



EU4Energy



Covenant of Mayors
for Climate & Energy
Eastern Partnership

CoM East
Newsletter
SPECIAL ISSUE

August 2019

IN FOCUS:



SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY WEEK

EUSEW 2019

Energy Days, as part of the EUSEW, are a wide range of creative awareness raising events organized by local public and private institutions to promote the clean energy transition in Europe and beyond.

European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) is the annual initiative launched by the European Commission back in 2006 to promote clean and safe energy, energy efficiency and wider use of renewables, and sustainable energy development across Europe. This year, the 14th EUSEW 2019 was successfully held on 17-21 June 2019 under the theme of **Shaping Europe's Energy Future**.



Learn more

<http://eusew.eu>



EU4Energy Photo Contest

As part of the EU Sustainable Energy Week, a photo competition was organised by the EU4Energy Communication Team between 17 and 21 June on the topic of the "Future of energy". More than 130 entries were received from the EaP region and following a public vote, **Hrant Sahakyan from Armenia** was declared the **winner** of the main prize of an electric scooter. The campaign reached more than 390,000 people and had more than 25,000 engagements on social media. [Here are the best 30 photos](#) following the jury selection and public vote!

"I am very proud to become the winner of the EU4Energy photo competition. I am very glad that I had the chance to show to people from different countries that Armenia has such an amazing solar power plant in the most beautiful place."

Hrant Sahakyan,
the winner of the #EU4Energy photo competition



The winning photo: solar panels in the mountains, Armenia

More photos:

[EU4Energy winning pictures](#)



EU Sustainable Energy Award for the Eastern Partnership

For the first time this year, the **EU Sustainable Energy Award** was extended to Eastern Partnership Countries in the framework of the EU Sustainable Energy Week 2019 (EUSEW). The winner was announced at the Awards Ceremony in Brussels on 18 June – it is the energy efficient Shilda winery from Kakheti, Georgia.

With the support of the European Union and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the company started using an energy efficient eco-friendly wine production process making it the first environmentally friendly wine producer in the region. Nowadays the winery consumes 60% less energy and saves more than €60,000 annually on its energy bills.

The first edition of EU Sustainable Energy Award for EaP received more than 50 entries from 6 countries. The award recognises inspiring EU-supported energy efficient and renewable energy projects that directly help citizens and communities save energy or switch to sustainable sources.



Learn more

[about the EU Sustainable Energy Award for EaP 2019](#)



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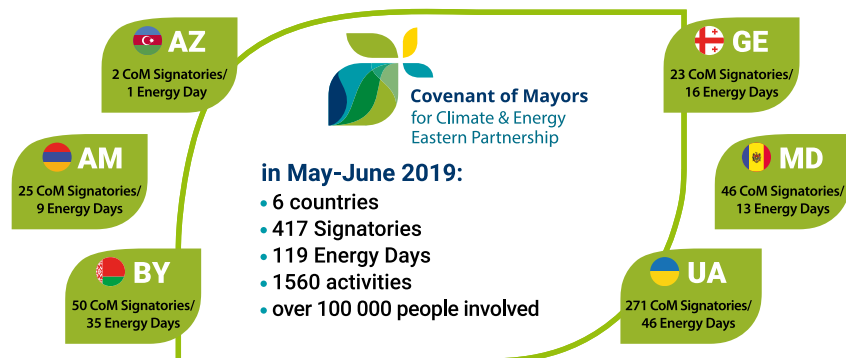


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Celebration of the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 in Eastern Partnership Countries

In addition to multiple activities in the EU countries, a large number of events were organised in the Eastern Partner countries – Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.



Covenant of Mayors East project (CoM East) traditionally joined the EUSEW celebrations and provided technical and advisory support to the CoM Signatories to help them promote successful energy efficiency practices, inspire innovative ideas and join efforts to achieve the EU goals in overcoming the consequences of climate change, improving energy efficiency and energy security. Moreover, the EUSEW 2019 was special indeed, as for the first time Azerbaijan joined celebrations by organising the Energy Day in the CoM Signatory in the country of Mingachevir.

In total, in May-June 2019, 119 municipalities in six Eastern Partnership countries (out of 417 CoM Signatories) organised Energy Days arranging around 1560 different activities with involvement of over 100 thousand people, the estimated cumulative number of reached people.



