

Due to some legislative changes related to technological neutrality, the Georgian Mobile operators were given the opportunity to start providing the mobile LTE/4G broadband services.

For the Development of high-speed internet infrastructure, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) has started an extensive project on the development of a high-speed internet infrastructure, which will cover areas unprofitable for businesses, and provide internet to the settlements with populations of more than 200 people. The main objective of the project is to meet the growing demand of the population for broadband services of electronic communications at an affordable price, to stimulate innovations and improve the general welfare of both, citizens and businesses through maximizing the ICT potential.

MoESD supports deployment of community networks in less-densely populated areas (of under 200 people) of Georgia. Tusheti community network project has been successfully completed in 2017. Many different parties were involved in this project. Now we have a high quality and a fast internet in Tusheti, which will support the socio-cultural development of this much closed-off mountainous region. This project has been recognized by the international community as one of the best practices of public-private partnership. Government of Georgia will support further extension of internet connectivity and the establishment of community networks in the more closed-off and less densely populated areas of the country.

The favorable geographical location of Georgia allows it to become information exchange hub in the region with its high capacity fiber-optic backbones, linking Georgia to the neighboring, as well as to the European and Asian countries. One of the auspicious conditions in this process can be considered the country's main infrastructure, which is linking Georgia to the neighboring, as well as to European and Asian countries. Georgia has six outbound internet links in different directions with the high capacity; For example, the capacity of submarine fiber-optic backbone is more than 12 TB.

Connection of Europe and Asia through the territory of Georgia by the shortest route from China to Germany through the fiber-optic cable backbones will bring great economic and social benefits to all involved parties. This will support overcoming the existing digital divide between the regions and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Proposal

- 1) Georgia offers stakeholders to exchange the information flows between Europe and Asia through Georgia, via shortest transit route.
- 2) Explore areas for potential cooperation on the building of a submarine fiber-optic backbone under the Black sea or the Caspian Sea.



3) Georgia offers all interested parties to consider encouraging the multinational Tier 1 Internet Service Providers, to expand in Georgia and establish there PoPs and services. This will promote competition in the telecommunications wholesale market.

Year of implementation: 2018-2021

