofuels



The supply of heat made of solid biofuels is subject to 8% VAT starting from January 1, 2018. The changes are part of the budgetary-fiscal and customs policy for 2018. Until now, the 20% standard VAT rate was applied on the biofuels.

The change logically complements the 2017 decision to reduce the VAT rate from 20% to 8% for the supply of solid biofuels, as well as for the raw material delivered for the production of solid biofuel (agriculture and forestry products, wood waste).

The launch of biofuel production businesses and the creation of biofuel-based heat supply services were driven by their growing demand on the market. Today, over 200 schools, kindergartens, hospitals across the Republic of Moldova are connected to biomass heating systems from European funds through the Energy and Biomass Project. Similarly, over 1000 families have biofuel boilers, benefiting from subsidies in the amount of about 1000 Euros granted by the European Union through the same project.

The national competition "Renewable Energy Sources" was launched



Pupils from Moldova are invited to join the Republican Contest "Renewable Energy Sources". The second edition will take place between 20 February – 20 April (local stage) and 11-12 May (republican stage). The competition can be attended by schools connected to biomass heating systems from the European Funds of the Energy and Biomass Project, as well as pupils from the 7th to 9th grades studying the optional discipline "Renewable Energy Sources".

At the local competition stage, competitors teams will develop a green energy project that can include: prototypes built by students using natural energy

sources, video products, public awareness (group or individual) for awareness raising or information, groups an initiative to promote green culture and develop competencies in intelligent energy production and consumption, and so on. The papers presented at the local stage will be evaluated by a jury within the educational institution based on the criteria contained in the Competition Rules approved by Order of the Minister of Education, Culture and Research (No. 165 of 19.02.2018). The best selected projects (1 for each institution) will be presented at the republican stage.

Operators of biomass boilers can benefit of free professional training



The Energy and Biomass Project launches a new series of trainings for biomass boilers operators. The trainings will take place at the Center for Excellence in Construction, with the support of the project. Boiler operators from all communities benefiting of the Energy and Biomass Project can take part in the training courses.

Courses last 4 days (24 hours of theoretical training and 16 hours of practical training). The topics of the courses are:

- Workplace organization for safe operation of the solid biofuel-based boilers and of solar panels for hot water production
- Effective management and proper maintenance of the boiler rooms and solar collectors
- Testing the quality of solid biofuels
- The role and responsibilities of operators at the workplace (storage of solid biofuels, moisture content assessment, supplying the boiler with biofuel, cleaning the boiler, boiler conservation)

The training will take place between: February 28 – March 3, March 14–17, and April 18–21. Those wishing to enroll in seminars are requested to register at: linacalugaritei@undp.org or phone no. 068311778.

The Center for Excellence in Construction is equipped with biomass boilers supplied with two types of biofuel (briquettes and pellets), as well as solar collectors connected to eco heating systems. The Operator Training Center was created in December 2016 at the Center for Excellence in Construction, an institution accredited by the Ministry of Education to provide training in management of biomass-based heating systems and systems producing household hot water from solar energy.

It is worth noting that today, over 200 public institutions in the Republic of Moldova are connected to biomass heating systems and 1000 households are heated with green energy thanks to the support provided by the Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

A call for funding was launched under the GEF Small Grants Programme



The Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) invites NGOs and CSOs to submit project proposals under the following thematic areas:

Promotion of social inclusion:

- gender mainstreaming
- involvement of youth

Platforms for dialogue between CSOs and Government

The Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme offers grants to non-governmental organizations and community organizations (NGO/CSO) in developing countries to enable them to cope with global environmental challenges, while addressing sustainable development needs. SGP's motto is "community action with global impact!".

GEF SGP operates in 126 countries. SGP Moldova started financing projects in 2013. The following specific objectives can be highlighted:

1. enhance awareness and understanding of the GEF Small Grants Programme, its strategy and results;

2. exchange of experience between NGOs/CSOs working to address global environmental issues to facilitate the exchange of experience and replication of good practices;

3. promote and strengthen partnerships between stakeholders, such as NGOs/CSOs, international funding organizations, central and local public authorities, business communities, and local communities.

The size of the grant will be of up to 50,000 US Dollars.

Terms and the application form are accessible on: www.sgpmoldova.org/en/index.

The deadline for submitting applications is March 12, 2018, 17:00 (GMT +2).

For any additional information with regard to the application process, please contact Anatoile Risina, National Coordinator, GEF Small Grants Programme, Moldova, via e-mail: anatolier@unops.org, or call (+373) 22 839-876.

"Poienita" kindergarten from Cornesti town switched to green energy thanks to European Union assistance



This winter is different for the residents of Cornesti town. Children are no longer freezing or inhaling coal smoke to heat the kindergarten. The community replaced the obsolete heating system with a modern and ecological one. Now children are playing in well-heated rooms, and the educators have better working conditions.

It is warmer at the kindergarten than at home

"It is warmer at the kindergarten than at home. My child is not wearing thick clothes anymore. He does not inhale smoke, and the clothes do not smell like charcoal. It is a safe investment in health and good development of children, which we highly appreciate," says Maria Bodrug, parent.

The Cornesti kindergarten is one of the 8 public institutions from Ungheni district connected to biomass heating systems with the European funds of the Energy and Biomass Project. The institution has access to hot water produced by solar energy. European investments to install the biomass heating system and solar panels accounted for Euro 65,000; the community has contributed with MDL 200,000 (Euro 10,000) and the parents – with MDL 12,000 (Euro 1,000).

"We followed the example of other district institutions, which succeeded to replace the heating systems and we are convinced now that it is more efficient and convenient to use clean energy. Thanks to the new heating system and solar panels, we benefit of higher comfort. Also, it is gratifying that the money used to buy the biomass stays in the local budget and



is not sent away as in the case of gas and coal procurements," says the Mayor of Cornesti, Vera Buga.

Children do not wash their hands with cold water

It is the first biomass-heating season for the Cornesti kindergarten. The new heating system has a capacity of 200 KW and operates on biofuel. It heats about 900 square meters of the kindergarten that is attended by 90 children. At the same time, the project assisted the kindergarten in installing solar panels that generate hot water for children and staff. The institution did not have hot water, and the kindergarten staff was forced to heat the water on the stove. Now children wash their hands with running water.

Green energy is delivered by an economic operator

An economic operator that signed a service provision contract with the mayorality delivers green energy to the kindergarten. The entrepreneur is responsible for the good maintenance of the heating system and delivery of qualitative biofuel, while the kindergarten only pays for green Gcal.

"It is nice to pay for a service and not have the care about selecting and buying biofuel, or about proper operation of the heating and solar systems. I am pleased with the choice made. The old heating system was causing discomfort due to dust and heavy smell and was not even that efficient. Besides impro-





ving heating conditions, we have created a cleaner environment for our children," says the Director of the institution, Maria Cudreavtev.

The kindergarten in Cornesti town is one of 207 public institutions connected to biomass heating systems with the support of the European Union, within the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

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More information on Energy and Biomass Project can be accessed on biomasa.md and Facebook page [Energie din Biomasa](https://www.facebook.com/Energie.din.Biomasa).

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

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