**Main Topic - Report from Kyiv**

***Introduction***

In mid-April IRESN was represented at the Second Preparatory Meeting  for the 21st Economic and Environmental Forum of the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)](http://www.osce.org/).  The two day meeting was held at the Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv, Ukraine.  Topical sessions included:

1. Strengthening co-operation among OSCE participating States  new and renewable sources of energy
2. Green growth and sustainable energy and their contribution to security
3. Improving governance and regulatory frameworks  for private investments to promote the transition to sustainable energy
4. Innovation and technology transfer in the field of sustainable energy
5. Promoting security and sustainability through partnerships for sustainable energy

IRESN's Gerry Braun served as moderator for the innovation and technology transfer session at the forum.  The role was a perfect fit for IRESN, an energy technology transfer and best practices network.  Conference sessions were attended by 200 diplomats  and experts from 57 OSCE member countries.  The [meeting summary](http://www.osce.org/eea/101771) and session presentations are posted on the [OSCE website](http://www.osce.org/).

***Overall impressions***

The OSCE conference answered questions about the potential applicability of California and US innovations to European needs.  It appears they will be applicable, though not applied in the same way according to the same rules.  Likewise, it was interesting to see the relative strengths and weaknesses of clean energy technology transfer processes in Europe.   Cooperative energy technology transfer processes have weakened in recent decades in the US and need to be re-focused on a new set of technologies and technology users.  In Europe, there appears to be an awareness of the importance and demand for clean energy technical and economic integration.  A comparable awareness that doesn’t manifest in the US, perhaps because technology transfer within the US private sector generally works so well in support of product development and manufacturing cost reduction.

The conference also raised questions of a type that might not arise in the US, i.e. about how  differing perspectives on energy matters between Russia and EU countries will ultimately be resolved.  Russia’s current economy hinges on oil and gas production and export, while EU countries continue to work toward greater energy security.  The former soviet republics are now nominally independent but to varying degrees and in various ways still under Russia’s influence.  Some, like Ukraine, import 50 or more percent of their energy supply.  Others until recently were almost totally dependent on imports and also lack industries with capacity to support clean energy deployment.

Finally, the conference was a reminder of the essential interplay among technology, economics and politics.  Most talks affirmed the premise that renewable energy targets and deployment are essential to reducing energy related environmental footprints in the OSCE region.  However, the IRESN presentation was the only one pointing to the transformative effects of technology on the energy landscape.

While diplomatic level participants mostly emphasized broader economic policy themes, there was also an undercurrent of skepticism about the economics of clean energy in some quarters, mirroring the messaging of fossil fuel industries in the US and perhaps reflecting the economic interests of countries whose economies hinge on oil and gas revenues.  The Russian Federation representative, for example, pointed to a major energy efficiency mandate in Moscow that, for unforeseen reasons, failed to produce energy usage reductions.

In general, though, political themes were mostly muted, with a couple of exceptions.

On the whole, the conference was exemplary to the extent panelists were able to illuminate the interdependencies among technology, economics and politics.  However, the time allocated to panel discussions was limited by the priority given to the reading of prepared statements by countries not represented on a session’s panel.  Most panelists and speakers submitted presentations or written statements, many of which are summarized in a [more detailed IRESN report](http://www.iresn.org/Members-Sample).  The report includes links to each posted input. The IRESN  introduction to the Technology Transfer and Innovation Session was entitled [“Energy Innovation and Technology Transfer:  Speed and Scale”.](http://www.iresn.org/Members-Sample)