

# Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities Energy Security



# Why energy security matters

Energy security is a precondition for economic growth and stability. Without predictable, reliable and economically sound energy supplies, regional economies cannot prosper. This is why energy security forms an important part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive security.

Energy security requires well-functioning international energy markets, stable consumer producer relations, sustainable production and resilient critical energy networks. The OSCE as the world's largest regional security organization unites some of the world's most important energy producer, consumer and transit countries.

In an increasingly interconnected world, energy security challenges are complex and often require a regional approach based on dialogue, co-operation and trust. Extreme weather conditions and threats emanating from cyber-attacks can put regional electricity supplies at risk and cause blackouts. Significant

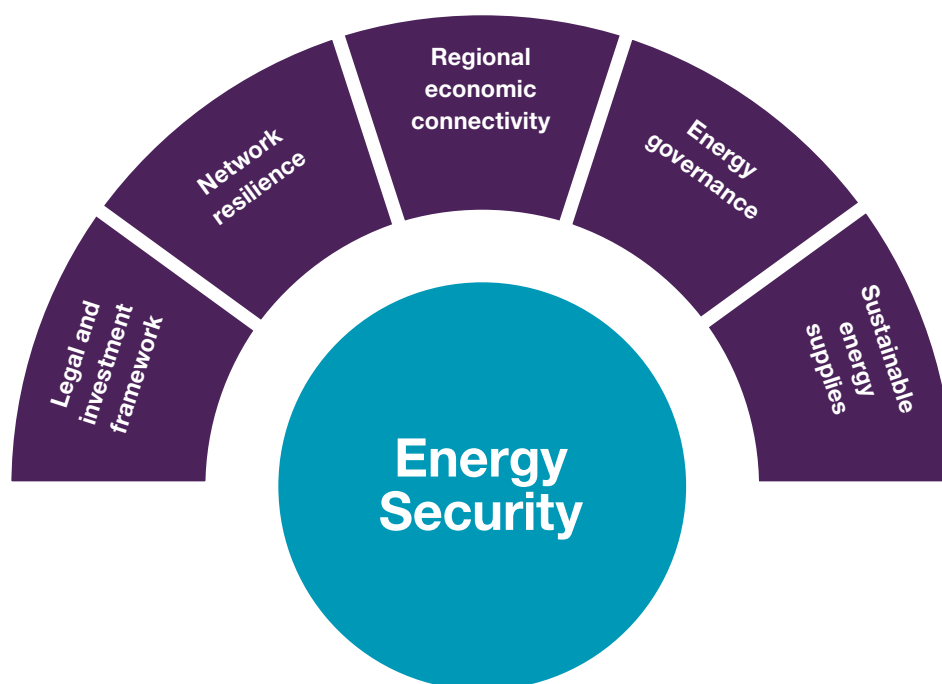
transnational investments are needed to create resilient energy networks and to unlock the potential of renewable energy. Attracting investments to the energy sector in turn requires a compatible and sound legal and regulatory framework.

Energy security is a cross-cutting issue that requires a multidimensional and co-ordinated response. Increased economic connectivity will result in more energy security throughout the OSCE area. In short, regional energy markets and its people need to grow more closely together.

## Challenges:

- Critical electricity networks are increasingly vulnerable to threats from natural hazards and cyber attacks;

- Regional integration efforts of energy markets need to be co-ordinated and mutually compatible to enable more economic connectivity;
- To meet the significant investment and modernization needs in the energy sector, a sound policy framework, creating legal certainty and economic incentives is required;
- Emerging threats to energy security require intensified dialogue between producer, consumer and transit countries.



# What we do?

Based on our mandate, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) supports OSCE participating States in promoting economic connectivity and address strategic energy security issues.

OCEEA works closely with OSCE field missions to provide analysis, capacity building, trainings and regional workshops and conferences. In our work, we focus on the protection of critical energy networks, the promotion of energy security dialogue, good governance and transparency in the energy sector, sustainable energy and energy diplomacy.

