

New INOGATE Technical Secretariat Project Strategy

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Executive summary

The INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) is a regional cooperation instrument as part of the EU Neighbourhood and Development Cooperation Policies, supporting partner countries¹ in the implementation of Astana Roadmap². ITS contributes to energy policy reforms; it promotes better links between partner countries and European and international organisations. ITS works closely with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) and promotes dialogue in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

ITS promotes **regional cooperation** between Partner Countries (PCs) and between PCs and EU organisations on those issues that are of common interest and where there is an interest to learn from EU experience and best practice, such as energy statistics, harmonization of standards, energy markets and infrastructure and sustainable energy. This approach also allows the forming of networks and dissemination of project results. ITS established for example a network on energy statistics, energy regulators, technical standardization committees. These are maintained through regular regional seminars and study tours with the involvement of relevant EU organisations (Eurostat, Commission of European Energy Regulators (CEER), etc.).

This regional approach often leads to specific requests for national activities that are based on the needs and priorities of the Partner Countries and that do not duplicate bilateral programmes and projects in a PC. These requests are implemented through the project's Ad Hoc Expert Facility (AHEF) or as part of country work plans.

A major milestone of the project is the ongoing cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on preparing and publishing the INOGATE Status reports based on IEA's methodology of Peer Review.

The objective of this document is to describe the proposed strategy for the ITS project for the remaining part of the project period until January 31, 2015, and to explain the rationale for an extension. The justification for this new strategy is the dynamic situation and recent changes in some of the Partner Countries and the lessons learned from the implementation of project activities since the Inception Report (IR) of December 2012.

Lessons learned

- ✓ The regional dimension of INOGATE is an important feature of the programme, which is valued by the EU and partner countries. Approximation of EU policies, in particular the legal and regulatory framework, as well as the introduction of EU Best Practices continues to be built in the implementation of regional and national activities. When tailored to the specific situation in Partner Countries, it resulted frequently in specific requests and increased contacts with European organisations.
- ✓ Not only the inter linkages between the components are important, but the project also has suffered from a lack of clear horizontal management. A better integrated approach to the project will strengthen the results and outcomes. It will also increase the visibility and impact of the project.
- ✓ From the Partner Countries (PCs) only MD, UA, and the Caucasus countries showed real commitment regarding country-specific activities. In this respect, Central Asian (CA) countries with the exception of KZ required substantial effort. Contrary to this, the regional activities were well attended by all PCs except TK.

¹ INOGATE Partner Countries are: Armenia (AR), Georgia (GE), Azerbaijan (AZ), Ukraine (UA), Moldova (MD), Belarus (BY), Kazakhstan (KZ), Uzbekistan (UZ), Turkmenistan (TM), Kyrgyzstan (KG) and Tajikistan (TJ).

² A Ministerial conference of the partner countries in Astana defined 4 pillars to cooperate on: convergence of energy markets, energy security, sustainable energy and investment attraction.

These findings indicate the need for a more differentiated approach and priority setting.

- ✓ Country ownership of the results of ITS activities is essential, including for the regional activities. ITS tries to ensure this ownership through regional initiatives addressing issues identified by partner countries as relevant for them, and through a demand driven approach for national specific activities, possibly following on from regional events. This approach leads either to the signing of country action plans, for example as was done for Energy Statistics, or to requests from PCs for specific activities as a follow up from regional seminars and/or study tours. The latter were then mostly handled through the AHEF facility. This demand-driven facility helped targeting activities to PC's priorities. However, strategic vision was not always present. Moreover, the procedure is heavy while the uptake by Partner Countries of results was sometimes limited.

Country ownership could also be achieved and perhaps strengthened through the development and signing of a comprehensive Country Work plan, a Memorandum of Intent or similar document. This also allows defining strategic actions outside the AHEF framework as well.

Therefore, at this stage, a more strategic approach is needed to achieve better ownership of results, in particular for the use of the AHEF facility, that focuses on strengthening strategic vision as well as ownership of activities and results.

The main drivers of the strategy are 1) regional cooperation and capacity building, 2) strengthen implementation of Energy Community Treaty (ECT) obligations 3) a stronger focus on prioritisation of activities and committed Partner Countries.

