

The Energy Community DSO for gas – Coordination Platform – 6th meeting

Minutes of the Meeting, 12 December 2018, Kyiv

30 participants took a part in the 6th meeting of the ECDSO-g Coordination Platform in Kyiv, representing 11 Distribution System Operators (DSO), Energy Community Secretariat (ECS), EU Delegation, DG ENER and USAID.

The first part of the meeting was dedicated to the distribution tariffs. Namely, the Energy Community Secretariat, within the EU4Energy framework' consultancy, has prepared recommendations to NEURC on changing the tariff policy for gas distribution companies of Ukraine. New tariffs should consist of two parts - fixed and variable, which will smooth out the effects of seasonal fluctuations in gas consumption, and harmonize tariffs with the requirements of EU acquis. The EU4Energy' project is closing, but ECS will continue the communication with NEURC on tariff methodology. In any case, the development of the tariff methodology and its approval is in the jurisdiction of the NEURC, but DSOs can help further in those discussions. Thus, small working group (ECS, RGC, AGRU) within the ECDSO-g Platform will prepare comprehensive set of data (per geographical regions, per type of consumption, per type of distribution area), and do their analysis; as an additional part to the Recommendations prepared by the EU4Energy Consultant.

The Platform concluded that it would be very useful to organize a common meeting with electricity DSOs, in order to compare tariff methodologies.

Further, it was underlined that depreciation, i.e. evaluation of the assets is one of the problematic issues, and very much related to the proper set up of the tariffs. The related difficulties are steaming from different and sometimes not defined ownership over the distribution assets (state owned, municipality owned, at the balance sheet of the company or not, company owned). For proper set up of the tariffs, mutual issues have to be solved, one by one, maybe even with consultancy support.

In the second part of the meeting, it was agreed that the Task Force on measurement will prepare Guidelines for the implementation of European principles in the field of measurement in the gas distribution. The Guidelines will touch the daily measurement allowing the balancing of the system, the transition to energy units, as well technical requirements and standards for the equipment. The structure of the Guidelines will be finalized within January 2019, with the aim to have completed Guidelines by the summer 2019. TF will arrange working meetings when necessary.

The unbundling of DSOs, based on the analysis of the fulfilled Questionnaires, will be the main topic of the next ECDSO-g Coordination Platform meeting, planned in the second half of May 2019.

New topics, such as biogas, hydrogen and their access to the distribution network, are foreseen to be discussed in the second half of 2019, i.e. at the Platform' meeting in early December 2019.