

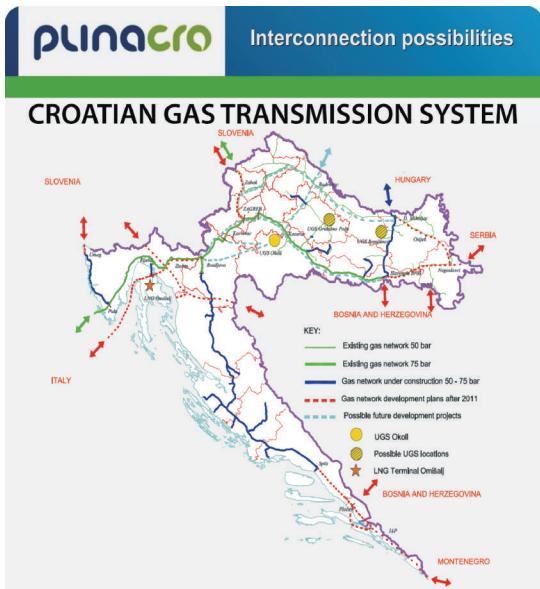


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DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NATURAL GAS MARKET IN THE BALKANS

The High level Meeting of the UNECE Gas Centre took place from 7 to 9 June 2010 in Croatia. More than 15 European gas companies attended this meeting, hosted by the Croatian national Gas Company Plinacro. A special focus was made on the development of the natural gas market in the Balkan area. The project of a new LNG Terminal in North Croatia (Adria LNG Terminal) was presented. The Republic of Croatia and the Energy Community Secretariat assume that this new project is of great importance for all the region.

With the assumption that the share of natural gas for heating will range between 20 and 70 percent and the share for electricity production will range from 10 to 40 percent, the total consumption

of natural gas in the region will increase to about 46 billion m³ in 2030. As almost all the countries in the region receive natural gas from only one single source, Russia, it is essential that at least one connection of satisfactory capacity is secured with each of the neighboring countries: Slovenia, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Serbia and Bosnia.

Indeed, the essential goals to be reached in the Balkan area are to ensure the capacities and integration of the local networks in the Common European pipeline network and to increase the flexibility of the energy market in order to meet the demand and ensure the security of supply of all these countries in South East Europe.

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THE IMPACT OF "E-GOVERNMENT" REFORMS

The implementation of e-government reforms can improve the delivery of government services and result in lower operating costs, increased revenue for fiscal authorities, improved transparency in property transactions and reduced opportunities for fraud. These and other benefits of the digitalization of land and real estate information were discussed during a workshop on "Real property cadastre and registration services in the Economic Commission for Europe region: the impact of e-government reforms", held in Minsk, Belarus, on 8 and 9 June 2010, which was organized by the UNECE Working Party on Land Administration and hosted by the State Committee on Property of Belarus.

The workshop took place as e-government reforms in Belarus were being implemented to improve the

integration of all national information services. Speakers discussed the importance of holding up the principles of uniformity, compatibility, trustworthiness and transparency in data management to ensure better integration of information resources and the successful implementation of the "one-stop-shop" mechanism for real property registration. Discussions also focused on the analysis of issues pertaining to the process of immovable property formation and the functions and goals of address registries to improve land administration in the UNECE region.



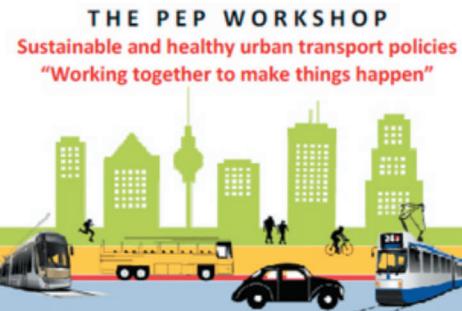
For more information, please visit:

http://www.gki.gov.by/cgi-bin/Site.Head/preview.pl?url=/Seminar_UNECE_WPLA/f309c05a4bf60de1.html.

THE PEP: "WORKING TOGETHER TO MAKE THINGS HAPPEN"

THE PEP Workshop on Sustainable and healthy urban transport "Working together to make things happen", was hosted by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Skopje on 7-8 June 2010. The Ministries of Transport, Health and Environment of the host country joined forces to organize this workshop, yet another in a series initiated by THE PEP 3rd High-level meeting in Amsterdam and the Amsterdam Declaration.

The main objective of the workshop was to encourage transport, health and environment policymakers to develop strategies and measures to support implementation of sustainable and healthy urban transport policies in South-East Europe (SEE). The special focus of this workshop was on policy integration among three sectors (environment, health and transport) in developing and implementing urban transport policies, together with local authorities, industry and civil society.



Participants from Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Netherlands and Switzerland together with host country officials and local authorities from Skopje, experts, researchers and representatives of civil society organizations exchanged experiences and good practices and identified ways to promote innovative approaches in cities of the region, which could further support environmentally friendly and healthy transport policies and enhance urban mobility.

At the end of the workshop, participants adopted Action Points for policy makers that could be widely used through South-East Europe and, if implemented, could considerably contribute to more sustainable, healthier and environmentally cleaner urban transport and at the same time enhance mobility in the major cities of the region.

For more information, visit:

http://www.unece.org/thepep/en/workplan/urban/skopje%20workshop_docs.htm

UNECE HELPS FOSTER A SUSTAINABLE REAL ESTATE MARKET IN UKRAINE

The recent sub-prime mortgage crisis and the collapse of the global housing bubble damaged financial institutions globally and sparked the worst financial and economic crisis since the Great Depression. As part of UNECE efforts to avert future crises and to promote sustainable development in the region, a round table on sustainable real estate markets was held in Kiev, Ukraine, on 18 June 2010, organized by UNECE in cooperation with the International Real Estate Federation and the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group.

The Round Table, "Towards Sustainable Real Estate Markets in Ukraine", launched the UNECE Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets in Ukraine and discussed the main principles and guidance provided in the study. Government officials, representatives of professional associations and the private sector, as well as international experts participated in the Round Table, exchanging views on the current situation in the real estate sector of Ukraine and discussing how to adapt the principles and guidance



of the Policy Framework to Ukraine's particular institutional context.

The conclusions of the Round Table will provide guidance to a working group, to be established as a follow up to this event, to work with the Government of Ukraine on the development of specific policy reforms in Ukraine's real estate sector.

The recent financial and economic crisis highlighted the urgent need for UNECE to provide guidance and promote sound real estate markets in its region. Moreover, a fully functioning real estate sector, based on transparent real estate and financial markets, could be a driving force for development and produce economic, social and environmental benefits for UNECE member States. To address these issues, the UNECE Real Estate Market Advisory Group developed the Policy Framework for Sustainable Real Estate Markets, which offers guidance for policy action aimed at building a sustainable real estate sector in countries of the UNECE region.

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