Achievements

The following achievements to date are mentioned below.

- ✓ INOGATE and the IEA are cooperating on the development of a status report of PCs following the IEA methodology of Peer Reviews. Analysis and peer-review were conducted. Results will be published by IEA early 2015.
- ✓ Through eight regional seminars and four study tours, ITS increased the capacity of more than 200 participants from 30 different companies & organisations in 11 PCs in the areas of electricity and gas standards, tariffs, energy regulation, cross-border trade and gas infrastructure. This resulted in an increased knowledge and understanding of the EU best practises in these areas and has led to concrete improvement measures in PCs.
- ✓ Technical Expert Groups (TEGs) - on standardisation, on licensing, on energy markets and infrastructure - and the Energy Statistics Network were established and involve over 200 experts in the Partner Countries. Tailor-made capacity building activities were designed for TEG/ESN members, resulting in improved ownership and sustainability of the project achievements.
- ✓ Regional approach to Energy Statistics resulted in the adoption and implementation of Action Plans in nine PCs. Through regular regional seminars and study tours the capacity of high and middle level staff of statistics bodies in the PCs has been increased concerning the energy data collection and compilation of energy balances following the international methodology used by the IEA, and Eurostat.
- ✓ Several regional workshops for sustainable energy (SE) have been organized on SE policy, bio-energy and banking practices. This resulted in improved capacity of policy makers and secondary legislation on sustainable and renewable energy policies based on EU Best practices, and increased access to financing for energy efficiency and renewable investment projects.

Future

Electricity and Gas

The regional approach to the activities for electricity and gas will be continued. The activities that are planned for the remainder of the project will be further developed and implemented, keeping in mind the strategic approach mentioned before. In particular, the areas of Energy Community Treaty (ECT) requirements (including the 3rd package) for MD, UA and GE, energy infrastructure efficiency, tariffs and regulatory issues will require further support towards implementation and adoption of legislation as part of the PC's policies. This will increase the results and impacts of the activities.

Sustainable Energy

The focus will be on improving sustainable energy policies in six Eastern Partnership countries³. The regional approach for Sustainable Energy will continue where applicable to strengthen the implementation of SE policies in the PCs. The support addresses different aspects of SE policy and includes regional aspects as well as national priorities due to the difference in policy development in the PCs.

- ✓ Supporting implementation of national energy efficiency and renewable action plans, including improving the legal framework, in particular support for obligations of the ECT for relevant PCs. This may lead to specific activities in energy efficiency sub-sectors, such as Buildings etc. and can be different by PC given the status of policy development;
- ✓ Addressing barriers to investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy projects;
- ✓ Awareness raising on Sustainable Energy;

Energy Statistics

The regional approach to Energy Statistics resulted in the adoption and implementation of Energy Statistics Action Plans (ESAP) in 9 PCs, namely AM, AZ, BY, GE, KZ, KG, MD, TJ and UA. Through regular regional seminars and study tours the capacity of high and middle level staff of statistics bodies in the PCs has been increased concerning the energy data collection and compilation of energy balances following the international methodology used by IEA and Eurostat. Action Plans implementation is realized by ITS, in close cooperation with IEA, Eurostat and ECS.

Expected impact is that a uniform methodology, based on international standards and practice, is used across the board in the PCs to compile energy statistics and energy balances, leading to increased use of energy statistics in energy and economic planning and comparability of energy statistics between PCs.

Future activities will focus on implementation of the ESAP as well as on promoting the use of energy statistics by policy makers.

Awareness raising and Communication

- Improve awareness-raising, communication, dissemination and visibility through the new and more user friendly INOGATE website, publication of quarterly newsletter. Local Information Events in PCs, including special country booklets will be continued. The 2014 INOGATE Annual Conference and Final conference will be

³Sustainable Energy in Central Asia is supported by another EU funded project within the INOGATE framework, CASEP, which is outside the scope of the current strategy.

organized. Provided an extension of the project to January 2016, another Annual Conference/Final Conference will be organized end 2015.

