

ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe

Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals

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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

Zero Project – Essl Foundation, Austria

[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

- ☐ EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- ☐ EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- ☒ EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure

BDT Thematic Priorities

- ☐ Capacity development
- ☐ Cybersecurity
- ☒ Digital inclusion
- ☒ Digital innovation ecosystems
- ☐ Digital services and applications
- ☐ Emergency telecommunications
- ☐ Environment



digital inclusion and sustainable development

- ☐ EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- ☐ EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

- ☐ 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]

The Zero Project was launched in 2011 and since has amassed almost 1.000 disability inclusion centric Innovative Practices and Policies – from 180 Countries – that have been recognized in a research-driven peer-review process. In effect, we have reviewed thousands of digital inclusion products and services over the years. We currently face three key challenges in our work:

1. **The lack of mapping and the lack of data** – cities, municipalities, and countries are currently not interoperable when it comes to the data that concerns persons with disabilities and the barriers they face.

ITU Solution: Encourage the creation of a European digital interface and data repository in which data on barriers for persons with disabilities can be collected.

2. **Disability inclusion practices lack funding** – venture capital, angel investors, and funding agencies are currently supporting social impact endeavors and diversity endeavors without accounting for disability.

ITU Solution: Convene participants from the European VC sector in a 2022 event dedicated to raising the prominence of disability inclusion innovations.

3. **Accessible ICT products and services not having a public stage** – the broad public currently has little interaction, awareness, and understanding what accessible ICT products and services look and feel like.

ITU Solution: Support the Zero Project in its endeavor to create a physical year-round space in Vienna dedicated to accessible ICT products and services. The Zero Project would be delighted to showcase ITU enabled and supported products and services that remove barriers for all.

