EaPeReg
Broadband Development
in EaP Region
Internetization of High Mountainous regions in Georgia

Inga Popovici
Chair of IRB EWG (EaPeReg)

Mzia Gogilashvili
EaPeReg Chair Representative for 2019
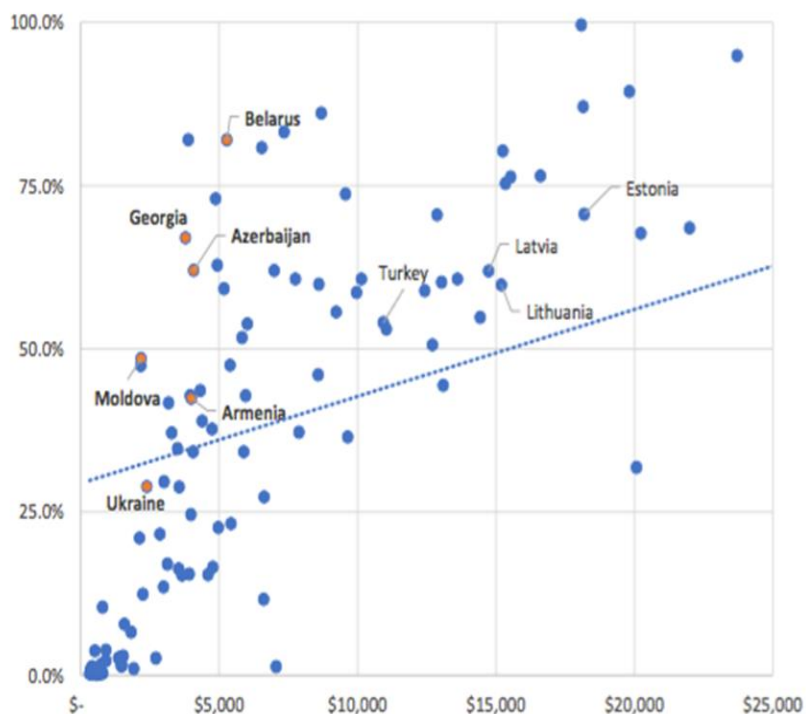Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC)

Content

- IRB EWG Activities and Broadband Development in EaP Countries

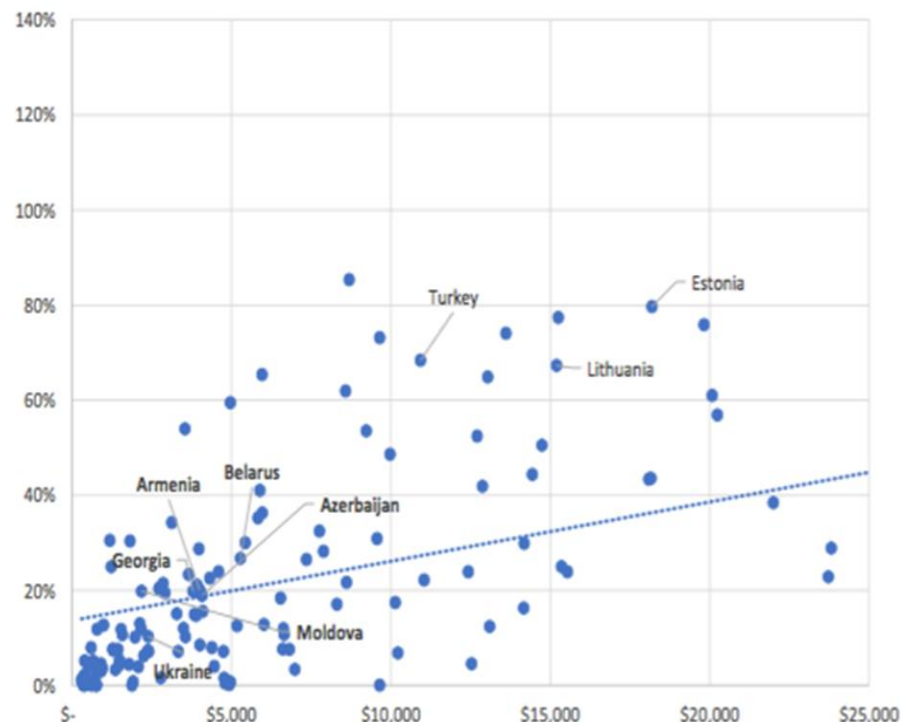- Internetization of high mountainous regions in Georgia – case study