- INOGATE/IEA 2013/2014 Status Report will be published by IEA and launched in early 2015

New INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) Project Strategy

The INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) is a regional cooperation instrument as part of the EU Neighbourhood and Development Cooperation Policies, supporting partner countries⁴ in the implementation of Astana roadmap⁵. ITS contributes to energy policy reforms; it promotes better links between partner countries and European and international organisations. ITS works closely with the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS) and promotes dialogue in the framework of the Eastern Partnership.

ITS promotes **regional cooperation** between Partner Countries (PCs) and between PCs and EU organisations on those issues that are of common interest and where there is an interest to learn from EU experience and best practice, such as energy statistics, harmonization of standards, energy markets and infrastructure and sustainable energy. This approach also allows the forming of networks and dissemination of project results. ITS established for example a network on energy statistics, energy regulators, technical standardization committees. These are maintained through regular regional seminars and study tours with the involvement of relevant EU organisations (Eurostat, Commission of European Energy Regulators (CEER), etc.).

This regional approach often leads to specific requests for national activities that are based on the needs and priorities of the Partner Countries and that do not duplicate bilateral programmes and projects in a PC. These requests are implemented through the project's Ad Hoc Expert Facility (AHEF) or as part of country work plans.

A major milestone of the project is the ongoing cooperation with the International Energy Agency (IEA) on preparing and publishing the INOGATE Status reports based on IEA's methodology of Peer Review.

Objective

The objective of this document is to describe the proposed strategy for the ITS project for the remaining part of the project period until January 31, 2015, and to explain the rationale for an extension. The justification for this new strategy is the dynamic situation and recent changes in some of the Partner Countries (PCs), the lessons learned from the implementation of project activities since the Inception Report (IR) of December 2012 and reorientation of activities with a focus on priorities expressed by the PCs during the lifetime of the present ITS project.

While the objectives stated in the ToR of 2011 and the IR remain valid, the focus and approach of the project activities need to be adapted in order to strengthen the impacts of ITS interventions.

ITS is expected to support and facilitate policy dialogue and the implementation of policies and regulations that would lead to better energy security, market convergence, sustainable energy and investment attraction in the PCs. Progress has been made during ITS' project lifetime. This is still rather ambitious and capacity building is still needed in many aspects of the energy system and policy in all of the PCs to support this evolution. This is noticeable in the priorities that the PCs have expressed during the Inception mission but more explicitly through their Ad Hoc Expert Facility (AHEF) applications.

In the following sections, the lessons learned are presented after two years of project implementation as well as the main achievements. They will give direction to the focus of the future activities, both already planned and those under development.

⁴ INOGATE Partner Countries are: Armenia (AR), Georgia (GE), Azerbaijan (AZ), Ukraine (UA), Moldova (MD), Belarus (BY), Kazakhstan (KZ), Uzbekistan (UZ), Turkmenistan (TM), Kyrgyzstan (KG) and Tajikistan (TJ).

⁵ A Ministerial conference of the partner countries in Astana defined 4 pillars to cooperate on: convergence of energy markets, energy security, sustainable energy and investment attraction.

