

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

COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AUTHORITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

On Accessibility of Digital Technologies and Services

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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

BDT Thematic Priorities

- ☐ 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]

Information and communication technologies (ICT) have advanced to such level that they may be used in every aspect of modern society. Yet, pandemic revealed the huge gaps of use of telecommunications/ICTs in some areas and by some groups of society.

When fulfilling its mandate, ITU should strive to ensure that everyone has equal possibilities to benefit from modern technologies, and support the activities of ITU Membership in reducing the digital gaps in favour of the most vulnerable groups.

- Aligning the activities of ITU with other European organizations could guarantee the maximum effect of the accessibility-targeted efforts. Moreover, cooperation with industry is needed to promote the idea of “ICTs for all”. This should lead to the “accessible” design and functionality of devices and digital solutions, e-services, as well as **simplicity** of use/user interface what is vital for people with disabilities and special needs.

- ITU could assist Member States by elaborating relevant strategies and policies, as well as supporting the related initiatives and best practice sharing among the European countries or even different regions. Wide partnerships with private sector, sub-regional organizations and other possible stakeholders could be of big benefit.

As the national regulator of Lithuania, we are well aware of our responsibility to ensure equal possibilities to use modern ICTs and e-services to all users. Yet, we need more practical approach and specific actions in terms of accessibility. Therefore, we seek for support from ITU :

- in building a strategy for RRT with specific actions that national regulator should implement, and/or
- in building partnership with counterpart administration(s) which have more experience in implementing accessibility policy.

