



# NEWSLETTER

N. 20 | March–April 2015



## ENERGY AND BIOMASS

### CONTENT

European Energy and Biomass Project 2: 2015–2017

Project started its activities in the communities in the South of the Republic of Moldova

Energy and Biomass Project will be part of the European Village in Chisinau and Soroca on 10 and 16 May

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has been introduced to the Energy Community at a Reunion held in Vienna

Competition is open for children to enrol in Summer Camp ENERGEL, 4th Edition

Energy Efficiency Agency as well as Energy and Biomass Project participated at MoldEnergy Exhibition 2015

First model for supplying bioenergy to public institutions by a business operator implemented in Leova district

The competition to select districts where to establish Public-Private Partnerships for bioenergy supply has been launched





## European Energy and Biomass Project 2: 2015–2017

"80 modern biomass heating plants coupled with 21 solar collectors installed in schools, kindergartens, and community centres; 300 biomass-fired boilers provided at subsidised prices to households and microenterprises; seven public-private partnerships set to supply bio-energy" – these are just some of the expected results of the Energy and Biomass Project II.

"The Republic of Moldova is proving through the Energy and Biomass Project eloquent example that the targets set for energy efficiency and renewables are achievable. Consistency and effort – this is all that is needed. And the extension of the Project Agreement for Phase II, done thanks to the Development Partners' contribution, will ensure the continuation of this endeavour in the following three years, so that the targets set by the Energy Strategy can be gradually achieved", Stephane Christophe Bride, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, asserted at the Project launch in Varnita Village, Anenii Noi District, conducted on 3 March 2015. Varnita school is one of the Energy and Biomass Project 1 (2011–2014) beneficiary institutions, out of 144.

The Energy and Biomass Project II will be implemented during January 2015 – November 2017 with a budget totalling 9,41 million EURO provided by the European Union.

During the extension period the Project will preserve its four interconnected activities, i.e.

- 1 Heating of public institutions with biomass energy
- 2 Development of bio-energy private sector
- 3 Training and education
- 4 Communication

"The European Union provides assistance to the Republic of Moldova in the development of Renewable Energy sources which shall permit among others to limit the environmental impact of consumed energy and promote diversification of energy sources. We are happy to prolong the successful Moldova Energy and Biomass Project with a second phase, which will permit to consolidate the Biomass market we have contributed to create and extend its impact to new regions. All this will have a positive impact on improving the life of Moldovan citizens", Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation to Moldova, stated.

The Energy and Biomass Project II is expanding its boundaries to cover Transnistrian Region and small towns where heating plants are to be installed in public institutions, of which a certain number is earmarked for Transnistria, ATU Gagauzia and Taraclia District where applications from rural settlements would be accepted as well. The Project novelty is the solar energy based technology to be installed in kindergartens, healthcare centres and other institutions in parallel with the bio-energy technology.

"We are willing to apply for the funds provided by the Energy and Biomass Project II. There are public institutions we would like to have biomass heating plants installed with the aim to ensure their energy self-sufficiency that is paramount for the region where Varnita Village is located. The village development makes us proud. Besides the Village Lyceum, there are also households that have

which is spearheading innovation for sustainable development. The second phase of the Energy and Biomass Project, will further capitalize on the achievements of the first phase while fostering the triple effect of the use of renewable energy, namely: jobs creation and poverty eradication; environmental protection and reliable access to energy; and improved



biomass-fired boilers installed. More recently, two entrepreneurs have started producing biofuel", Alexandru Nichitenco, Mayor of Varnita Village, mentioned.

The Project will focus its actions on strengthening the bio-energy private sector development via piloting public-private partnerships aimed at ensuring sustainable supply of biomass heat, on quality assurance of domestically produced biofuel and on co-financing the first laboratory to test the biofuel quality produced in the Republic of Moldova.

I am very pleased to represent the UN system in Moldova and the United Nations Development Program, which in partnership with the EU and the Government of Moldova is implementing this flagship project,

quality of life. These are the aspirations of the people of Moldova, as expressed during the recent post 2015 consultations, and the EU and UNDP are supporting their fulfilment", stated Dafina Gercheva, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme in Moldova.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project II is a three-year project (2015-2017). The Project is financed by the European Union with a total budget of 9,41 million EURO and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme.

More information on the Energy and Biomass Project is available at: [www.biomasa.md](http://www.biomasa.md)

## Project started its activities in the communities in the South of the Republic of Moldova

20 villages and small towns from the Southern region of the Republic of Moldova and ATU Gagauz Yeri have passed through the first selection stage of the competition to have public institutions connected to biomass heating systems at the expense of the European funds provided by the Energy and Biomass Project. The Project Selection Committee accepted 29 letters of intent out of 34 submitted during the evaluation stage.

