The 1st European-Ukrainian Energy Day, organized by the NGO ‘European-Ukrainian Energy Agency’ (EUEA: website http://euea-energyagency.org) was held at the Premier Palace Hotel in Kiev on the afternoon of 31 May and the morning of 1 June 2010. The themes of the meeting were the issues of energy efficiency and renewable energies, and practical strategies for addressing them.

Over 30 speakers addressed an audience of about 120 stakeholders. Plenary sessions covered the issues of Ukrainian energy legislation, financing energy projects in Ukraine, and IFI and donor initiatives; whilst parallel sessions on the morning of June 1st covered the topics of bioenergy, wind energy and energy efficiency in buildings and district heating systems. Amongst the speakers were Mr. Roderic van Voorst of the DG ENER, Mr. Dirk Buschle, the Deputy Secretary of the Energy Community, and Mr. Gabriel Blanc (section Manager Energy Efficiency at the EU Delegation to Ukraine). On behalf of INOGATE and its projects, Mr. Kyriakos Morfis (Team Leader ITS) and Mr. Jozef Herzl (Team Leader SEMISE). The latter two gave a brief outline of INOGATE Programme and of the SEMISE project’s potential for investment facilitation; Mr. Herzl also specifically mentioned the ESIB project, which had been touched on (together with the SKPI project) by Mr. Blanc. Other speakers included representatives of EU and Ukrainian energy industry, energy agencies and NGOs, representatives of embassies, ministries and IFIs, and those working on energy-related projects. The agenda and list of participants are attached.

Certain themes recurred throughout the presentations. Amongst these were the very significant energy usage levels of Ukraine, well above world and benchmark levels; the particularly evident levels of energy wastage through district heating systems; and the practical problems of ensuring genuine economic benefit from Ukraine’s renewable energy potential (notably bioenergy and wind power). The coincidence of initiatives from a number of donor organizations (notably Austrian Energy Agency, USAID, Nordic Investment Bank and IFC) was also evident; almost all speakers noticed that only a few steps have taken place in Ukraine, despite the great potential of the country.

The Chairman of EUEA, Mr. Jean-André Barbosa, explained that on the basis of the meeting the Agency would prepare position papers and action plans so as to work with stakeholders and produce practical results which could be reported at subsequent Energy Days.

In all, the entire event was a worthy initiative to bring together the different energy stakeholders in the Ukraine. The ITS has established a cordial working relationship with the EUEA and we would hope to continue to build on this. INOGATE promotional materials were disseminated during the event.