

# ITUWTDC

BAKU2025

REGIONAL PREPARATORY  
MEETING CIS

24-25 April 2025

Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan



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# State of digital development and trends in the CIS region: Challenges and opportunities

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Document 3





Measuring digital development

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# Measuring digital development State of digital development and trends in the CIS region: Challenges and opportunities



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## Informing the WTDC-25 preparatory process

- The “State of Digital Development and Trends” RPM documents and reports inform participants and stakeholders as they discuss regional digital agendas in the lead up of WTDC-25.
- Each report consists of two parts: the first provides an overview of the state of digital connectivity in the region, and the second showcases case studies.





## **Universal and meaningful connectivity: a policy imperative**

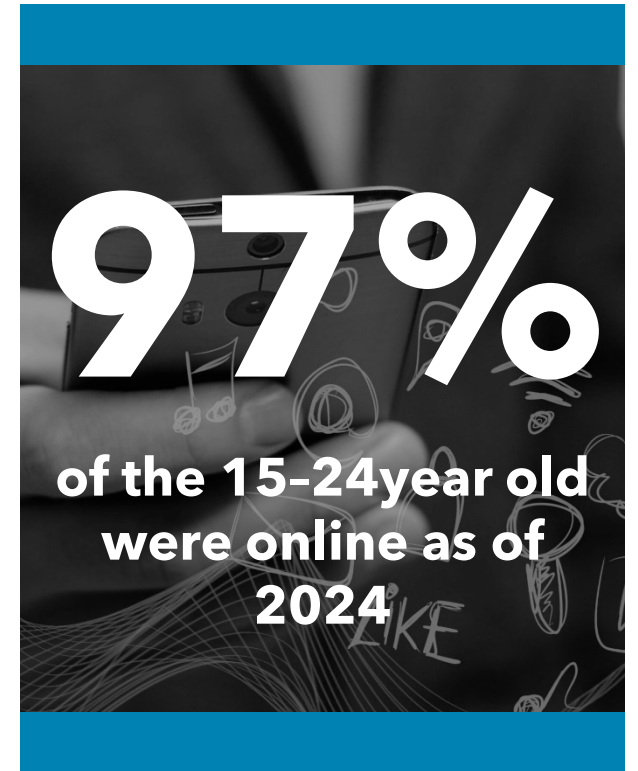
- Universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) is a policy imperative to fully leverage the potential of connectivity. It is a requirement for enabling digital transformation.
- UMC enables everyone to enjoy a safe, enriching, and productive online experience at an affordable cost.
- UMC does not mean everyone must be connected all the time but describes a situation where everyone can access the Internet optimally and affordably whenever and wherever needed.





## Digital momentum in the CIS

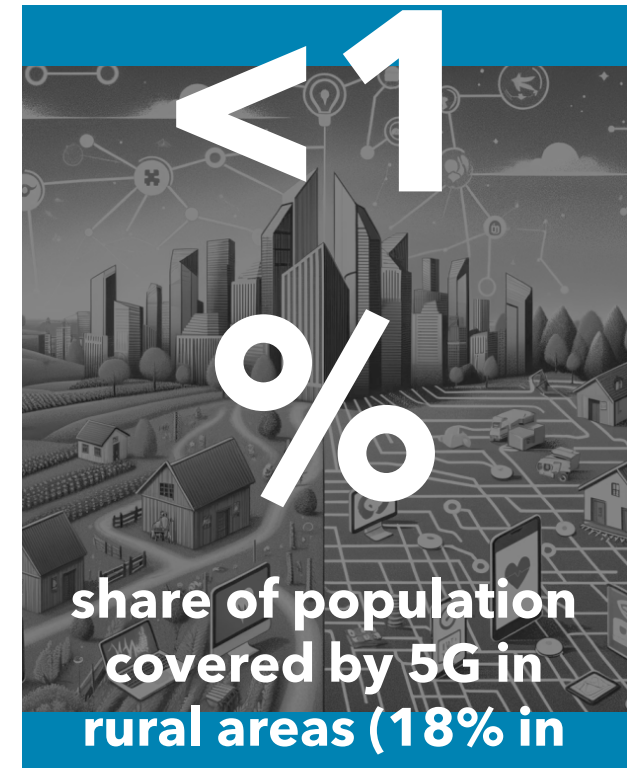
- Universal access achieved, with 98% of population covered by 3G mobile network or higher
- 92% of the population online in 2024, the highest adoption rate among regions, well above the global average (68%).
- Gender parity in Internet use achieved
- Mobile broadband widely affordable





## Uneven progress across countries and communities

- Wide variation in digital development levels across the nine CIS economies
- 7% of the rural population has no Internet access at all, and 5G roll out is very slow
- Fixed broadband remains out of reach in several countries
- Landlocked status poses challenges for infrastructure and connectivity.





