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INOATE
January 29-30, 2013
Brussels, Belgium

“Aligning the standardisation systems with the EU standardisation system based on the New Approach”

Venue: Borschette Conference Centre, 36 rue Froissart, 1040 Brussels, Belgium

ROUND TABLE №1 “Discussion of findings of the current situation in standardization systems in Partner Countries”

Moderator: Dr. Viktor Petrenko, senior standardisation expert (electricity and gas) of ITS

Main topic 1. The procedure of adoption of international and European standards by the "cover page" method or any other method that does not require translation into the national language; related issues. The questionnaires (see Annex 1) were sent to the representatives of the national standardization bodies of the Partner Countries.

Each country had the opportunity to comment on its position. Time of presentation was limited to 5 minutes.

1. Does the legislation envisage the possibility to adopt a standard by “cover page” method or by any other method that does not require translation into the national language?

№	AM	AZ	BY	GE	KG	KZ	MD	TJ	TM	UA	UZ	Result
YES	1		1	1	1		1			1	1	7 YES
NO		1				1		1	1(?)			4 NO

Four countries are not able to harmonise international and European standards without their translation into the national languages:

In case of **Azerbaijan** it is due to the standardization system that hasn't been changed virtually from Soviet times.

Regarding **Turkmenistan**, it is an expert assumption based on the contacts with Turkmenstandartlary within the framework of other projects. Unfortunately, the efforts of the Country Expert did not result in the receipt of any new information which is the reason for a question mark in the following Table.

In **Tajikistan**, the use of standards is voluntary. However, the provisions of other laws (particularly, *The Law On Language*) require standards to be translated to the national language.

Kazakhstan. The Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan “On Technical Regulation” does not envisage for such an adoption method of international and regional standards and the standards of foreign countries as the method of cover page change.

However, the mentioned Law envisages other adoption methods of foreign normative documents, such as adoption of a standard as a national standard by using a verification method or an accounting method. For a standard to be adopted it is necessary to translate the original standard into official and Russian languages, to coordinate it with competent organisations, and to get the permission from holders of standards originals to apply their standards in the territory of Kazakhstan.

In 2010 a Framework agreement on the adoption of European standards was signed between the Standards and Certification Institute of Kazakhstan and the European Committee for Standardization (CEN).

In three countries (**Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia**) which have achieved a significant success in the implementation of streamlined procedures of standards adoption, one necessary and sufficient condition for the adoption of a standard is the availability of such standard in the fund of the national standardisation body. This implies the existence of contractual arrangements and permission from holders of standards originals to apply their standards in the territory of the country. They are marked in bold font («**1**»).

The following table presents information about the relations of national standardization bodies with regional and international organisations:

ISO – International Organization for Standardization



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IEC - International Electrotechnical Commission

CEN - European Committee for Standardization

CENELEC - European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization

EASC - Euro Asian Interstate Council for Standardisation, Metrology and Certification of the CIS

		ISO	IEC	CEN	CENELEC	EACS
1	AM	X		X		X
2	AZ	X		X		X
3	BY	X	x	X	x	X
4	GE	X	x	X	x	X
5	KG	X		X		X
6	KZ	X	x			X
7	MD	X	x	X		X
8	TJ	X				X
9	TM	X				X
10	UA	X	x	X	x	X
11	UZ	X				X

Ukraine and Georgia will not face any obstacles as they are members of all these organisations (with different status and liabilities resulting from the status).

Moldova will have to establish official relations with CENELEC.

During the discussion **Ukraine and Moldova** have developed the following approaches:

1. To adopt the international and European standards by method of reissuing (republication) in the original language;
2. To enclose the translation into Russian as an information annex.

Georgia prefers to use the verification method but in case of availability of the Russian version the GOGC considers it appropriate to use the reissuing method (republication) accompanied by the Russian translation.

Armenia

The translation into the national language is welcomed. Although following the decision of the national standardisation body it is possible to use the methods that do not include the translation



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into the national language. Armenia cannot adopt electrical standards as it is neither the member of IEC, nor of CENELEC.

Uzbekistan

To use the standard in Russian language it is necessary to have a special decision of the national standardisation body which should be coordinated with the regulator and relevant ministries. Uzbekistan is the member of ISO only. It cannot adopt directly the European gas and electricity standards, but only through the EASC.

Kyrgyzstan

It is possible to adopt a standard by “cover page” method or by any similar methods only when the official version of a European or international standard in Russian is available or when there is an official translation into Russian. It disables the adoption of a European standard by the “cover page” method or by any similar methods as there cannot be any official version of a European standard in Russian. The status of the official translation of a European standard into Russian has not been defined.

Kyrgyzstan is a partner country of CEN, but due to the imperfection of the legislation it can only adopt standards by method of translation into the national language.

Belarus

It is possible to adopt a standard by the “cover page” method or by any similar methods only when an official version of standard in Russian is available. Despite Belarus’ membership in CEN and CENELEC, this blocks the work on harmonization of European standards since there are no official versions of European standards in Russian. In fact only the translation method is possible – the same as in Kazakhstan.

Main topic 2. National TCs and their participation in international, European and interstate Technical Committees. The discussion was held following the report “Development of technical committees in the INOGATE Partner Countries”.

