ANNEX 2

International Telecommunication Union   International Telecommunication Union

ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe

Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals

Organised by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

საქართველოს ეკონომიკისა და მდგრადი
განვითარების სამინისტრო

MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

Monday, 13th September 2021 | 9:00 – 13:00 CEST | Virtual Meeting

http://www.itu.int/go/403C

REGIONAL CONSULTATION: SUBMISSION FORM

Regional consultation on the national and/or regional challenges related to digital development in Europe region

[GITA], [GEORGIA]

[TITLE of the Contribution]

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Tick the box to the relevant ITU Regional Initiative for Europe and/or BDT Thematic Priority

ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe	BDT Thematic Priorities
☐ EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management ☐ EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations	☐ Capacity development ☐ Cybersecurity ☐ Digital inclusion ☐ Digital innovation ecosystems ☐ Digital services and applications

☐ EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

☐ EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

☐ EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

☐ Emergency telecommunications

☐ Environment

☐ Network and digital infrastructure

☐ Policy and Regulation

☐ Statistics

☐ Capacity development

What are your *concrete challenges* related to the digital development that might be addressed at the national or/and regional level in 2022 within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe and BDT Thematic Priorities? [max 400 words]

There are number of challenges that we meet in our everyday life, including Digital Inclusion, Digital Services, Network and Digital Infrastructure.

Widespread access and use of affordable and high quality broadband Internet connectivity is an essential requirement for an innovation and knowledge-driven economy. High-speed or broadband Internet connectivity enables individuals and businesses to connect with markets and resources more efficiently and transparently, improving the possibility to trade and to access knowledge across borders.

Recognizing this potential, and the role of the broadband Internet as an enabler of innovation, the Government of Georgia seeks to improve Internet infrastructure and usage across the country, with a specific focus on rural and underserved areas, and the people who might be at risk of being "left behind" in the digital economy.

Besides, A Georgian ICT labor market analysis conducted in 2017-2018 demonstrated the ICT workforce is not sufficiently qualified to meet national and international market requirements. To fill this gap GITA has started to implement a collaborative skills strategy to improve the digital skills of Georgian professionals in line with the economic and digital strategies of the country. GITA has already trained more than 1,000 SMEs in Digital Skills and more than 500 IT specialists (it is planned to train about 3,000 IT specialists until the end of the program) in the most demanded professions. Trainings were conducted under the GENIE project, which is supported by the World Bank and aims to increase the innovative activities of firms and individuals and their participation in digital economy.

We believe that the Digital Development is a continuous process. It is an integral part of the human development and as we share the common values with the ITU, we are more than happy to work on it at the national / regional level within the framework of the ITU regional initiatives.