

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining SDGs

Monday 11 June 2018 | Prague, Czech Republic

www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/RDF/

CONTRIBUTION BY GEORGIA

TITLE: Development of ICT innovation

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Europe Regional Initiative:

□ EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

Background

Government of Georgia has conducted successful reforms to develop knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy. The Government's vision is to transform the country into a regional hub of Information Technologies with high-skilled workforce. To this end, the state undertakes several activities to support innovations, digital skills, technologies and startups. This covers development of appropriate projects, upgrading of innovation's infrastructure (Techno Parks, Business Incubators, Fab labs, accelerators etc.) and improvement of access to finances. At the same time the Government of Georgia initiated training programs on Information Technologies and digital literacy for ICT specialists. The government established Georgia's Innovation & Technology Agency (GITA) under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in 2014 as a main coordinator and mediator in the process of building innovation ecosystem in the country.

Considering relatively cheap high-skilled labor force, cheap utility cost and strategic and geographical location, Georgia becomes more attractive in developing data centers, mining factories and R&D labs. Currently the country is top 3rd miner of bitcoin in the world. Government of Georgia integrated blockchain technology in Government services, having property and land registration on blockchain technology. Having the incentives of industrial free trade zones and free virtual zone for IT product and service exporters, the country is positioned as a regional hub for the activities.

Proposal

- Experience sharing in the field of innovation, technology, ICT and R&D commercialization;
- Cooperation in the framework of start-up support programs, business incubators and accelerator programs;



- Facilitation of Georgian Start-ups access to European market of and vice versa;
- Partnership between European and Georgian organizations through B2B, trade missions and startup pitching events in Georgia and Europe region countries of ITU for startups, innovators, ICT companies;
- Hosting R&D labs in the country;

Georgia expresses its readiness to invite the potential partners in the first Technological Park of Georgia to discuss the details for the future cooperation.

Year(s) of implementation: 2018-2021