Overall, EaP countries compare well with global income peers in expected fixed and mobile broadband penetration

Fixed Broadband Household Penetration (%) vs. GNI per capita

Source: TeleGeography Global Comms Data; World Bank

4G Penetration (%) vs. GNI per capita

Source: GSMA Intelligence; World Bank

Broadband development in the EaP Countries – current situation (IRB EWG)

Country	1 BB strategy?	2 Use of BB financing instruments?	3 Digital Agenda targets reflected?	4 NGN plan?	5 Provisions in national legislation for NGA rollout?
AM	No	No	No	No	No
AZ	Yes	No, but envisaged	Yes, partially	No	No
BY	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
GE	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
MD	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
UA	No	No, but budget funds allocated	No	No	No

Main targets of the IRB EWG on broadband development in the EaP region

Target for 2020:

- To achieve a common approach for Broadband development in the EaP area through adoption/revision of the national broadband strategy

- To Encourage NGA by legislation

- To identify the most appropriate financing mechanism for BB development in the EaP region

- To focus on the meaningful connectivity

- To achieve the best use of broadband in the digital transformation

- To identify and develop a broader regional projects, in cooperation with other similar regional groups (BEREC, EMERG, REGULATEL) and with ITU

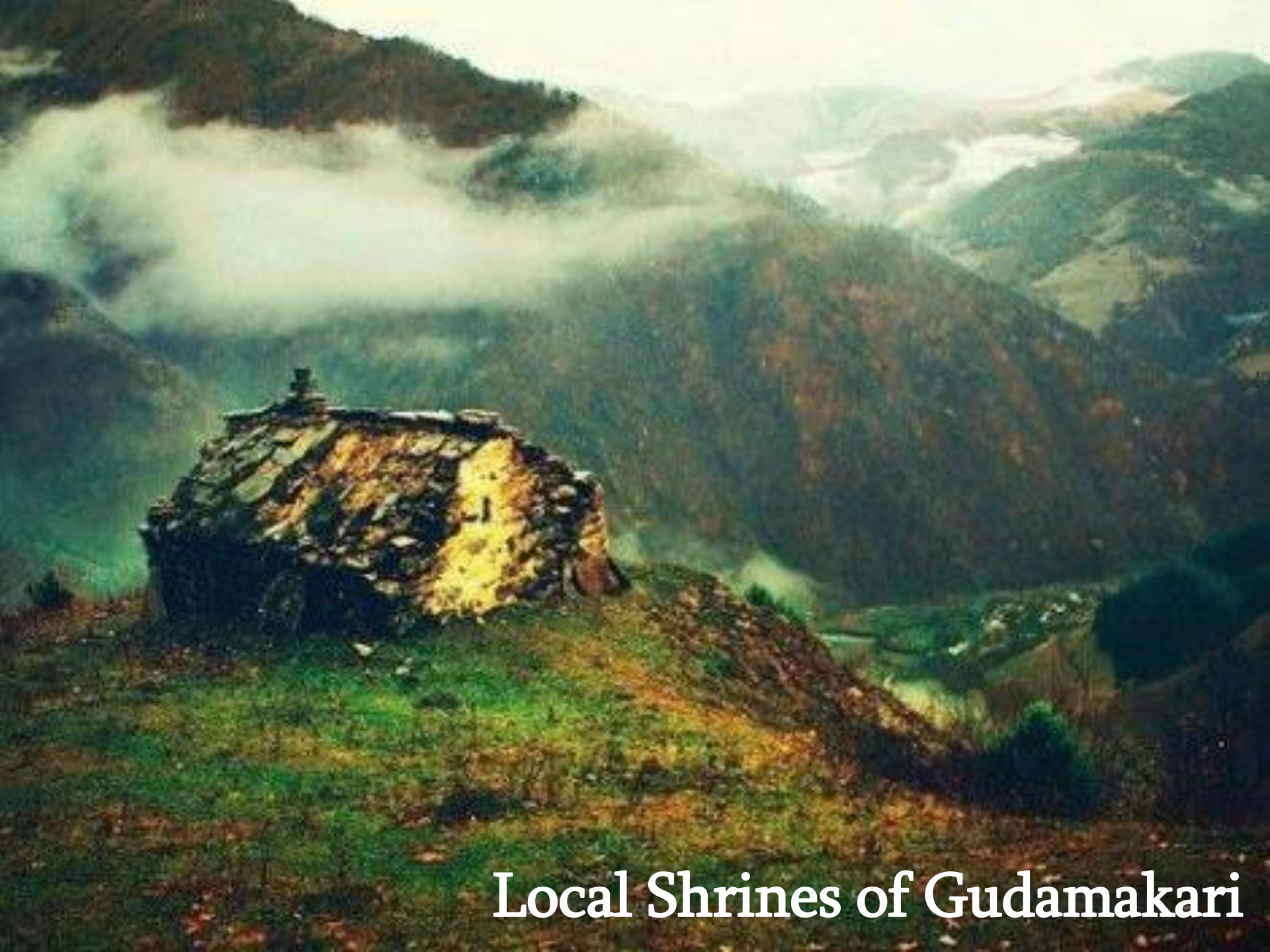# Broadband Development in Mountainous Regions of Georgia

