



# ARGONNE EXPERTS HELP THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY STRENGTHEN ENERGY SECURITY IN MOLDOVA

Argonne experts flew to Moldova’s capital, Chişinău (pictured), and helped government officials identify viable alternative routes and sources of natural gas in the event of a disruption in natural gas supply to the country during the 2019–2020 winter.

## THE CHALLENGE

In the fall of 2019, the Central European nation of Moldova needed to find a new way to obtain natural gas. The country, which depends on Russian natural gas delivered through pipelines that stretch more than 300 miles across Ukraine, was at risk of having its imports interrupted starting January 1, 2020, if a new gas contract was not signed between Ukraine and Russia.

## THE COLLABORATION

With the help of experts from the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Office of International Affairs, U.S. Department of State, and DOE’s Argonne National Laboratory, Moldovan officials are now better positioned to maintain the country’s energy security.

This was accomplished through the DOE-led Partnership for Transatlantic Energy Cooperation (P-TEC), which operates the Technical Expert

Advisory Mission to Europe (E-TEAM), an initiative to provide technical assistance to Central and Eastern European countries to enhance their energy security and resilience.

## THE INNOVATION

Within days of being notified, experts from two Argonne divisions—Decision and Infrastructure Sciences and Energy Systems—flew to Chişinău, Moldova’s capital. The team quickly analyzed options, identified ways to respond to the potential disruption, and jump-started a partnership that led to a viable backup plan.

On December 11, 2019, Moldova and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) signed an agreement for a \$50 million line of credit, which the country could use to buy natural gas from Naftogaz (Ukraine’s national oil and gas company) if Russia and Ukraine failed to sign a new gas transit agreement.

## THE IMPACT

A last-minute agreement between Russia and Ukraine meant that Moldova did not need to purchase gas from Ukraine starting in January 2020. Yet the Moldova–EBRD agreement is regarded as an important step in enhancing energy security and resiliency—providing a roadmap for use by other countries in the region.

## CONTACT

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