



ICTs FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

National Approaches to Innovation ALBANIA

REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON ICT CENTRIC INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

- A Country review of Albania was undertaken through the ITU Regional Initiative on Innovation in Europe and has yielded concrete recommendations which Albania is implementing. Other countries in Europe can avail of this initiative and further engage in innovation at a regional level. In this context it is proposed to continue Regional Initiative with focus on ICT centric innovation ecosystem, taking into account emerging technologies.
- **Objectives:** Build on the existing regional initiative in Europe on entrepreneurship, innovation and youth to enhance entrepreneurship and establish as sustainable culture of innovation through concrete strategic actions using ICT as an enabler.

REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON ICT CENTRIC INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS

- Innovation was defined as a new priority for the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2014, with the adoption of the Regional Initiatives for Europe on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Youth. This initiative aims at fostering the creation of an enabling environment and building capacities at the regional level.
- The objective is to enhance entrepreneurship and increase innovation in the ICT ecosystem, while encouraging empowerment of young men and women and creating new opportunities for them in the ICT sector.
- Innovation enables businesses in a country to create and apply new ICT solutions. This is a major component in facilitating a country's efforts towards creating a sustainable knowledge-based economy. All countries have the opportunity to enjoy the economic and social benefits of ICTs. More specifically, countries are able to steer ICTs for development solutions, using innovative ICTs to address social and economic problems faced by the world.



Case study project started on December 2015

- 6 group of stakeholders;
- 46 interviews;
- 3 Workshops;
- Tirana Manifest (2 February 2016)
- Presentation of executive summary during Innovation Week on 17 May 2016.

Institutions surveyed

46 Institutions surveyed from 6 stakeholder groups

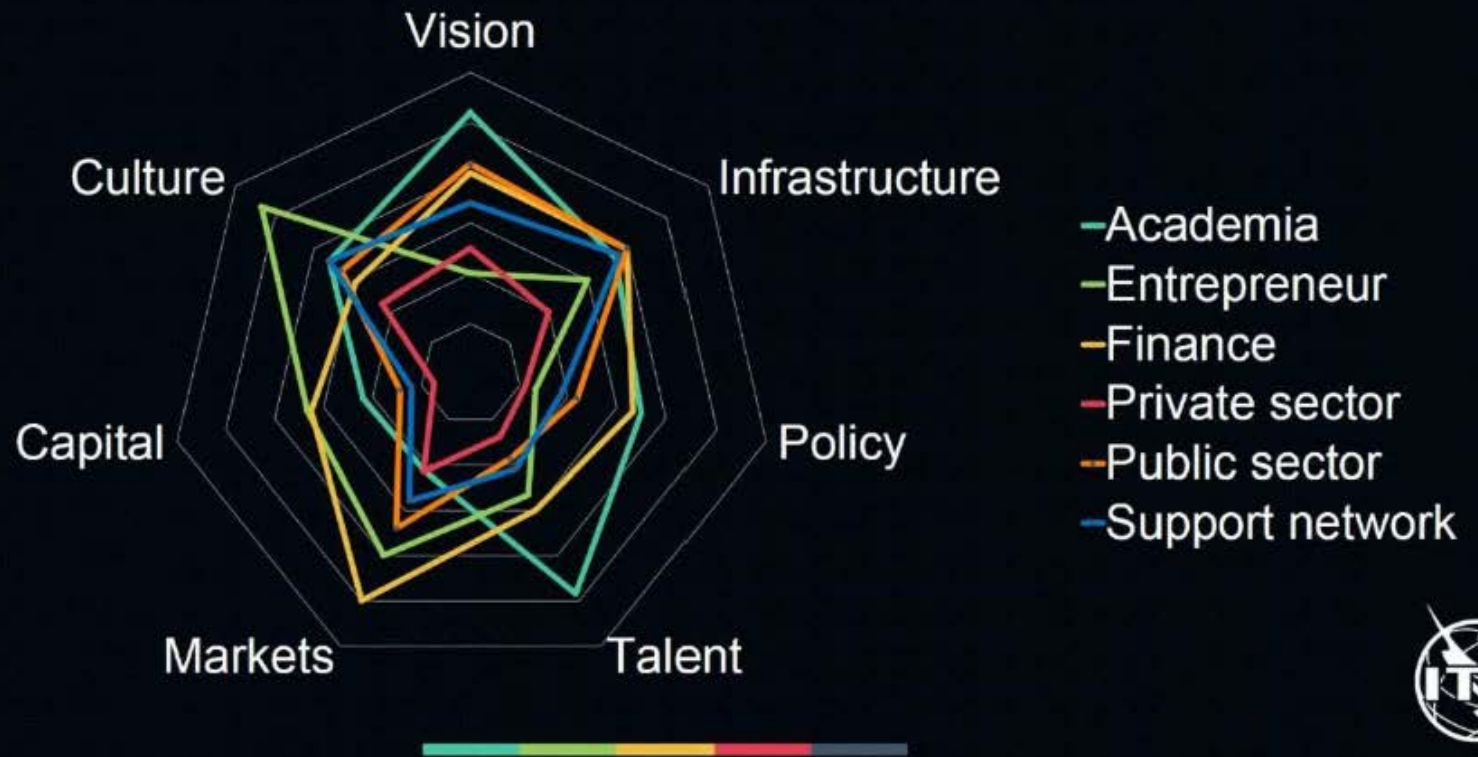
ADISA/ISDA	BKT Bank	Marlin Barletti University	Science Academy
AIDA	Easypay	Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration	Startupgrind.al
AITA	European University of Tirana	Microsoft	Start-up live
AKCE	findit.al	NAIS	Talent Garden
AKEP	Garazh	Network of Albanian Academics	Telekom Albania
AKTI	General Directorate of Patents and Marks	Open labs	Tetra solutions
ALBtelecom	Geospatial information office	OSFA SOROS	University of Polis
ALCIRT	ICTS Media	PLUS Communication	University of New York Tirana
American Chamber of Commerce	ikub.info	PROTIK	Science Academy
ASIG	INSTAT	Raiffeissen	Startupgrind.al
Bank of Albania	Intesa San Paolo bank	RRASH ISSET	-Ministry of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Entrepreneurship, - - - Ministry of Agriculture

