

Development of Technical Committee for Standardization (GE33). Tbilisi, Georgia

INOGATE Technical Secretariat and Integrated Programme in support of the Baku Initiative and the Eastern Partnership energy objectives

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1. Introduction

This is a report of the first Technical Committee meeting for Standardization held in Tbilisi Georgia as part of Component B2 implemented under the EU funded project “INOGATE Technical Secretariat & Integrated Programme in support of the Baku Initiative and the Eastern Partnership energy objectives”.

The event was held in Tbilisi, Georgia on 7 December 2012. It was dedicated to the relevant stakeholders from the Georgian electricity and gas sectors, including industry representatives, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Energy and Natural resources. The agenda is attached as Annex A.

The main objectives of the Event were:

- To provide a general overview of the INOGATE project;
- To present the EU best practice on Technical Committees (TCs) and benefits that could be achieved (with focus on an overview of CEN/CENELEC TCs) as well as experience of Partner Countries with regard to TCs and lessons learned;
- To provide lower level specific guidance on the formation and scope of the Georgian national technical committee and its work programme.

Prior to achieving independence, Georgia, in common with other now independent states in the region, had relied on the Soviet GOST. The current situation is that in the absence of GOST there is now a ‘standardization vacuum’ and currently little connection between the national standards body, industry and other stakeholders. Component B2 of the INOGATE project aims to assist Georgia to remedy these issues by means of guidance and advice in order to establish relevant national committees in the gas and electricity sectors.

In preparation for this eventuality, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia published a decree (N^o. 1-1/1740) in September 2012, entitled ‘The rule on creation procedures and functioning of the technical committees for Standardization’. This document sets out the basic provisions for Georgian national committees, including committee management, membership and rights and responsibilities of the committee, plus the commitment to a public comment phase for draft standards.

Indirectly, such events will also assist harmonization of standards across all the states which are recipients of the INOGATE project. Additionally, whilst noting that this project is focussed only on the gas and electricity sectors, nonetheless foundations laid down here can only but assist future technical committee development in other sectors.

2. Preparation for the Event

The aim of the presentations from the INOGATE side was to give a generic overview of the INOGATE project as well as the CEN/CENELEC technical committees (TCs) and how CEN/CENELEC members can create national ‘mirror’ TCs to follow and contribute to standardization work. Also, the experience of INOGATE PCs and lessons learned with regard to TCs has been presented to the participants.



As a preface, some background on what is a standard and the benefits of standards was included, plus the benefits to the experts who participate in committee work, be it international, European or national. It was emphasised that just as CEN/CENELEC TCs have a definite structure and scope, working to a common set of rules (the CEN/CENELEC Internal Regulations), so national TCs should also operate. Since most participants were probably new to these concepts, it was important to give enough detail to enable an understanding of European standardization to be gained but not to give so much information that participants became confused about the initial objectives of this event.

Coordination of presentations for the event took place the day before presentation. This ensured the two standards orientated presentations were complementary and reduced duplication to the necessary minimum. This day of coordination also enabled other fine-tuning of the presentations resulting from the discussions of the Component B2 project team.

3. Implementation of the Event

3.1 The event

The event took place on 7 December 2012, in the Tbilisi Marriott Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia.

The event was effectively implemented and managed, with a mix of different stakeholders attending. The meeting was chaired by Mr Giorgi Chitadze, Director of Standardization Department, Georgian National Agency for Standards and Metrology (GEOSTM).

It was opened by Mr Irakli Matkava, Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. Mr Matkava commented on the importance of the meeting for Georgia. The assistance of INOGATE was highly appreciated by the participants and especially by Mr. Matkava, who thanked INOGATE team for the support provided and expressed a wish to have the INOGATE assistance in the next steps towards the harmonisation of energy standards in Georgia.

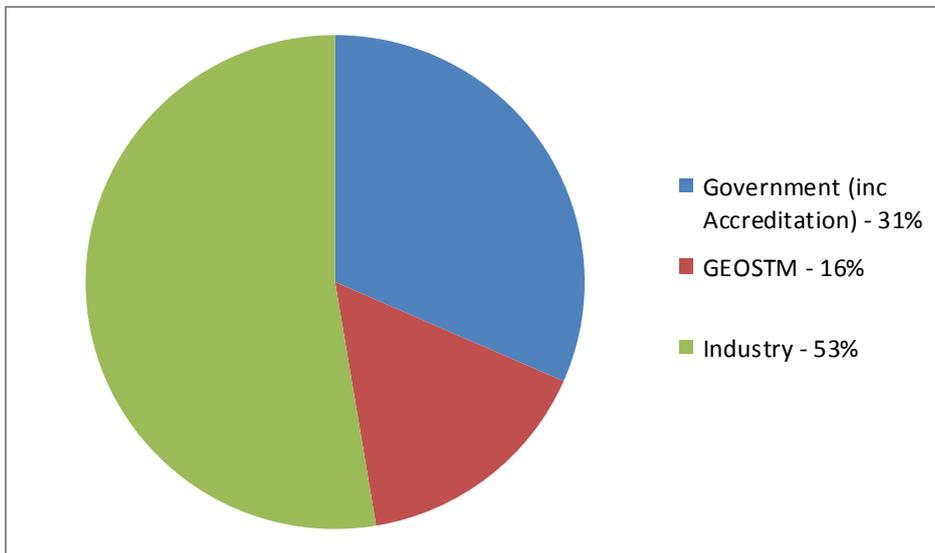
At the end of the presentations a number of questions were asked by the audience on a range of subjects. These included topics such as:

