



International Confederation of Energy Regulators

2010-2012 Work Plan UPDATED EDITION

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INTRODUCTION

The International Confederation of Energy Regulators (ICER), established at the fourth World Forum on Energy Regulation in Athens on October 19 2009, provides a framework for interaction and cooperation of energy regulators on issues that affect energy markets on a global scale.

The establishment of ICER is a recognition that energy regulation plays an increasingly important role in addressing many of the critical global challenges that are faced by governments worldwide.

Its aim is to provide a voluntary framework for the cooperation of the world's energy regulators on issues of a global nature which affect energy markets. Our mission for ICER is:

- to raise the profile and public awareness of the work of national energy regulators in monitoring electricity and gas markets and safeguarding consumer interests,
- to provide an open platform for energy regulators to pursue joint values and goals;
- to reconcile market mechanisms with public service objectives; and
- to provide a significant contribution towards a sustainable planet.

This framework will serve to promote a new level of dialogue and cooperation between regulators across the world, based on voluntary participation in cooperative work addressing regulatory issues that transcend national and regional borders in regard to all aspects of energy regulation including customer protection, quality and continuity of supply, climate change and regulatory training, education and best practices.

This first ICER work plan is organised into four themes: Reliability and Security of Supply; Responding to Climate Change; Competitiveness and Affordability, and Regulatory Training, Education and Best Practices.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES AND DELIVERABLES

Operationally, ICER's work plan is allocated between four virtual working groups (VWGs), each responsible for one of the four themes. The planning horizon of activities is the WFER V to be held in Quebec City in 2012. Three phases are envisaged over this three-year period, with more definitive plans for 2010 and indicative plans for 2011 and 2012.

Further information on ICER and its work can be found at www.icer-regulators.net or by contacting office@icer-regulators.net.



WORK PLANS FOR THE ICER THEMES

Theme 1: Reliability and Security of Supply

Second draft of Phase I Report	2010 Q4
Final draft of Phase I Report	2011 Q2
Final draft of Phase II Report	2011 Q4
Final draft of Phase III Report	2012 Q3

The VWG-1 Programme focuses on the role of investments in enhancing security of supply (SoS). Activities are divided into three phases: Phase I, ending in 2011 Q-2; Phase II ending in 2011 Q-4; Phase 3 completed in 2012 Q-3.

The first year of activities has been dedicated to achieving an adequate understanding of SoS issues and their solution at the national and local levels. Data have been or are being amassed for the purpose of assessing in each RRA:

- a) Primary energy production and consumption profiles and critical areas of import dependence;
- b) Energy infrastructures and system adequacy;
- c) Management of emergencies;
- d) Competences of energy regulators;
- e) Risks for security of supply;
- f) Perception and management of security of supply.

A first Draft of the Phase I Report (Effectiveness of national and local energy policy and regulation in addressing security of supply issues: regulatory practices in promoting investments) was prepared in 2010 Q-3 and a second Draft will be circulated at the end of 2010 Q-4. The Report is due to be completed by 2011 Q-2.

The focus during 2011 will move to regional approaches to addressing SoS issues. A multiplicity of regional regulatory bodies and international groupings and organisations are frequently involved in the supervision and management of SoS and their influence must be taken into consideration in any analysis of the scope for regulatory intercession on the part of the RRAs. The Report on the findings of Phase II (Scope and powers of regional bodies and regulatory associations in achieving national and regional security of supply) is scheduled for 2011 Q-4.



Activities in 2012 will be dedicated to exploring ways and means for the RRAs to promote SoS on a global scale. This is a longer term process and the Report concluding Phase III (Role of energy regulators in promoting security of supply on a global scale) will address future uncertainties and their impact on regulation such as: geopolitical change, market reform and innovation, technological breakthroughs, global environmental protocols and new development paradigms.



Theme 2: The Role of Regulators in Responding to Climate Change

A report on renewable energy and distributed generation	2011 Q3
Reviewing best and promising practices on the promotion of energy efficiency through case studies	2011 Q4 –2012 Q1
Report on sharing best practice for use world-wide (where appropriate) and developing new approaches on regulatory issues which are central to meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets	2012

During 2011, a report on renewable energy and distributed generation will be prepared and published. The report will focus in particular on three topics: wind energy, solar energy and distributed generation. It should present and assess regulatory measures set up to address the selected issues. Government policy should be described to put the regulatory initiatives into context. The deliverable is item number 4 on the list of actions and next steps in the World Energy Regulators' Statement on Climate Change. The report will include case studies and examples of best practices on the integration of renewable and distributed generation into the overall energy supply and their impact on the grid and competition. The report is planned to be accomplished and approved during Q3 2011.

The work on energy efficiency will continue in Q4 2011 and be finalised in Q1 2012. In June 2010 a report on best regulatory practices regarding the promotion of energy efficiency was published and presented to the meeting of the G8 in Muskoka, Canada. Encouraged by the regulators global cooperative work on energy efficiency, the regulators have committed to continue it through identifying case-studies that have proved particularly effective in order to facilitate the spread of good practice and undertaking further comparative analysis of the different approaches to fostering energy efficiency as an aid to policy makers in this area. This will be complemented with assessment of the prerequisites (e.g. legal, economic and technical criteria) for introducing specific regulatory practices. Furthermore, the work will include gathering of information on regulatory approaches to fostering energy efficiency, particularly in those regions where information is currently less detailed.

