

NOTE

on implementation of the Heating component under the Energy II Project

The Energy II Project financed by a World Bank credit (about US\$ 35 million) includes important investments in rehabilitation of the electricity and heating systems of the country, and fits well in a wider process of reforms in the energy sector.

The heating component of the project aims for improvements in heating supply and energy efficiency in a number of public buildings, including installation of modern boiler houses, rehabilitation of heating and hot water supply networks. About 35 social institutions benefited and benefit from the heating component with a total attendance of more than 1.2 million people per year. Most of the objects – schools, kindergartens, district hospitals, etc. – are located in small towns. IN the same time rehabilitation of heating and water supply networks and steam boilers is taking place in buildings of national importance – Clinical Republican Hospital and Institute of Oncology.

Following the economic crises after 1990 the heating sector confronted with a difficult situation as a result of increase in fuel prices, advanced depreciation and low efficiency of equipment, lack of fund for maintenance and capital investments, low payments by residential sector, businesses and public entities. This, in turn, lead to technical deterioration, continuously decreasing quality of services and failure of district heating companies in most towns, finally resulting in a total collapse by 1999-2000. The situation was particularly difficult in social propose public buildings, whose heating systems were 30-40 years old. Frequent breakdowns, permanent danger of serious system failures, low service quality and exaggerated costs for maintenance and operation called for the need to retrofit these systems.

Thus, a number of public buildings were identified during the preparation of the project – schools, kindergartens, hospitals, etc. needing immediate implementation of measures aiming to improve the quality and efficiency of heating. Most of these buildings were using coal fired boilers or electrical ovens after centralized district heating collapsed in these towns. Some public institutions would close during the winter season. This did not allow normal functioning of institutions and created increasing danger for personnel's health, as well as that of children, patients, etc.

Within this context, during the implementation of the Energy II Project Heating component 28 boiler stations were build, providing heat for 35 public institutions and a number of residential buildings. External networks connecting the buildings to boiler houses, as well as internal heating and hot water networks, were rehabilitated under the project. Total area heated by the newly installed systems is over 700 thousand m².

The systems operate in automatic mode, heat agent temperature being adjusted automatically depending on outside weather and to the needs in heat and hot water of the institutions. Efficiency and ecological characteristics of the newly installed boilers are high – over 92% and a reduced level of green house gas and noxious emissions.

One needs to note that a series of improvements are being completed under the project in the Republican Clinical Hospital and Institute of Oncology – installation of steam boilers, rehabilitation of external heating networks and internal heat and hot water net. All these are done according to new principles and implementation of heating distribution points for an efficient supply of heat from the centralized district heating system of Chisinau. The operation of new systems should start in the 2007-2008 winter season.