


Coșnița is a village with 6,000 inhabitants located in a meander of the Nistru River in the north of the Republic of Moldova (see photo). From a geographical point of view, Coșnița belongs to the Russian enclave of Transnistria, and from a political and administrative point of view - to the Republic of Moldova, which is governed democratically and is oriented towards Europe. Coșnița has a picturesque situation in one of the most beautiful areas of Europe and decided to go as an entity its own way in the development of the village through civic cooperation. Starting from the potential of agricultural households and the surrounding waste, a biogas plant is to be planned to be built as the central element of a bioenergy village.



 BMO GRUP | BMO Grup, a farm established by German farmers with 3,500 fattening pigs and agile management has already given the green light for this. In the spring of 2024, a larger energy concept will be developed, with a local heating network and photovoltaic panels.

Caz Coșnița: bioenergy village

With the support of the German Federal Environment Foundation (DBU), the consulting firm Spelleken Assoc. from Lower Franconia, together with its citizens and local business entities, is intended to develop a communal energy concept focused on biogas. Spelleken Assoc. is a project developer active predominantly in South-Eastern Europe and Central America, combining environmental and development aspects, currently with a particular focus on climate protection in the hands of citizens. In Coșnița, together with strong partners, such as the social reform cooperative innova eG, located in Dortmund, impulses are being developed towards civic energy, suitable for the Eastern Partnership (Moldova, Ukraine, etc.).



As a first step, citizens must come along together in an energy association, with their expectations, proposals, and goals. The association shall have a statute, an organizational structure and a public relations activity. From the energy association, the consortium of investing companies is subsequently formed, along with financing, planning, and operating.

German biogas planners visit the place, substrates will be analysed in different formats, capacities will be calculated, and locations will be specified as well as required injection rights will be verified. As a result, a local heating network will be created with the help of local engineers to permanently use the heat produced in accordance with market requirements. The financing and construction of the plant is set in motion with the support of commercial and development banks. Coșnița thus resembles a bioenergy village, as hundreds of such villages have appeared in Denmark, Austria, and Germany. All calorific potential (waste for fermentation in the biogas plant) is collected in a decentralized manner, according to the cooperative principle "village for village" and is used for local energy in the form of electricity, heat or even methane.

Thus, Coșnița becomes a model for Moldova and Ukraine, as there are ambitious strategies for civic gas, given the independence from Russian gas, threatened by conflicts. For this reason, the project supported by DBU is closely coordinated with the Ministries of Energy, Environment and Agriculture and the Food Industry, as well as with the mayor's office and the district administration.

Contact in Moldova (local NGO Inima Nistrului):
Contact in Germany:

+373 68254455 Viorica Verlan
+49 6023 503288 Hans-Gerd Spelleken