

New lighting system inaugurated at Salonta's 4th centenary celebrations

As part of its 4th centenary celebrations, Salonta Municipality inaugurated a new, energy-efficient public lighting system that was developed with technical assistance and financial support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The ceremony, on June 2nd, benefited from the presence of Ms. Soknan Han Jung, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, who, together with Mr. Török László, Mayor of Salonta, flicked the switch to turn on the lights.



Ms. Jung and Mayor Török 'flick the switch'

The origins of this lighting initiative may be traced back to an Agreement-in-Principle (AiP) of April 2005 between Mayor László Török, Mr. Mark Velody of UNDP GEF and Ms. Claudia Filip of the Romanian Commercial Bank (BCR). The AiP stated that UNDP GEF would provide technical and partial financial support if Salonta would commit to carry out the investment project.

Accordingly, UNDP GEF financed a Feasibility Study by consultants EnergoEco, who had won an open Call for Offers to carry out the work. When the study was complete, the Municipal Council committed to the investment, BCR granted a loan, and UNDP GEF provided an equipment grant of \$37,500 towards an overall investment of around \$385,000.

The Feasibility Study estimates that this project will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approx. 330 tones per year.

The project in Salonta is one of many receiving technical and financial assistance from the GEF through the UNDP, in partnership with the Romanian Agency for Energy Conservation. More than 60 local authorities and companies have benefited from the project "Capacity Building for Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction through Energy Efficiency in Romania", which demonstrates economic, environmental and social benefits of a wide range of investments. So far, UNDP GEF has helped leverage 28 projects with a combined value of more than \$40 million. Investments include not only public lighting, but also energy efficiency improvements at schools and kindergartens; boiler replacement; burner replacement; efficient water pumps; installation of metering and controls; combined heat and power plants; biomass-fired and wood-waste-fired industrial boilers; solar pre-heating of water for district heating; and other environmentally-friendly investments.



Energy-efficient public lighting system in Salonta

Switching on the new lighting system Ms. Jung said "This public lighting initiative in Salonta represents an excellent example of how well-designed, energy-efficient investments can bring economic, social and environmental benefits at the same time. Economic benefits in the form of lower electricity bills; social benefits in the form of improved lighting services for the people of Salonta; and environmental benefits in the form of lower greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere."

At the invitation of Mayor Török, Ms. Jung and Vice-Mayor Mr. Lajos Illyés cut the ribbon of a new social canteen, "Dr. Kiss Ferenc". The new facility will provide meals for around 100 disadvantaged local people every day.



Ms. Jung, and Vice-Mayor Illyés open the social canteen.

Mr. Török, Mr. Illyés, Ms. Jung and two of the Energy Efficiency Financing team of UNDP, Ms. Radulescu and Mr. Velody

