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SDE23 Organisation // A. Croitoru

PRESS RELEASE



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**TITLE** SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE IN ROMANIA! FELICITĂRI!  
**SUBTITLE** BUCHAREST IS THE NEWLY DESIGNATED HOST CITY FOR SDE'S 2023 EDITION!

**INTRO** The city of Bucharest has been designated the Host City for the upcoming Solar Decathlon Europe 2023 (SDE23): the singular, ever-thriving, and award-winning worldwide Competition in sustainable architecture, which challenges ambitious university teams to design, build and operate full-scale, energy-efficient houses that are technically advanced, attractive and resource-responsible. Events will take place in September of 2023, right in the heart of Bucharest, Romania!

**CONTEXT** The organising dream team, composed of the Asociatia Solar Decathlon Bucuresti (otherwise known as EFdeN) and the Energy Endeavour Foundation (EEF), is eagerly collaborating to bring the SDE23 to Bucharest. With extensive and continued focus on technological innovation in construction, and for environmental protection challenges, the international student-driven solar home Competition is already enjoying local support from ENGIE as well as from the Romanian Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests.



#### PRESS CONFERENCE

Romania's participation in the Call for Cities, and Bucharest's ultimate designation, were received with enthusiasm and confidence by the EEF-appointed jury, and by representatives of the public and private sectors in Romania. The press conference announcing Bucharest's designation as the Host City will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2021, at 8:30 CEST, at EFdeN HQ within Bucharest's Faculty of Building Services Engineering, on Bd. Pache Protopopescu, no.66, Sector 2, Bucharest. The event will also be streamed live on the Solar Decathlon Europe 2023 Facebook page, and viewable post-event. (<https://www.facebook.com/Solar-Decathlon-Bucure%C8%99ti-2023-109795704521834>)

#### EXPERIENCE & SUPPORT

Before designation as Host City Organisers, Romanian Decathlete Teams participated in four of the five Solar Decathlon Europe (SDE) editions, starting with the SDE12 edition in Madrid. Ten years later, with the continued support of technical universities in Bucharest, as well as impressive support from the private sector, the Romanian SDE23 Organisers have the honour and the responsibility to host this sixth edition of the Solar Decathlon Europe in Bucharest, in September, 2023.

#### YOUTH-DRIVEN

*"Ultimately, we look to the Teams. The SDE23 Organisers in Bucharest are the embodiment of the SDE Team spirit, showing that with true grit, we can lead, and make a real change."*  
Louise Holloway, EEF Director

The SDE23 in Bucharest, as with every SDE edition, is looking forward to receiving the ambitious projects of approximately 20 student Teams, all eager to change the European built landscape with one that is even more adapted to current challenges. From entry to presentation, Decathlete Teams spend two years designing, building, and communicating their prototype, preparing their performance during the two weeks of public visits, jury contests, and monitoring. The students organise their multidisciplinary Teams on their own, functioning as young professionals, able to thoroughly cover the launch of their full-scale prototype, from designing and building, to communicating and marketing, to then operating the prototype. The ten (decathlon) contests include evaluation in architecture, integration in the built environment, energy, engineering, innovation, sustainability, and the economic viability for the prototypes' destination markets.

#### MOVEMENT

Initiated in 2002 by the United States Department of Energy, the Solar Decathlon Competition has challenged technical universities and student Teams around the world to design, build and operate efficient and innovative buildings using renewable energy sources. Since its inception, the Competition has grown and expanded worldwide, becoming the leading international 'design & build' event in the field of sustainable construction, with chapters on five continents and in ten countries. Based on the original U.S. model, Solar Decathlon Europe was born in 2010 and has evolved in a direction well adapted to the European built environment, encouraging pan-European professionalisation, and fostering its international spirit. Since 2017, the Energy Endeavour Foundation is the stewarding body for all Solar Decathlon Europe Competitions, providing continuity from one edition to the next. The EEF ensures the Competition's mandate through a structure for the transfer of knowledge, nurturing the values acquired over two decades. These actions foster connections between academia and industry, policy-makers, professionals, students and the broader public, toward resource optimisation and behavioural change.



