



INOGATE Technical Secretariat

Strengthening relations and the energy trade between the EU
and 11 countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia

INOGATE originated in the mid-1990s to support the European Union (EU) regarding Interstate Oil and Gas Transportation to Europe, with particular focus on oil and gas pipelines running from and through Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (the region between the Black and the Caspian seas) to the EU countries.



“Much of the work involved providing capacity building and advisory services, as well as delivering training and facilitating overseas study visits to the UK and other European countries.”

Ana Nunez Lopez – BSI Lead Project Manager

Energy market integration

Following the Baku Initiative in 2004 (a policy dialogue which sought to better integrate the energy markets of participating countries with the EU energy market) and the Astana Declaration of 2006, INOGATE evolved.

It became a broader international energy cooperation programme between the EU and Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Turkey attended meetings as an INOGATE partner, but was not a beneficiary, while the Russian Federation was an observer.

INOGATE also aimed to help the 11 partner countries to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels and imports, improve the security of their energy supply and mitigate overall climate change through the adoption of renewable energy technologies.

System standardization

“From February 2012 until the INOGATE programme ended in April 2016, BSI was tasked with finding out how INOGATE partner countries could improve standardization in their electricity and gas systems to better facilitate trade with the EU,” says Ana Nuñez Lopez, BSI Lead Project Manager.

Much of the work involved providing capacity building and advisory services to the INOGATE countries, as well as delivering training and facilitating overseas study visits to the UK, so standardization professionals from the INOGATE partner countries and staff working for government energy ministries could learn how BSI runs its gas and electricity standards Technical Committees. Other visits were organized so that INOGATE delegates could learn how EU Member States use their gas standards.

Gap analysis

We also developed a roadmap for INOGATE partner countries, after looking closely at their existing standardization system and comparing it to the systems in place in the EU. This identified gaps between both systems and we advised on steps needed to bring them closer.

“This was particularly important for Moldova, Georgia and Ukraine, because they’ve signed Association Agreements with the EU in 2014, which include a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, and means they must adopt European standards in gas and electricity as part of its ratification,” Ana Nuñez Lopez adds.

Soon the EU could become less reliant on Russia for gas imports (39 per cent of EU natural gas imports came from Russia across transit countries such as Ukraine and Belarus in 2013), able to trade with INOGATE partners and others. These countries could also use European and international standards to improve the quality of their energy products and infrastructure, become more efficient and increase their energy exports, while continuing to build ever closer ties with the EU.

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Did you know?

INOGATE is one of the longest-running EU-funded energy technical assistance programmes. Founded in 1996, it ran for 20 years.

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