About this Issue

Welcome to the INOGATE September Newsletter 2014! This quarterly issue covers key INOGATE activities in the period between May and July 2014. Two INOGATE information events were held – one in Kazakhstan and one in Azerbaijan – which focused on the new priorities for energy cooperation between the EU and these Partner Countries. Two important study tours were organised in this period, one on gas metering and one on energy statistics giving Partner Countries excellent insights on best practices. Also in this period, INOGATE, together with its sister project “Covenant of Mayors”, had the opportunity to take part in the EU’s Sustainable Energy Week in Lviv, Ukraine. This issue provides links to our website for all activities and their full documentation including presentations, training materials and event materials.

Baku hosts event to highlight energy cooperation achievements in Azerbaijan and the way forward

17 July 2014- Baku, Azerbaijan

Over 40 representatives of 15 Azeri organisations came together for the event, titled "EU INOGATE Programme: Energy Cooperation Achievements in Azerbaijan and Way Forward", jointly organised by the Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan and INOGATE Technical Secretariat. Participants included representatives from ministries, the energy industry, the tariff council, the metrology and standardisation body, NGOs, a bank, academia and the media, as well as members of the EU Delegation and the INOGATE ITS. The event took stock of the results of INOGATE’s work in Azerbaijan and agreed the main priorities of upcoming assistance. The interactive format encouraged the exchange of information and sharing of experience in key energy areas and tailored INOGATE’s assistance to the country’s most important priorities.

The participants examined how best to use INOGATE’s assistance and European expertise to foster the development of Azerbaijan’s energy sector and enhance the capacities of the country’s institutions.

Participants outlined a joint strategy for the near future, emphasizing that INOGATE’s technical assistance in Azerbaijan will continue to address complex energy issues including electricity tariffs, energy market development, energy legislation and rules, methodologies and roadmaps, renewables and energy efficiency, energy statistics and capacity building for energy institutions.
Study Visit on Energy Statistics and Energy Balances

8 - 11 July 2014 - Vienna, Austria

INOGATE and Statistics Austria (STAT) cooperated to bring together 18 specialists from National Statistical Institutes (NSIs) in nine INOGATE Partner Countries to further improve and enhance the capacity of statistical specialists to produce good quality energy statistics and energy balances in accordance with European and international standards. STAT is well known among EU member countries for its best practices in the compilation of energy statistics and energy balances. To supplement the knowledge and expertise provided by STAT, experts from two other European NSIs were also invited to share their experiences – from Latvia and Croatia. Relevant topics were suggested by the participants – all specialists working with energy statistics and energy balances in the NSIs of INOGATE Partner Countries.

The seminar covered methodology for energy balance compilation, including supply, transformation and consumption, the dissemination and publication of energy data and its quality assessment, which includes relevance, accuracy, timeliness, accessibility, comparability and consistency.

The importance of cooperation among major stakeholders, such as ministries, energy market regulators, and energy and environment agencies, was highlighted by the Austrian colleagues and a visit to the Energy Community Secretariat headquarters provided context for the information presented.

The Head of the Directorate of Spatial Statistics of STAT, Ms. Beata Schmidt, emphasized what an excellent opportunity the event was for the exchange of good practices in compiling energy statistics and energy balances and how it provided a platform to compare political requirements and statistical feasibility taking into account data quality aspects and cost-benefit considerations. Such an event provided new ideas and a new perspective through the participation of various stakeholders.

Ms Milka Mumovic of the Energy Community Secretariat hoped that such an event would lead towards greater regional cooperation and further add to the development and improvement of energy statistics in the region. Participants, 89% of whom evaluated the event as excellent, were urged to share their new knowledge with colleagues upon their return.

Event documents are available here.
INOGATE participates in sustainable energy week in Ukraine

23 June 2014 - Lviv, Ukraine

The EU's Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), held in Lviv from 23 to 27 June proved to have something for everyone – from celebrations of cities newly committed to sustainability within the Covenant of Mayors, to cycle races and information events on sustainable products. The EUSEW is an initiative of the European Commission, designed to spread best practices, inspire new ideas and build alliances to help both Ukraine and the EU meet their energy and climate mitigation goals. EUSEW showcases renewable energy solutions and greater energy efficiency and was an ideal platform for INOGATE's second appearance at this event.

INOGATE provided prizes for participants in games and competitions on sustainable energy, among them a cycle race through central Lviv. INOGATE's promotional materials focused on its programme in Ukraine and on its support for energy efficiency and renewable energy.

The INOGATE Programme was also featured in an information corner on its technical assistance where visitors discussed awareness raising of sustainable energy, INOGATE seminars and workshops and how to join European initiatives on energy efficiency.

Among the more colourful events during EUSEW, 100 students formed the map of Ukraine and sang the EU anthem; workshops on how to construct a solar collector and how to watch a movie by spinning the pedals of an electric engine added to the fun. Children participated in games demonstrating the hidden opportunities to use renewable energy in everyday life.

