



ENERGY AND BIOMASS

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Nº15

March-April 2014

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project Newsletter

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

This project is funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme



PROJECT NEWS



Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will participate in the celebration of Europe Day in Chisinau and Comrat

The Team of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project will participate in the Europe Day celebrated on May 10th in Chisinau and on May 17th in Comrat. People from these settlements – visitors of the European Town – will have access to the information about the events unrolled by Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, get acquainted with the Project results achieved so far and with the on-going programmes.

During the Europe Day, the Project Team, in partnership with Gutta Club Members, is going to unroll interactive activities for young people; hold master classes to teach them how to employ renewable energy sources, waste, and how to have an Eco behaviour. Also, a Biomass Boiler Caravan will be organised on May 10th and May 17th. People will have the chance to see how a biomass boiler is operated, and find out about the types of boilers manufactured and assem-



bled in the Republic of Moldova. These exhibitions pursue the goal to promote biomass energy as an environment-friendly and economically efficient alternative to natural gas or coal heating.

The Eco-Mobile exhibition of Biomass boilers will cover the whole country

The mobile exhibition of biomass boilers for households was launched on 6 April in Stefan Voda district. Thousands of people from the district villages were able to see how the biomass boilers function and the types of biofuel produced in Republic of Moldova.

Stefan Voda district inhabitants, as well as the guests from the neighboring districts obtained from the primary source a complete information regarding the Household Subsidy Program on purchasing a biomass boiler, were able to see the boilers within this program and discussed with the Energy and Biomass Project team as well as with Energy Efficiency Agency's team regarding the potential of the biomass energy for the Republic of Moldova and its use in order to reduce the external energy dependence.

„The European Union offers an alternative to the gas or coal heating. Any household can purchase a biomass boiler from the companies registered in the program and receive, after the boiler is installed, 1.300 Euro from the UE-UNDP „Energy and Biomass” Project”, stated Nicolae Zaharia, expert in business development within the Energy and Biomass Project.



The mobile exhibition of biomass boilers for households will be organized in the period of April-July in the district, in Chisinau, Cahul, Comrat, Hincesti, Ungheni, Balti, Orhei, Edinet and Soroca.

„As of October 2013 we are heating our home with biomass energy. We bought the boiler in the same month as a response to the Energy and Biomass Project proposal. The first heating season showed us encouraging numbers, saving up to 40% comparing to the price for gas that we used to pay. Besides the obvious money savings, the biomass heating offers us also safeness. As the pellets and briquettes that we use are produced in Republic of Moldova”, says Larisa Seu, one of the Program beneficiaries.

Household subsidy program on purchasing a biomass boiler was launched by the UE-UNDP “Energy and Biomass” Project and is implemented in partnership with the Energy Efficiency Agency.

The SMS Campaign on promoting the Household Subsidy Program for biomass boilers with 1.300 EURO reimbursement was launched

An SMS campaign on promoting the Household and Microenterprises Subsidy Program for biomass boilers was launched by the EU-UNDP „Energy and Biomass” Project, in partnership with Moldcell.

Thousands of subscribers from all the regions of the Republic of Moldova received in April information regarding the offer on purchasing biomass boilers with a 1.300 EURO reimbursement from European funds.

„The purpose of this campaign is to inform the population about the program launched by the European Union for the households and microenterprises which want an eco-alternative instead of the gas and coal heating. Those who wish to heat their homes and microenterprises with biomass energy will benefit from modern boilers, which burn pellets and briquettes, with a 1.300 EURO

reimbursement of the costs”, stated Alexandru Ursul, Energy and Biomass Project manager.

Those who wish to purchase a biomass boiler will make the following steps: (1) choose a biomass boiler produced or assembled in Republic of Moldova, (2) submit a request at the Energy Efficiency Agency, (3) install the boiler, and then receive the subsidy amount of 1.300 Euro.

The boilers offer and the contact details of the companies registered within the Program are available on the Energy and Biomass Project webpage www.biomasa.md. In total, approximately 500 families/microenterprises will benefit from the advantageous conditions of the program.

The purpose of the Program is to promote the biomass energy in the residential and private sectors and to reduce the energy dependence of the Republic of Moldova. The use of the biomass energy brings economic, social and ecologic benefits: new businesses are launched, new jobs created, the money paid for the fuel remain in the Republic of Moldova, and, an also very important fact, the volume of CO2 emissions are reduced.

Moldcell company was one of the Energy and Biomass Project’s partners in the organization of SUN Da-I Fest, the first solar energy powered concert in the Republic of Moldova, organized on 28 April 2013, in Chisinau. Born in Moldova, Moldcell as part of the community, works for the local people and contributes to the development of the society. The company invested 3 billion lei in the country’s infrastructure and was involved in over 400 social projects.