Lessons learned

- ✓ The regional dimension of INOGATE is an important feature of the programme and is valued by partner countries and the EU.
- ✓ The ToR and the Consultant's proposal identified four main components for the project implementation, which have been followed throughout the project to date. Although the Inception Report recognised the differences in priorities and topics among the PCs, the four components –mainly due to the large scope of work – have been increasingly implemented as four separate projects. Not only the inter linkages between the components are important, but the project also has suffered from a lack of clear horizontal management. Given the interrelations between the component activities a more integrated approach would be welcome with a view to achieving the project objectives and the desired project results and outcome. A better integrated approach to the project will strengthen the results and outcomes. It will also increase the visibility and impact of the project. Country work plans and reporting in this respect would improve priority setting as well as ownership of the project results.
- ✓ The ToR called for four Key Experts (KE) of which one would be the Team Leader (TL) and another one the Deputy Team Leader. The TL would at the same time have responsibility for a full component. The project has suffered from a lack of clear horizontal management – the TL simply did not have sufficient time to be both a TL, a component manager and take care of project implementation inclusive of reporting and quality assurance. This calls for a different management organization.
- ✓ Apart from the different interests of the PCs, the willingness to engage in the project proved also to be variable. Despite serious efforts to engage all the PCs, AM, AZ, GE, MD and UA showed a stronger willingness and cooperated to identifying the topics that were of real interest to them. Central Asian countries with the exception of KZ required substantial more effort before strategic activities could be clearly defined and commonly agreed. In general, the priorities of the Central Asian PCs are very different from the other PCs. This calls for a differentiated approach. Efforts and resources needed to prepare country activities should be adapted to the country responsiveness and potential uptake.
- ✓ Country ownership of the results of ITS activities is essential, including for the regional activities. ITS tries to ensure this ownership through regional initiatives addressing issues identified by partner countries as relevant for them, and through a demand driven approach for national specific activities, possibly following on from regional events. This approach lead either to the endorsement of country action plans, for example as was done for Energy Statistics, or to requests from PCs for specific activities as a follow up from regional seminars and/or study tours. The latter were then mostly handled through the AHEF facility. This demand-driven facility helped targeting activities to PC's priorities. However, strategic vision was not always present. Moreover, the procedure is heavy while the uptake by Partner Countries of results was sometimes limited.
- ✓ Country ownership could also be achieved and perhaps strengthened through the development and endorsement of a comprehensive Country Work plan, a Memorandum of Intent or similar document. This also allows defining strategic actions outside the AHEF framework as well.
- ✓ Ownership of the project activities and the subsequent results was substantially improved in the new ITS with the introduction of Technical Expert Groups (TEGs) and Energy Statistics Network (ESN) concepts. With their active participation in the TEGs/ESN, mid-level officers of key stakeholder organisations are able to exchange views between peers and are provided with specific capacity-building activities. Moreover, they are able to discuss future needs that can be covered through the AHEF and eventually contribute to the steering of the ITS project.

- ✓ Therefore, at this stage a more strategic approach is needed in particular for the use of the AHEF facility that focuses on strengthening the strategic vision as well as ownership of activities and results.
- ✓ The concept of Country Experts (CE) and Regional Experts (RE) needs to be adapted. At project start there was a perceived need of getting no-objection from the PC's for the employment of the CEs rather than an assessment of the professional qualifications of these experts. It is important that CEs need to be able to liaise with the Country Coordinators and facilitate contacts with the beneficiaries' public administration as well as regularly update the CCs about ITS activities. However, to adequately perform their duties and increase the global efficiency of implementation of activities, CE should have the appropriate professional expertise and knowledge of country energy policy developments and challenges. Clarification of the scope of work, appropriate steering and communication are essential elements to improve efficiency of CEs and overall of project implementation.
- ✓ The concept of REs has not worked in practice. The REs proved to have no authority and network outside of their own countries and merely functioned as coordinators duplicating in effect the coordination through the Kiev and Tbilisi offices. Although depending on their qualifications, REs could have been used as project experts, in practice national experts (whether CEs or project experts) had preference. In the CA countries only few activities were developed and could also be handled better by the respective CEs. Therefore, the concept of RE is inefficient in practice and suggested to be abandoned.
- ✓ Approximation of EU policies, in particular the legal and regulatory framework, as well as the introduction of EU Best Practices continues to be built in the implementation of regional and national activities. When tailored to the specific situation in Partner Countries, it resulted frequently in specific requests and increased contacts with relevant European organisations, which need to be even further strengthened.
- ✓ Assessing the impact of the results achieved remains difficult, especially taking into account presence of various stakeholders working on similar topics. In the ongoing ITS project as well as in past INOGATE projects insufficient attention is paid to establishing a clear baseline (either qualitative or – where possible - quantitative) against which impacts can be measured. This needs to be improved when developing terms of reference for proposed ITS activities.

Achievements

The following activities and impacts illustrate briefly what has been achieved by ITS to date.

