

February, 12nd, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

Enaon EDA: Florina enters a New Energy Era through connection to the natural gas network

The flame - lighting ceremony for the supply of natural gas in Florina was held by Enaon, in presence of the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy

The flame of natural gas was symbolically lit yesterday in the border city of Florina, marking the beginning of a new era for the region.

Enaon EDA, Hellenic Gas Distribution Company, subsidiary of Enaon, **supplies the city of Florina through** a state-of-the-art **small-scale LNG infrastructure** developed with the expertise of its parent company, **Italgas**.

These cutting-edge infrastructures provide households and businesses in the city access to a cleaner and more affordable energy source. Florina is among the first cities in Greece to be supplied with LNG by Enaon EDA.

The **natural gas flame - lighting ceremony** in Florina, marking the **activation of the network** and the **gradual supply of the city**, was held yesterday by the CEO of **Enaon Group**, Mrs. **Barbara Morgante**, and the CEO of **its subsidiary Enaon EDA**, Mrs. **Francesca Zanninotti**. The ceremony was honored by the presence of the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Mrs. **Alexandra Sdoukou**, the Governor of Western Macedonia, Mr. **Giorgos Amanatidis**, the Mayor of Florina, Mr. **Vasilis Giannakis**, the Member of the Parliament P.E. Florinas of ND, Mr. **Stavros Papasotiriou**, the Head of the Prime Minister's Office in Northern Greece, Mrs. **Elena Sokou**, The Bishop of Florina, Prespes and Eordea, Mr. **Eirinaios** as well as representatives of the economic and social life of the area.

The CEO of Enaon, Mrs. **Barbara Morgante** highlighted during her speech: *"This project is a powerful example of how innovative infrastructure can support the local community. The activation of the natural gas distribution network in Florina is a defining moment, not only for the city but also for the future of energy distribution in Greece. This project is a clear demonstration of our commitment to bringing natural gas to every region, regardless of its geographic location. It also highlights the strong collaboration between the institutional stakeholders, the local stakeholders and regulatory authorities and Enaon Group, who is deeply rooted in leveraging the extensive expertise of our parent company Italgas. By integrating Italgas' profound knowledge and innovative practices we have been able to utilize state-of the art digital tools and smart grid solutions to enhance the efficiency and reliability of our*

gas distribution networks, ready to immediately accommodate biomethane and, in the future, hydrogen”.

She also added: “Italgas’ group commitment to the fight against climate change is highly demonstrated for the third consecutive year, by its presence in the “Climate A list” of the Carbon Disclosure Project (drawn up by the non-profit organization CDP, Carbon Disclosure Project). As part of this, Italgas was placed at the top of the ranking in the “Climate Change” section, receiving the highest score, “A”. The result achieved confirms the validity and credibility of the Group’s initiatives and objectives set in the Strategic Plan and the Sustainable Value Creation Plan”.

The CEO of Enaon EDA, Mrs. **Francesca Zanninotti**, noted: *“The activation of the natural gas distribution network in Florina demonstrates our commitment in developing the energy infrastructure in Greece, even eliminating the energy isolation supplying the most remote areas of the country. Our company is now implementing its plan to connect consumers with determination, ensuring the efficient and uninterrupted distribution of natural gas to residents and businesses. Just yesterday, together with the Municipality of Florina, we signed the contracts for the connection of 21 municipal buildings, including 18 schools, to the gas distribution network, while we signed an agreement with the Metropolis of Florina, Prespes and Eordaia for the connection of 10 ecclesiastical buildings”.*

Ms. Zanninotti also emphasized that the Florina project is part of the company’s broader development program in Western Macedonia, where networks in three other cities – Kastoria, Argos Orestiko, and Grevena – have already been activated. *“The citizens, the local authorities, and businesses have embraced this effort, recognizing its importance and we will continue expanding the network to other areas of Florina and Western Macedonia to meet the significant demand already recorded,”* stated the CEO of Enaon EDA.

The Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy, Ms. **Alexandra Sdoukou**, highlighted during her address: *“The activation of the natural gas network in the city of Florina, and the access of households and businesses to more affordable heating in the region of Western Macedonia with such challenging climatic conditions, completes a wide range of priorities and actions promoted by the government throughout the country. Since the start of gas distribution in Greek cities, more than 625,000 connections have been made, currently serving 2.5 million of citizens. The development plan foresees the construction of more than 3,000 km of new network, reaching 11,000 km and 1 million connections by 2030. Total investment in the distribution networks exceeded 1.5 billion euros, creating thousands of jobs for technical and scientific staff. 2024 was a productive year, as gas reached 7 new areas: Grevena, Livadia, Livadia, Giannitsa, Kastoria, Argos Orestiko, Orestiada and Veria. In 2025, Patras, Amfissa, Alexandria, Imathia, Ioannina, Arta, Preveza, Igoumenitsa, Pyrgos and Agrinio will follow. Also, compared to 2023, in 2024 an increase of 10% was achieved in new connection contracts and new connections activated. Improving the daily lives of citizens is at the heart of our energy policy every day”.*

For his part, the Regional Governor of Western Macedonia, Mr. **Giorgos Amanatidis** said that the arrival of natural gas in Florina is an important milestone not only for the city, but also for the Region of Western Macedonia, as it is a project with social, developmental and environmental significance. The use of natural gas, which is a cleaner, more efficient and affordable form of energy, contributes to the well-being of the local community by reducing energy costs for households in the region that have increased energy needs. At the same time, the project stimulates the local economy as businesses rationalise their operating costs and become more competitive, and helps to protect the environment, said Mr Amanatidis.

The Mayor of Florina, Mr. **Vasilis Giannakis**, stated: *"Today is a special day for our region. Florina is stepping out of the margins of energy developments, and a decades-long dream of our citizens for access to an affordable and efficient energy source is finally becoming a reality. The flame we light today officially launches one of the most critical development projects of the post-lignite era. This project not only immediately relieves household budgets but also ensures the energy sustainability and resilience of our region for decades to come. I feel it is my duty to thank everyone who contributed to the realization of this project. As a Municipal Authority, we commit to continue striving for a high-standard, modern, sustainable, and functional municipality."*

Enaon top management expressed its sincere gratitude to all those who contributed to the implementation of the project: the Ministry of Environment and Energy, the authorities of the Region of Western Macedonia, the municipal authorities and local stakeholders and, above all, the citizens of Florina, who supported the implementation of this important project from the very beginning.

Project Overview

The total investment to bring gas to Florina amounts to €40 million.

The construction of the natural gas distribution network in Florina, **co-financed by company's funds and EU resources with a total budget of 19.9 million euros**, is progressing rapidly. With the co-financing of Greece and the European Union, the project began with funds from the National Strategic Reference Framework 2014-2020 through the Operational Program "Competitiveness, Entrepreneurship and Innovation" (EPANEK) and will be completed through the "Environment and Climate Change" Program in the National Strategic Reference Framework 2021-2027.

To date, **51 kilometers of low-pressure network** (nearly the entire contracted length) **have been constructed**, and **11 kilometers were activated in January, enabling the supply of the first households**. The network is being gradually activated and is expected to be fully operational by March, while **the construction of**

approximately 1,000 delivery points is underway, covering around 1,800 consumer connections.

In parallel, **52 kilometers of the medium-pressure network** have been completed, and the company is ready to connect Florina to the National Transmission System once the high-pressure natural gas pipeline reaches Western Macedonia.

Already, Enaon EDA, in collaboration with the Municipality of Florina, signed the contracts for the **connection of 21 municipal buildings**, including 18 schools. The connection costs will be covered by Enaon EDA and public funds.

Also, Enaon EDA and the Metropolis of Florina, Prespes and Eordaia signed an agreement for the **connection of 10 church properties to the natural gas distribution network**. These properties include the Metropolis of Florina, Prespes and Eordaia building, the Florina ecclesiastical high school and the Florina boarding school.

To date, approximately **4,000 connection applications** have been submitted in Florina, and nearly **2,400 connection contracts** have been signed. Most applications were submitted under the "Oil to Gas" program, which supports the replacement of existing heating systems with natural gas systems. This program, with a total budget of approximately €20 million, is funded by EU resources through the Ministry of Energy and Environment.

It should be noted that for all **residential consumers**, regardless of their inclusion in the programme, as well as for all **commercial consumers**, there is a **100% discount on connection fees**, providing significant savings for consumers.