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ITU-D RDF-EUR
MAY 23, 2023
9 CET

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>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. We will start. We would like to make a few announcements. For sure the first one, is that we would like to thank to the host for making yesterday so memorable and to all of us. I think for many of us it was the first time to be in such an amazing place surrounded by the 80 Hectors of the vineyards and then also to taste the results of this venue. Thousands of liters of amazing drink.

Yes. I'm politically correct. Applausal, thank you.

(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. And Ladies and Gentlemen, we are having today a very busy agenda. We are starting with the session focusing on the innovation with the two keynote speakers. I would hand over just in a second to my colleague for the moderation. Before we are starting and I would like to request for displaying the photograph. We would like to inform you that many of you have been the picture of you has been taken yesterday. Where you have the direct link to the photographs and also eventually some videos.

So with this Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much. I wish you a great celebrations during the day. And I'm handing over to my colleague, Elind Sulmina who is our project officer

on the innovation. So over to you.

(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Just before leaving this place, I forgot about one important thing related to this bell. So as you know and as we built some experience already yesterday, people love to talk, including me, sorry apologies. But we have a lot of interventions today. So we have to really follow the regime set up in communication with all speakers. We're introducing two and a half minutes per intervention. And by the three minutes we'll have to cut. We don't have scissors but we will deploy or means. Including this one. Please follow the rules. Give the opportunity to the others, including me and I'm disappearing. Thank you.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you. Colleagues, good morning. Now there is a lot of pressure because Jaroslaw said we have to stay within the two minutes, two minutes and a half, three minutes. So we're going to discuss today with the panel 3 on the innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development. We're referring to the fifth regional initiative for the Europe region. We at the ITU office for Europe when we implement this fifth regional initiative we have one focus, one objective. The objective is to support the countries to advance digital innovation strategies at the national level. And to do that, we have the series of work that we put in place over the last years. For instance, we have a supported Republic of Serbia, Georgia and North Macedonia. That allow us to have an understanding of the innovation landscape.

What is the innovation landscape you may think of? It is try to understand how innovative the country is. And how capable the country is to nurture entrepreneurship and allow, you know, the fostering of small-medium size enterprises. And to do that we to some checks. We check the digital infrastructure. We check the regulatory frameworks. We also check the innovation environment that exists at that moment in time.

We talk with the Member States. So we talk with you. But we also talk with the sector members, with the private sector. We also talk with the academia. We have the frank discussion at same Round Table and we bring to the table, you know, the strength, the weaknesses, the challenges, and then from there we try to support and see how to shape responses on that.

Now innovation doesn't come alone. Maybe this is something that we have to understand. You have to align stars. Be it in the Europe region or beyond. If you think that innovative super heros exist we may be actually mistaken. We have an ecosystem. We have a multisystem approach that's in place and we have cooperation that's behind the scenes. And so this is something

that we will discuss today with the intervention of our BDT director. But just to conclude, at the ITU office for Europe with this fifth regional initiative, we do not want only to foster innovation. We want to foster sustainable and scaleable innovation.

I pause here and colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me to introduce for the introductory remarks from our director, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava to have an understanding of his vision, how he foresees the work in the innovation and how he plans to scale up and have the innovation for impact. Colleagues, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, please.

(Applause.)

>> COSMAS ZAVAZAVA: So for non-Romanian speaking, when I say (speaking in a non-English language). I'm thanking the host for hosting us yesterday. And I recognize the presence of the President of ANCOM who just joined us. And we're honored to have him here present.

Innovation is the only regional priority or regional initiative that cuts across all the regions.

And this emphasizes how important it is. We need to innovate. We need to scale up. We do a lot of competitions and quizzes. And we are award certificates for excellence. But what do we do with the certificates? The plans that we award end up just on the shelf. It is our belief that we have to (inaudible) innovation, creativity and novelty. And that's what will make us great. Digital innovation is at the center of everything that we do.

And we have to be seen and I hope that it will be evident today when we do matchmaking between those that placed over 30 billion dollars. And those that the needs of Member States.

And it is important, like I said yesterday, it is not just connectivity. Connectivity is great. But we must answer the question. Is it meaningful connectivity.

What is the return on investment? And what's the impact that we make on the ground for the people to transform the lives for the better? I think that's the question that should guide us. And today I'm going to read from my prepared statement. On the 25th of January, I launched an initiative that we called innovation and entrepreneurship alliance. A very important innovation. And also initiative that has been greatly appreciated and well received. Since then we got financial contribution from the Japanese Government. And we thank them on this occasion. But we also find a great agreement with the office of the UN Secretary-General, the office of information and communication. But we've also signed with the Smart Africa. We would like to make a difference. And we would like to make it everywhere any time and to impact people. So I welcome you

to the second day of the Regional Development Forum for Europe.