AZERBAIJAN

2 CoM Signatories | 1 Energy Day



Energy Day 2019 in figures

Municipalities	1
Activities organized	2
Persons reached/involved	over 500
Most popular types of activities:	
• Information events for youth and children (presentations, open lessons, workshops, seminars, talks and thematic classes in youth camps and schools etc.)	1
• Public events on environment, climate and energy issues	1

Azerbaijani municipality of Mingachevir celebrates the EUSEW

This year, for the first time ever, Azerbaijan joined the EU Sustainable Energy Week. It was part of the EU Days celebrations held in Mingachevir on May 21-22, 2019 on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership.

The CoM East team in Azerbaijan took part in the celebrations and presented the Covenant of Mayors initiative and the CoM East project at the open door event on May 21. A thematic quiz for children and a quiz on energy efficiency and climate issues for students of Mingachevir ASAN-VET School were organised. The winners got their prizes. The CoM East team also provided the community of Mingachevir, the CoM Signatory, with a number of specific promotional materials that were disseminated amongst the participants.

We congratulate Azerbaijan on the successful start and believe that more and more municipalities in the country will join the CoM initiative and organise the EUSEW & Energy Days in the upcoming years!



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ARMENIA

25 CoM Signatories | 9 Energy Day



Energy Days 2019 in figures

Municipalities	9
Events/activities organized	30
Direct participants involved	over 1,420
3 most popular types of activities:	
• Concerts, festivals, drawing and painting contests	12
• Thematic videos, movies and exhibitions	8
• Sports events (bike rides, mini-football etc)	5

Joining efforts in contributing to sustainable energy future

Every year Armenian communities become ever more enthusiastic to join the EUSEW celebrations and organize Energy Days in their municipalities. It is a very good occasion to bring together public authorities, business, NGOs and private consumers to promote energy saving initiatives and move towards clean, secure and efficient energy.

“Spitak was one of the first Armenian communities to sign the Covenant of Mayors. By signing the Covenant we committed to reduce our CO₂ emissions by at least 30% by 2030. We have already succeeded in implementing this commitment and hope that in the future our community will become the climate and energy leader in Armenia.”

Gagik Sahakyan, Mayor of Spitak

This year, in June – July, more than 1420 Armenians participated in 30 events held within the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 in 9 municipalities. Children and youth were in the focus of most activities. In particular, the CoM municipalities organised bike rides, thematic exhibitions, conferences, panel discussions, seminars, concerts, festivals, drawing and painting contests, entertaining thematic quests, quizzes, workshops, presentations, talks and thematic classes for children, flash mobs, performances and many others. All the activities were aimed at raising awareness of the local residents 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.

Covenant National Coordinators and Supporters advertised and supported the Energy Days 2019 at the national and regional level.

“We are very happy to have an opportunity to take part in Energy Days in our city. I got a lot of interesting information about energy saving and participated in the drawing contest. My painting is about my future house, which is full of energy saving devices.”

Narek, 12 years old Armenian schoolboy

The CoM East team in Armenia provided support to the Armenian CoM Signatories, encouraged them to join EUSEW2019 and widely promoted the events through the web site and social media. Artem Kharazyan, CoM East Country Expert in Armenia, took an active part in the Energy Days and assisted the municipalities in preparing their local events. He underlined that for achieving the goals set up in Signatories' Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plans, it is important to improve energy efficiency and implement measures to reduce energy consumption in municipalities. Energy Days help raise the awareness of citizens and encourage local population and business to get more actively involved in contributing to sustainable, secure and renewable energy as well as clean solutions for environment.



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BELARUS

50 CoM Signatories | 35 Energy Day



EUSEW & Energy Day 2019 in figures

Municipalities	35
Activities organized	691
Persons reached/involved	over 22,100
3 most popular type of activities:	
• Information events for youth and children (presentations, open lessons, workshops, seminars, talks and thematic classes in youth camps and schools etc.)	180
• Entertaining thematic quests, quizzes	96
• Site visits, green guided tours to facilities with RES or energy efficient technologies	42

With the focus on the youngest climate and energy ambassadors

In 2019, the level of Belarusian CoM Signatories' engagement in the EUSEW celebrations was really impressive. In total, they organised almost 700 large and small scale events with the participation of over 22 000 people. During May – June, 35 Belarusian municipalities hosted a large variety of events – environmental forums, ecological festivals, bike rides, sports activities and excursions, seminars, children's art exhibitions, photo competitions and many others. Also, about 10 municipalities plan to hold energy related activities in July and in autumn.

