Findings of the GAP-Analysis regarding stakeholder consultation in the Armenian energy sector

This project is financed by the European Union (September 2018)
Research base of the analysis

1. Desktop research
2. Kick-off meeting in country
3. Face-to-face interviews with appr. 30 respondents
4. Analysis of various websites
5. Longstanding experience in the sector and in country
Perception of the Armenian energy sector & stakeholder mapping

Open and transparent sector

MEINR / PSRC

Central role

Other gov. organisations

General Public

NGOs

RES/EE Sector

Business sector

Donors

Media

Very few

Less often mentioned (unclear positions)
Stakeholder group: Official organisations

- MEINR
  - PSRC
  - MEDI
  - Min Justice
  - Energy Strategy Center
  - Business Armenia
  - R2E2 Fund
  - Others
Stakeholder group: EE and RE sector

- Foreign investors
- R2E2 Fund
- PSRC
- MEINR
- MEDI
- Donors
- Energy Strategy Center
- Business Sector
- NGOs

Donors

PSRC
Stakeholder group: Donors

- EU
- USAID
- EBRD
- UN
- KfW
- Others
- WB
Stakeholder group: Business sector

More active cooperation with governmental sector needed

Lack of cooperation and consolidation

R2E2

Business Armenia

Business Associations
Stakeholder group: NGOs

Energy related topics

Renewables and energy efficiency

Environmental issues

Social topics and related issues

Very few

ESF and very few others

Currently, only professional NGOs guarantee sustainability

More NGOs active in the field
Stakeholder group: General public

General public was named in most of the interviews as one of the main stakeholders.

Public should have a say in the legislative process, but not when it is too technical.

In other sectors yes, but not in the energy sector. One needs to be an expert.

For the energy sectors the public can be represented in the consultation process by NGOs or experts.
Stakeholder group: Media

Very few interested and knowledgable of the sector

 Majority of journalists is not skilled enough

Traditional media vs electronic media

Mainly interested in scandals

ESF and very few others
Formal law draft processes in the Armenian energy sector
Law draft consultation process

Rather closed government-internal process

- Green papers / Law initiatives
- Working group (set up formal and sometimes non-formal, depending on topic)
- Members of working group (usually only civil servants)
- Public participation process at E-draft (only 15 days!)

At this point ‘public’ consultation starts formally via E-draft

After consultation is closed there is feedback on E-draft provided
Draft law processes in an early stage (Working Groups)

These groups are usually not formally included from the start.

PM

MEINR

MEDI
Min Health
Min Ecology
Min Justice
Min Finance

Business sector
NGOs
Experts
Other CSOs
EU best practice examples
### Consultations (467)

Showing results 1 to 10

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Denmark: Business Forum for better regulation

**Situation:** Danish Ministry of Industry, Business and Financial Affairs seeks to maintain close dialogue with business community (review and revise business regulations)

**Forum participants (inter alia):**
- Industry associations
- Labour organisations
- Businesses
- Technical experts

**Meeting frequency:** 3 times per year

**Topics elaborated (inter alia):**
- Barriers to growth
- Digitalisation
- Tourism
- Transport
- Implementation of EU regulations

721 proposals submitted, 266 were implemented

„Complain or explain“-principle: www.enklereregler.dk
Belgium: Advisory Boards

**Situation:** Belgian Stakeholder engagement is institutionalised through permanent advisory bodies (Attention: Should ideally be complementary to public consultations).

Government defines composition and scope of advisory bodies.
They act on three levels:

- Federal
- Regional
- Community

They provide input on:
- Strategic advice
- Conduct studies on development in different sectors
- Assess potential impacts of government decisions
- Formulate opinion on draft document
Estonia: Digital tools
EIS - Estonian Information System for Legal Drafts

At an early stage of the legislative process put on website
Describes issue
Available throughout the whole consultation process

Linked to government institutions and interest groups
Assessing possible impacts
Analysis options for addressing the issues
All draft documents are uploaded and regularly updated (taking into account modifications)

National and EU legislation is available online to comment
E-draft - comparable to

www.yourvoiceineurope.com
The E-draft web portal is almost identical with the www.yourvoiceineurope.eu website and appears to be a highly advanced website to prove public participation.

