

# 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, 13<sup>th</sup> 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**

**[Chancellery of The Prime Minister], [Republic of Poland]**

**[Regional Priorities on strengthening the partnership]**

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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]

International Telecommunication Union (hereafter: ITU) plays an essential role in fostering standardization and development with operational programmes and serves as a platform for strengthening relations. It is essential that we identify common goals to bridge the digital divide in all the regions to foster the global development of new and emerging technologies. In those difficult times of global concerns regarding COVID-19 the access to effective broadcasting and broadband infrastructure has become more crucial than ever and has become considered as basic common resource. These goals can only be reached if we approach the issues that may occur in full, taking into account all voices raised.

In the era of the coronavirus pandemics, the use of **digital skills** is becoming more and more common on many levels of professional and social life. This has turned out to be extremely important **in the field of education**. In this context, it should be noted that the COVID-19 pandemics has revealed a lack of adequate competence among teachers and students to use digital tools in education. Despite the ubiquitous digitization and the increasing availability of digital tools, only a few countries were ready for this change, even in Europe. Most countries experienced significant difficulties, both with regard to technical deficiencies and the availability of digital teaching materials, the limited competences of teachers and students, and difficult learning conditions in some homes. Research results show that educational platforms have not been used by schools before. Unequal access to infrastructure, technical barriers and the necessity to share equipment increase the educational gap in favor of those in better economic situation and with higher skills.

At the same time and **with respect to goals defined at WTDC-17** it is essential to encourage cooperation among regional ITU's offices by strengthening relations between Member States themselves with active support of the Union and therefore by Regional Offices. By such action we are to gain more specific frameworks and practices created by Member States, that might be critical for cross-border cooperation in regard of spectrum management. We find it essential to strengthen the cross-border cooperation with other regions by organizing workshops and conferences, that are great opportunity for all stakeholders to share experience and deal with any issues bilaterally.

Therefore Republic of Poland **encourages ITU Office for Europe to strengthen the partnership with other ITU Offices and regions, so we may engage with more Initiatives that would have positive impact on cooperation on technical level regarding Broadband, Broadcasting, and Spectrum Management** but at the same time review experiences on IoT, NR 5G and IMT-2020 – as for goals adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 WTDC-17).

It is very important that the ITU, within the framework of European Regional Initiatives, creates a place for the exchange of experiences of various stakeholders in this field.