

Energy statistics you can trust

Reliable energy data is the foundation for sound decision-making. Every country needs to know how its consumers are using energy, both to develop better policy and to create a more enabling environment for the energy sector. Trusted, accurate statistics answer questions in a reliable way.



Good statistical information allows citizens to hold their government accountable, policy-makers to make evidence-based planning and policy decisions and businesses to make sound investments.

Data on energy supply and demand are essential for producing an energy balance. It is to energy planners and investors what a budget sheet is to a household. “Such a balance is always very important for the government to work out a long-term energy policy and plan activities” says Nana Phirtsckhelani, INOGATE’s Country Coordinator in Georgia. Energy statistics creates the basis for solid energy policy and planning that ensures the continuity and affordability of energy services: for heating, cooking, lighting, electricity and mechanical power.

Inaccurate information about energy supply and demand gives a distorted picture and can lead to waste or, more commonly, severe shortages and blackouts. A consistent statistical language used by all countries, also facilitates cross-border trade and investment in energy.

“Having such a balance is very important for any country, as it gives a full understanding to each citizen about the country’s energy resources, its distribution and consumption” says Gogita Todradze of Geostat. “This information is even more useful and decisive for governments and experts engaged in this area, because they need it in their planning and research activities.” “An energy balance using standard European statistical methodologies is also sought by both private companies and state-run agencies” he adds.

“ I’m eager to know what is the energy situation of Georgia – how much we produce, how much we consume and if there is a chance to export. I think once people know these issues better, there will be little room for political manipulations as well, because politicians sometimes like to play with these sensitive topics.

Zaza, a public servant in Tbilisi

! Good energy statistics create a sound basis for energy systems to function more effectively, giving consumer and potential investors, both inside and outside the country, assurances of their trustworthiness.

EU strengthening statistical credibility

When the EU-funded INOGATE Programme started its work on energy statistics in 2012, Partner Countries were at different stages of progress. Some countries were using standards and tools inherited from Soviet times, others progressing towards international standards, yet others with no energy data collection systems at all. INOGATE has supported the harmonisation of energy statistics across the Partner Countries and provided the know-how for developing solid statistical systems and institutions.

The EU also collaborates with the International Energy Agency (IEA) to help Partner Countries compile comparable energy balances. Today, most of the Partner Countries are submitting energy information to the IEA, a great leap forward from 2011 when only two countries were active. The IEA's information portal is a key global starting place for credible energy information for potential investors. "Good quality statistics are fundamental to decision making by governments, business and the public and with energy use accounting for over two-thirds of global CO₂ emissions, the need for reliable energy data has never been greater. The work of INOGATE shows what can be achieved when countries make a determined effort to improve energy statistics and work towards international standards. The IEA has been pleased to assist in this work and is grateful to the hard work of the country statisticians" says IEA's Chief Statistician Duncan Millard.

Spotlight on success

With limited human and financial resources, in less than three years **Moldova** has adopted new standards for its energy balance and implemented monthly statistics, as well as price statistics, to comply with requirements of the Energy Community Secretariat, an international organisation that provides support to countries in transposing and implementing EU laws and regulations in the energy sector. "Starting from that year, our country has taken the obligation to implement EC Regulation 1099/08 in energy statistics", says Svetlana Bulgac, of Moldova's National Bureau of Statistics. This is yet another step to provide Moldovan consumers with a better idea of why their energy bills are high, low or inconsistent.



Signing agreement of cooperation between INOGATE and National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova

Belarus is carrying out its first household survey and using the new data, will be able to develop detailed energy efficiency indicators. The statistics of BelStat are also now available on line, enabling energy consumers, suppliers and businesses to operate with fuller knowledge about the Belarusian energy landscape.

With EU support through INOGATE, **Georgia** started from scratch to develop a completely new, flexible and modern energy data collection system in 2013. GEOSTAT, in close cooperation with Georgia's Ministry of Energy, which is using these statistics to plan energy-based policy, in 2013 published its first annual energy balance based on international methodologies and was able to compile the 2014 balance unaided. "The energy balance shows the big picture of Georgia's energy market. It shows how the energy sector develops and changes over the years" says Levon Pavlenishvili, Research Associate at ISET Policy Institute at the International School of Economics at Tbilisi State University.

The EU-funded INOGATE Programme promotes international energy cooperation between the European Union and the Partner Countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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