

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
ბუნებრივ რესურსების 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

Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czechia

Helping the youth access modern ways of education and work

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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]

Everybody tends to agree that digital transformation and appropriate capacity building should be a key priority, especially after recently many activities have been pushed towards virtual world.

Nonetheless, we are still struggling with severe lack of sufficient and effective data connection. It is a topic within the EU, whole European region, as well as globally, which we can, not least, see in the ITU approach – connecting the unconnected, since more or less half of the world's population does not have functional access to digital services.

Of course this is important for citizens in general, all generations, but for youth even more. We see the digital generation coming. We come across so many enthusiastic minds, so full of energy, ideas and inspiration. They are indeed the future, beyond any doubt.

However, those are the ones who have sufficient resources and knowledge. And there may be so much more power if all (or at least the majority) would have access to better and equal education, together with access to full-fledge digital services, information sources, training tools and the like.

The issue is that this is not only the case of all categories of developing countries (although there the problem is far greater and more visible). We are facing certain limitations even in the EU, in our area of more developed countries, discussing and working on political, as well as practical level. This means that helping others to get on par may not be only pure help, this may prove to be grounds for synergy, bringing multiplication effects once there appears good improvement in basic part of the whole story, which actually really is the strong, reliable, ubiquitous high-quality infrastructure.

The question is if and how we can contribute to the solution. Development sector of the ITU is the proper platform to look for a way out of the trouble, with good possibility to focus especially on the young generation and their needs since they most likely will not be able to do without the digital tools.

We will certainly further need agriculture, industry, environment protection. But all indicators show that with new smart solutions and general digitization we can more effectively reach the real benefits for the quality of life, and it is for the young to work on it. And it cannot happen without a high level of electronic communications infrastructure.