This first session is dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development. Europe is the home of the original champion of fostering digital innovation ecosystem at the country level. It kicked off ITU's work in this field with the first ever regional initiative on digital innovation, agreed that the World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2014.

In Europe several countries have benefitted from the development of digital development profiles, regional assessments, regional innovation Forums and toolkits that are of great use for bridging the digital skills gap.

But we need to go further. Much further in fact. BDT believes the it is key to bridging the digital divide. Because only digital works exponentially. Shifting our perspective and reframing the problem.

And that is very important. I think it was the UN Secretary-General who said in Doha, the LDC5 conference for the Least Developed Countries that we risk failing to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. But it is only digital that will rescue the package. Digital development refers to run rather than walk. And it will fly rather than run.

In this first evolving digital environment we need more and greater, more enhanced international capacities and greater scaling up of impact of projects to match our digital ambitions. Ladies and Gentlemen, this is a time of massive digital change that will impact and affect us all. The stakes have never been higher. Since the 1994 Plenipotentiary Conference commissioned the missing link report which lead to the creation of the ITU-D. We have seen changes.

The fast changing technological environment, dramatically accelerate change and disruption in our society and socioeconomic spheres. Winning in this change, means a focus on innovation driven Digital Economies that will ultimately generate world class experts, high growth industries and highly skilled SNL and talent. IT research, strongly suggests, it is by this focus, many countries in Europe, maybe leaders of digital innovation, but the Europe region for ITU, yes, 48 countries and not all of them are drivers, particularly in digital innovation. Digital ecosystems are complex. Individuals and communities may face inabilities in adapting to the new digital environment. New technologies or in leveraging innovation. May be shut out. Countries that are head need to support those that are behind in order to achieve digital equity in Europe. Not only in Europe because we are a global village, elsewhere. The world is at a crossroads. There is a growing digital gap between countries and this inhibits the achievement

of the Sustainable Development Goals. We new multi contextual, entrepreneurship and innovation. This is behind my motivation, setting up the innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development last July.

And this initiative is for all. For we say we shall leave anyone behind and no place behind. What are we trying to achieve? This alliance offers a new framework that will build critical local enablers. We work under mandate. Specifically Resolution 80 and Resolution 89 of the WTDC-22. That call on us to initiate digital transformation, adopted by our last WTDC. The alliance goes in line with the UN Secretary-General's roadmap for digital cooperation, the Global Digital Compact. And the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development to achieve digital equity for all, the alliance will take five strategic objectives.

And these focus variously on trends research, open technology innovation, entrepreneurship, policy development and digital ecosystem initiatives acceleration. Partnerships and I repeat, partnerships, with the Governments, private sector, industry, United Nations agencies and academia are key for building local utilization. It will formulate a digital innovation board. And acceleration sender network and digital transformation lab that we just set up in Geneva to support the acceleration center network. And we are making great progress because of in India about a month ago, and the Prime Minister came when we were launching the first global innovation center. Which is a great achievement. And you will be seeing more emerging.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the future is here. And we need to equip our stakeholders in disadvantaged ecosystems to achieve the digital ambition. And in closing, BDT and ITU the membership need new, more resilient and forward thinking approaches to help them safely navigate the digital world that's before us.

Local involvement is key in the new digital world. The new innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development will build local, critical enablers to lead in the changing digital environment. I am very determined to make sure that all stakeholders including entrepreneurs get involved. The women in most of the Least Developed Countries, 100% of the population consists of women and children. They engage and work tirelessly in the informal sector. It is our duty to use digital make sure that they, too, join the formal sector. They are the future. We must enable them. At BDT we also -- in BDT we also learn and develop new ways of thinking. And we count on you to help us to enhance our thinking and make us look great. In terms digital development I want this alliance to be transformational. I want

it to be inclusive. I want it to be win-win. There is only one component left to add your ideas. With your involvement we can close the digital divide together. It is time to start thinking and talking and living digital. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Director, thank you. So colleagues I would like now to kindly invite the panelists for this session. So -- okay. We will first have also introductory remarks by His Excellency, Valeriu Zgonea. So I would like to kindly ask His Excellency to join the panel.

(Applause.)

>> VALERIU ZGONEA: Good morning. Thank you very much. Dear Excellencies, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, thank you for the beautiful city where you have lived a couple of years. Ladies and Gentlemen, Honorable guests, on behalf of ANCOM, the national regulator of Romania it is with great pleasure that I'm addressing such a remarkable audience today. I thank you all for being here and honoring us with your presence.

It is my pleasure to host you again in this beautiful city, named Timisoara. In 1884, Timisoara was the first city who think about his citizens in Europe. And bring light on the streets.