Amongst those 20 institutions suggested to be connected to advanced biomass heating systems, most of them are schools and kindergartens currently heated with coal, natural gas and electricity. "Communities opt for systems fuelled with locally produced energy, having ensured in this way energy self-sufficiency of schools, kindergartens and public institutions, which are to be covered by the Project. Other chain benefits relate to supporting the domestic biofuel producers, launching new businesses and creating new jobs, developing the national energy sector and, last but not least, ensuring environmental protection", Alexandru Ursul, Manager of the Energy and Biomass Project, stated.

Teams of Project Engineers and Community Mobilisation Experts visited the selected communities and conducted public reunions involving community inhabitants. During

the reunions the teams presented the Project targets, advantages of installing alternative biomass heating systems, financial and logistic supports provided by the Energy and Biomass Project, as well as community responsibilities and contributions. Following such reunions, Local Project Committees established in each community involved, comprising representatives of the Local Government, of the public institution proposed to be connected to the biomass-based energy source, local NGOs, entrepreneurs and leaders. The Local Project Committee representatives shall develop project proposals for the installation of biomass heating plants within public institutions. The project proposals have to be further assessed and submitted to the Project Selection Committee for consideration. Representatives of the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, Ministry of Regional Development and Construction, Ministry of Education, Energy Efficiency Agency, Energy Efficiency Fund, EU Delegation to Moldova and UNDP Moldova are involved in the Project Selection Committee.

**The list of communities that passed through the first stage of selection comprises:** Taraclia, Tvardița, Ceadîr Lunga, Cantemir, Căinari, Căușeni, Cimișlia, Leova, and Cahul Towns, and Albota de Jos, Budăi, Ciumai, Corten, and Sofievca Villages (from Taraclia District), as well as Baurci, Cazaclia, Congaz, Copceac, Gaidar, and Svetlii Villages (from ATU Gagauz Yeri).

## Energy and Biomass Project will be part of the European Village in Chisinau and Soroca on 10 and 16 May

Energy and Biomass Project team will participate at the Europe Days on May, 10th in Chisinau and on May 16th in Soroca. The visitors of the European Village in both localities will have access to information regarding project's activities; will find out the results obtained till now, as well as the programmes in process of implementation.

During the Europe Days, project's team will implement interactive activities with the young people, master classes where they will learn about how to harness the renewable energy, the waste and will learn how to behave eco. Also, in the European Village in Soroca a biomass boilers caravan will be organized. The people will have the opportunity to see how a biomass boiler works, types of boilers produced and assembled in the Republic of Moldova. The purpose of the exhibitions is to promote biomass energy, as an ecological alternative to the heating on gas or coal.

### ORĂȘELUL EUROPEAN 2015

Chișinău, Piața Marii Adunări Naționale  
10 mai, ora 13:00

*Moldova în pas cu Europa!*

• Ești invitat să cunoști:

• Un cadru de vecinătate

• Relații de cooperare

• Organizații internaționale

• Proiecte de dezvoltare

• Asistența UE!





## Moldova Energy and Biomass Project has been introduced to the Energy Community at a Reunion held in Vienna

The Energy and Biomass Project has been introduced at 28 of April to the European Energy Community as a Model Project aimed at promoting and accessing the renewable energy sources, being funded by the European Union. The Project presentation took place at a Reunion devoted to the promotion of renewable energy organised by the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna on April 27-29th, 2015.

The Republic of Moldova is a full member of the Energy Community as of 2010. The Agenda of the Reunion held in Vienna comprised subjects related to the climate change policy, the progress achieved by the Energy Community Member States in producing and using energy from renewable sources, the development of the biofuel production market and other highly topical issues. The Energy and Biomass Project is the only Development Project of an Energy Community Member State presented at this Event.

Participants have been acquainted with the stages covered by the Energy and Biomass Project that has set the target to start the bioenergy industry in Moldova

from scratch, the Project accomplishments, as well as the challenges overcome and lessons learned. "We are honoured to be selected as a Demo Project for the Energy Community. We presented the Project outcomes achieved during Phase 1, as well as the expected results of Phase 2 of the Project", Alexandru Ursul, Project Manager, present at the Reunion, has mentioned.

Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, launched in 2011 with an overall budget of EUR 14.5 million, during its four-year activity managed to secure the energy self-sufficiency of more than 144 schools, kindergartens, and community centres by having installed biomass heating systems; offered the entrepreneurs, under advantageous conditions, equipment for biomass processing and for solid biofuel production, having launched in this way 35 businesses and creating hundreds of new jobs; helped more than 600 households accessing green technologies at subsidised prices.

Thanks to the Project accomplishments, the European Union has allocated new funds to extend the Project for three more years.



## Competition is open for children to enrol in Summer Camp ENERGEL, 4th Edition

The EU funded Energy and Biomass Project has launched the competition to select 30 young people from the Southern Region of the Republic of Moldova, including the Autonomous Territorial Unit (ATU) Gagauz Yeri, to participate in the Summer Camp ENERGEL, the Fourth Edition, to take place in June 2015.

School children who are passionate about green energy and willing to discover green technologies are invited to enrol in the competition for the admission to Summer Camp, which is devoted to renewables and energy efficiency and will be organised during 06 – 16 June 2015. The Summer Camp participants will have the opportunity to see "live" performance of energy generation technologies, which convert the power of the sun, wind, earth, and water into energy; to meet people using green technologies in their own dwellings or enterprises; and to make new friends. All expenses related to the educational program, accommodation and food will be covered by the Energy and Biomass Project out of European funds.

"The Summer Camp organised this year will host again children from the communities – beneficiaries of the Energy and Biomass Project where biomass heating systems are envisaged to be installed in schools, kindergartens and community centres. The competition is open for school children in Grades 7–9 from Taraclia, Tvardița, Căinari, Căușeni, Cimișlia, Leova,

and Cahul Towns, and from the Villages Albota de Jos, Budăi, Ciumai, and Sofievca (Taraclia District), Baurci, Cazacalia, Copceac and Gaidar (ATU Gagauz Yeri)", Lina Acălugăriței, Training and Capacity Building Officer, Energy and Biomass Project, has mentioned.

In order to enter the competition the school children have to fill in a specific form (Pasaport energetic) and prepare a Letter of Intent. The candidates' files may be filled in either in Romanian or in Russian, and shall be sent to: [natalia.kravciuk@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.kravciuk@gmail.com) by 20 May 2015.

An Expert Panel comprising representatives of the Continuous Education Institute, the Republican Centre for Children and Youth "Gutta Club" and the Energy and Biomass Project will select the Summer Camp participants. To this end, the information included in the application file will serve as basis for participants' selection. Any experience acquired as a volunteer or as an active member of a NGO, Youth Centre, Local Council of School Children/Youth, as well as any involvement in activities aimed to promote green energy and environmental protection would be an advantage.

Summer Camp ENERGEL is an initiative launched by the Energy and Biomass Project 1. Thus, three editions of Summer Camp were organised during 2012–2014, which brought together 272 school children from the communities – beneficiaries of the Energy and Biomass Project 1.



## Energy Efficiency Agency as well as Energy and Biomass Project participated at MoldEnergy Exhibition 2015

Experts of the Moldova Energy and Biomass Project and of the Energy Efficiency Agency participated at the MoldEnergy Exhibition with a single Information Centre. During March 18–21, 2015 the Exhibition participants had access to the information on the programmes launched in the country energy efficiency and renewables sector.

During the four-day Exhibition, all visitors of the Information Centre received detailed information on the National Competition "Moldova Eco-Energetica", 2015 Edition, and were guided on how to fill in the files with the purpose to embark on the Competition.

On March 20, 2015, the Energy Efficiency Agency, as a co-organiser, participated in the topical Conference devoted to Business People actively working in the sector of energy efficiency and renewables. The Conference was organised by the largest Romanian Programme devoted to business conferences – [Afaceri.ro](http://Afaceri.ro) – that brought together 30 Romanian and 40 Moldovan companies to discuss the energy market challenges and the current trends. The same day, a Conference titled "Energy" was conducted by the Moldovan-Italian Chamber of Trade and Industry, tackling the issues of

energy savings, energy efficiency, renewable energy and financial regulations in the Energy Sector.

During the last day, i.e. on March 21st, a round-table was organised titled "Intelligent solutions to integrate the generation distributed sources" gathering experts of the Energy Institute of the Moldovan Academy of Sciences, Energy Efficiency Agency, ANRE and of Moldova Energy and Biomass Project. The Energy and Biomass Project 1 (2011–2014) accomplishments were presented during the Round-table, as well as the Project mandate for the extension phase (2015–2017).

MoldEnergy, currently at its XIXth Edition, is an international exhibition specialised in energy saving technologies, heating plants and energy supply facilities based on both fossil and renewable energy sources, and in air conditioning equipment.

