We wish all our readers a happy and successful 2010!!

INOGATE at Kiev Oil and Gas Forum
The INOGATE Technical Secretariat (ITS) represented the INOGATE Programme at the Kiev ‘International Oil and Gas Forum’, 3-5 November 2009. During the exhibition ITS staff spoke to about 200 visitors from all over the EU and many of the INOGATE Partner Countries. They also distributed INOGATE literature to visitors and exhibitors, including representatives of regional and international oil and gas industries, journalists, energy analysts, energy and ecology projects and representatives of EU embassies. Representatives of the INOGATE project ‘Support to Energy Market Integration and Sustainable Energy’ (SEMISE) also joined the stand and interested visitors in the project’s consultancy initiatives.

Innovative Peer Review Programmes held in Moldova and Georgia
The INOGATE project ‘Capacity Building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia’ held two ‘peer review’ programmes, in Chisinau, Moldova (26-27 October 2009) and Kutaisi, Georgia (30 November-1 December 2009). These provided an opportunity for regulators to compare and discuss their legal framework and regulatory practices in a collegial setting that allowed frankness in sharing of experiences and observations. In the context of these reviews, regulators examined their own regulatory practices in a concentrated and personal manner, which should lead to strengthened organizations and improved quality of regulation. Participants found the experience refreshing, informative and, most importantly, empowering!

Environment Protection Seminars in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
Two seminars were given by the INOGATE Project ‘Enhancement of Environmental Protection Measures in the Oil and Gas Industry of Central Asia’ in Dushanbe, Tajikistan (16-17 November 2009) and Astana, Kazakhstan (25-26 November 2009). Over 70 senior ministry officials, members of State Committees and other key stakeholders benefited from presentations on EU environmental legislation, techniques of waste management, implementing the mechanisms of the Kyoto Protocol and practical tools for emissions monitoring. The seminars were an excellent opportunity to introduce and discuss EU environmental standards and benchmarking with two of INOGATE’s Central Asian partners.

Energy ministries host INOGATE Information Event Series
The ITS joined forces with the SEMISE project to support a series of information Events in INOGATE Partner Countries, under the aegis of the countries’ ministries responsible for energy, in November and December 2009. The one-day events were held in Chisinau (Moldova) (25 November), Tbilisi (Georgia) (2 December), Astana (Kazakhstan) (2 December), Baku (Azerbaijan) (4 December), Yerevan (Armenia) (8 December), Minsk (Belarus) (11 December) and Kiev (Ukraine) (15 December) with leading energy stakeholders in government, industry, NGOs, international financial institutions and donor organizations, as well as with EU representatives. Presentations included an overview of the INOGATE Work Programme and outline of forthcoming projects, details of the SEMISE Expert Facility and, in many cases, presentations from INOGATE projects operating in the host country. Discussion sessions during the events gave the opportunity for valuable feedback, which will be taken into consideration in the development of the INOGATE Programme.

Farewell message from Nicole Igloi, INOGATE Programme Manager at the European Commission
“My contract at the European Commission expires at the end of January. All throughout this time, I have had the privilege of being the INOGATE Programme Manager. This has been an exciting experience – sometimes a challenging balancing act between different partners, sometimes frustratingly bureaucratic, sometimes an exhilarating insight into the possibilities that international cooperation can provide. Most of all, I have been able to meet many friendly, professional and open-minded people, with whom it was a pleasure to work. I would like to take this opportunity to thank especially the INOGATE ‘family’, meaning the Country Coordinators, Working Groups members, the staff of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat and other project contractors, as well as my colleagues at Commission Headquarters and Delegations. I wish you all a fruitful continuation in ensuring a sustainable energy future”.

The INOGATE family thanks Nicole for her great work on behalf of the INOGATE Programme and wishes her all the best for the future.

Forthcoming INOGATE events:
- EPMOGI Seminars on Environmental Protection and EU Energy Legislation, Tashkent 11-12 February 2010
- Capacity-building for Energy Regulators: 2nd Exchange Programme, Riga and Vilnius, 1-3 March 2010,
- INOGATE Working Meetings Grouping, Brussels, week commencing 17 May 2010