- Multi-stakeholder Consultation within the Framework of the National Review on the ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystem; **TIRANA MANIFESTO- 2 February 2016;**
- *Interactive Workshop: Interim Review of Initial Findings of the National Review on ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystem - 5 April 2016:*
- Presentation of executive summary during *Innovation Week (17-24 May)*

Case Study on Innovation – methodology based on Generic Questionnaire and 46 interviews.

Overview of Opinions

Pillar Strength by Stakeholder Group



ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Youth



**Multistakeholder Consultation
within the Framework of the National Review on the
ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystem
2 February 2016, Tirana, Albania**



Case study – Recommendations (1)

- 1. ICT as a Strategic Sector** - *Enablement of ICT as a true strategic sector fostering growth, inclusion and jobs;*
- 2. Ecosystem Mapping** - *Strengthen Key stakeholders ability to connect to resources, to engage in collaborative transformation, and creates services for needs across the country;*
- 3. Collaborative Human Capacity Building** - *Reduce Skills mismatch that exist between talents coming out of formal educational and vocational schools to enable skills for the 21st century (fostering lifelong learning objectives);*
- 4. Improving the Deal Flow** - *Creating critical mass in the innovation ecosystem funnel to create measurable impact; - Development of entrepreneurial support to foster innovation in Albania;*

Case study – Recommendations (2)

5. **Internationalization and exits** - *Internationalization as a strategy to growth; Access to international support and exit opportunities for Albanian entrepreneurs;*
6. **Collaborative clusters** - *Development of ICT Clusters to foster digital dividends (growth, jobs and new services) to reach society inclusively;*
7. **Implementation framework** - *Development of public-private bridging institution.*

Case study – follow up

- The Government of Albania will pursue its facilitating and promoting role for the innovation in the ICT ecosystem.
- We are currently:
 - ❖ Reviewing the National Action Plan of the Digital Agenda Strategy 2015 - 2020;
 - ❖ Economic Reform Program (Innovation fund, Start up fund, Voucher scheme, *Competitiveness Fund*).
 - ❖ *On January 2017 it is approved with the Prime Minister's Order the Action Plan for Innovation 2017-2020, which implements three case study recommendations (2, 4, 7).*



Thank you!

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