

Vişniovca village, closer to Europe

Students of the Paraskiewa Wiszniowska Gymnasium in the village of Vişniovca, Cantemir district, will enjoy the warmth of the institution in winter, and the school administration will have lower heating bills. For several years, citizens and local public authorities (LPAs) have been opting for energy efficiency and reducing energy consumption and CO2 emissions. For more than five years, the locality has been a signatory to the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy - a European movement involving local and regional authorities that are voluntarily committed to increasing energy efficiency and using renewable energy sources. The gymnasium is currently undergoing thermal insulation, which is part of the European Village Program.

It was a Friday afternoon and a thick layer of snow had settled on the road. Not a single human breath could be seen in the courtyards of the village of Vişniovca. On the way to school, a few workers were in the gymnasium courtyard, unloading building materials from a truck. From the school's facade, we could tell that the educational institution was in the process of an exterior renovation. For several months now, the local gymnasium has been undergoing thermal insulation work. Once all the heating panels are installed, the pupils will benefit from good conditions and they will be warm, because the school will be totally energy efficient.

Involving students in community life helps them develop their social and leadership skills

Before submitting the project of heating the gymnasium to the European Village Program, the local authorities implemented several initiatives to inform citizens about the benefits of rational use of energy resources, with local students being actively involved. **Octavian Curzac**, a ninth-grader, says that he and his classmates went from door to door and talked to people, advising them on how to use energy resources more rationally. *"We participated in trainings with several students, and then we went and talked in the village about how important it is to participate actively to have a more modern village,"* Octavian says.

Her colleague **Melissa Rotaru** believes that such citizen engagement initiatives should be promoted as best practice so that other educational institutions can be inspired. *"In order to talk to people about getting involved in such environmental, energy efficiency projects, you have to show them examples. Initially, we participated in a training organized in the town of Cantemir, where the wastewater treatment plant was modernized. That's what we students from Vişniovca did,"* she said.

Tatiana Saviţchi, the headmistress of the institution, says that involving students in consultation on community issues brings many benefits for both the children and the community as a whole. *"This involvement not only helps students develop social and leadership skills, but also contributes to creating a stronger and more united community,"* she said.

The village of Vişniovca, signatory to the Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy

The mayor of **Olga Pac**, a former geography teacher, says it is a priority for the village of Vişniovca to reduce CO2 emissions by at least 30% by 2030, as required by the [Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy](#). The village of Vişniovca became a signatory to the Convention a few years ago and since then the village has been promoting projects to use renewable energy sources for energy production, both for public institutions and domestic users. The mayor said that the school

currently has a gas-fired central heating system, and once the building is insulated she is sure that the bill figures will go down during the cold season.

The company Galicus Ltd. is responsible for the thermal rehabilitation of the Paraskiewa Wiszniowska Gymnasium. According to the public tender, three economic operators participated in the tender. According to the portal Achizitii.md, the [offer proposed](#) by the company is about 3.7 million lei (~800918 USD), and the works are planned to be completed in 2024.

Source: [Independent Press Association](#)