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**STEWARD ENERGY ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION (EEF)**

Based in the Netherlands, the Energy Endeavour Foundation is a non-profit business organisation, buttressed by its EEF Board of Directors. Endorsed by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Energy Endeavour Foundation is stewarding the second decade of the Solar Decathlon Europe. The past decade was characterised by growth and consolidation of the SDE vision, with increasing impact on communities and individuals. Recent winner of Eurosolar's European Solar Prize, the EEF has rejuvenated the SDE while building new initiatives linking academia, industry, and research in the quest for resource optimisation. The EEF works with dedication toward the continued excellence of the Solar Decathlon in Europe. The EEF's stewardship has resulted in two successful Calls for Cities to host the SDE, and two Calls for Teams; the SDE19 took place in Szentendre, Hungary, the first city in central Europe to host an SDE event. The upcoming SDE21 will take place in Wuppertal, Germany in 2022, as an exciting lead-up to Bucharest's SDE23.

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**ORGANISERS ASOCIAȚIA SOLAR DECATLON BUCUREȘTI (EFDEN)**

Asociația Solar Decathlon București (EFdeN) is the engine behind Bucharest's SDE legacy involvement. Having already participated in previous Solar Decathlon editions, in Europe and in the Middle East, this team has invested vibrant and relentless energy in the Solar Decathlon and its values. Over 900 volunteers have learned and built with this team over 10 years, inside the Competition and beyond, bringing home over 40 awards, the support of more than 400 private companies, and fifteen public institutions and authorities. Bucharest's Technical Construction University and Ion Mincu University of Architecture and Urban Planning are among the founding members of this Association.

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**SUPPORTER / SPONSOR**

**ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND FORESTS**

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for implementing the national policy in the fields of environmental protection, green economy, biodiversity, protected natural areas, climate change for all sectors and subsectors it manages; elaborates the strategy and specific regulations for development and harmonisation of these activities within general policy of the Government; ensures and coordinates the application of the Government's strategy in its fields of competence, fulfilling the role of state authority, synthesis, coordination, regulation, monitoring, inspection and control in these fields.

The Ministry of Environment acts to protect the environment and natural resources, to guarantee the current and future generations a clean environment, in harmony with economic development and social progress.

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**ENGIE**

ENGIE is a global group, active in the field of energy and reduced carbon footprint services. Together with its 170 000 employees, clients, partners and other stakeholders, ENGIE is committed to accelerating the transition towards a carbon neutral economy which employs environmentally friendly solutions. Ambitious, they combine economic performance and positive impact on people and planet through their key activities – natural gas, renewable energy, services – to offer competitive solutions for their clients.

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**HASHTAGS**

#solardecathlon // #solardecathloneurope // #studentcompetition //  
#sustainablearchitecture // #energyengineering

**TARGETS**

archdaily.com // deezen.com // architizer.com // dwell.com // architectsjournal.co.uk //  
metropolismag.com // designboom.com // inhabit.com // Wallpaper // Conde Nast Traveler //  
Bloom // Monocle // Vanity Fair // higher education magazines

**KEYS**

sustainable architecture // energy engineering // built environment // resource responsibility  
// energy efficiency // public demonstration // sustainability // resource optimisation //  
behavioural change // architectural innovation // building information modeling (BIM) //  
automisation // solar energy // student competition

**LINKS**

[www.solardecathlon.eu](http://www.solardecathlon.eu) // [www.energyendeavour.org](http://www.energyendeavour.org) //  
[www.solardecathlon.ro](http://www.solardecathlon.ro) // [www.efden.org](http://www.efden.org)





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SDE14 CONSTRUCTION PHASE © VALERIA ANZOLIN, SDE14