On 30 October 2007, the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova held a one-day information session in Chisinau on the enhanced energy cooperation between the EU, the Littoral States of the Black and Caspian Seas and their neighbouring countries, which is being supported by the INOGATE Programme.

The information event was organized by the Country Coordinator, Mr. Andrei Aculov, Head of External Relations & EU Integration Department, Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat.

The Deputy Minister of Industry and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Vasile Mamaliga, the Director of the structural policies department of the Ministry of Economy and Trade, Mr. Ceban Vadim, the Director of the European Integration Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Mrs. Tatiana Botorovschi, and the Director of the environment policies and European Integration Department of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, Mrs. Violeta Ivanov, participated in the event.

The information session was attended by more than 25 participants - representatives from the Ministry of Industry and Infrastructure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, representatives of the NCU in Moldova, the Alliance for Energy Efficiency and Renewables in Moldova, the Oil, Gas and Electricity companies in Moldova and from other Moldavian Institutes and Associations involved in the energy sector.

The event was opened by the Deputy Minister of Industry and Infrastructure of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Vasile Mamaliga, who stressed the importance of the INOGATE programme for the Republic of Moldova, underlined Moldova’s great interest for further expanding energy cooperation with the EU - being a gas transit country-, as well as with the INOGATE programme and invited all participants to contribute to this event. He stressed that energy safety and security is of vital importance for the Republic of Moldova, since Moldova has no energy resources and is, therefore, dependent on energy imports. Moreover, having an extended cooperation with Ukraine in the electricity and gas sectors, Moldova is keen to develop energy cooperation and believes that cooperation with all neighboring countries (in a regional context) will be to the benefit of all partner countries.

The Country Coordinator of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Andrei Aculov, presented a historical review of the energy cooperation dialogue from the Baku Conference to the Astana Ministerial Conference, the objectives of the Astana
Declaration, the main topics of the agreed Energy Road Map and the priorities of Moldova in all the cooperation pillars (market convergence, safety & security, sustainable development and investments). He also outlined the actions taken in Moldova to achieve the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration, as well as the priorities of Moldova for all the pillars of the energy cooperation.

INOGATE representative Mr. Kyriakos Morfis held a presentation on the INOGATE work programme, focusing on the following topics:

- INOGATE Programme - new context and main objectives
- Work Programme for 2007-2008 - activities performed and planned
- The roles of the stakeholders in this initiative (Ministry of Energy, Country Coordinator, Working Group Members, regulators, energy companies, energy agencies and international financial institutions)
- EU support to the partner countries for regional cooperation, policy and institutional reform, including ongoing and upcoming technical assistance projects
- Additional support provided through other programmes

The participants were interested in receiving more details on the market convergence process and on the forthcoming 3rd Ministerial Conference. INOGATE representatives described the main steps and key issues of the market convergence process.

It was also explained how INOGATE monitors the measures taken by the partner countries in relation to the objectives set out in the Astana Declaration. The participants were informed that a Monitoring Report will be produced for submission to the Ministers before the 3rd Ministerial Conference.

The participants raised a number of questions regarding details of upcoming technical assistance projects, energy efficiency, as well as sustainable development and how their programme on Energy Efficiency/Renewables can be supported by the INOGATE programme. INOGATE representatives explained how any interested party (Ministry, company, institution or association) can benefit from EU technical assistance projects and provided information on the upcoming EC projects relevant to energy efficiency.

The INOGATE representatives provided the participants with relevant contact information, as well as with advice on where the participants could find and download additional information on the INOGATE website.
All participants expressed their gratitude for the organization of this information session and proposed to hold similar events in the future to update the stakeholders on the activities of the INOGATE programme.

The Country Coordinator and the INOGATE representatives thanked all participants for their attendance and their active participation in this information event.