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

National Commission for the State Regulation of Communications and Informatization (NCCIR, Ukraine) on behalf of 2021 Chair of the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg)

Contribution of EaPeReg regarding the challenges related to the digital development to 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

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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	☒ Capacity development ☒ Cybersecurity ☐ Digital inclusion ☒ Digital innovation ecosystems

☐ EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

☒ 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

☒ Digital services and applications

☒ 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]

Reducing the cost of network deployment is a cornerstone of robust digital economy development by addressing the following issues according to the EU and developed countries best practices:

• accelerate network deployment through streamlined rules and procedures;

• develop state-aid programs in order to attract private investment into middle-mile connectivity in the areas unattractive for private sector (rural and underserved areas). In parallel - stimulate demand, promote digital literacy and internet use in rural areas;

• address affordability gaps (i.e. targeted assistance programs);

• develop regulatory tools capable of stimulating competition in wholesale and retail markets, strengthening QoS monitoring and empowering end-users.

Broadband mapping is also a priority for the EaP countries. A clear representation of the availability and capability of broadband networks and services will help all the actors involved to have their own contribution to the development of high-speed and reliable networks in the region. It will place the consumers' welfare and rights among the countries' priorities in the process of digital transformation.

The **cybersecurity** issues cannot be solved only by forces of a particular authority without involvement of relevant stakeholders and other institutions. Protection of new technologies, enhancement and security of the user experience is a priority where best EU practices has to be studied/applied.

Emergency communication: how to ensure reliability and readiness of IMT networks in case of pandemics, when limited access to towers may be enforced; in case of military operations, when physical communication channels may be damaged and/or inaccessible to MNOs; secure backbone communication and ensure redundancy of magistral connections.

The movement towards **UHF frequencies** to ensure better coverage: best practices, demand forecast, possibilities of spectrum usage below 694MHz for IMT networks, stability of said band for DTT and PMSE, possible obstacles preventing administrations from using of this range.

Investigating possibilities for government and public service entities, studying best broadcast practices to be adopted to efficiently deliver real-time emergency notifications to a wide variety of devices under the scope of public safety, as well as summing-up best practices in field of digital TV delivery (**Enhanced Television services**) in the 5G era, identify needs for multimedia broadcast and multicast services.

Other problematic topic to get the expertise from ITU would be acceleration of national **5G launch**: methodology, regulation on SmallCells & Small-Area wireless access implementation, allocation of 2300-2400 MHz & 2500-2690 MHz as 5G candidates bands for mobile networks along with cross-border coordination challenges are some of the priorities.