556 Families registered with the Programme for subsidising the procurement of biomass boilers

In less than one month, more than 500 families from all country regions submitted requests to buy a biomass boiler and be reimbursed the amount of 1300 EURO at the expense of the European funds. The increasing demand is fuelled by the decision to boost the subsidy amount from 1000 to 1300 EURO, as well as by the wide campaign fostering the Subsidy Programme launched by the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project and implemented in partnership with the Energy Efficiency Agency.

Most applications come from the Central part of the country, followed by the Northern and Southern regions.

School children of “Vasile Lupu” Lyceum produce wind based electricity and cook on solar powered ovens

School children of “Vasile Lupu” Lyceum know the secret of renewable energy production and effi-



cient energy use thanks to the educational course "Renewable Energy Sources" taught during the on-going school year for the first time. The Course on Renewables has been launched in the Republic of Moldova by EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

On 16 April, pupils of VII-B Class spent one of their lessons to produce wind based electricity from mini-turbines, showed how they could cook using an umbrella made into a solar oven, and shared some practical advice on how to make the energy use more efficient both at school and at home. *"The subject I have been studying since September motivated me very much; hence, I learned how to perform the energy audit of our apartment. Thanks to the replacement of light bulbs, curtains and the location of the fridge within the room, we managed to save up to 100 MDL each month on the electricity bill. Moreover, we can cut on CO2 emissions, as well",* Nichita Miron, VII-B Grade Pupil of "Vasile Lupu" Lyceum, stated.

Lessons on renewables and energy efficiency are conducted in an interactive manner. Thus, school



children take part in debates within the school, discuss topics on eco-energy on-line with hundreds of pupils from other schools across Moldova, build models of photovoltaic panels, wind turbines or biomass power plants, and organize flash-mobs around environmental issues.

"The educational brochure for school children and the guide for teachers, developed by the Energy and Biomass Project with assistance from Academia experts and Energy Efficiency Agency professionals, is of great value, and helps us present the information in a modern and engaging manner, which makes the Course attractive for pupils", Natalia Halaim, Teacher of the "Renewable Energy Sources" Course at "Vasile Lupu" Lyceum, asserted.

For the first time in the Republic of Moldova, schools across the country are able to study renewables and energy efficiency topics during the 2013-2014 school year, and this activity is backed by the Moldovan Ministry of Education Order, pursuant to which the "Renewable Energy Sources" Course has been included in the list of optional school subjects.

"I am happy to see that this Course went beyond the boundaries of communities that had their public institutions connected to biomass heating systems. I am impressed this course is taught in a modern, interactive and meaningful manner, conveying the information on renewable energy and energy efficiency to children. The example of this school proved once again how valuable the EU investment in the young generation is; these children are going to teach their friends and families how to make better use of the energy around us. It is a key role they are playing for their country", Alexandre Darras, Attaché - Project Manager of the EU Delegation in the RM, mentioned.

It is worth reminding that during the 2011-2013, the Course on renewables and energy efficiency has been taught only in schools from communities that connected their schools and kindergartens to biomass heating systems with the support provided by EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. The most active pupils, selected on a competitive basis, get invitations to attend the Summer Camp called "Energel". So far, the Course on renewables and energy efficiency has been taught at 352 schools across the country districts, involving circa 19,000 children. The educational initiative on renewables and energy efficiency is carried out in partnership with the Continuous Education Institute and the Republican Centre for Children and Youth "Gutta-Club".

Register for the competition Moldova Eco-Energetica 2014

Register for the competition Moldova Eco-Energetica 2014, the largest competition for rewarding the successful initiatives in the area of energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. The competition, launched on 5 March, is open for public institutions, private sector representatives, NGOs, foundations, initiative groups, Media, Academia and individuals that have successfully accomplished notable, innovative and ambitious initiatives aimed at using and promoting renewables and energy efficiency.

The participants embarked on the Contest may compete in the following categories:

Best Project in Solar Energy:

- Photovoltaic
- Thermal

Best Project in Wind Energy

Best Project in Hydropower

Best Project in Geothermal Energy

Best Project in Bioenergy:

- Production of solid biofuels
- Production of liquid biofuels
- Assembling and/or installing equipment for the production of bioenergy
- Energy supply systems
- Production of gasiform biofuels

Best Energy Efficiency Project in the:

- Energy Sector
- Industry Sector
- Building Sector
- Transport Sector
- Public Sector