## Gaps in digital policy and regulation



- Only one country has reached the most advanced stage of ICT regulation ("G4")
- Lack of regulatory maturity impacts market competition, investment, and expansion of digital services.
- Greater harmonization needed to foster regional integration
- Policy alignment and investment depend on stronger regulatory capacity



## Structural barriers and digital policy gaps

- CIS scored 67/100 on the Global Cybersecurity Index 2024, just above the global average (66).
- Cyber-readiness performance varies widely across CIS, with a 70-point gap between top and bottom performers
- Only three countries have e-waste regulations
- Major data gaps hinder policy planning and progress tracking, notably related to digital skills





## BDT4Impact: Featured case studies (1)

- **Armenia:** A project boosted digital connectivity to remote communities, improving access to education, health, and online services.
- **Uzbekistan:** A regional workshop helped raised awareness about the importance of UMC and its measurement.
- **CIS-wide:** Young people from five CIS countries learned to create and pitch startups.





## BDT4Impact: Featured case studies (2)

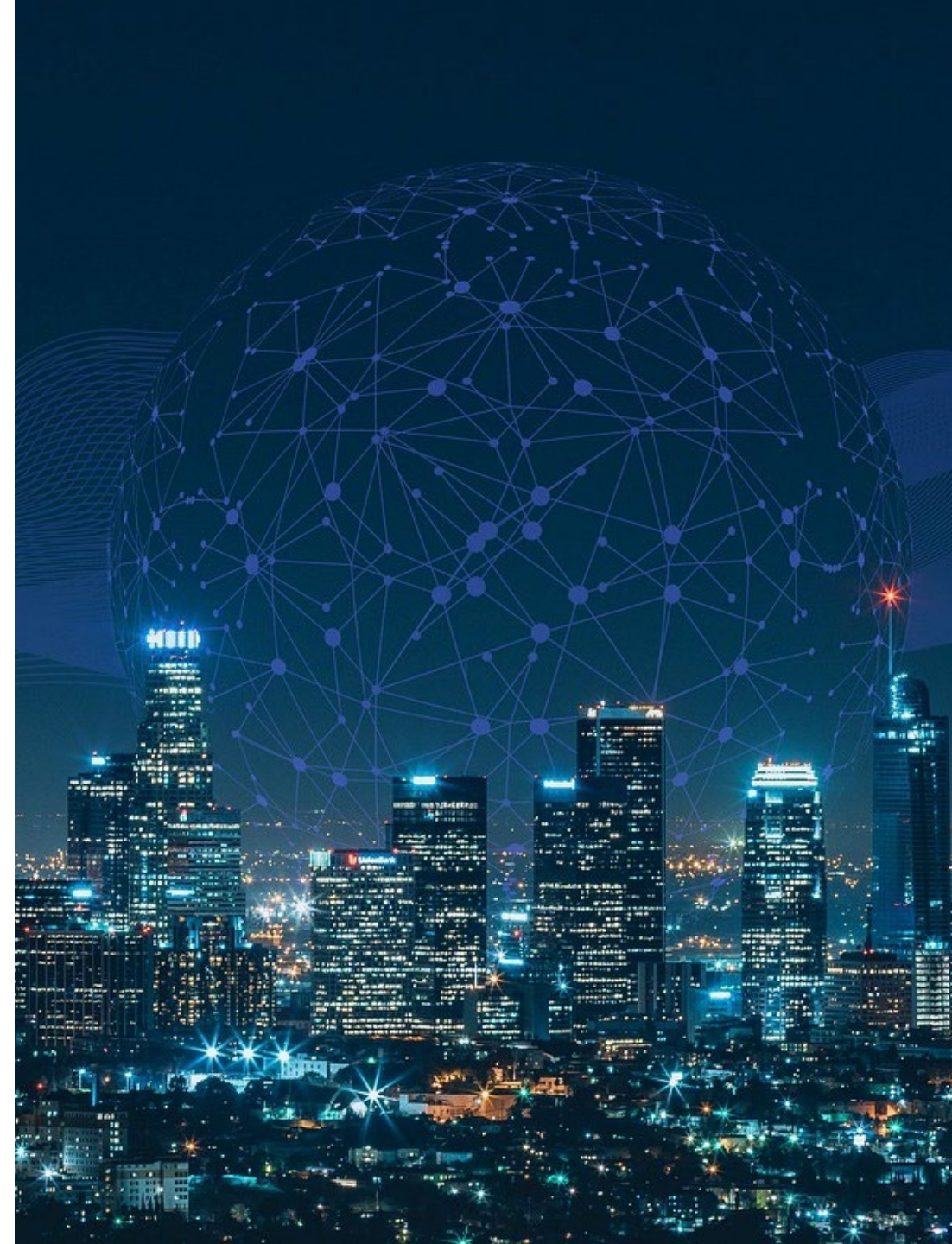
- **Azerbaijan:** Technical assistance enhanced national ICT data-collection and analysis systems.
- **Kyrgyzstan:** Regional forum focused on developing national digital transformation strategies.
- **CIS-wide:** Cyberdrills boosted cybersecurity readiness across CIS countries.





## The road ahead in the CIS

- Expand infrastructure and reduce affordability gaps
- Strengthen ICT regulation and digital governance
- Improve statistical capacity to close data gaps
- Foster collaboration on infrastructure, policy, and cybersecurity





## Risks and challenges

- Regulatory fragmentation and weak institutional capacity
- Infrastructure barriers in landlocked countries
- Uneven cybersecurity and sustainability efforts
- Limited digital skills and lack of reliable data for policymaking





# I Thank you!

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More information:

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