- What would be the language of European or international standards implemented and published in Georgia;
- A request for some detail on BS 0, 'A standard for standards' which is a British Standards Institution (BSI) publication and is the main document by which BSI sets out how British Standards and related documents are developed and maintained. This document was cited as an example of national committee governance and the role of BSI as the UK national standards body;
- How diverse would the constitution of the proposed new Georgian TC be, (perhaps along the lines of the BSI practice given in my presentation) and would the secretary of the committee be from the Georgian national standards body?

The questions and answers resulted in further clarity for the participants.

3.2 The participants

The list of participants is attached as Annex B; a schematic composition of the group (excluding the B2 project team) is shown below:



4. Conclusions

This was a good, informative session for prospective members of the Georgian national committee.

Post meeting discussion involving the GEOSTM Director of Standardization Department and the INOGATE B2 project team agreed positive process had been made on the road to establishing an effective Georgian national committee. The meeting Chairman had indicated during the event a second meeting would be called early in the New Year and the meeting participants were appreciative of that.

The next steps will be:

- deciding on the chair of the national committee (as opposed to the chair of this event),
- the composition and operation of the committee
- scope of the committee and selection of work programme

How to achieve these goals is now clearer for those stakeholders who attended this event.

Annex A – Agenda

The First Technical Committee Meeting for Standardization 7 December, 2012- Tbilisi, Georgia

AGENDA

Friday, 7 December 2012

Venue: Tbilisi Marriott, Rustaveli Avenue 13, Tbilisi 0108, Georgia
Chair of the meeting: Mr Giorgi Chitadze

14:30-15:00	Registration
15:00-15:10	Welcome addresses Mr. Irakli Matkava Deputy Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
Session 1	
15:10-16:00	Brief introduction of INOGATE Project Mr. Nikos Tsakalidis INOGATE Team, Deputy Team Leader Introduction of legal base of Standardization Technical Committees Mr. Giorgi Chitadze GEOSTM, Director of Standardization Department
16:00-16:20	<i>Coffee Break</i>
Session 2	
16:20-17:00	EU best practice on TCs and benefits that could be achieved. Mr. Ian Greensmith INOGATE Team, Senior Standardization Expert Experience of PCs with regard to TCs and lessons learned Mr. Viktor Petrenko INOGATE Team, Standardization Expert
17:00	Discussion

Annex B – Participation list

Organization	Position	Name
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Deputy of Minister	Mr. Irakli Matkava
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Head of Department	Mrs. Lali Gogoberidze
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia	Deputy Head of Department	Mrs. Tsisnami Sabadze
Georgian National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology, GEOSTM	General Director of Agency	Mr. Promete Shevardnade
INO GATE ITS	Deputy Team Leader	Mr. Nikos Tsakalidis
INO GATE ITS	Senior Standardization Expert	Mr. Ian Greensmith
INO GATE ITS	Standardization Expert	Mr. Viktor Petrenko
INO GATE ITS	Country Expert	Mr. Irakli Vardigoreli
INO GATE ITS	Regional Office Manager	Mrs. Ketui Mirianashvili
INO GATE ITS	Expert, Communication	Mrs. Tamuna Papava
Department of Standards, GEOSTM	Director of Standards Department	Mr. Giorgi Chitadze
National Accreditation Centre	General Director	Mr. Paata Gogolidze
National Accreditation Centre		Mr. Leri Gachechiladze
Georgian National Agency for Standards, Technical Regulations and Metrology, TWINNING Project	TWINNING Project's Team Leader	Mrs. Tamara Shram
Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of Georgia	Chief Specialist of Energy and Natural Resources Department	Mr. George Shemozashvili
Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation	Head of Design Department	Mr. Teimuraz Javakhishvili
Georgian Oil and Gas Corporation	Advisor, Gas Expert	Mr. Teimuraz Gochitashvili



Energo-Pro Georgia	Head of Standardisation Department	Mr. Vakhtang Khasia
JSC Electricity System Commercial Operator "ESCO"	Deputy Head of Registering Control Department	Mr. Teimuraz Vashagashvili
Georgian State Electrosystem	Head of Safety and Inspection Service	Mr. Merab Kvirikashvili

Joint Stock Company United Power Grid "Sakrusenergo"	Head of Technical Department	Mr. Tamaz Tkheladze
Joint Stock Company "Telasi"	General Metrology Department Engineer	Mr. Giorgi Baramia
LTD. "East Energy Corporation"	Khadory Hidro Power Station's shift Senior Engineer	Mr. Beqar Enukidze
Georgian Gas Transportation Company	Head of Commercial Department	Mr. Irakli Okreshidze