City authorities use creative approaches and involve a number of partners, such as civil society organizations, housing services, educational, cultural, and sports institutions, in order to heighten interest of their residents in sustainable energy issues. Taking into account that up to 80% of all the Energy Days events' participants are children, a special attention was paid to kids and youth. As part of the Energy Days, almost all 35 participating municipalities organised children's sport and health activities for children and educators dedicated to efficient use of energy and resources.

“We aim to improve the ecological situation in our district, to decrease greenhouse gases and CO₂ emissions, implement energy saving technologies and use renewable energy. Some work has already been done; we are one of the four districts in Belarus who started to develop a green urban development plan. I would like to thank the organizers and the participants of the Energy Days for their interest in the campaign. We had activities almost every day in order to raise the residents' awareness to ensure the future generations have save environments and clean energy.”

Valentin Semenyako, Chairman of the District Council in Zelva District

The format of Energy Days proves that it is an effective way for promoting and raising awareness about energy efficient behaviour and wider domestic use of renewable sources for different segments of population – from children to elderly people. Covenant National Coordinators helped cities to advertise and promote the EUSEW & Energy Days at the national and regional level. The Energy Days were traditionally held in close cooperation with and active support of the CoM Supporters in Belarus – Interakcia Foundation and IPO “Ecopartnership”.

The CoM East in Belarus provided information, advisory and methodological support to the participating municipalities. They consulted the CoM Signatories on various aspects of Energy Days' organisation, provided the CoM East promotional materials developed by the project and participated in the events. Ivan Shchadranok, CoM East Country Expert in Belarus, highly evaluated this year's level of the Energy Days organisation in the country. He underlined that participation of the Belarusian municipalities in the CoM initiative is important for making them better and more comfortable places for living.



View [more pictures](#)

from the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 in Belarus

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GEORGIA

23 CoM Signatories | 16 Energy Days



EUSEW & Energy Day 2019 in figures

Municipalities	16
Activities organized	62
Direct participants involved	over 1,265
Persons reached/involved	over 10,000
3 most popular types of activities:	
• Information events for youth and children (presentations, open lessons, workshops, seminars, talks and thematic classes in youth camps and schools etc.)	18
• Sports events (bike rides, mini-football)	9
• Thematic videos, movies + asphalt drawings	6

Advocating for energy efficiency and clean energy on the agenda

The Energy Days in the majority of Georgian CoM Signatories were conducted as a part of EUSEW 2019. If compared to the previous year (8 participating municipalities), the number of Georgian CoM Signatories having joined the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 more than doubled: 15 municipalities have already organized various energy and climate related events in June, while 4 more scheduled similar activities for July 2019. More than 1,200 people directly took part in the events and activities carried out by the municipal authorities jointly with the CoM East project.

For the majority of the Georgian municipalities it was the first experience of joining the EUSEW & Energy Days.

“It is very important that we join the European Sustainable Energy Week not only with public awareness events but also with real steps towards implementation of energy efficiency measures. We know that energy efficiency is a priority on the agenda in the world as it is beneficial both for households and public structures in terms of economy and resource savings, which is crucial nowadays.”

Nino Tsilosani, MP from Chokhatauri and Lanchkhuti municipalities

The Local Authorities, including mayors, deputy mayors, governors etc., of all 16 municipalities attended Energy Days and actively participated in various activities, e.g. in Lanchkhuti municipality the MP took part in thematic street drawings and other activities together with kids. Participation of top officials in such events proved their importance, especially for children and youth – from just meeting and having fun together to a higher level of advocating for such very important issues as climate change and clean energy that affect all citizens. The organisers were also looking for additional motivation and encouragement, such as certificates for participants, prizes for the winners of contests and quizzes, and even free water and ice-cream on hot days that was really appreciated by the visitors and guests.

Covenant National Coordinators and Covenant Supporters advertised and promoted the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 at the national and regional level. All three offices of Covenant Territorial Coordinators in Georgia supported the municipalities during the organization of events in regional centers.

The Georgian CoM East Team represented by George Abulashvili, Country Expert for Azerbaijan and Georgia, Liana Garibashvili, Communication Expert, and Elene Gvilava, Technical Expert, provided support to the participating municipalities. They consulted the CoM Signatories on various aspects of Energy Days' organisation, provided the CoM East promotional materials developed by the project and participated in several events.