- ✓ INOGATE and the IEA are cooperating on the development of a status report of PCs following the IEA methodology of Peer Reviews. Analysis and peer-review were conducted. Results will be published by IEA early 2015.
- ✓ Through eight regional seminars and four study tours ITS increased the capacity of more than 200 participants from 30 different companies & organisations in 11 PCs in the areas of electricity and gas standards, tariffs, energy regulation, cross-border trade and gas infrastructure. This resulted in an increased knowledge and understanding of the EU best practises in these areas and has led to concrete improvement measures in PCs. The (potential) impact of the electricity and gas activities are among others:
 - Introduction of non-discriminatory practices concerning grid connections, which facilitated investments and the commissioning of 162 MW of wind power and 100 MW of hydropower and reduced emissions of greenhouse gases of more than 500 thousand tonnes of CO₂e.

- Increased efficiency of energy infrastructure resulting in improved safety risk assessments, reduction of accidents and losses (approximately 30-50 million m³ annually), and increased regional gas security
 - Improved secondary legislation, market rules and development of new electricity market models, using EU Best Practices and also related to compliance with ECT and AA requirements resulting in better quality of service, improved tariff methodologies and increased potential for cross border energy trade.
- ✓ ITS conducted three regional studies on tariff methodologies applied in all the INOGATE Partner countries, on EU best practices on gas losses mitigation methodologies and on standardisation systems.
 - ✓ In the field of energy statistics, initial work resulted in the adoption and implementation of Energy Statistics Action Plans (ESAP) in 9 PCs, namely AM, AZ, BY, GE, KZ, KG, MD, TJ and UA. The Energy Statistics Action Plan (ESAP) is the backbone document of the integrated ITS national and regional actions (2012-2014) that aims to harmonise energy statistics in PCs with international standards. As the PCs have varying levels of development in energy statistics, the ESAP is unique per country, and includes all the agreed activities and responsibilities between the ITS and PCs in these key areas: strengthening of the legal and institutional framework, development of an energy statistics reporting system based on international (IEA/Eurostat) standards, energy balances compilation and submission of questionnaires to the IEA, development of a reporting system for monthly energy statistics and energy prices and development of energy and energy efficiency indicators reporting system. Action Plans implementation is realized by ITS, in close cooperation with IEA, Eurostat and ECS. Expected impact is that a uniform methodology, based on international standards and practice, is used across the board in the PCs to compile energy statistics and energy balances, leading to increased use of energy statistics in energy and economic planning and comparability of energy statistics between PCs. To date, substantial progress has been achieved in the implementation of activities defined in the Action Plans for AR, AZ, BY, GE, KG, KZ, MD and TJ. Through regular regional seminars and study tours the capacity of high and middle level staff of statistics bodies in the PCs has been increased concerning the energy data collection and compilation of energy balances following the international methodology used by IEA and Eurostat.
 - ✓ Several regional workshops for sustainable energy (SE) have been organized on SE policy, bio-energy and banking practices. This resulted in improved capacity of policy makers and secondary legislation on sustainable and renewable energy policies based on EU Best practices, and increased access to financing for energy efficiency and renewable investment projects. Training materials have been developed and are available for further use. Appropriate handover needs to be defined.

Positioning/vision

The positioning of the INOGATE programme has changed over time. While it started out as a more political instrument, it evolved into primarily technical assistance support instrument. Integration of these separate projects under the ITS and including policy implementation offer advantages. The **current** positioning of INOGATE can be defined as follows:

INOGATE is an EU regional cooperation instrument, that is based on inter and intra-regional cooperation of Partner Countries and capacity building, focusing on the following areas:

- ***Technical and regulatory advice on energy security, energy markets efficiency and development;***
- ***Implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies;***
- ***Energy and economic planning through the use of improved energy statistics;***
- ***Facilitating energy efficiency and renewable energy investments;***

ITS provides short or medium-term technical assistance in these areas at regional and country level.

Strategy

The strategic approach for the remainder of the project is based on the following directions.

