



## PRESS RELEASE

### **Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies and Ideas has been launched within the National Contest Moldova Eco-Energetica**

The Award Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies advancing innovative and efficient technologies and the Fair for Funding the Eco-Responsible Project Ideas in the area of Renewables and Energy Efficiency were launched on 28 October 2014 at a public event conducted at the Greenhouse located in Onitcani Village, Criuleni District. These new competitions are part of the National Contest Moldova Eco-Energetica.

*"The Business Story of Onitcani is quite impressive for the Republic of Moldova. It is remarkable that the greenhouse is operated with no seasonal breaks, being supplied with biofuel-based energy produced in the Republic of Moldova. This is an example of a business-model in terms of production efficiency due to the use of advanced technologies, and applied energy efficiency and security measures. The development of new businesses like this one makes an outstanding contribution to developing the Moldovan economy, thus enhancing competitiveness of Moldovan agricultural products on both the domestic and European markets",* Andrian Candu, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economy, mentioned.

The Competition of Eco-Responsible Companies is open for economic entities, public institutions, research institutions that bring modern innovative technologies in the area of renewables and energy efficiency to the market of the Republic of Moldova. The Application files are available at [www.aee.md](http://www.aee.md) and shall be submitted during 28 October – 28 November 2014. A group of experts will evaluate the submitted applications in two steps: file assessment and site-visit to check the green technologies.

The Fair of Eco-Responsible Ideas is a competition for funding the proposed investment projects (or for expanding the projects already in place) in the area of energy efficiency and employment of renewable energy sources through granting technical and financial assistance aimed at developing/implementing projects in the targeted area. Participants shall present their project proposals in front of potential partners, donors and investors. The Application files are available at [www.aee.md](http://www.aee.md).

*"Developing modern technologies on the Moldovan market is a need. Economic efficiency, environment protection and energy security – these are key elements that help us live safely in our own country. There are things apparently hard to achieve, but not impossible. This greenhouse is a prodigious example of change. Energy security, clean energy and organic*

*products can be found here, and we would like such products to be spread across the country”,* Pirkka Tapiola, Head of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, asserted.

The greenhouse located in Onitcani – the venue of the event of launching the two new competitions – is one of the 13 successful projects designated as winners of Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest - 2014. The greenhouse covers a two-hectare area and was commissioned as a “turn-key” facility in 2012. The same year it brought to the Moldovan market the first harvest of vegetables cultivated on protected soil with no seasonal breaks. The facility is heated by an autonomous plant with the installed capacity of 2.6 MW, comprising two pellet-fired boilers. The biomass heating system ensures the energy security and, in this way, the business safety as well. Likewise, the employment of renewable energy sources allows making savings of circa MDL 2,7 million a year (80 percent reduction relative to the cost of used natural gas). Biomass boilers contribute to cutting down the emissions of CO2 with 2,600 tonnes a year.

*“How can we achieve a sustainable development – this is a topic featuring on the Agenda of the Republic of Moldova, as well as on the Global Agenda. The Republic of Moldova has brought its significant contribution to two topic areas currently under global debates, i.e. Equity and Green Development – two indispensable parts of the country development”,* Nicola Harrington-Buhay, Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, stated.

The Winners of Eco-responsible Companies and Ideas Competition and those of Moldova Eco-Energetica Contest will be awarded at the Moldova Eco-Energetica Awarding Ceremony to be conducted on 5 December 2014.

Moldova Eco-Energetica is the largest competition aimed at awarding successful initiatives in the sector of renewables and energy efficiency. It is organised by the Ministry of Economy and the Energy Efficiency Agency, upon the initiative of and in partnership with Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, funded by the European Union and co-funded and implemented by the UNDP Moldova.

**For more information please contact:**

*Ina Prisăcaru-Zglavuşă*, Communication and Mass-media Officer, Moldova Energy and Biomass Project, Phone #: (373 22)83 99 85, [ina.zglavuta@undp.org](mailto:ina.zglavuta@undp.org)