So innovation was, you know, bind 150 years ago. So discussion about digital innovation in this city I think it is a very good opportunity to understand that here industrialization creates -- come in Romania. It can come to Romania and Europe with the same idea.

A new President of ANCOM I have now the honor and the responsibility to represent Romania and Romania's administration to ITU. And I'm looking forward to work with all of you in the spirit of good faith, cooperation and friendship.

As you see we are keen to host another ITU event following the PP-22 hosted last year in Bucharest, confirming Romania's commitment to ITU activities. We are an open and reliable partner.

The RDF is an excellent opportunity for us to share our visions, views, engage in interactive discussions on regional priorities and achievements across Europe.

It provides the perfect environment for dialogue and cooperation. It's the best opportunity to explore challenges, and good practices on specific issues, pertaining to regional telecommunication and ICTs, having in mind the principal sets at the World Telecommunication Development Conference in Kigali.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are living in a world of rapid changes as you see. As the pace of technological progress speeds up exponentially digital technologies offer a huge opportunity for countries to accelerate economic growth and

connect citizens worldwide. Keeping pace with the digital change and understanding the current and ever-changing nowadays landscape, it is a critical step in planning for the path ahead.

While we are speaking innovation, digital innovation is the main driving force behind the evolution of telecom sector.

The telecom industry requires innovation in order to remain competitive. Digital innovations are shaping our society, our economies at a rapid pace and even tends to evolve faster than we think. We create policies and rule making processes.

They are a true lever for the digital growth of the economy and society. I think it is important to adopt new strategies and policies to empower people and industry.

And to make use of the technology and innovation. You know all that the contribution of innovation and entrepreneurship to economic prosperity has grown with the shift of the global economy towards a more -- a mode of production in which knowledge, knowledge this very interesting word in the last do you mean of centuries, as a tool for digital transformation has become.

The challenges of the technology economy originally interest the most advanced economies. Nowadays you can see it is a tool to digital transformations used all over the emerging countries. Increased competition growing incomes and new technologies have reduced the average lifetime of products and reduced the possibilities for product standardization and large scale predictions. The year ahead are going to be instrumental in shaping a more inclusive digital transformation.

We all have an essential role in providing high quality digital public services, taking measure to improve digital literacy, and encouraging more investments in develop and ICT and in scale human resources.

I strongly believe that these kind of meetings can put us forward in understanding what's -- what is important for the industry and human resources around us. I believe that cooperation between the international partners to advance connect shape sustainable digital future and bridge the digital divide. Facing challenges and exploring opportunities embodied by the digital transformation, we can better support digitalization and improve citizen's lives. I'm confident with appropriate policies and regulations our citizens will benefit tremendously in the new era.

I see great opportunities as well as challenges. The journey to digital transformation it is our in hands. The decisions taken today will have a profound impact for the next century and beyond.

Thank you.
(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: His Excellency, I kindly invite you to stay on stage. And also ask our director to stay on stage. And now I invite the rest of the panelists of our session. So colleagues, Cyprus, Montenegro and North Macedonia to kindly advance on stage. And Israel on stage, please. So colleagues, we advance and I would like to give the floor to Albania. Albania is online with us. Dr. Irena Malolli, can you hear us?

>> IRENA MALOLLI: Yes. Thank you for invitation to join this important meeting. And to be part of this panel focused on innovation and entrepreneurship. It is my pleasure to speak about this topic and as we are fully aware, innovation and entrepreneurship is so important for economic growth. But when we speak for innovation, we also any time speak also innovation and ICT. So it is so interlinked and interchanged with each other, especially for us, which are focused on digital sector.

As the director said, digital innovation is a key driver to achieve the goals. But speaking about the innovation and entrepreneurship in Albania, this is an important topic. And it is under priorities of Albanian Government. We have recently approved a National Strategy on development and innovation where digitalization and innovation are in the highest priorities and specific pillars of this important document. Our National Strategy, innovation is seen as a driver and based on knowledge base and digitalization. Furthermore, we have a specific law to support the startups which was approved on 2021 and the specific ministries responsible for protection of entrepreneurship in Albania.

And managed a fund, a specific fund to support startups and SMEs. And during the years to support the innovation and entrepreneurship in Albania, a grand scheme for SMEs and startups is in place. And during 2019-2022 more than 380 SMEs and startups are supported through this fund in order to implement innovation and new things.

Speaking for digital transformation, we are fully aware that all the developments in the digital sector, 5G, Artificial Intelligence, digitalization of public services are important drivers for further development of economic and growth and to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

And we are currently working to prepare the smart utilization strategy which is an important document which combine all aspects of smart industrialization in agriculture, in ICT itself as cross-cutting sector with horizontal impact.

