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PRESS RELEASE

Armenia and INOGATE sign cooperation agreement on improving energy statistics

Now eight INOGATE Partner Countries, including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan have approved and adopted their Energy Statistics Action Plans, which is a strong indication of the huge interest in the further improvement of energy statistics and balances in these countries through regional cooperation.

INOGATE Technical assistance missions have already been conducted in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, and missions are scheduled for Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Armenia during the second half of 2013 to initiate the implementation of Action Plan for these countries.

The National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia, the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of the Republic of Armenia and the INOGATE Technical Secretariat have joined forces to improve the quality and delivery of energy statistics in Armenia.

Demonstrating the importance of this cooperation, a specific Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on statistical cooperation in the field of energy was signed by Minister Armen Movsisyan on behalf of the **Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources**, Mr. Stepan Mnatsakanyan, President of the **National Statistical Service of the Republic of Armenia** and the Ms. Lemlem Said Issa, the Team Leader of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat. The purpose of this MoU is to formally adopt the Energy Statistics Action Plan (ESAP) for the Republic of Armenia as the basis for providing technical assistance through the EU-funded INOGATE Programme for further improving energy statistics and energy balances in the country.

Why are statistics considered so important? As the world is becoming more quantitative and data-focused, governments and industry will need to rely more on energy statistics to help make critical decisions and plan for the future. 2013 is recognised as the International Year of Statistics. Reliable, timely, accurate, accessible and comparable energy statistics are the precondition for the development of coherent national energy policies, strategies and plans that will contribute to greater **energy security**, enhance **energy investment**, facilitate planning and trade and monitor the energy sector's greenhouse gas emissions.

The European Commission recognises that energy statistics play an important role in the socio-economic development of INOGATE Partner Countries and thus is supporting statistical cooperation, for the first time, through the INOGATE Programme. For the next two years, EU's INOGATE technical assistance will focus intensively on:

- ✚ Increasing the capacity of National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) and other statistical bodies to collect, process, store and disseminate reliable and consistent energy statistics and balances;
- ✚ Harmonising standards and methodologies for energy statistics and balances in line with European and international standards;
- ✚ Increasing the use of statistics in energy policy and decision making in the region.

In implementing its activities, the INOGATE Technical Secretariat is cooperating closely with **Eurostat**, the **International Energy Agency (IEA)**, and the **Energy Community Secretariat (ECS)** in an effort to avoid duplication while building complementary and sustainable results.

Background

INOGATE is an EU-funded programme promoting international energy co-operation between the European Union and the Partner Countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan,

Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. It works to support the EU policy frameworks of the Baku Initiative, the Eastern Partnership – Energy Security Platform, the Energy Community and the Central Asia Development Cooperation. The INOGATE Programme is coordinated by the European Commission, through the INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) based in Kiev, Ukraine.

Each Partner Country receives expert technical assistance provided in the form of **capacity and institutional building**; while at regional level, activities include all Partner Countries who participate in **conferences, study tours, national meetings, as well as networking opportunities**.

The backbone document of the integrated regional and national actions (2012-2014) is the **Energy Statistics Action Plan (ESAP)** for each Partner Country. The ESAPs aim to harmonise energy statistics in the Partner Countries with international standards and include all the agreed activities and obligations between the INOGATE Technical Secretariat and the Partner Countries in the field of energy statistics. To date, eight (8) ESAPs have been approved and adopted by Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Tajikistan, while the remaining countries are still in the process of reviewing and finalising their Action Plans.

INOGATE works in four key areas: convergence of energy markets on the basis of the EU principles, enhancing energy security, supporting sustainable energy development, and attracting investment towards energy projects of common and regional interest. INOGATE is one of the longest running EU programmes, supporting the EU's external energy cooperation since 1996.

Links

The full texts of Action Plan and Memorandum of Understanding with Armenia can be found at the following link:

http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&layout=documents&pid=72&cid=261&Itemid=75&lang=en

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Contacts

For more information on energy statistics, please contact:

INOGATE Technical Secretariat

Ms. Gloria Aguinaldo

Key Expert, Energy Statistics

e-mail: g.aguinaldo@inogate.org