

and help improve trade ties and develop regional partnership for development. Among the reasons for EEU countries becoming motivated to implement ES&L programs are the following:

- Reduce growth in electricity use among the countries;
- Reduce energy bills, allowing consumers and businesses to use money saved to purchase local goods and services;
- Improve products produced in EEU countries so they can better compete in markets.

Global Environmental Objective

EE standards and labelling programs are among the most cost-effective types of policies and EC&EE measures to address global climate change. Such programs have the potential to effect energy consuming appliance/equipment markets, at a cost far below the cost of providing new energy supply. With the widespread utilization of energy efficient products, GHG emissions from thermal power generation in EEU countries can be reduced. The project's objective is to the cost-effective development of the general standards verification systems in the participating countries. To achieve the project objective will comprise of 3 major components, each of which is a specific programme consisting of specific activities designed to address the identified barriers.

III. RESULTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The ultimate objective of the project is reduction of energy consumption from lighting, household appliances and building engineering equipment by introduction of modern energy efficiency standards which is planned to be achieved through three interrelated components. Collectively these components seek to put in place through regulative, technical and market based instruments combined with consumer awareness rising instruments.

Output 1. Development and introduction of modern standards on energy efficiency for lighting, household appliances and engineering equipment of buildings.

Activity 1.1. Establishment and functioning of a regional expert platform on development of energy efficiency standards and promotion of energy efficient technologies in the EEU countries.

The first task to catalyze distribution and common use of energy efficient devices is to organize a dialogue between leading manufactures, industrial associations, testing laboratories and relevant scientific and technical institutions. This task will be performed using a consultative platform, in which experts and representatives of market participants will be involved. The presence of such a collegial body will allow us to study and understand and respond in a coordinated manner to possible difficulties in the process of project implementation. The platform will not have formal authority, but will serve as a consultative facility and a collegial body to develop mutual understanding and consensus on regulatory issues in energy efficiency. The project staff will assist in the organization of meetings (on-site / extramural) platforms, as well as provide information to experts and platform participants. In each country, a working group of experts will be established under the project at the relevant state profile agency or institution that will prepare the information (agenda) on harmonization of the energy efficiency requirement and the relevant standards for discussion on the platform.

The platform will provide opportunity to achieve mutual understanding on the issues of development of MEPS/HEPS, standards and methodologies of testing and promotion of energy saving technologies. It is planned to establish the platform at the basis of the organization that has no commercial interest to promote certain types of products and that is equidistant from all market players. Activities of the platform will include formation of task forces with the representatives of all interested parties; task forces will work at key issues such as numerical values of MEPS and HEPS, testing methods, certification schemes, economic aspects and financial incentives, etc. The platform will develop energy efficiency requirements by the request of the countries, will assist in conducting public hearings among professional society representatives, will facilitate coordination of positions of the countries on market regulation for different