



EU4Energy



Covenant of Mayors  
for Climate & Energy  
CoM East

CoM East  
Newsletter  
SPECIAL ISSUE

July 2018

# IN FOCUS:



## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES JOIN THE EU SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WEEK 2018

**European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW)** is the annual flagship event promoting sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy across Europe by bringing together public authorities and policy makers, industry and NGOs, researchers and academia in the European sustainable energy sector, as well as private consumers in the municipalities of EU Member States and partner countries.

The initiative was launched by the European Commission in 2006. The theme of this year's EU Sustainable Energy Week – *"Lead the clean energy transition"*. Every year more and more participants, also from the Eastern Partnership countries, join the European Sustainable Energy Week to share their ideas, experience and good practices.

As part of the initiative, a series of awareness raising events and activities – **Energy Days** – take place in the European municipalities and beyond throughout the months of June and July to promote the key messages of EUSEW. Organised by local public and private institutions in the framework of EU Sustainable Energy Week, Energy Days encourage citizens and business to get more actively involved in contributing to sustainable, secure and renewable energy as well as innovative and clean solutions for environment.

Learn more about EUSEW at <http://eusew.eu>



**EUSEW** brings together public authorities, private companies, NGOs and consumers to promote initiatives to save energy and move towards renewables for clean, secure and efficient power. In addition to multiple events in Brussels, a number of events were organised all over Europe, including Eastern Partner countries – Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, giving citizens and businesses an opportunity to discover and share the latest developments in sustainable energy.

This year, **Covenant of Mayors East (CoM East)** joined the EUSEW celebrations in the **Eastern Partnership countries** and actively supported and co-organised several events aimed to promote advanced energy efficiency practices, inspire innovative ideas and combine efforts to achieve the EU goals in overcoming the consequences of climate change, improving energy efficiency and energy security.

In May – June 2018, out of **289** CoM Signatories **99** municipalities in Eastern Partnership countries organised Energy Days under the EU Sustainable Energy Week for promoting sustainable energy, renewables and efficient energy use among their citizens. In order to boost and maximise publicity, **75** organisers from the EaP countries registered their Energy Days on the EUSEW website.

### EU4Energy Photo Contest

As part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week, the EU4Energy Communication Project\* organised a photo contest **"Sustainable energy around you"** dedicated to renewable energy on June 4-17, 2018. The competition was open to all citizens of the Eastern Partnership countries. More than 500 amazing photos capturing sustainable energy at work were received by the organisers. The jury selected top 40 pictures, with the winners chosen by public vote.

Up to 30 prizes were awarded to the participants. A grand prize of a video drone was awarded to the winner – Mr Ioseb Dzamukashvili from Georgia. The winning picture shows Ioseb and his friends in the countryside in Georgia with wind turbines producing green energy in the background.

*"We should not spoil the planet to produce energy. Nature can provide lots of it without harming the environment. All we need is to encourage each other, go GREEN, and promote renewable energy!"* says Ioseb.



View the winning photos and learn more at:

<https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/east/stay-informed/news/eu4energy-photo-competition-winning-pictures>

\*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, 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: [www.EU4Energy.eu](http://www.EU4Energy.eu)

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union



The Project is funded by the European Union under the EU4Energy Initiative



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## ARMENIA

### 21 Signatories | 3 Energy Days

During the week of the 4th of June, more than 200 residents of a number of Armenian communities, including children, youth and representatives of local self-government bodies, took part in a variety of interesting and useful events under the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2018. In particular, the Energy Days included a wide range of activities, such as exhibitions, flash mobs and contests aimed at raising awareness on renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, energy saving and energy security, as well as on the support provided by the EU to ensure sustainable energy development in Armenia.



#### **Aparan and Artik | June 4-5, 2018**

On June 4, 2018, an exhibition of sustainable energy technologies and quizzes for youth took place in Aparan municipality within the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Program (EU4ASEP) implemented by the Energy Saving Fund and the Union of Armenian Communities (CoM Supporters in Armenia).

The baton was taken up by the city of Artik on June 5, 2018, where the local youth and children participated in the drawing contest and intellectual games dedicated to the topic of transition to sustainable energy development. Both Aparan and Artik are pilot cities of the project, which envisages the introduction of energy-saving technologies in public buildings to ensure energy efficiency improvement and save local budgets. Likewise, both municipalities are Signatories of the Covenant for Mayors for Climate and Energy, which is being actively promoted in Armenia by the CoM East Team.

