



of knowledge at national or international levels as this Forum aimed, but may also be extended to leverage a country's strength in the global industry, using suitable promotion and supportive mechanisms. These mechanisms concern the preparation of a National Digital Strategy and the formulation of a technology ecosystem involving key stakeholders in the field, these being the Government, Academia and the Industry. Participation and collaboration with each of these stakeholders is essential, so that a new institutional framework policy may be prepared for the promotion of a new technology development. In this context, infrastructure development, security and upgrading of digital public services were discussed, sectors that are the foundations and the prerequisites for the digital transformation of Greece.

## Proposal

The Greek Ministry of Telecommunications and Media would like to propose to host a Regional Forum on the **ICT innovation ecosystem for Smart Cities** in Greece. There are many challenges and opportunities we face regarding innovation and our government pursues to enable the implementation of an ICT-centric society, but also introduce new opportunities for entrepreneurship and innovation

ICTs are transforming how consumers, the industry, and governments acquire and share knowledge, so our proactive participation in the global information society, will accelerate the implementation of the digital transformation of our economy. Cities are facing two major transformations. The first, concerns their vast growth and second, their evolvement into "smart cities".

ICTs are critical components for governments in facing the challenge of unprecedented urban growth. They can contribute to improve urban management, as means of service deliver and participation. Smart Cities, can be the pathway for sustainable growth and a means to face new urban challenges. Additionally, ICTs may cause the disruption of traditional community structures, that may lead in Digital Divides. By encouraging citizens to participate on national initiatives, by communicating the positive benefits that ICTs promise, by mitigating the results of success stories that use ledger technologies, and by promoting the impact of ICTs in the socio-economic growth of the country, will evolve in a new culture, a new community philosophy, that will engage people to embrace new technologies, rather than being suspicious and fearful.

The event will be hosted by the Ministry of Digital Policy, Telecommunications and Media and it will be in accordance to the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT-centric innovation ecosystems.

Greece states its readiness to contribute actively to ITU's initiatives.