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MOLDOVA

46 CoM Signatories | 13 Energy Days



EUSEW & Energy Day 2019 in figures

Municipalities	13
Activities organized	115
Direct participants involved	over 6400
3 most popular types of activities:	
• Information events for youth and children (presentations, open lessons, workshops, seminars, talks and thematic classes in youth camps and schools etc.)	29
• Concerts, festivals, drawing and painting contests	27
• Photo and thematic exhibitions	18

Energy Days as an effective tool for promoting responsible energy use

This year, the number of CoM Signatories as well as those participating in the EUSEW activities in Moldova has increased by more than twice. Out of 46 municipalities, 13 (compared to 6 last year) joined the EUSEW 2019 celebrations and organized Energy Days in their communities in May – June 2019. Over 100 different activities were organized under the EU leadership for promoting sustainable energy, energy efficiency and renewable energy at local level.

The events brought together more than 6400 participants, including representatives of public authorities, EU institutions, NGOs, private sector etc. The organised activities varied from thematic classes and open lessons for children in schools and kindergartens to drawing and painting contests, concerts, photo and creativity RES and energy saving exhibitions, sports games and bike-riding activities. Besides, some more Signatories plan to hold their Energy Days in August – September 2019, with the Moldovan capital Chisinau amongst them.

“The Energy Day in Budesti was organized for the first time. For different categories of citizens we organised different kind of activities, including a public awareness campaign about climate and energy conservation held by means of children’s drawing contests, thematic lessons, open-air events for kids and their families etc. The Energy Day is an effective way to motivate our citizens to improve their understanding on climate change and green energy issues.”

Nina Costiuc, Budesti Mayor

The Energy Days in Moldova were organized in close cooperation of the CoM East project, EU Delegation to Moldova, Covenant National Coordinator, CoM-DeP and other EU funded projects operating in the country. The CoM East Team in Moldova provided support to the municipalities in organizing energy related events under the EUSEW, in particular by providing the experts’ consultations and disseminating promotional materials promoting energy efficiency and energy saving, usage of renewable energy sources and climate change mitigation amongst the Moldovan citizens.

For wider promotion of the Energy Days’ activities, the CoM East Signatories used their social media and web pages. National and local media highlighted the Energy Days, while Country Expert and Communication Expert talked about the initiative on local TV and radio stations.

“This year, Festelita celebrated Energy Day for the second time, and we hope it will become a good tradition. It was an amazing event with 250 participants, which is a very good result for a village. All the local public institutions were involved; this strengthened the local partnership and common desire to approach the values of European communities.”

Nicolae Tudoreanu, Festelita Mayor

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In addition to public events, about 150 participants were involved in a series of workshops and thematic exhibitions organized by Energy Efficiency Agency in cooperation with CoM East and experts from AEER, the Covenant Supporter, and the EU funded project "Support to the Modernisation of the Energy Sector in the Republic of Moldova" (STARS). The workshops were held in June and targeted local public authorities from the following municipalities: Edinet, Ungheni, Soldanesti and Cimislia.



View more pictures from the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019 in Moldova

www.facebook.com/pg/CovenantOfMayorsEast/photos/



UKRAINE

271 CoM Signatories | 46 Energy Days



EUSEW & Energy Day 2019 in figures

Municipalities	46
Activities organized	650
Persons reached/involved	over 62,500
3 most popular type of activities:	
• Photo exhibitions, thematic and creativity exhibitions	91
• Information events for youth and children (presentations, open lessons, workshops, seminars, talks and thematic classes in youth camps and schools etc.)	55
• Thematic videos, movies	42

Strong support of all the stakeholders in the energy sector drives real changes

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 has provided an open platform for discussion of best practices and innovative energy ideas.

In Ukraine, the level of organization and performance of the EUSEW & Energy Days is growing every year, as well as the number of activities held overall in the country. The events are usually planned in line with the guidelines of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, especially for the official EUSEW Opening Ceremony, and supported by the CoM East Team with involvement of local, regional and national stakeholders, Covenant National and Territorial Coordinators as well as CoM Supporters.

In total, 46 Ukrainian CoM Signatories organised more than 650 EUSEW-related activities in May – June 2019, with the participation of more than 62 thousand people, which is twice as much as it was last year.

Also, many municipalities are willing to hold their Energy Days in autumn of 2019, which is quite reasonable given that the heating season is approaching and residents should get prepared being much more receptive to any information that could be useful for saving energy and heat.





Mykolaiv became the official EUSEW 2019 capital in Ukraine

On 1 June 2019, the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine and the Mykolaiv City Council opened the 10th EU Sustainable Energy Week in Ukraine. The event was opened by S.E.M. Alex Lenaerts, Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium, Johannes Baur, Head of Operations Section "Economic cooperation, energy, infrastructure and environment" of the EU Delegation to Ukraine and Oleksandr Senkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv.



