

ENERGY STATISTICS MATTER

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PRESS RELEASE

24 April 2013

Good information makes for good planning: INOGATE promotes the importance of quality energy statistics for reliable energy planning

Copenhagen - What is the importance of energy statistics in policy making? This was the main question which the international conference on “**Strategic Role of Energy Statistics in National and International Policies**” aimed to answer. The conference, which was held in Copenhagen on **23-24 April 2013**, was organised by the INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) with the support of Statistics Denmark.

Eurostat representative, Mr. Roeland Mertens, remarked “*The European Commission recognises that energy statistics play an important role in the socio-economic development of countries. The EU-funded INOGATE Programme is the first large-scale regional cooperation programme promoting practical skills and know-how to Partner Countries to develop energy statistics according to international standards*”.

The international conference gathered 50 high-level officials from both the EU and the INOGATE Partner countries namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. Participants included representatives from the National Statistics Institutes, Ministries and Members of Parliament responsible for policy and decision making in the energy sector as well as media representatives.

During the conference, a series of presentations and key note speakers highlighted the importance that energy statistics play in the development of national energy strategies and how these contribute to **a better investment climate**, facilitate trade, and thus improve **security of energy supply**. On an international and regional level, harmonised methods for collecting and analysing data make for easier cooperation among the Partner Countries.

As the local host of the international conference, Mr. Jan Plovsing, the Director General of the Statistics Denmark remarked “*Energy statistics produced in a coordinated effort and in high quality is a precondition for evidence-based and targeted national policies. Lack of relevant, accurate, reliable, timely, comparable and accessible energy statistics could lead to poor energy planning and the risk of investing in initiatives without the intended effect*”.

For the next two years, INOGATE 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 ITS 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

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 importance of statistics in general is supported by the fact that 2013 is nominated as the International Year of Statistics

Despite their importance, there are still many challenges and bottlenecks in the energy statistics sector in the INOGATE Partner Countries, to name a few: lack of financial and human resources, lack of harmonisation with international standards, lack of data (e.g. on supply and consumption side), old software used for energy data collection, processing and dissemination, weak or inefficient institutional structure for energy statistics reporting and lack of methodologies for consumption surveys.

The INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) activities are being implemented at national level with ITS expert technical assistance provided in the form of **capacity and institutional building**, and at regional level where the actions include **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, seven (7) ESAPs have been approved and adopted by 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 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.

Links

The full documentation of the conference can be found at the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/Energy-statistics-conference>

Website: www.inogate.org

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