

Event Report

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Information and Awareness Raising Event in Moldova: “EU INOGATE Programme: Energy Cooperation Achievements in Moldova so far and the way forward in 2014”

Chisinau, 19 March, 2014



Key stakeholders of the energy sector of Moldova and INOGATE experts at the information and awareness raising event in Chisinau to discuss INOGATE's progress in Moldova and lay out the way forward

A successful INOGATE Local Information (LIE) and Awareness Raising Event took place in Chisinau on 19th March 2014 with participation of the key energy stakeholders in Moldova. This event was co-organised by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova with the assistance of the ITS Country Coordinator for Moldova, **Mrs. Galina Parsian**, and by the INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS). It profiled recently implemented, on-going and planned INOGATE activities in Moldova in the context of the INOGATE partnership and the Baku Initiative framework. The event covered presentations and discussions on various aspects of the EU- Moldova energy sector co-operation including: electricity, gas, sustainable energy, EU's best practice in energy labelling and European experience in awareness raising and establishing SE information centers. The speakers and presenters were the INOGATE experts as well as local stakeholders.

Those attending the event included over 55 representatives from Moldovan ministries, energy industry, the national regulator, international organisations, NGOs, academia and media, as well as representatives of the EU Delegation, and the INOGATE's ITS.

1. INOGATE Information Event

Welcoming addresses were given by **Mr. Tudor Copaci, Deputy Minister of Economy of the Republic of Moldova** and **Ms. Danielle Keulen, Deputy Head of Operations at the EU Delegation to Moldova**. On behalf of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Energy, Mr. Copaci welcomed the participants and thanked the INOGATE Technical Secretariat and the EU Delegation to Moldova for facilitating organisation of this event. The Deputy Minister noted that the

INOGATE's work is important for Moldova, especially in the context of advancing cooperation with the EU. The event agenda incorporated a range of significant energy issues for discussion. Adequate energy infrastructure, market liberalisation and effective energy policy implementation for market development are key elements for the sector development. This is even more important in the light of Moldova's membership of the Energy Community Treaty (EnCT) and its commitments. The Deputy Minister expressed hope that the event assists in the knowledge transfer of progress advancement and implementation of new projects.

In response, **Ms. Danielle Keulen, Deputy Head of Operations of the EU Delegation to Moldova** emphasized the importance of the EU's support to Moldova in the field of energy being a significant constituent of the overall cooperation between the EU and Moldova. She reaffirmed the EU's commitment to support Moldova in improving public goods; health; education and energy. Modernisation of the energy sector is a critical element of the EU's support to Moldova, diversification of supply, connection to the EU markets, energy efficiency/saving and renewable energy sources as well as ensuring cheaper and better access to energy. Ms. Keulen highlighted some areas of the assistance provided by the EU to Moldova in the energy sector: development of biomass; energy infrastructure development and sustainable energy financing. INOGATE adds value and reinforces these efforts by cooperation with Moldova as one of the founding members of INOGATE.

After the welcome addresses, the INOGATE Country Coordinator for Moldova Mrs. Galina Parsian explained the aim of the event and underscored the four main areas of the INOGATE programme as well as AHEFs as the technical assistance mechanism.

In the morning session ITS experts presented the activities of INOGATE cooperation with Moldovan beneficiaries in various energy sub-sectors.

During the morning session moderated by **Mr. Alexandre Darras, Attaché & Project Manager at the EU Delegation to Moldova** the ITS experts presented and spoke about the activities carried out to date in Moldova as part of the INOGATE ITS project providing examples and statistics, updated on the Status Report missions, RES/EE scoping mission, energy statistics and development of statistics Action Plans.

Dr. Lemlem Said Issa, Team Leader of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat in addition to providing an overview of the INOGATE programme past and present; to presenting Moldova's IS activities so far including past Status Reports and Statistics cooperation; provided also reference information in relation to the EU Energy Directive (3rd Package) with particular focus on art. 27th on behalf of the Energy Community Secretariat (ECS); on behalf of and as requested by the ECS's representative (Ms Gabriela Cretu) who could not travel to Chisinau at the last minute.

Mr. John Swinscoe, ITS's Expert for Electricity and Tariffs, delivered a presentation concerning the Electricity and Gas activities of the ITS project, which provided insight into the structure and procedures of ITS. It was underscored that although the project is in the final year of implementation, there is still some resources available to provide assistance through the AHEF mechanism; while at the same time pointing out that, time is running out and the window for new applications will soon close. The presentation highlighted several recently completed regional AHEFs including a study tour and a seminar in Venice concerning gas trading in Europe, a visit to the UK to the British Standards Institute to discuss the strategies of National Standards Boards, and a Seminar in Budapest which addressed tariff methodologies. Some results from the draft regional tariff review were also presented, and the advanced state of Moldova's tariff policy noted. There followed a brief discussion on the AHEF applications for Moldova for which a ToR is under preparation, which concerns automated penalties for breach of quality standards, electricity network losses and investment appraisal by the Regulator.

During the session dedicated to sustainable energy, **Mr. Larry Good, ITS's Key Expert on Sustainable Energy** presented the INOGATE's technical assistance provided to Moldova recently which includes technical assistance in energy audit methodologies through focused workshops, participation of Moldovan stakeholders in the ITS's combined events in the areas of bio-energy, SE policy and SE financing. He also highlighted the planned activities: supporting Moldova in creating a SE information center to promote sustainable energy to the wider public; and continuing close cooperation with the Energy Efficiency Agency of Moldova, the key stakeholder in sustainable energy, by assisting them to develop new EE methodologies and guidelines.