Mountain Peaks and gorges of Tusheti

Wild nature and steep slopes of
Pshav-Khevsureti

Local Shrines of Gudamakari

Clean rivers…

...and waterfalls

Medieval villages

…full of towers…

…and fortified houses…

… are now more attractive since Internet is already available in 30 villages and 4 gorges in Tusheti

And it was not easy job taking into account amazing roads of Tusheti

So, all types of transport…

…and delivery were used

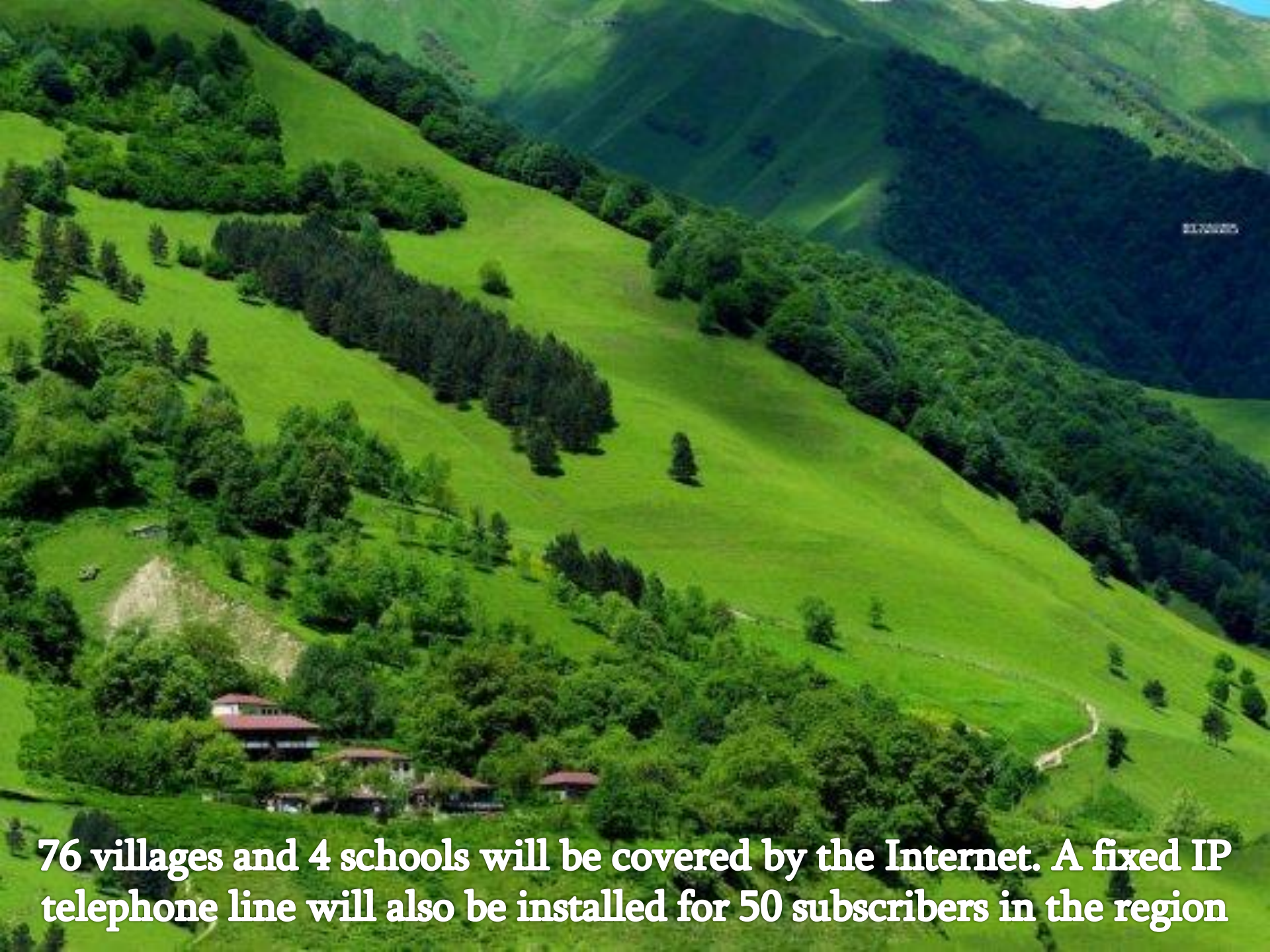Great job was done thanks to external and internal support

The sponsors and supporters of the project:

- External support:
  - Internet Society (ISOC) - $40,000 –for project implementation
  - Embassy of Czech Republic in Georgia – 15,000 Euro – for Network development
- Internal support:
  - Tusheti Development Fund
  - Government of Georgia
  - GITA (The techno Park Georgia) with financial support of the WB– trainings
  - Georgian National Communications Commission (GNCC) – Network planning and monitoring
  - Skytel – free of charge internet transit

In March 2019 the similar project began planning to proivde Pshav-Khevsureti and Gudamakari with high speed Wifi Internet

76 villages and 4 schools will be covered by the Internet. A fixed IP telephone line will also be installed for 50 subscribers in the region

Project will be conducted in two stages, step-by-step providing 6 provinces of the region with the internet and IP telephone line

The Sponsors and Supporters of the project:

- Government of Georgia – 246,805 GEL (app. 79,236.83 Euro)
- Regulatory Authority (GNCC) – Network planning and monitoring
- ISOC-Georgia – 22,312.46 Euro
- Embassy of Czech Republic in Georgia - 15,000 Euro
- Veon Georgia - 4 towers for 10-years free of charge co-location
- Vendors (Intelcom Group and Digital Network)– 10,000 USD
- Skytel (small company) – free of charge internet transit
- Association of small and medium enterprises – 10,000 USD

Therefore, these projects are successful examples of cooperation between the State, the NGOs and donor organisations towards the joint effort of achieving internet access to this very important area

- The highest level of Antenna sight – 3000 m
- The Internet speed in Tusheti – 5 Mgbt/Sc
- The Internet speed in Pshav-Khevsureti and Gudamakari – 10 Mgbt/Sc

Access to the Internet will undoubtedly bring the world closer to this amazing place,

but it will also stir e-commerce and local business development, and give a lift to health care and education services in the area.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!