

## PRESS RELEASE

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### Georgian energy stakeholders agree on priorities for technical support under the EU's INOGATE 2014 Programme

TBILISI – Over 100 key energy players from all over Georgia came together today for the information event “**INOGATE as a successful EU Energy Cooperation Programme: Achievements in Georgia and Way Forward in 2014**” which was jointly organized by the Ministry of Energy of Georgia and the EU's INOGATE Technical Secretariat. The purpose of the event was to review INOGATE's technical assistance support over the last couple of years and agree on how best to target upcoming assistance in 2014 for the benefit of Georgian institutions.

The **Head of the International Relations Department of the Ministry of Energy of Georgia, Mr. Giorgi Gegechkori** noted INOGATE's contribution over the years by stating that "INOGATE has been very trustworthy and helpful advisor to the Ministry of Energy over the last couple of years. Their assistance and support to Georgia substantially facilitated the process of becoming the full member of the Energy Community Treaty."

The main topics of discussions included the cooperation between the INOGATE Programme and Georgia in the areas of electricity and gas, electricity market transformation and sustainable energy. The **main priorities** agreed for upcoming technical assistance in 2014 include:

- Support to Ministry of Energy in the Energy Sector Reform process towards full membership of the Energy Community as well as development of the electricity market in conformance with the principles set out in the Georgian Electricity Market Model (GEMM2015) strategy.
- Support in development and review of tariff methodologies in electricity and gas in line with EU practices.
- Support to Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation (GOGC) in development and rehabilitation of the Gas Transmission Pipeline Network in accordance with European Norms and Standards maximizing the Safety and Security Gas Supply and Minimizing the Gas losses to the Environment
- Capacity building to Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM) and support for the adoption and use of EU electricity and gas standards & codes including the preparation of Road Map and Action Plan for the harmonization of standards as well as support to technical committees.
- Assistance to the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) in the compilation of annual energy balance for 2013 and the implementation of surveys in the sectors of enterprises and households;
- Increased attention to sustainable energy and investments to this sector through the use of geospatial mapping of renewable energy sources, a visual tool to support an investment dialogue between policy makers, potential investors and the renewable energy supply chain.

The participants included representatives from central and local government, main energy companies, academic institutions, international financial organisations, local financial institutions and civil society representatives. Complete information on the event and all documentation can be found:

[http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com\\_inogate&view=activity&layout=documents&pid=72&cid=329&Itemid=75&lang=en](http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&layout=documents&pid=72&cid=329&Itemid=75&lang=en)

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### **About INOGATE**

INO GATE 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 supports the EU policy framework of the Baku Initiative, the Eastern Partnership's Energy Security Platform, the Energy Community and the Central Asia Development Cooperation.

**INO GATE'** s activities focus in four key areas: 1) convergence of energy markets on the basis of the EU principles; 2) enhancing energy security; 3) supporting sustainable energy development; and 4) attracting investment in energy (particularly in Sustainable Energy) projects of common and regional interest. INOGATE is one of the longest running EU programmes since 1996.