This information event provided synergy for several cross-cutting areas of INOGATE's activities in sustainable energy to raise awareness of policy makers and to enhance the success of awareness raising efforts. **Mr. Aleksandr Antonenko, ITS's Expert for RES/EE Policy** delivered a dedicated presentation on the importance of energy labelling and the EU's best practice in this area. This was of particular interest since Moldova's Energy Labelling law is in the Parliament for discussions pending adoption. The presentation outlined the main aspects and key points of the energy labelling requirements in the EU. An active question & answer session followed the presentation where questions were addressed not only to the INOGATE experts but a lively discussion took place among the local stakeholders providing peer-to-peer dialogue, underlining the importance of energy labelling, looking at possible implications and how can it be best implemented in the country.

During the session on sustainable energy, the European expert invited by ITS, **Mr. Xavier Dubuisson** delivered a very detailed presentation emphasizing the importance of effective awareness raising on sustainable energy, efficient and targeted outreach to different stakeholders and provision of tailored information on various facets of sustainable energy. He also provided specific examples of RES/EE information centers and shared the best European experience in this area.

Overall, the sustainable energy session was received by the participants with interest and appreciation. INOGATE aimed at building synergies through this event and reinforcing its effort in sustainable energy in Moldova. Therefore, during the visit the group of ITS experts on sustainable energy held detailed discussion with the Energy Efficiency Agency of Moldova to outline steps for supporting creation of SE information centers as well as possibilities of additional technical assistance to facilitate advancing progress in SE issues.

During the last session, the local stakeholders and beneficiaries of INOGATE's assistance made presentations on the results of this cooperation and future plans.

Mr. Lilian Barcaru, representing the **National Agency of the Republic of Moldova for Energy Regulation** spoke about the key developments and work of the regulator. He outlined some of the issues in the energy sector that the regulator was hoping to address with ITS's assistance. The applications prepared so far for technical assistance focus on electricity and gas. Mr.Barcaru spoke about the regulatory issues such as compensation rules for outages and quality of voltage. He underlined the importance of creating investment enabling rules and regulations for the sector to grow.

Mr. Segiu Pulcinschi, Head of Section of Metrology and Gas Metering of JSC "MoldovaGas" updated the participants on the achievements and planned work of "MoldovaGas" as well as the cooperation with INOGATE. He spoke about the plans of "MoldovaGas" to improve the metering system and the infrastructure modernisation to enhance efficiency. An active dialogue between the stakeholders followed the presentation bringing up questions about the metering points, infrastructure development and efficiency of gas supply and energy savings.

Mr. Serghey Rijkov, representative of State Enterprise "Moldelectrica" (TSO) provided an overview of the current situation in the transmission system and the grid development strategy. He spoke about the planned reinforcement of interconnections with neighbouring countries as well as

the national network. Mr. Rijkov underlined cooperation with international donors. After the presentation, he answered questions on technical issues including RES grid connections.

Mr. Calin Negura, Deputy Director of the Energy Efficiency Agency delivered the closing presentation during this. He talked about the mission and main areas of activities of the Agency as well as cooperation with the INOGATE programme, implemented activities and future plans which includes a range of areas such as development of energy audit methodologies, elaboration of guidelines, SE information provision.

In the **concluding remarks**, the representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova and the INOGATE Technical Secretariat acknowledged the significance of enhanced energy co-operation, the contribution of viable energy sector to the economic development of the country and the impact that can be made through joint and concerted efforts. The stakeholders and local presenters expressed appreciation for the support provided by INOGATE to Moldova as well as willingness to further this co-operation.

In addition to raising awareness and informing, this event also saw a very dynamic dialogue and exchange of information and ideas among the local stakeholders. The questions asked during the event helped to better explain INOGATE's areas of activity and mechanisms, as well as acquire additional input on the local priorities.

2. Visibility and media coverage

The LIE in Chisinau received considerable visibility within the key stakeholders of the Moldovan energy sector participating in the event. The event offered a good platform for the local stakeholders to receive information from the INOGATE's experts and at the same time, to maintain a fruitful dialogue among themselves, getting updates directly from the policy makers and key energy sector players.

The Ministry of Economy of Moldova and the INOGATE prepared a joint press release dedicated for this event: which was posted in the Ministry's, EUD's and web site.

A large number of local media representatives participated in the event. Information on the local media coverage of this event is accessible in the link provided below.

In addition, INOGATE prepared a dedicated leaflet regarding INOGATE – Moldova cooperation in recent years highlighting achievements and future plans for supporting the development of the Moldovan Energy sector. The leaflet was printed and distributed during the event together with the other visibility and promotion material.

All the event material (agenda, list of participants, photos, visibility items) and presentations made by INOGATE experts and Beneficiary stakeholders can be accessed through the following link in the website in Eng and Rus (where available, as some presentations were translated simultaneously between English and Russian/Moldovan).

ENG -

http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&layout=documents&pid=72&cid=337&Itemid=75&lang=en

RUS -

http://www.inogate.org/index.php?option=com_inogate&view=activity&layout=documents&pid=72&cid=337&Itemid=75&lang=ru