E-draft is still not sufficiently popular and should be promoted whenever possible by the governmental institutions and other stakeholders.

There is a need to train all civil servants in using the website and explain to the public, why it is important to make use of such an opportunity to comment on policy developments.

There is a reference to E-draft on the governmental websites. Unfortunately, links to www.e-draft.am, www.arlis.am, www.e-gov.am are put on different places on the websites and on each Ministries’ website it is placed differently.

Reference to personal data and what is done to protect personal data is obviously missing such as reference to analytic tools and cookies.
Working session 1:
E-draft - awareness & promotion

- Go to the website at www.e-draft.am
- According to your experience (having already used e-draft or not having had any experience yet) collect your first impressions:
  - What is well done? Which functions are your favourite ones? Why?
  - What should be improved? Why should it be improved or done different?
  - If some of you didn’t sign in so far – have a look into the procedure of signing in.
- Look up the latest activities in the energy sector. What is your impression? Are there any remarks? If yes – how are they expressed?
- Have a look at the feedback, when public consultation has been finalised - Is it helpful? What needs to be improved?
- Conclusions: What was your experience with e-draft so far? Is it helpful for you? Why? Why not?
- What can be done to raise awareness of e-draft?

=> You have 20 minutes amongst the groups to elaborate E-Draft. Each groups will present their findings to the audience afterwards.
Inter-ministerial coordination
Important factors for a successful inter-ministerial coordination:

- Transparency
- Structured planning
- Co-ordination
- Information management
- Openness
- Regularity
- Accessibility
Inter-ministerial co-ordination in Armenia
Current situation

- Communication amongst public stakeholders in Armenia is obviously not restricted but limited.
- Liberalised approach dominates, supported and encouraged by the new government. Aim is to become more transparent and open in the decision-making process.
- To reach the aim it is needed to push on a more regulated meeting-culture and willingness to share information at least internally.
- Mindset of many civil servants seems to be generally networking and result-oriented.

A regulated and well-organised information and data management, within the governmental institutions vertically and horizontally at various levels is needed.
Working session 2:
How can a successful inter-ministerial coordination look like?

⇒ Have a look at the following questions. Your task is to set up a regular inter-ministerial communication in the energy sector. How can an inter-ministerial coordination look like in your country?

1. One coordinator (employee of the Ministry) should be appointed to manage the coordination.
2. Determine objectives of the meetings: What aim should be reached?
3. How often meetings should take place?
4. Which ministries should participate and why?
5. Where should the meetings take place?
6. How many people should be invited?
7. Should management levels be mixed or not?
8. How can contact details be collected and properly managed?
9. How can information from the meeting be collected and further processed? (e.g. via intranet, newsletter, e-mail etc.)
Presentation of different approaches

=> Analyse the different approaches and elaborate which would be feasible and realistic in Armenia?

⇒ First meeting: Person should present his/her professional background, department and organisation. Max. 3-5 minutes per person.

⇒ Presentation of a topic followed by a moderated discussion of the whole group.

⇒ Brainstorming in working groups. Groups should be mixed. Results should be presented after elaboration and protocolled.

⇒ Representatives of each Ministry present one major topic, which is currently important. In groups there should be overlaps identified.

⇒ Three main outcomes of the meeting should be written on a flipchart. Those will be used as the basis for the next meeting. Meanwhile participants will collect more information on the elaborated outcome.
Stakeholder communication
Stakeholder Communication
(First part of Code of Good Practice – Partner Dialogue)

Coordinator (sets up database with contacts)

Organisation of meeting

Conduction of meeting – Further procedures to be determined

In principle similar to inter-ministerial coordination (same questions to be asked and similar procedures)

Expert working circles established
Rather closed government-internal process

- Green papers / Law initiatives
- Working group (set up formal and sometimes non-formal, depending on topic)
- Members of working group (usually only civil servants)
- Public participation process at E-draft (only 15 days!)

After consultation is closed there is feedback on E-draft provided.

Members of the working circles could become consultees to the working group at this stage.
Thank you very much for your co-operation and your attention!