#### **Yerevan | June 6, 2018**

The highlight of the EUSEW 2018 in Armenia was a conference “**Sustainable Energy Development Prospects in the Communities of Armenia**” held in Yerevan on June 6, 2018 in the framework of the 2nd Forum of Energy Efficient Municipalities.

The conference brought together representatives of public authorities and leaders of Armenian communities, EU Delegation to Armenia, Energy Conservation Fund and the Union of Armenian Communities, international projects and programs, financial institutions, public, private and professional organizations etc. A series of plenary sessions was devoted to various aspects of sustainable energy development in Armenia, including legislative and funding mechanisms, public-private partnership and opportunities available for local communities.

Representatives of the CoM Signatories (Spitak, Artik and Aparan) actively took part in the discussions. Ms Louisa Vardanyan, Head of the “Habitat for Humanity Armenia” Foundation, which is implementing one of the projects under the EU funded Programme “Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects” in Spitak and Vaik, underlined the importance of sharing the lessons learnt and successful experience in the field of improving energy efficiency in the pilot Armenian municipalities with other regions throughout the country.







CoM East Country Expert in Armenia Mr Artem Kharazyan contributed to the discussion by presenting the key aspects, requirements and procedures of the new Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. In particular, during one of the panel discussions entitled "Monitoring of the implementation of actions aimed at supporting sustainable energy development in municipalities", Mr Kharazyan presented the key requirements for monitoring Sustainable Energy (and Climate) Action Plans (SE(C)APs) adopted and implemented by the CoM Signatories in Armenia. Ms Anush Begloyan, CoM East Communication Expert in Armenia, moderated one of the plenary sessions of the conference devoted to the monitoring of civil society initiatives in sustainable energy development sector.



## BELARUS

### 44 Signatories | 29 Energy Days

This year, 29 Belarusian municipalities joined the EUSEW 2018 celebrations and organized Energy Days lasting from one day to the whole month. The multiple events and measures demonstrated that residents of the CoM Signatories more and more realize the value of ecological way of life and energy efficient behavior. At the same time, not only they need useful information or entertaining activities in this field, but also real successful examples of how alternative energy sources and energy-efficient technologies can be used. For this reason, onsite visits and excursions turned out to be the most popular amongst the public.

The Energy Days were held in cooperation with the CoM Supporters in Belarus – Interakcia Foundation and IPO "Ecopartnership". Participants and winners received interesting gifts presented by the CoM-DeP project "GorSvet" ("PubLiCity") implemented in Połack in the framework of the Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" (CoM-DeP) and the "Strengthening the Covenant of Mayors Movement in Belarus" project, both funded by the European Union under the EU4Energy Initiative.

In total, over 400 events were organised, including master classes, workshops, presentations, conferences and discussions, thematic lessons, camps, quizzes, drawing contests and sport competitions, exhibitions, excursions and site visits, performances, flash mobs, bike rides, energy festival and hackathon. More than 16000 people took part in the EUSEW 2018 celebrations in Belarus.

Among many others, some innovative and attractive ideas for conducting Energy Days in Belarus can be found below.







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## Karma and Vierchniadzvinsk | June 1-23, 2018

These two municipalities turned out to be the most inventive in terms of various formats of the Energy Days events and activities, although both cities have joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy not so long ago. In Karma, the focus was made on the youngest residents who took part in the pre-school ecological camp "Beregoshka", where they staged different performances on environmental topics, such as "Forest Glade", "The Winged Friends", "Water Kingdom", "The Glade of Riddles" etc. Also, there was an eco-trip for children "Take care of your planet!" and various intellectual games and quizzes. The municipality of Vierchniadzvinsk organised more than 30 events for children and adults – "Ecological traffic light", "Green Patrol", "Don't be late to save the planet", "Earth is our common home", "The most energetic cyclist" and many others.



## Połack | June 1-15, 2018



More than 350 participants of the Energy Days in Połack took part in 13 events organised by the city as part of the EUSEW 2018: energy efficiency quiz, site visits to the hydro-electric power plant, competition for children "Green Trip", interactive games, drawing contest and many others.

As the first Belarusian Signatory of the Covenant of Mayors, Połack strives to significantly reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, in particular, through cutting energy consumption and switching to alternative energy sources. The city is implementing a Demonstration Project "GorSvet" ("PubLiCity") under the EU-funded Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" (CoM-DeP) aimed at modernising the municipal lighting system in energy efficient way and sharing successful experience amongst other Belarusian municipalities.

