

**8 October 2013**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Step forward in bringing INOGATE Partner Countries' policies and laws closer to the European requirements - INOGATE helps to enhance knowledge in sustainable energy policy issues.**

*22-28 September 2013, in Riga, Latvia and Vilnius, Lithuania INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) conducts a combined study tour and workshop to help participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine enhance knowledge in sustainable energy policy issues. This capacity building event gathered medium and senior managers of relevant ministries, energy regulators and energy efficiency agencies from the 6 EnP Partner Countries. The event programme includes a number of workshops on sustainable energy legislation, regulations, investment incentives and mechanisms. The site visits to RES facilities and energy efficiency centres as well as meetings with stakeholders complement the theoretical part of the event with practical experience sharing and exchange of information.*

**What are the benefits of this event and why is it important?** The Sustainable Energy Policy Workshop and Study Tour aims to assist participants to gain new knowledge about necessary reforms and processes in order to create conducive environment for the development of sustainable energy. The experience of two EU member states with historical background similar to the participating Partner Countries will show the path to elaborating legislative and regulatory frameworks of European standards. This will help the Partner Countries to take a step forward in bringing their policies and laws closer to the European requirements as well as enhancing their understanding of advantages and challenges on the way of developing the integrated sustainable energy system. The event offers hands-on experience through visits and face-to-face interaction with key stakeholders in sustainable energy policy. It provides an excellent networking opportunity to the participants to meet and establish contacts with their peers in the EU.

The Workshop and Study tour supports Partner Countries to develop such integrated energy policy that could help to provide the adequate support for the development of renewable energy sources, for improvement of energy efficiency and bringing economic benefits to these countries.

As Mr. David Sharikadze from the Ministry of Energy of Georgia, the event participants said: "During this event, I received the answers to questions that none of the foreign experts that our Ministry has been cooperating in the last several years could provide me with before."

### **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.

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 since 1996.

In the area of RES, INOGATE Technical Secretariat offers help in:

**Developing:**

- Legislation, policies and action plans
- Investment plans
- Guidelines and studies

**Building capacity:**

- Trainings
- Study visits
- Workshops

**Facilitating:**

- Networking
- Exchange of experience
- Sharing of best practice

The full documentation of this Workshop and Study tour can be found at the following link:

[http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com\\_inogate&view=activity&cid=283&pid=72&Itemid=75&lang=en](http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&cid=283&pid=72&Itemid=75&lang=en)

**Contacts:**

For more information about the event, please contact:

INOGATE Technical Secretariat

Mr. Aleksandr Antonenko

RES/EE Policy Expert

e-mail: [a.antonenko@inogate.org](mailto:a.antonenko@inogate.org)

