INOGATE Newsletter July 2009

INOGATE’s SEMISE Project sets out its potential to stakeholders in Partner Countries

Over an eight week period to 9th July, experts of the INOGATE SEMISE (Support to Energy Market Integration and Sustainable Energy) project have visited all of the INOGATE Partner Countries except for Uzbekistan and Moldova, which they will cover after the summer break. With the help of the INOGATE Country Coordinators they have met with a variety of stakeholders involved in the project’s three key areas – energy market convergence, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and investment attraction. Their positive reception has helped to lay the foundations for identification of specific areas which can be supported by SEMISE’s pool of ad-hoc experts, from preparing investment projects for strategic energy infrastructure to supporting tariff restructuring.

Energy Regulators’ Technical Exchange Programme in Kiev

In the framework of the INOGATE project Capacity Building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, nine ministry representatives from Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were invited to join a small group visiting the National Electricity Regulatory Commission of Ukraine (NERC) from the 13th-15th May to study the energy regulatory experiences of their Ukrainian colleagues. A selected group of high-level individual Ukrainian regulators with was invited to serve as speakers, and to give practical presentations. Site visits during the programme included the Ukrainian Electricity System Operator and the natural gas transit company, which gave the opportunity to the participants to meet with other representatives of the power industry. Mr. Vidmantas Jankauskas, former chairman of the National Control Commission for Energy and Prices of Lithuania, served as the facilitator of the Programme. For more details, visit the project page on the INOGATE website.

ITS organises regional workshops identifying possible future INOGATE projects

Between 22nd June and 1st July, the INOGATE Technical Secretariat organised six regional workshops, in Kiev, Tbilisi and Almaty on behalf of DG EuropeAid of the European Commission. Expert participants from all INOGATE Partner Countries discussed and examined the potential for future programme actions on the topics of developing cooperation on energy statistics and strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable energy governance. The workshops provided valuable and focused input on the varying status of these topics in partner countries, which will be used in developing future INOGATE projects better targeting the partner countries needs.

Harmonisation project visits EASC in Minsk, and arranges joint seminar with Gas Safety and Security project on Pipeline Integrity Management

The INOGATE project Harmonisation of gas and oil technical standards and practices (E. Europe and Caucasus) was invited as a participant to the 35th meeting of the Eurasian Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) in Minsk on 10th-11th June. This was an excellent opportunity to promote convergence of standards which is amongst INOGATE’s key objectives. This objective will be taken further in the interregional seminar, being organized jointly with another INOGATE project Safety and security of main gas transit infrastructure, in Ukraine in August, which will feature the Pilot Excellence System for Pipeline Integrity Management (PIMS) being hosted in Ukraine. All six beneficiary countries of the projects (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) have agreed to adopt EU standards and specifications so as to benefit from the PIMS approach.

Other recent and forthcoming INOGATE Programme events

- First Local Steering Committee Meeting, ‘Enhancement of Environmental Protection Measures in the Oil/ Gas Industry of Central Asia’ (Tashkent, 15th May)
- ‘Harmonisation of Gas Technical Standards (Central Asia)’ and ‘Technologies and Methodologies for Reducing Gas Losses (Central Asia)’ Projects - Final Conferences (Brussels, October, dates to be determined)
- Support for the Kyoto Protocols Initiative - Project Liaison Group Meeting (Brussels, 16th October)

Recent additions and links in the INOGATE on-line library

- Training Manuals from the INOGATE project ‘Development of Maintenance Excellence in NIS Gas Companies’
- Policies that work: Introducing Energy Efficiency Standards and Labels (Energy Charter Treaty Secretariat)
- BeyWatch New EU programme for energy efficiency in buildings
- Impact of the global crisis on neighbouring countries of the EU Special report by EC DG for Economic and Financial Affairs

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