Learn more about the Energy Days 2018 in Połack at <http://publicity.tilda.ws/>







### **Pinsk | June 4-25, 2018**

In the course of the EUSEW 2018, schoolchildren and teachers of the secondary school No3 in Pinsk have developed and implemented a very interesting and unusual project on processing organic food waste – **"Turning waste into income"**. The project entered the top 3 list out of more than 60 business ideas submitted for the contest of the Minsk Business School.

An average daily amount of waste from vegetables and fruit in an ordinary school canteen is about 5 kg, which makes nearly 1 ton per year. Schoolchildren proposed a new approach to solving the problem of waste processing with the help of earthworms. Thus, a ton of banana skins or potato peelings will not rot in a landfill, but will turn into an organic fertilizer – biohumus. The project will bring a lot of benefits and can be further multiplied at the municipal level. In particular, it will help reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and improving the ecological situation of the city, which is important for Pinsk in the framework of its commitments under the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.



### **Biaroza | June 14-15, 2018**

The Energy Day took place in Biaroza municipality and Biaroza district on June 14-15, 2018. The city central square and the Palace of Culture in Byelaazyorsk became the main venues for most of the events that brought together children, youth and adults, representatives of public authorities and media. The main focus was made on the idea of respectful attitude towards nature and improving energy efficient habits amongst the city residents, especially young generation, which is crucial for ensuring a safe and sustainable future.



## **GEORGIA**

### **23 Signatories | 7 Energy Days**

In June, 2018, Energy Days were organised in seven CoM Signatories of Georgia. More than 200 people took part in the events and activities carried out by the municipal authorities jointly with the project "The Training and Certification of Private Sector Energy Auditors and Awareness Campaign for Energy Efficiency in Buildings" implemented by Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia, which is the official CoM Supporter in the country. The Georgian CoM East Team represented by Mr George Abulashvili, Country Expert for Azerbaijan and Georgia, Ms Liana Garibashvili, Communication Expert, and Ms Elene Gvilava, Technical Expert, took part in the Energy Days and provided support to the participating municipalities.





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## Tbilisi, Rustavi, Bolnisi, Kutaisi, Zugdidi and Akhaltsikhe | June 1-8, 2018

One of the brightest events was an exhibition of the schoolchildren's posters **"My Energy Efficiency School"** followed by awarding ceremonies organised by the municipalities. In each city, 4-5 schools participated in the contest – 110 schoolchildren in total were engaged. Representatives of the municipal authorities of the CoM Signatories, teachers and parents took part in the celebrations and underlined the importance of changing the mindset of the youngest and their behaviour in terms of improving energy efficiency starting with the small steps. All the participating children received certificates and souvenirs – T-shirts and balloons with energy savings tips for residential buildings. Also, the winning schools were awarded with the gift certificates for energy efficient office appliances.

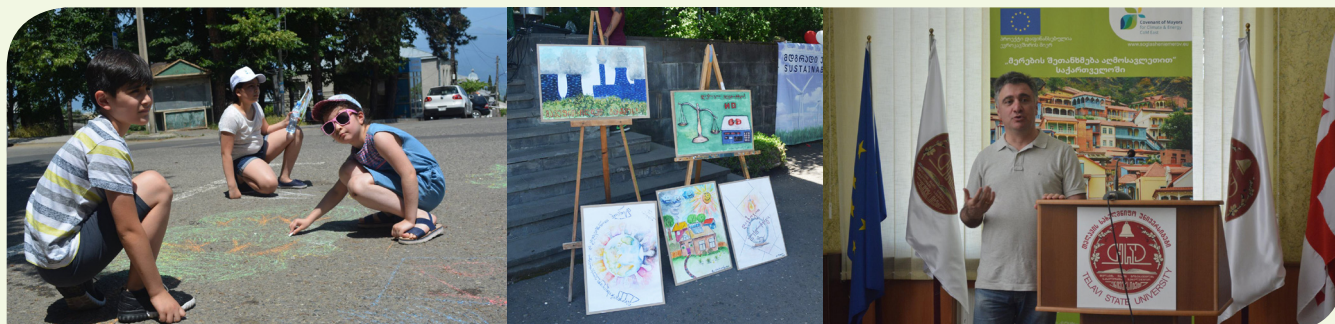


## Telavi | June 29, 2018

The city of Telavi joined the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2018 celebration and organised the Energy Day on June 29, 2018. It included a wide range of activities, such as a marathon with the participation of more than 150 young people from various public schools and sports' clubs of Telavi municipality, an exhibition of thematic and street drawings performed by the pupils of Telavi art schools, a quiz on energy efficiency and renewable energy, a local band concert etc. The most active participants and winners received certificates and gifts – T-shirts, caps, solar outdoor lamps etc.