1. The regional approach will be continued to strengthen impact of activities and support policy dialogue and technical discussions between PCs and between PCs and EU institutions and relevant international organisations.
2. Support implementation of ECT obligations, including the 3rd energy package for MD and UA as members and for Georgia (GE) as official applicant;
3. Continued focus on the priorities and commitment of PCs resulting in country work plans that will strengthen ownership and impact of the activities while taking into account synergies and complementarity with other bilateral and regional projects.
4. Focus country-specific activities only on PCs where the willingness to engage has been demonstrated, where there is better possibility to achieve impact and where activities can be implemented in a cost-effective manner.
5. Strengthen, where applicable, relations with European organisations, such as Eurostat, Energy Community Secretariat, Agency for Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER), CEER, individual EU and PCs regulatory agencies, statistical agencies, standardisation bodies and other relevant stakeholders;
6. Improve awareness-raising, communication, dissemination and visibility

Priorities by country

The regional activities resulted in requests from PCs for additional activities. These are handled through the AHEF facility. The table below shows an overview of the priorities expressed by PCs according to the reactions through AHEFs and participation in regional events in each area of work. Efforts will mostly concentrate on continuing development and implementation of 1st priority areas (green) and to a lesser extent on 2nd priority areas (yellow). The project suggests focusing on these two priority areas for the remaining project period. Sustainable Energy (SE) activities are not applicable (grey) to the Central Asian countries. In addition, all questions related to implementation of the 3rd energy Package in GE, MD and UA that are not supported by other projects and donors will be given special attention.

Table 1 Indicative Priorities by Country

Issues	AM	AZ	GE	MD	UA	BY		KZ	KG	TJ	UZ	TM
Tariffs	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow			Yellow		Green	Yellow	
Regulatory	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow				Green			
Market rules	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green		Green	Green			
Cross-border Trade	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow			Green		Green		
Standards	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green			Yellow	Yellow	Yellow		
Gas infrastructure efficiency	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow			Yellow		Green	Yellow	
SE policy improvement	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow			Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
EE in Building sector	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow				Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Labelling scheme	Yellow		Yellow	Green	Yellow			Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
RES-mapping	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green		Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Feed-In Tariffs	Yellow	Yellow		Green		Yellow		Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey	Grey
Energy data collection	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green		Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	
Energy balances	Green		Green	Green	Green	Green		Green	Green	Green	Yellow	
Monthly statistics	Yellow		Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow		Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	
Energy prices			Yellow	Green	Green							
Energy indicators	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green		Green	Yellow	Yellow		

Prioritisation:

	1 st priority		2 nd priority		n/a		No interest
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Planned Activities

The following section lists the strategic directions of the ongoing and planned activities in the different areas. Some activities will be actively pursued while others will be more proactive. Where appropriate, the regional dimension of activities will be indicated.

Electricity and Gas

The regional approach to the activities for electricity and gas will be continued. The activities that are planned for the remainder of the project will be further developed and implemented, keeping in mind the strategic approach mentioned before. If and when the project can be extended new activities building on the results of the implementation can be developed. In particular, the areas of tariffs, regulatory issues (3rd package in case of GE, MD and UA) and standardisation action plans will require additional support directed towards further implementation and adoption of legislation. This will increase the results and impacts of the activities.

The main directions of the electricity and gas activities in case of a project extension are the following:

- Capacity building and Technical Assistance to energy sector stakeholders with a view to compliance with ECT requirements, especially implementation of 3rd Energy Package, (MD, UA and GE). Capacity building of regulatory authorities (in AZ and KG); intensified support to the regional network of regulators. The specific activities will be defined in consultations with the PCs as their situations are quite different.
- The regional tariff review will be followed up nationally when specific requests from Partner Countries are received. Several requests have been received for further development of tariff methodologies concerning the handling of reactive power in the tariff structure, and calculation and handling of network losses in tariffs and this may be followed by requests for more in-depth tariff reforms;
- Coordination and cooperation with the Energy Community Secretariat, CEER, Comité Européen de Normalisation/Comité Européen de Normalisation Électrotechnique (CEN/CENELEC) through regional events/study tours will intensify.
- Support to PCs in cross-border trading. At the request of the countries, capacity building in the regulatory and commercial aspects of cross-border trading of their respective TSOs/operators will continue. This includes closer contacts with the European Network of Transmission System Operators (ENTSO) for Electricity and Gas.
- Support to the standardization bodies and technical committees for the implementation of adopted harmonisation Road Maps and Action Plans with the aim of adopting standards in a Partner Country's legal framework will be actively pursued. A regional seminar on electricity standards will be organized similar to the one that was held for gas standards, which proved to be successful.
- Transfer of EU Best Practices in gas losses reduction and gas infrastructure safety and security will continue based upon requests from several PCs. The regional seminar on this topic achieved its goal and resulted in several national requests that are currently being implemented.