## Capacity-building

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities (OCEEA) offers national and regional technical assistance seminars for participating States on topics related to energy security, such as energy diplomacy and risk mitigation, protecting energy networks from natural and man-made disasters, enabling conditions and technology

transfer for renewable energy and energy scenario planning exercises. In addition, OCEEA organizes delegation visits for energy decision-makers from the public and private sector of participating States to leading energy companies and policy-makers in the OSCE area to build new partnerships and long-term co-operation.

## A platform for dialogue

The OCEEA actively promotes the dialogue between producer, consumer and transit countries through analysis and research, conferences, seminars and fact finding missions. There is a special emphasis on strengthening partnerships between the public and the private sector throughout the OSCE area to raise awareness of existing and emerging energy security threats.

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## Our mandate

- OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, Maastricht, 2003
- Ministerial Council Decision on Energy Security Dialogue in the OSCE, Brussels, 2006
- Ministerial Council Decision on Protecting Critical Energy Infrastructure from Terrorist Attack, Madrid, 2007
- Ministerial Council Decision on Strengthening Dialogue and Co-operation on Energy Security in the OSCE Area, Athens, 2009
- Ministerial Council Decision on Protection of Energy Networks from Natural and Man-made Disasters, Kyiv, 2013

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## Disseminating best practices

The OCEEA widely disseminates and supports the implementation of best practices and standards developed by leading

organizations in the area of energy security, and by promoting better co-ordination in this field among participating States and partner organizations.



The OSCE helps to raise awareness about the benefits of green technologies, including renewable energy and energy efficiency among its participating States, by, among other things, organizing study visits.

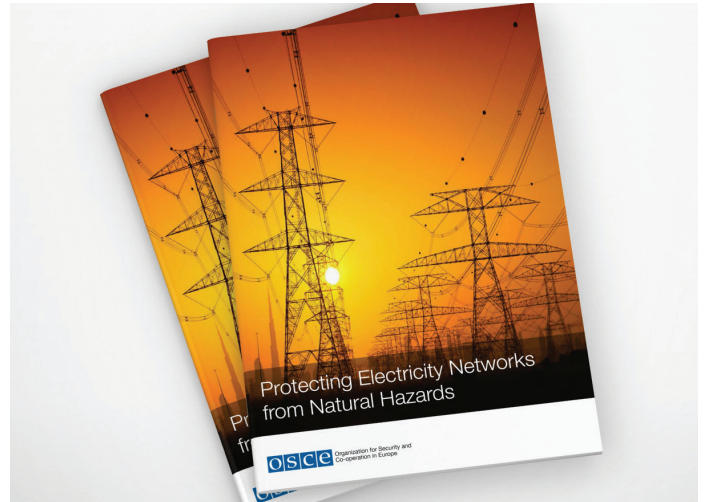
# What we do?

(continued)

## OSCE Handbook on Protecting Electricity Networks from Natural Disasters

This publication supports OSCE participating States in increasing the resilience of critical electrical energy networks and enhance

their protection from natural hazards. By providing risk management options, tools and case studies, it is designed as a guide for policy-makers, state authorities, transmission networks operators and regulators in charge of protecting energy networks to better manage risks stemming from blackouts.



This publication is available at on the OSCE website at <http://www.osce.org/secretariat/242651>

## Who we work with

The OCEEA co-operates and co-ordinates its efforts with various stakeholders, including national governments as the main decision-makers; the private sector and industry associations, academia and civil society.

The OCEEA assists governments in addressing energy security challenges and implements its activities in close co-operation with the network of OSCE field operations and specialized partner organizations, such as the International Energy Agency (IEA), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the Energy Community, the Energy Charter Secretariat, the International

Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the World Energy Council. The OSCE is a member of the Vienna Energy Club, which provides an informal platform for consultations and dialogue. Other members of the Club are the Energy Community, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the International Peace Institute (IPI), the Organization for the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership (REEEP), the "Sustainable Energy for all (SE4ALL)" initiative, and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

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