The EU Delegation to Ukraine team at the official EUSEW 2019 opening in Mykolaiv, 1.06.2019

"This year's EU Sustainable Energy week focuses one of the fundamental problems on planet Earth: global warming, environmental protection, excessive use of resources. The European Union attaches major importance to this topic. Special role in this process belongs not only to the authorities and the governments but also to each of us and we can achieve a lot by joining our forces. Therefore, the title of this year's edition is "Citizen's role in shaping the sustainable future: energy efficiency, renewable energy and waste management."

Johannes Baur, Head of Operations Section, EU Delegation to Ukraine

One of the key events of the EUSEW 2019 in Mykolaiv was the opening of PRO Efficiency 3.0 exhibition, which is an annual platform for informing citizens about the latest energy saving and renewable energy technologies for private households. The recent achievements in reducing energy consumption in multi-apartment buildings and further opportunities to implement energy efficiency measures with the EU support were presented to city residents and the media.

"Sustainable Energy Week is the best opportunity for our citizens to get acquainted with the modern technologies that can help them consume less energy and use the savings for their own needs. It is the most powerful motivation and we support those residents who make steps towards the improvement of energy efficiency with real and efficient organizational and financial mechanisms."

Oleksandr Senkevych, Mayor of Mykolaiv

At the exhibition, the EU Delegation to Ukraine arranged the Eco-Tree activity for city residents so that everyone could see if they adhere to eco-friendly principles in their everyday lives. During the day, the participants stuck paper leaves of different colours to the tree: green leaves with eco-friendly habits or brown ones with habits that are detrimental to the environment. As a result, Mykolaiv residents demonstrated a high level of environmental awareness – the green leaves greatly outnumbered the brown ones.



The EUSEW 2019 opening was highlighted by a welcome ceremony for 25 new participants of the Municipal Energy and Climate Transformation Platform, established within the activities of Covenant of Mayors in Ukraine. The Platform is a new format for association of mayors, regional and public authorities, private investors, technical assistance projects, international organizations and businesses to discuss issues and principles for the implementation of sustainable energy development and adaptation to climate change.

The CoM East Team was directly involved and provided continuous support to the Signatories in the course of preparation and organization of the Energy Days. In particular, they offered individual consultations to the participating municipalities and assisted Mykolayiv City Hall in terms of planning, organizing and conducting the EUSEW 2019 Opening Ceremony. Also, specially tailored promotional items were developed and disseminated during the official opening and other events as the prizes to the participants of entertaining thematic quests, quizzes, contests for the best works on energy efficiency and climate protection, sports events and other public events on environment, climate and energy issues.

This year, it is also important to mention the growing activeness and support of the National and Territorial Coordinators, Covenant Supporters becomes more significant and substantial. The Covenant Coordinators and Supporters provided organizational, methodological and informational assistance to the Signatories, publicised the EUSEW & Energy Days at national and regional levels.





A strong support of the main stakeholders in the energy sector in combination with a comprehensive information campaign within the CoM initiative step by step changes an attitude of local residents towards energy efficiency, environment protection and their own lifestyle.



Increasing the EU4Energy and CoM visibility in the region.

In order to support the CoM Signatories in the EaP countries organising their events in the framework of the EUSEW & Energy Days 2019, the CoM East project developed a set of promo materials with specific energy efficient messages addressed to the Sustainable Energy Days, such as "Change your mindset, not climate!", "Take the energy challenge today!", "No more plastic", to name a few.

The promo material were adapted to the country's needs in coordination with the EU Delegation in each country and disseminated during the Energy Days organised in the framework of the EUSEW 2019.

In total, 64 municipalities from 6 Eastern Partnership countries received promo materials from CoM East project.



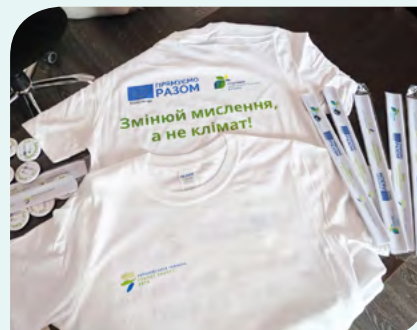


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The EU4Energy Initiative covers all EU support to improve energy supply, security and connectivity, as well as to promote energy efficiency and the use of renewables in the Eastern Partner countries Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and 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

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