Sustainable Energy

The regional approach for Sustainable Energy in MD, UA, BY, GE, AZ and AM will continue to strengthen the implementation of SE policies in the PCs. The support addresses different aspects of SE policy and includes regional aspects as well as national priorities due to the difference in policy development in the PCs.

ITS will support the implementation of SE Action Plans, where they exist. Focus may be on the different energy efficiency subsectors, such as Buildings (residential, commercial, public), Industry, Transport, District Heating systems, Renewable energy, etc. The main directions for SE in case of an extension are the following:

- Support for the implementation of ECT requirements in GE, MD and UA
- Supporting the development of secondary legislation and procedures related to energy efficiency and renewable energy; More specifically:
 - Development of a mandatory energy labelling scheme;
 - Improvement of legislation on energy performance of buildings and building codes;
- Implementation of a geospatial tool for mapping RES in committed Partner Countries. This tool links the potential for different renewable energy sources with their economic viability and is aimed at potential investors in RES. The national maps can be assembled and presented in a regional platform provided by ITS. RES mapping will be implemented in PCs that show commitment and the results can be used to organise a regional event.
- Facilitate conditions for investment of local banks in sustainable energy, including lessons learnt from past training of the local Banks, ensuring further sustainability;
- Creation of SE Info Centres upon specific requests and commitment of a Partner Country. This lends itself for a regional event to disseminate the results to other interested Partner Countries;

Energy Statistics

Through regular regional seminars and study tours, the capacity of high and middle level staff of statistics bodies in the PCs has been increased concerning the energy data collection and compilation of energy balances following the international methodology used by the IEA, and Eurostat. The implementation is realized with strong support of the IEA, Eurostat and the ECS, and this will continue in the future. In addition, ITS developed 11 Energy Statistics Action Plans (ESAP), of which nine have been adopted by PCs (TM and UZ did not adopt the ESAP).

ITS will focus its interventions in this sector on the support to partner countries to further implement the ESAPs.

In addition, activities for a possible extension of the project may include:

- Development of monthly energy statistics and statistics on energy prices development (GE, UA);
- Support the development of models for Energy and Energy Efficiency Indicators (EEEI) compilation and their interpretation (AZ, BE, KG);
- Development of the concepts for expanding and use of official energy statistics for energy planning (energy demand and energy balances forecasting, monitoring security of supply and other), including regional and/or national training on the use of statistics for policy makers.

Awareness raising and Communication

- Country Coordinators will be updated on regular basis regarding regional activities and national project implementation;
- New and more user friendly INOGATE website will lead to better awareness-raising, communication, dissemination and visibility through the population of the website with specific information on sustainable energy policies, energy technology information, energy toolkit. Special attention will be given to country overviews and updates;
- Additional information materials promoting the work and results of the INOGATE Programme will be prepared (i.e. Quarterly newsletter, country leaflets, multi-annual INOGATE report 2012-2014, results video, etc.).
- Country Visibility Action Plans will be developed and rolled out focusing on increasing INOGATE visibility in the countries through, for example, media relations, participation in local events, etc. This work includes organizing Local Information Events in the remaining PCs;
- 2014 INOGATE Annual Conference will be organized in October 2014. Provided an extension to January 2016 is granted, another Annual Conference/Final Conference will be organised end 2015.
- INOGATE/IEA 2013/2014 Status Report will be published by IEA and launched early 2015 in Brussels and in three partner countries. ITS and IEA will collaborate for the organisation of the events, to ensure adequate visibility.

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3 September 2014

Next steps

This document is shared with partner countries. It provides the basis for developing individual Country Work Plans and a regional work plan that will be prepared together with the Partner Countries. The 2014 INOGATE Annual Conference in October 2014 is planned to provide the platform for presentation and endorsement of these work plans.