During 2012, a report will be prepared and published on the sharing of best practices for use world-wide (where appropriate) and the development of new approaches on regulatory issues which are central to meeting greenhouse gas emissions targets. The report will explore ways of maintaining a climate for timely, well-targeted and efficient investments in grid infrastructure and energy efficiency. The issues addressed may include the evolution of electricity networks, i.e. smart grids and how they enable and contribute to increasing the amount of renewable primary energy resources, distributed and micro generation and the evolving changes in electricity consumption including demand response and electrification of transportation.



Theme 3: Competitiveness and Affordability

Affordability of New Forms of Electricity Supply and Grid Functionality	2012 Q1
Market Monitoring and Performance Indicators in Regulatory Oversight	2012
Smart Metering	2012

Affordability of New Forms of Electricity Supply and Grid Functionality

An issues paper will be produced that examines various ways that new investment and equipment costs related to the movement to more sustainable energy generation and use are incorporated into tariff prices in selected sample areas from around the world. The selection of sample areas will be based on some quantification of existing supply and technology prices and an assessment of the impact of the cost of new technologies and sustainable supply. This will allow for a determination of whether the incremental cost differences are enough to be of concern.

The issues paper analysis will be based on a compilation of case studies drawn from selected jurisdictions. The provision of the various case studies accompanied by an analytical narrative is intended to provide regulators with a range of practices and circumstances to inform their own policy development in this area.

Project start Q1, 2010. Project deliverable Q1 2012.

Smart Metering (forthcoming)

Following a public consultation process on the regulatory aspects of smart metering in gas and electricity in the Summer of 2010 by the European Commission and CEER, the VWG3 will propose a follow-up study that could include smart grids, standardization mechanisms, functionalities, interoperability, and data protection.



Theme 4: Regulatory Training, Education and Best Practices

Online Calendar of Events further development	2011 Q2
Regulatory Best Practices & Research Exchange development	By 2011 Q4
Regulatory Training Program Database development	2011 Q2
Short-term Shadow Placements, Twinings, & Experts Exchanges	First exchanges in 2011
Distinguished Scholar/Program Award - next awards	2010 Q2
Coordination with universities, institutes & others engaged in regulatory training & research	2010 Q1

Online Calendar of Events

The online calendar is active and is updated on a regular basis. It has been moved to the front page of the ICER website. In early 2011 the definitions for public and private events will be decided and public events to be visible to non-ICER members.

The website's automated email notification system provides frequent updates to members who receive notifications of the availability of new information/documents on the ICER website within 24 hours of their being uploaded to the website.

An RSS alert system will be considered for public use to allow interested parties to receive updates/notifications when new material is uploaded to the ICER public website area.

Regulatory Best Practices & Research Exchange

This is a three-prong project to be located on the ICER/IERN website composed of a Publications Clearinghouse, an E-Forum to share best practices and possibly a Regulatory Encyclopedia based on an IERN Wikipedia project.

Publications Clearinghouse

In 2011, the clearinghouse will be linked so that it is more easily accessible from the main ICER page as well as the IERN website. It shall also include a search functionality to facilitate usability. Thus far, the clearinghouse contains published resource documents (research papers, policy positions, guidelines, benchmarking studies, issue briefs, etc.) prepared directly by each member association or by selected outside institutions.

E-Forum to Share Best Practices

This will be an electronic forum (chat room) where ICER members can exchange information on best practices and lessons learned at the regional and national level. ICER working group members could discuss issues they are currently facing with their international colleagues in a closed environment. This could also serve as a location to share working versions of documents to solicit peer-to-peer feedback and/or other best practice examples.

Regulatory Wikipedia

The 2010 IERN Work plan includes a Wikipedia-like project in which a first group of 50 definitions proposed by the IERN team will be created and tested. ICER VWG Members will provide input/comments/corrections to those definitions from their regional perspective. The pilot project will be evaluated at the end of the first year of its operation with consideration to potential expansion to ICER and its members.

**Regulatory Training Program Database**

This database, which should be available via access from both the ICER and IERN websites, presents the various training programs offered by regulatory associations as “in-house” training programs. It could also include university-based and or private offerings that are formally approved by individual regional associations. The further development of the database will enhance its functionality through the introduction of a search function and at a later stage enable quality assessments of the training offered.

Short-term Shadow Placements, Twinning and Experts Exchanges

Based on the results of the assessment of regional associations practices regarding the promotion of experts exchanges carried out in 2010, the design of an ICER “placement” database and the assessment of the cost of implementing it should be completed by the beginning of 2011. It follows that the population of the database could be started in 2011.

In addition to regulatory placements, through partnership with affiliated training or research institutions, the database could include opportunities for internships with these institutions/universities.

Distinguished Scholar (and/or Program) Award(s)

In September 2010, ICER awarded the first Distinguished Scholar Awards on the Role of the Regulator in Renewable Energy. Two awards were given, in the categories of “next practices” and impact on developing countries.

The next Distinguished Scholar Awards will be targeted for the World Forum on Energy Regulation V in May 2012.

Coordination with universities, institutes & others engaged in regulatory training & research

ICER will develop of a policy for engaging in collaborative relationships with various universities, institutes, and other types of research or training organizations. The goal is to be inclusive of those institutions engaged in high quality research and training.