The celebration was highlighted by the meeting with a famous Georgian documentary filmmaker Mr Toma Chagelishvili, followed by viewing and discussing his recent short documentary from the series "Energy efficiency principles in traditional Georgian architecture".

This year's EUSEW events in Telavi were organized jointly by Telavi Municipality City Hall and Energy Efficiency Centre Georgia within the framework of the EU-funded project "Biomass Energy and Energy Efficient Technologies as Sustainable Energy Solutions for Georgian CoM Signatories". The project is implemented under the EU4Energy Initiative within the framework of the Programme "Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects" (CoM-DeP).







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## MOLDOVA

**20 Signatories | 6 Energy Days**

Energy Days are becoming more popular in the Republic of Moldova – every fourth CoM Signatory in the country took part in the celebrations this year: Cantemir, Ocnîța, Festelita, Calarasi and Orhei. The CoM East Team in Moldova provided support to the municipalities in organizing energy related events under the European Sustainable Energy Week promoting the energy efficiency and energy saving, usage of renewable energy sources and climate change mitigation amongst the Moldovan citizens. In total, more than 4000 people took part in the EUSEW 2018 celebrations in Moldova.



### Chisinau | June 6-10, 2018

The capital of the Republic of Moldova celebrates the EUSEW for the fifth time. Although Chisinau is not an active CoM Signatory as of today, the EU Sustainable Energy Week was organised this year in the Public Garden in the downtown. It was a large event, hosted by the EU Delegation to Moldova, together with the Ministry of Economy and Infrastructure (CoM National Coordinator) and Agency for Energy Efficiency, in the partnership with the CoM Supporter – Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables, and other national partners and projects funded by the European Union.

During five days, local residents and guests had a chance to attend different exhibitions, round table discussions, public debates and presentations dedicated to the clean energy transition. The CoM East Team in Moldova represented by Mr Victor Parlicov, Country Expert in Moldova, provided the visitors with the information about funding instruments supporting sustainable urban development available for the CoM Signatories in Moldova, and Ms Lilia Curchi, Communication Expert, disseminated materials about the Covenant of Mayors.





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## ■ Cantemir, Ocnița, Festelita, Calarasi, Orhei | June 1- 16, 2018

The Energy Days in Moldova were launched in the cities of Cantemir and Ocnița on June 1, 2018, which coincided with the International Children's Day. Therefore, in Cantemir the focus was made on the young generation – more than 300 children and their parents participated in various interactive activities such as drawing contests, sports competitions and many others. They learned about the importance of energy efficiency, energy saving and the sources of green energy.

Celebrations in Ocnița were highlighted with a bike ride, involving more than 40 children aged 3 to 16, and a musical performance for kids and their parents (in total about 280 people) staged by the local theater about the importance of energy saving, reducing negative environmental impact and protecting nature.

Children of Festelita also took part in a drawing contest. This municipality organised the Energy Day for the first time, so the young residents drew how they would protect the environment and use renewable energy sources such as water, sunlight and wind, in the future. Together with their parents, they were able to discover a lot of interesting things with the help of the mobile planetarium and open-air cinema.

The municipality of Calarasi also joined the EUSEW celebrations for the first time. The Energy Days programme in the city included creative recycling workshops, face-painting for children, the energy marathon and artistic program for all the residents and guests of Calarasi. Also, there was an opportunity to take part in the site visit to the most energy efficient building in the city – “DoReMicii” kindergarten. The municipality will continue working on the development of a framework for promoting sustainable energy initiatives.

The Energy Day in Orhei was organized in the Square of Europe. An outdoor art exhibition dedicated to sustainable energy and renewable energy sources had a great success. The participating children demonstrated that energy related topics provide a room for imagination and creativity.

All the events and activities dedicated to the Energy Days 2018 in the CoM Signatories of Moldova as part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week were organised in the framework of the EU funded Programme “Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects” (CoM-DeP) under the EU4Energy Initiative.