On a more formal note, the EUSEW was opened by Ambassador Jan Tombinski, Head of the EU Delegation to Ukraine, Andriy Sadovy, Mayor of the City of Lviv, Andril Bilousov, Deputy Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Utilities and Gérard Magnin, Executive Director of Energy Cities. During the conference 20 new cities from Eastern and Western Ukraine were inducted into the Covenant of Mayors. To date, 71 Ukrainian cities are committed to implementing the ambitious sustainable energy action plans required by the Covenant of Mayors.

The Mayor of Dolyna, Volodymyr Harazd, the first Ukrainian city to sign the Covenant in 2009, shared his experience with new entrants.
Delegates also heard from the Deputy Minister of Regional Development, Building and Communal Services, Andrii Bilousov, from mayors of the cities of Zaporozhie and Dnepropetrov, and representatives of projects, banks and associations that are cooperating in the development of sustainable energy in Ukraine, as well as representatives of the INOGATE Programme. Participant interest was high in the INOGATE programme, with energy stakeholders particularly interested in future common actions in sustainable energy and on Ad Hoc Technical Facility (AHEF) assistance from INOGATE.

The speakers emphasised the importance of energy saving, particularly in the light of the current political situation in Ukraine and how this may influence its energy security. They called for the creation of homeowners associations and the development of governmental programmes to increase the use of energy efficient sources.

Gas metering and data recording: seminar and study tour

17-19 June 2014 - Vilnius, Lithuania

Technology transfer was the focus of a highly targeted seminar and study tour organised by INOGATE at the request of the gas companies of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tajikistan. This multi-purpose event helped five key delegates gain an in-depth understanding of EU best practices in the operation of gas metering stations and related data collection and processing.

Through its Ad Hoc Expert Facility (AHEF), INOGATE is able to meet specific requests of its Partner Countries for information and knowledge, leading to the exchange of experience and know-how. The three gas companies wanted to learn more about how to develop methodological procedures for the operation and maintenance of the measuring equipment in their metrology stations. Another key aspect of the study tour was to provide information on how to certify the accuracy of the equipment for the measurements of gas flow by accredited companies and how to develop internationally acceptable methods for recording and storing measurements.

The seminar focused on the legislation which regulates gas accounting and metrology in Europe, measuring equipment, certification, inspection, periodicity, applicable standards and accredited laboratories; gas flows in the transmission system, gas losses, gas consumption for technological needs and calculations; the measuring equipment used by European System Operators (ESOs) in border metering stations; gas measurement systems, operation, accuracy and maintenance in accordance with European practices; and European methodologies for recording and storing data. The material from this seminar can be downloaded here.
Kazakhstan celebrates its EU ties

18 June 2014 - Astana, Kazakhstan

INOGATE celebrated 18 years of energy cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union with a local information event entitled "INOGATE as a Successful EU Energy Cooperation Programme: Achievements in Kazakhstan and the Way Forward in 2014". The event was organized by the Ministry of Oil and Gas and the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies. More than 40 stakeholders from the Kazakh energy sector and the EU exchanged ideas on how to reinforce Kazakhstan’s participation in the INOGATE Programme. The international experience of tariff setting for the production, transmission and distribution of electricity and comparative analysis (benchmarking) were a particular focus.

Ambassador Aurelia Bouchez, Head of the EU Delegation to Kazakhstan who co-chaired the event commented that “Europe shares with Kazakhstan the conviction that our citizens need a secure supply of energy at affordable prices. That is why we seek to exchange our know-how and experience on creating competitive energy markets offering quality service, on developing the use of renewable energy, and on fostering economic growth with lower consumption of energy.”

The event was also co-chaired by Mr. Magzum Mirzagaliyev, Vice-Minister of Oil and Gas and Mr. Bakhytzhan Jaxaliyev, the Vice-Minister of Industry and New Technologies.

The information event drew on 18 years of successful cooperation in the energy sector and focused on new and enhanced cooperation in the years to come. Kazakhstan continues to be a key partner of the EU’s INOGATE Programme since its inception in 1996 and has benefited from 41 of INOGATE’s 69 projects. More information on the event is available here.
New INOGATE Publications

INOGATE has produced two new leaflets on the INOGATE Programme – one for the Republic of Azerbaijan and one for the Republic of Kazakhstan – outlining the INOGATE work in progress and planned for each country. Copies can be downloaded from the INOGATE website.

Update on INOGATE technical assistance to Partner Countries

The total number of active applications for the Ad Hoc Expert facility (AHEF) as of August 2014 is 133. Work on their evaluation and implementation is continuing. Guidelines with detailed information on the sphere of activities and eligible requests can be found here.

Upcoming INOGATE Events

- Seminar and field visit on risk assessment (safety, reliability and integrity of transmission systems) with visit to gas field – 8-12 September 2014, Georgia
- Seminar on strengthening of energy regulator – September-October 2014, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- Seminar on cross-border trading – September-October 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan & Tbilisi, Georgia
- Regional seminar and study tour on gas infrastructure for 11 Partner Countries (losses, PIMS and LDAR) – October-November 2014, Amsterdam, Netherlands