

**National Meeting on Strategic Role of Energy Statistics in
National Policies and Improving Energy Statistics through
Division of Labour and Data Sharing, Yerevan, Armenia,
November 21, 2013**

**“INO GATE Technical Secretariat & Integrated Programme in support
of the Baku Initiative and the Eastern Partnership energy objectives”**

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BACKGROUND

This Report provides a summary of the national meeting on the strategic role of energy statistics in national policies and improving energy statistics through division of labour and data sharing, which was held on November 21, 2013, from 10:00 -12:00 AM at the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (MENR) during the 1st Technical Assistance mission conducted on 18 – 22 November, 2013 in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia by the ITS Expert Team on Energy Statistics.

The meeting was attended by 21 representatives from the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, National Statistical Service (NSS), energy company Armrusgazprom, national and other international organisations e.g. UNDP, USAID, R2E2 (Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund), scientific institutions etc., is a horizontal activity common to all INOGATE Partner Countries, specified in the Energy Statistics Action Plan (ESAP) under *RA 1 (Regional Activity 1): Development/improvement of the legal and institutional framework*. To facilitate efficient and maximum use of resources, sub-tasks *D2-3: Support to the organisation of national meetings to coordinate division of labour among different stakeholders involved in the energy statistics system and D2-4: Support national meetings to raise awareness on the importance of available, reliable, timely and transparent energy statistics and why energy data is important to national development*, were combined in one meeting.

Conducting this meeting is vital in Armenia, as the energy statistics reporting system is characterised by a weak legal and institutional framework. Hence, there is a need to gather major stakeholders to facilitate dialogue on how this issue could be resolved.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on statistical cooperation between the ITS, MENR and NSS was signed in July 2013 at the highest level i.e. by the Minister of MENR and President of NSS, which indicates that there is strong commitment from both

parties to cooperate in the successful implementation of the ESAP.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The main aim of the meeting was to raise awareness on the importance of reliable, comparable and transparent data in the development of sound national energy policies. Furthermore, to support the improvement of energy statistics, efficient division of labour and greater data sharing is necessary. The meeting is also aimed to facilitate the establishment of coordination mechanisms within the energy statistics system in the Republic of Armenia, which will improve the allocation of tasks and responsibilities among the main stakeholders, avoid duplication of work and ensure that the system is based on minimum costs and efficient use of resources. It also supports the implementation of activities under TA-1 (Technical Assistance-1) of the ESAP.

PARTICIPANTS

See Annex 1: Participants List of Stakeholders

ITS team: Ms. Gloria Aguinaldo (Key Expert, Energy Statistics), Ms. Alenka Kinderman Loncarevic, Mr. Peter Dal (Senior Expert, Energy Statistics), Mr. Tomasz Trus (Junior Expert, Energy Statistics), Ms. Anna Petrus (Interpreter)

SUMMARY

- The MENR represented by Mr. Hrach Thsuganyan, who is also the Country Coordinator of INOGATE in Armenia, welcomed all participants and elaborated on the excellent cooperation between the ITS and the Ministry in all key areas. The Ministry considers Energy Statistics as important and it is committed to cooperate with all stakeholders to contribute to its further development.

- On behalf of the ITS expert team, Ms. Gloria Aguinaldo thanked the MENR for hosting the meeting and all participants for their participation. A brief overview of the activities implemented during the mission as well as the purpose of the meeting was presented. Two presentations were prepared by the ITS Team on: *Strategic Role of Energy Statistics in National Policies* and *Improving Energy Statistics through Increased Division of Labour and Data Sharing*, as background for the round table discussions. However, with unanimous consensus, round table discussion was initiated immediately.
- Mr. Gagik Ananyan, Member of the State Council on Statistics of the NSS expressed hope that with the assistance of the INOGATE, fundamental issues such as lack of human and financial resources, which is the main hindrance for the improvement of energy statistics in Armenia, could be raised at the top level by the relevant ministries such as MENR, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Finance. During the 1st ITS TA Mission, NSS specialists have received training on methodologies in the collection of energy statistics and compilation of energy balances, which are harmonised with European and international standards. However, the NSS lacks human and financial resources to implement changes recommended by the ITS expert team.
- Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, UNDP Climate Change Programme Coordinator commented that it is not only a question of lack of human resources, but also the existence of expertise in relevant institutions. For instance, expertise in the compilation of energy balances could be found in the Scientific Research Institute of Energy, which is a quasi-governmental institution under the MENR.
- A brief overview on the *Draft Road Map for Preparation of National Energy Balance of Armenia* was provided by TetraTech Consultants and the ITS Team were requested to provide their comments on the Road Map. The Road Map is part of the USAID Project on Enhancing Capacity for Low Emissions Development Strategies (EC-LEDS) in Armenia. The Draft Road Map, for instance, proposes that the MENR, through its subordinate, Scientific Institute for Research on Energy (SRIE), should serve as the designated technical institution

for carrying out the design and direction of all data collection, processing and analysis required for preparation of the National Energy Balance.

- An Energy Statistics Working Group with representatives from MENR, NSS, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environmental Protection, USAID, UNDP, E2R2 etc. is already established to discuss energy statistics related issues, in particular, improvement of the legal and institutional framework on energy statistics and energy balances within the framework of the draft Road Map.
- The ITS Team reiterated that it is committed to fulfill its commitment in accordance with the signed Memorandum of Understanding between the ITS, MENR and NSS. A meeting with TetraTech had been held during the first day of the Mission to explore whether there is potential overlapping of activities between the two organisations.

CONCLUSIONS

- There is a need to strengthen the legal and institutional framework for the energy statistics reporting system of Armenia wherein the division of labour among major stakeholders such as the NSS, MENR and other relevant ministries are clearly defined.
- An agreement between the NSS and the MENR must also be reached regarding which institution should be responsible for the compilation of energy balances. The NSS is reluctant to take on this responsibility due to lack of human and financial resources.
- Recommendations by the ITS Team on the improvement of the legal and institutional framework will be elaborated in the 1st TA Mission Report in Armenia.
- All stakeholders commended the INOGATE for its initiative to support the meeting, as it opened up for dialogue on essential issues concerning energy statistics, which must be resolved before they could move forward.

RESULTS ACHIEVED

The National Meeting was successfully implemented and constructive dialogue among major energy statistics stakeholders was facilitated. The meeting also supported and strengthened the position of the NSS as the official collector of energy statistics. The lack of funding to support the activities of the NSS for further improvement of energy statistics has been raised and a continuation of the dialogue, which was initiated during this meeting, was encouraged through the pledge of all stakeholders for more active participation in the Energy Statistics Working Group under the leadership of the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.

ANNEX 1. PARTICIPANTS LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS

| NATIONAL MEETING AT THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES 21/11/2013 from 10.00 to 12.30 | | | |
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