## UKRAINE

**181 Signatories | 54 Energy Days**

Since 2010, the EU Delegation to Ukraine plays a leading role in supporting and organising the EU Sustainable Energy Week in Ukraine, which has become an information hub for different aspects of sustainable energy policy and provides an open platform for discussing the best practices and innovative energy ideas. The theme of the EUSEW 2018 in Ukraine was **“Enhancing Energy Efficiency in Residential Sector”**.

In 2018, many Signatories of the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Ukraine combined their efforts to raise the residents' awareness on the issue of energy efficiency and energy conservation, climate protection and overcoming the consequences of climate changes in the framework of the annual Sustainable Energy Week 2018. In total, 54 Ukrainian CoM Signatories held more than 300 various events and activities in June 2018. Over 23000 people from young to old were engaged in the EUSEW celebration in Ukraine. Furthermore, another 30 Ukrainian municipalities announced their plans to hold the Energy Days in early autumn of this year.







## EUSEW official opening in Chernivtsi

This year, Chernivtsi, a Covenant of Mayors Signatory, hosted the official inauguration of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2018 in Ukraine. The opening ceremony took place on June 3, 2018 with the participation of the Head of the Ukrainian Support Group by the European Commission Mr Peter Wagner, Deputy Minister for Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine Mr Vasyl Poluiko, Director General of the Energy Efficiency Directorate of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Economy of Ukraine Mr Dmytro Petrunin and the Mayor of Chernivtsi Mr Oleksiy Kaspruk as well as representatives of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, public authorities, NGOs, business and media.

The EUSEW 2018 opening was highlighted by the CoM East Signing Ceremony, when 15 Ukrainian municipalities joined the Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy voluntarily assuming the ambitious commitment to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by at least 30% by 2030, enhance energy efficiency and improve the quality of people's life. The event brought together over 300 participants from more than 90 Ukrainian municipalities.

The high-level European guests, Ukrainian officials and participants of the EU funded projects and programmes also visited interesting venues – the Expert Zone, Smart City, Urban café, etc. located on the square in front of the Opera House. In particular, the visitors enjoyed the “sun coffee” cooked with the help of four photovoltaic panels.

On the next day, June 4, two panel discussions dedicated to local energy and climate policy for sustainable municipal development and moderated by the Country Expert of the CoM East project in Ukraine Ms Oksana Kysil were held in the picturesque building of Chernivtsi National University. The first one was entirely devoted to discussing the opportunities and challenges in the energy efficiency sector of Ukraine, and the second discussion was focused on local and regional policies to support the energy efficiency in the residential sector.







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## EUSEW 2018 all over Ukraine

The diversity of events organized by the Ukrainian municipalities was really impressive: sport and entertaining activities like bike rides, family and children's marathons, roller skates and skateboards runners competitions etc, conferences, discussions and seminars on energy efficiency and environmental issues, photo exhibitions, master classes and workshops, exhibitions of modern energy efficient equipment, drawing contests and quizzes, public demonstrations of films on energy related topics, flash mobs and many others.

The Covenant National and Territorial Coordinators, the Covenant Supporter in Ukraine – Association “Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine” as well as the CoM East Team were directly involved and provided continuous support in the course of preparation and organization of the Energy Days.

In particular, the CoM East in cooperation with the CoM-DeP Support Team provided the Signatories with the following support:

- carried out two thematic webinars “How to organize the Energy Day”;
- offered individual consultations and advice on possible scenario of events;
- assisted Chernivtsi City Hall in terms of planning, organizing and conducting the EUSEW 2018 Opening Ceremony.

In addition, on June 15-18, within the framework of EUSEW, the Country Expert in Ukraine Ms Oksana Kysil initiated a series of round table discussions dedicated to the most important topics in the energy efficiency sector of Ukraine in the cities of Mykolaiv, Cherkasy, Odesa and Dnipro. The events were attended by the Head of the Operational Section in charge for economic cooperation, energy, infrastructure and the environment of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Mr Johannes Baur, member of the Ukrainian Support Group of the European Commission Mr Krzysztof Gierulsky, and the Head of the Energy Efficiency Sector of the EU Delegation to Ukraine Ms Olga Borodankova.

Summarising the results of the EUSEW 2018 in Ukraine we can admit that this year a higher organisational level has been achieved that can become an excellent case and a “reference point” for the future events. Perfection knows no limits!



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