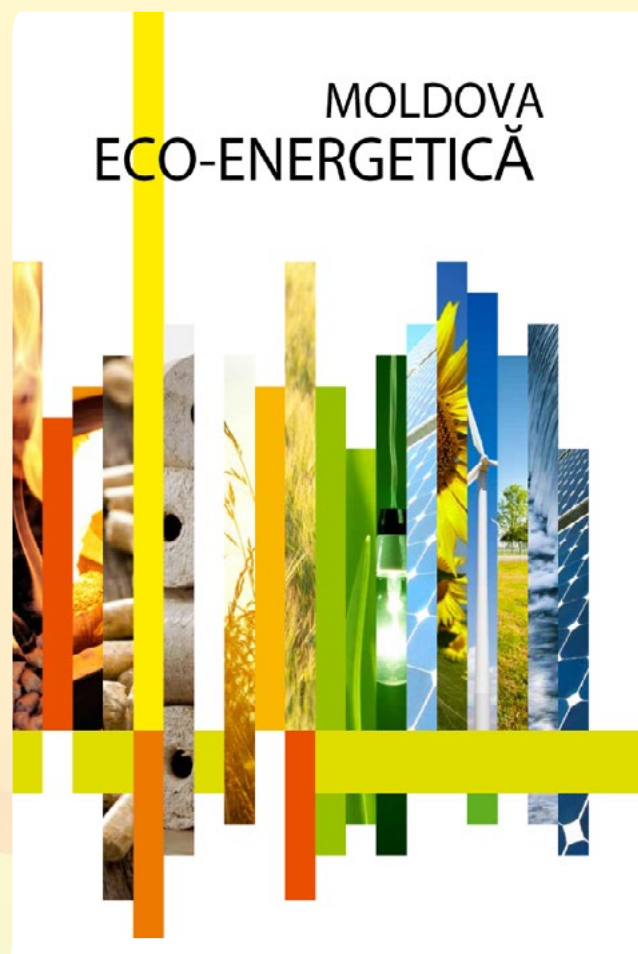
Best Communication Initiative

Best Educational Initiative

Best Youth's Initiative

Special Prize

Those who would like to enrol in the competition shall submit a file, either in soft or hard copies, to the Energy Efficiency Agency address, having stated the category they compete for. The file templates can be downloaded from the Energy Efficiency Agency webpage at: www.aee.md.



The participants may enrol in one or several projects at the same time. However, one project shall not compete in several categories at the same time. The files may be submitted from 5 March through 20 August 2014. The winners will be awarded at the MOLDOVA ECO-ENERGETICA Gala to be held on 5 December 2014.

Moldova Eco-Energetica is organised by the Ministry of Economy and Energy Efficiency Agency, in partnership with Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by UNDP Moldova.

The Government has approved the new draft Law on Promoting the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources

The draft Law on Promoting the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources, approved on 27 February at the Government sitting upon the Ministry of Economy initiative, pursues the targets to diversify the primary energy resources; to achieve at least a 17%-share of renewable energy sources in the final gross energy consumption by 2020 and to have at least a 10%-share of renewables in the final energy consumption in the transport sector by 2020.



The main goal of the draft Law is to encourage and protect the investors, to ensure continuous development of technologies for renewable energy sources (RES), to grant free and non-discriminatory access of energy producers to power grids, of biogas producers to natural gas networks, to provide for mandatory procurement of energy produced from renewable sources, of biogas and biofuels.

In the context of the country high dependence on energy imports (95% of energy consumption) and on high energy intensity (three times as much as in the developed countries) the exploitation of RES would contribute to the energy security enhancement in the Republic of Moldova. Concurrently, the draft Law aims to promote the development of technologies and innovations, having granted employment opportunities and regional development, in particular, in the rural areas.

The use of renewable sources, such as solar energy, wind energy, biomass, as well as other residues and waste to generate electricity, biofuels and biogas offers significant environment advantages, considering the strong potential for cutting the green gas emissions, both during the energy production and its use as biofuel.

The draft Law sets forth the needed framework for attracting foreign investments in the power generation sector based on renewable sources and for establishing a consumer protection mechanism aimed at getting fair tariffs for renewable electricity generation.

The draft Law comprises also the computation method of renewable energy share in the overall energy consumption, as well as by economic sectors; defines the competences of the field-related state policy development and implementation entities, of regulatory and licensing bodies; the principles and targets of state policy in the area of RES; the administrative certification, authorisation and licensing procedures; the production and marketing of energy from renewable sources.

The development of the draft Law on Promoting the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources has been conditioned by the need to approximate the Moldovan legislation with the European Union Law.

Source: Press Service of the Ministry of Economy

OUR PARTNERS



**Andrei Mereacre,
Deputy Director of
S.A. "Darnic Gaz" Company**

"We devote all our endeavours to foster green energy"

- Mr. Mereacre, could you please describe the profile of "Darnic Gaz" Company?

