



The Impact of COVID-19 on the Energy Sector in the Republic of Moldova

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The COVID-19 impact on the activity of National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE)

- COVID-19 has affected the health of a large number of ANRE employees, with some needing hospitalization.
- All international events were cancelled, including a large number of training workshops. This has hindered the training plans and transfer of the necessary expertise.
- Due to similar health issues at the regulated companies the scheduled reports were provided with 1-3 months' delay, which caused further delays in processing these reports by ANRE.
- A large part of ANRE budget is made of regulatory payments from oil companies. The steep decrease in international oil prices and low volumes of sales - led to a sharp decrease in regulatory payments. The budget for 2020 recorded a drop of **5,5 million MDL** (aprx. 254,500 EUR).



The COVID-19 impact on Regulated Companies

- ANRE has forbidden the regulated companies to suspend their services or apply penalties to consumers that did not pay the invoices for electricity, heating, natural gas or water supply.
- During the months of March and April 2020 the regulated companies have experienced minor issues with the liquidity. The situation with bill payments has normalized important in the following months.
- During March & April the oil companies experienced a **40 - 60%** drop in imports and sales due to travelling restrictions.
- The economic recession caused by COVID-19 has prompted regulated companies to adjust the investment plans. The sources allocated for investments in infrastructure was largely reduced for 2020 and 2021.



The measures taken by the Government to fight COVID-19 pandemic

Following the declaration of - **state of emergency, siege and war**, the Commission for Exceptional Situations of the Republic of Moldova has issued a list of restrictions. The main restrictions relevant to regulator and regulated companies include:

- Introduce quarantine measures in all institutions;
- Establish a special working regime for all entities. Limit working hours;
- Adjust public appointment procedures for economic operators and public institutions;
- Prohibit sacking the employees.



The measures taken by ANRE at the national & institutional level

1. The regulated companies were not allowed to suspend their services or apply penalties to consumers that did not pay the invoices for electricity, heating, natural gas or water.
2. The regulated companies were allowed to issue monthly invoices based on average daily consumption estimations recorded during a similar month, last year.
3. During the state of emergency, the scheduled or unannounced inspection at the regulated companies were suspended.
4. In order to limit the physical contact, the petitions/claims and other documents were only accepted by email or by telephone (free call).
5. All public hearings and small internal meetings were conducted online.