More information on Moldova Eco-Energetica Competition is available at [www.mee.md](http://www.mee.md), on the EEA mandate – at: [www.aee.md](http://www.aee.md) and on the Energy and Biomass Project activities – at: [www.biomasa.md](http://www.biomasa.md)



## First model for supplying bioenergy to public institutions by a business operator implemented in Leova district

Leova is the only District in the Republic of Moldova where bioenergy is supplied by an entrepreneur. This is the outcome of a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) pilot-model providing integrated bioenergy services, which was agreed by Leova District Council and "Green Farm" SRL in 2014. The private partner was designated following a tender conducted by the local public authorities. The PPP pilot-model was implemented upon the EU-UNDP Energy and Biomass Project-1 phase.

Currently, 19 schools, kindergartens and the premises of Leova District Council have biomass heating systems installed, while the biofuel supply services as well as the heating plant operation and maintenance are provided by the private partner. The total investment amounted to more than EUR 800,000.

After having installed 19 new heating plants Leova has become the leading District by the number of biomass heating plants installed in public institutions. The heating plants overall capacity totals 4MW.

"The PPP Model ensured the provision of high quality energy services to District beneficiary schools and kindergartens. Children attend now heated premises where the indoor temperature meets the minimum health standards, and I have to confess this was not al-

ways the case during the previous years. It is a modern service that ensures the beneficiaries' climatic conditions; besides, the managers of such institutions do not have to take care of biofuel procurement, checking for its quality, do not need to hire and train heating plant operators and manage/maintain properly the heating plants", Efrosinia Grețu, Leova District President stated at a Media Tour conducted today at the District public institutions that embarked in the PPP.

The Model launched for the first time in Leova District, upon the Energy and Biomass Project-1, is widely used in the EU Member States, where the business operator shall supply green energy, and the beneficiary shall pay the tariff for each Gigacalorie consumed.

"The PPP Model implemented in Leova has proved its viability. We have built 19 new heating plants, hired 42 operators and covered their salaries, and supplied biofuel during the whole heating season charging MDL 997 per each Gigacalorie, plus VAT", Green-Farm Direct, Valeriu Pleșca, said. According to the Agreement, the heating plants shall be managed by the business operator for 11 years.

Please note that the first PPP-based biomass heat supply unit was launched in Leova District in May 2014.

Leova District was selected as a pilot site following a public tender conducted with the involvement of 12 districts, which brought 15 project proposals.

"Launching and developing models for rendering integrated bioenergy services is a forward-looking sector for the Republic of Moldova. The Energy Efficiency Agency supports this sector development and suggests establishing an Expert Committee consisting of representatives of line ministries and organisations. The Expert Committee will be assigned the task to devise attractive and sustainable models for both the public and the private sectors based on

Leova District gained experience", Mihail Stratan, the Energy Efficiency Agency Director, mentioned.

The Energy and Biomass Project-2 aims to develop new PPP Models in other seven Districts as well. "We shall launch a tender in the next few days to select the districts that are interested in implementing PPPs in their communities. Subsequently, the Expert Groups hired by the Project will prepare feasibility studies separately for each district to select the most suitable models for rendering bioenergy services by private entrepreneurs", Alexandru Ursul, Manager of the Energy and Biomass Project, stated.

## The competition to select districts where to establish Public-Private Partnerships for bioenergy supply has been launched

11 districts have embarked in the competition aimed at launching Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to provide bioenergy services.

Based on such models, business operators will be responsible for managing the bioenergy heating plants, supplying quality biofuel and hiring/remunerating the plant operators, while the local authorities will pay just the cost of the generated Gcal.

"The Energy and Biomass Project will allocate non-refundable means (grants) to the local authorities earmarked to co-finance each established Partnership. Also, the Project will bear the costs of feasibility studies to be conducted separately for each district and provide financial support to the launch of seven PPPs

across the country", Alexandru Ursul, Manager of the Energy and Biomass Project 2, stated.

The following requirements shall be met by the local authorities in order to embark on the competition:

- To represent the second-tier Local Public Administration Authorities;
- To demonstrate knowledge regarding the PPP establishment by having submitted a detailed and feasible plan to establish such a PPP in the district concerned.

The deadline to file the papers for participating in the competition was 27 April 2015.

The Newsletter is produced by the Energy and Biomass Project 2. 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.**

### Contacts:

29, Sfatul Tarii str, Chisinau, 3rd floor, office 304  
Tel.: (+373 22) 839985,  
Tel/Fax: (+373 22) 839983  
www.biomasa.md  
e-mail: ina.zglavuta@undp.org