The TCs remaining from the Soviet times still exist in the project’s Partner Countries but they do not always function. Given the shortage of financial resources this puts them on the survival’s edge.

The idea of mobilisation of the Secretariats of Technical Committees in the standardisation body, as in British Standards Institute (BSI), has aroused much interest. All the countries have shown a great interest in the BSI experience of using modern information technologies (IT) that can significantly reduce the workforce necessary to ensure the TC’s functioning. It was decided to resume the discussion during the next meeting with BSI in July this year, having previously verified the information about TCs in projects’ partner-countries.

Only three countries (Ukraine, Belarus and Georgia) can participate in the CLC/TC which complicates the prospects of adoption of the European electric standards by other countries of the project.

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan cannot adopt CEN standards directly. Therefore, prior to the beginning of activities on establishment of a TC in Central Asia it is necessary to build a cooperation model between the Central Asian countries and CEN-CENELEC. It would be preferable for the Central Asian countries to have a licensing agreement with CEN-CENELEC following the example of Kazakhstan.

ROUND TABLE №2 “Priority standards in Electricity & Gas Sector of Partner Countries”

Moderator: Dr. Viktor Petrenko, Senior Standardisation expert (electricity and gas) of ITS



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Data on the number of priority standards and adopted international and European standards in the Partner Countries is listed in the following Table:

#	Country	Gas Standards				Electricity Standards				DVGW & OEVGW Standards
		P	PL	NS	IsS	P	PL	NS	IsS	P
1	AM	32	3	3	3	51	1	0	∞	30
2	AZ	79	0	0	1	23	0	0	0	49
3	BY	30	0	36	1	51	16	42	21	9
4	GE	27	0	57	0	16	0	4	0	50
5	KG	28	10	0	1	46	0	19	0	14
6	KZ	23	0	30	0	∞	8	3	4	14
7	MD	46	9	50	0	59	20	81	2	12
8	TJ	54	0	0	1	41	0	0	16	18
9	TM	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞
10	UA	39	9	26	0	51	23	84	0	18
11	UZ	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞	∞

All countries have expressed a strong interest in standards proposed for harmonization. It is necessary to bear in mind that the understanding of priority standards is not homogenous among all the countries. Countries that have participated in the previous gas project of the INOGATE Programme “Harmonisation of oil and gas standards and practices in Eastern Europe and Caucasus” EuropeAid/123259/C/SER/MULTI, aim at implementation of translated standards. But there is another approach under which countries would require to translate the standards first and then they will study them and make a decision. These are two fundamentally different approaches and the project management should decide on this issue.

The second point was the translation into national languages. This issue is being brought up in every project. The accumulated experience allows us to state with confidence that this is impossible, perhaps with the exception of Ukraine.

31 standards out of 142 proposed gas standards have won more than 50% of votes of partner countries. 12 standards out of those have been already translated as interstate EASC standards and could be put into effect in all projects’ partner countries.



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The changes of the system of preparation of standards and voting in EASC do not allow using a simplified procedure in the future. That is why in the future the countries will have to rely only on the resources of their own NSB and national TCs. Thus the countries will have to build their relations with international and European standards organisations and to create TCs.

This would be difficult for gas standards but possible given the European Commission assistance in getting a special permit from CEN and EASC for the adoption of the translated gas standards.

There is a big gap in the power sector between the leading countries - CENELEC members (to which Moldova will join shortly) and the rest of countries. As a result of countries' voting, only 10 standards out of 344 have gained more than 50% votes. It is connected with the methodology of work of the previous project on harmonization of electrical standards:

1. The explanatory work hasn't been conducted in the countries;
2. The target audience has not been shaped;
3. The list of priority standards has not been made.

Such a huge gap with a gas sector cannot be bridged in one year. Besides, the representatives of the Energy Community Secretariat by all means evade the dialogue. According to the experts of the Secretariat, they will build a new approach to the harmonisation of standards only by summer. In order to streamline the efforts and resources, the development of final versions of Road Maps and Action Plans for electricity sector of countries that signed Energy Community Treaty should be scheduled at the end of the year.

Armenia representatives have directly requested project's assistance regarding their joining the CENELEC. Small countries do not have resources to pay the membership fee. This issue has remained without a decision.

The issue of normative references has been raised but without the possibility to adopt standards by "cover page" method this issue cannot be solved.

In order to harmonise these standards every country must sign a license agreement or memorandum with CEN-CENELEC. It is a huge job that requires a thorough legal preparation. Based on the conducted analysis it is been decided to recommend the partner countries to weigh their aspirations and possibilities and to reset priorities. It is proposed to prepare the Road Map and the Action Plan by July only for the most advanced countries and to work with other countries using their example.

Voting on gas standards of DVGW&OEVGW allowed to identify 17 priority standards. The trip of project experts' to Germany to conduct negotiations with DVGW should be the next step.

Annexes

Annex 1. Questionnaire.

Annex 2. Agenda.

Annex 3. Participants List.

Annex 4. Presentations of Speakers.

Annex 5. Analysis of participants' evaluations prior and after the seminar.

Annex 6. The most important questions to the speakers.