



INSTITUTE  
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## **Talking points on the role of the OSCE in improving the narrative to enhance dialogue between science, political decision makers, the industry and the civil society**

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and promoting public participation in decision making  
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- In emerging new global energy landscape the importance of enhancing contribution of the academia, the business community and the civil society to decision making process and raising awareness of environmental challenges and risks has become more crucial for all participating States, including those in transition. The transition process needs to be based on a comprehensive strategy that includes exploitation of indigenous energy resources, modernization of infrastructure, augmented approaches to improve energy efficiency, prompt progress on effective market reform and good governance as well.
- Facing unprecedented energy sector challenges but with a large untapped potential, Ukraine's energy policies are at crossroads. According to the recent review of the International Energy Agency (IEA), Ukraine has the unique opportunity to undertake an energy revolution to modernize its energy sector, reform its energy markets, create employment and drive economic growth. Releasing this potential will require deep regulatory reform, full implementation of international treaty provisions and establishing broad international co-operation mechanism between scientists, policymakers, industry and public.
- In Ukraine the above-mentioned mechanism could be created on the bases of the EU-funded regional energy supporting initiatives such as the INOGATE programme as well as built upon the achievements of the Energy Community, the Eastern Partnership energy objectives, Baku Initiative and the Black Sea Synergy. Special attention should be devoted to the activities within the framework of the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, aimed at supporting the development of civil society organizations and facilitating their dialogue with public authorities, including on energy issues.
- Another practical evidence of such fruitful co-operation in the sphere of renewable energy is the project on improving energy efficiency and promoting renewable energy in the agro-food and other small and medium enterprises in Ukraine initiated by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which implementation period expires in May 2016.
- The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (PCU) has been assisting Ukraine's governmental and non-governmental institutions with dialog facilitation on energy security, energy efficiency and the use of renewable and alternative energy sources. The PCU also works to enhance the capacity of the country's Aarhus Centers to raise public awareness on environmental issues.

- At the national level the draft Updated Energy Strategy of Ukraine for the period till 2030 was released for public consultation in June 2012. It was truly challenging task, combining efforts of national and international experts, representatives of civil society, academia, private and public sectors, in order to provide capable solutions for domestic energy sector, keep balance between private and corporative interests, and attract private investment.

- Qualified assessment of energy efficiency of Ukrainian regions (Ukrainian Energy Index) was conducted during the previous year by Ukrainian independent experts using the IEA's methodology. This project was initiated and financed by national private company.

- While a number of initiatives are underway, further steps for reform are needed. Among them – mobilization of political and public support for a plan to move to market-based prices in a socially acceptable manner and ensure that energy companies can become economically viable; co-operation enhancement with the municipalities and local stakeholders to map problems, quantify potential, collect better data, develop policies and monitor progress, etc.

- Youth environmental education and awakening of public environmental consciousness have become powerful instruments for environmental policy making and management to be utilized as effective policy tools and working methods of the new type of social science - environmental psychology altering human behavior and providing support for moral adaptation given inevitable environmental changes.

- Nowadays global spread of unconventional gas production driven by upstream technologies unlocking shale gas resources is spurring economic activity. The European Commission's services are currently examining whether the environmental challenges of unconventional gas production can be effectively managed through existing regulation, monitoring and application of industry best practices. The IEA has developed a set of "Golden Rules" suggesting principles that can allow policy makers, regulators, operators and interested parties, including in Ukraine, to address issues relative to unconventional gas resources development. These "Golden Rules" build an economic case for adopting practices and technologies that limit chances of water or air pollution and produce adequate transparency to gain public confidence. Continuous drive needed from governments & industry to improve performance if public confidence is to be maintained.

- Another challenging nonrenewable resource - methane hydrate. By some estimates, the energy locked up in methane hydrate deposits is more than twice the global reserves of all conventional gas, oil, and coal deposits combined. But no one has yet figured out how to pull out the gas inexpensively, and no one knows how much is actually recoverable. Because methane is also a greenhouse gas, release of even a small percentage of total deposits could have a serious effect on Earth's atmosphere. As scientists around the world learn more about this material, new concerns surface. If natural gas extraction is a national priority, its safety and efficacy should be of national concern as well.

- The OSCE, based on the available resources and achievements, could have some options to be taken for promotion public participation and communication in this field, just to name a few:

- incorporating this issue into the Helsinki + 40 process under the Good Governance agenda with practical emphasis on energy related activities;
- broadening the scope of the so-called Track II initiatives with a view to practice some kind of the OSCE Economic and Environmental Security Days to be held prior to the Economic and Environmental Implementation Meeting;

- serving as a Good Governance Hub for discussing economic and environmental energy related issues between different international and regional organizations, initiatives and forums, such as the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum, the Open Government Partnership, the Global Environment Facility, the Environment and Security Initiative, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, etc.
- establishing interaction with the Open Government Partnership Networking Mechanism;
- inviting the civil society, academia and industry representatives to the meetings of the Economic and Environmental Committee to present and discuss energy related issues;
- combining cross-dimensional efforts with other civil society initiatives and events under the OSCE auspices such as the Civil Solidarity Platform, NGO parallel activities to the MC meetings, etc.
- The achieving of these goals could be possible only with constructive engagement of the academia, industry and civil society who could provide understanding of targeted groups' needs and wants to pave the way for effective OSCE branding in the second dimension.