



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



ENHANCING STABILITY AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN EUROPEAN AND EURASIAN ENERGY MARKETS (ESTEEM)

The ESTEEM activity provides technical assistance throughout the Europe and Eurasia region to increase regional cooperation and energy security by providing support to energy regulators. The ESTEEM activity supports Moldova's National Agency for Energy Regulation (ANRE) to improve its regulatory framework and capacity to address ongoing challenges related to electricity and gas market development, regional integration, monitoring processes, and electricity market coupling.

OBJECTIVES

Although Moldova has made strides in the development of its energy markets, gaps remain with regard to encouraging competitive market conditions, overcoming market barriers to coupling efforts, as well as resolving technical losses in gas distribution networks. The challenges Moldova faces due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the ongoing energy crisis in the region have also created a window of opportunity for the Moldovan energy sector to make substantive progress in its energy market reforms.

Regional Market Integration

ESTEEM supports Moldova's coupling efforts with Romania and broader market integration by supporting cooperation between ANRE and EU regulators and energy stakeholders. The ESTEEM activity will also provide practitioner and expert-level support from ANRE Romania, National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) volunteers, and in-house technical experts. Furthermore, the ESTEEM activity will support the development of a framework agreement to institute Moldova's market coupling and streamline the implementation pathway. Increased regional market integration will ultimately support Moldova's EU accession and energy diversification.

Electricity and Gas Market Development

The ESTEEM activity will continue to support ANRE in the development of market regulation procedures in compliance with the Energy Community’s legal framework for electricity and gas markets, including support for regulating the day-ahead and intraday markets, as well as the balancing market which will increase system reliability and resiliency. ESTEEM will also assist ANRE in developing and implementing new and updated market rules by providing expertise through EU and US regulatory peer practices and recommendations.

Electricity and Gas Market Monitoring

ANRE’s introduction and licensing of nominated electricity market operator, OPEM – a subsidiary of Romanian market operator OPCOM – requires further development of regulatory procedures and capacity building to monitor the market activities. The ESTEEM activity will develop draft market monitoring procedures and implementation guidelines for ANRE to incorporate as Moldova moves toward energy efficiency market reforms.

Capacity Development of ANRE

The ESTEEM activity will provide training on market monitoring and surveillance to increase domestic institutional capacity and expertise. Training will also be provided on the EU Regulation on Wholesale Energy Market Integrity and Transparency (REMIT) to ensure the appropriate use of privileged information and investigation of infringements. Additional training, with support from ANRE Romania technical experts, will cover natural gas topics such as transmission system operator certification, the implementation of EU regulations, and the monitoring of natural gas capacity and congestion in transit.

Program Duration	Contact
May 2024 – May 2026	Erin B. Hammel
Budget: \$1,500,000	Senior Director of International Programs National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) 1101 Vermont Ave, NW, Suite 200 Washington, DC 20005 Email: ehammel@naruc.org