- S.A. „Darnic Gaz” is a company unrolling its entrepreneurial activity on the Moldovan Engineering and Construction Market. The Company provides „All-in-one” services, which comprise consultancy, design, installation and maintenance of engineering systems. The Company was founded in 1985, when there were just three companies active on the market authorised to work in the area of gasification. In 1997, the Company was reorganised in a Joint Stock Company. One year later, in 1998, Filaret Mereacre was appointed as the Company Director. Since his appointment, the Company started to develop rapidly, and pretty soon it has become one of the leaders on the Moldovan market. At present, the Company has 46 full-time employees.

- Please, tell us how many public institutions located in what Villages and Districts you covered with the installation of biomass heating plants under Moldova Energy and Biomass Project.

- In 2011, S.A. „Darnic Gaz” was selected as eligible for building biomass heating plants under Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. The Company made a Consortium with SRL „Agrobiobrichet” for this Project,

holding the leading position. Subsequently, the Company won the tender for designing and building biomass heating plants in Sangerei District (5 Villages), Glodeni District (5 Villages), Orhei District (4 Villages), Nisporeni District (2 Villages), Calarasi District (2 Villages), and Straseni District (2 Villages). Overall, 23 schools, kindergartens, community centres located in these Villages have their energy independence ensured, and can heat their spaces with domestically produced energy.

- How many households opted for boilers assembled by your Company under the Subsidy Programme, which is part of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project? Why do people invest in heating systems alternative to traditional natural gas or coal heating?

- Currently we have received 105 Applications, and 65 people enrolled in the programme after the subsidy has been increases to 1300 EURO. Four families decided to have "Darnic Gaz" assembled boilers installed in 2013, and got maximum 1000 EURO as a refund. Most families opt for biomass heating due to its lower cost relative to natural gas or coal. There are also many people who would like to have biomass energy as an alternative and reliable source of energy in their own houses.

- You heat your own house with biomass energy. What is your motivation for selecting such a heating source?

- I opted for a green less costly heating source. After the installation of the biomass boiler I spent several evenings in its proximity, feeling proud that I heated my house with locally produced energy, and the money paid for it remained in my country. The comparative analysis shows that when heating my house with biomass energy I pay 30 percent less than for natural gas heating. After the thermal insulation of house walls I believe that I can further cut the costs of heating and, overall, pay 40 percent less.



- You are one of the companies that break the ice in terms of installation and promotion of modern and green heating technologies. What challenges have you encountered in the process of creating a new green energy market?

- It is pretty difficult to propose a new heating product or concept in our country due to the Soviet reminiscences. Working in the area of installations we encountered many challenges. I can mention as the first one the promotion of polyethylene pipes as an alternative to the metal pipes. As for the eco area, it is even more difficult to penetrate the market and persuade the people to make the change in favour of locally produced energy. As a rule, people do not believe unless they see. This is the approach we apply: we show the people specific cases of using biomass, solar, wind, and geothermal energy by private households and public institutions across the country. The Company employees have solar installations and heat pump installed in their own dwellings. This year we intend to install solar collectors at the Company Office so that our employees can take a shower with warm water.

- How is the private sector developing in the Republic of Moldova in terms of manufacturing technologies for using biomass energy and producing solid biofuel?

- This area has gained much impetus lately. People who several years ago opposed the renewable-based heating now ask the Company to assist them in designing and installing biomass heating plants. People get convinced by the examples of other families, kindergartens, schools on the advantages of renewable energy. Most requests come now from the owners of greenhouses, and we are very glad that the industrial sector is seeking for smart solutions in terms of energy use. Our responsibility is to foster eco energy through our own example and through the high quality of services provided by the Company.



- What are the perspectives of your Company in the area of technologies for the production and use of renewable energy?

- We are now devoted to the sector of renewables. We get involved in new projects, participate in international seminars, establish collaboration links with European companies – promoters of green technologies, and our staff take part in retraining courses. We devote all our endeavours to foster green energy.

Communities where S.A. "Darnic Gaz" has installed biomass heating plants at the expense of the EU-UNDP funded Moldova Energy and Biomass Project

- **Sangerei District:**
Alexandreni, Bilicenii Noi, Bursuceni, Dumbravita, and Pepeni Villages.
- **Glodeni District:**
Camenca, Cuhnesti, Fundurii Vechi, Petruna, and Ustia Villages.
- **Orhei District:**
Biesti, Camenca, Mitoc, and Morozeni Villages.
- **Calarasi District:**
Harbovat and Saseni Villages.
- **Nisporeni District:**
Bratuleni and Soltanesti Villages.
- **Straseni District:**
Micleuseni and Vorniceni Villages.

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This newsletter is produced in the framework of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. The project, implemented during 2011-2014, has a budget of 14,56 million Euro, granted by the European Union (14 million Euro) and UNDP Moldova (560.000 euro).

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