And for Albania, innovation and entrepreneurship as I said is quite important for all developments in the future. And we are happy to join the initiative of ITU and also to express our interest to host the innovation ITU center in Albania. Thank

you.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Dr. Irena Malolli, thank you very much. We now move with Mr. Nicos Ioannou, electronic communications officer, Ministry of Research, innovation and digital policy, Cyprus.

>> NICOS IOANNOU: Good morning. Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, since it is my first time here in ITU RDF, as said I'm Nicos Ioannou from the Ministry of Research, innovation and digital policy in Cyprus. I'm representing Cyprus. I am an electronic communications officer in this department. In my turn I would like to thank and congratulate ITU and Romania for this perfectly organized event. And now a few words about innovation in Cyprus. Building on the high quality and tremendous potential and adaptable keen effort for economic growth, while addressing the challenge of transforming new knowledge in tangible benefit for the local market, economy and society. Enhancing the innovation capacity of enterprises and encouraging them to think global from Day One, we support them of our local system which is more market size. And critical resources that we like as resources, will broaden the cooperation networks of our scientists and benefit from the knowledge sharing while reinforcing Cyprus as a favorable destination for high tech investments. Moreover touching our education system from early childhood to university we can enforce the desire, culture for creativity and innovation while paving the way for younger generation through multiplying success stories. Cyprus enjoys a fast growing research and innovation ecosystem featuring high quality academic and research institutions. And the innovation startup community. This significant performance is reflected in the annual report of the European Commission. European for 2022 where Cyprus ranked 10th among EU countries entering the strong innovators' category. Actually three years ago we were in 23rd, 23rd position two years ago. Yes, in 2021.

This impressive result also bear testament to the commitment of the Government to support activity and turn it in to a fundamental goals pillar of the economy. There is no doubt there is still a long way to go to unlock our full potential and advance our postal as a region and entrepreneurship and innovation hub. In this regard our policies are placing great emphasis to knowledge, transfer and commercialization of research outputs. Collaborations between academia and industry and the extra version of our local system. We are promoting measures and incentives towards the facilitation attracting talent and startups and creating an environment that encourages business activity and investment.

That's why we have increased our GDP the last two years. And the results we have seen in 2022. Our proposed -- in ITU-R DF are expected to contribute substantially and strengthening the country's competitiveness and establishing Cyprus as a regional hub for technology and innovation. And also improving Cyprus ranking which are benchmarks for investors worldwide. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: We will now move with the next speaker. We check online if Ms. Sophia Papathanasopoulou, head of broadband unit at the ministry in Greece is with us. Can you hear us?

>> SOPHIA PAPATHANASOPOULOU: Yes, I can hear you.

>> ELIND SULMINA: The floor is yours.

>> SOPHIA PAPATHANASOPOULOU: Thank you. Thank you. Your Excellencies, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava, Honorable Delegates, good morning. It is a great pleasure and privilege to participate to the 2023 RDF of ITU that takes place in Timisoara in Romania. I would like first to convey the gratitude of the government of Romania for hosting this important event. And also to regret that I was not able to travel during this period in order to join physically the Forum.

Greece has been supportive to all ITU initiatives in the past, like P2C where we submitted two pledges, with a budget of over 800 million Euros and is interested to contribute to the field of collaboration in a cooperative manner with all Member States and with the ITU.

In this respect Greece welcomes the ITU initiative for creating the innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development. And finds that this RDF is a great opportunity for Member States to exchange views with all the stakeholders in the European region and discuss ITU's role in the United Nations and its contribution on digital development at the regional and country level.

The Greek Government has adopted over the last years a number of national plans, strategies and programs that integrate in coherent and balanced manner. The sustainable development that all promote research and innovation.

In 2020 the European Union and its Member States agreed on a comprehensive plan to overcome the adverse effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to make economies more sustainable and inclusive and resilient. This plan is substantially supported by temporary recovery instrument, the European recovery and resilience facility which the state assists Member States in promoting and implementing strategic reforms and investments according to the recovery and resilience plans.

The Greek recovery resilience plans Greece 2.0 which was one

of the first to be submitted on April of 2021 is comprised of 106 investment measures and 68 reports to be supported by budget of 31 billion Euros up to 2026.

As far as legislative measures is concerned, by providing incentives to specific activities with emphasis to research and applied innovation. Aware of the challenging developments in the eastern Mediterranean and border Middle East, Greece has long been striving for the establishment of regional security architecture. For most by means of cooperation. Innovation and digital transformation is a key element of our National Strategy. And in this respect Greece is exploring the opportunity together with the ITU to host the next global innovation Forum in 2024 as proof of our country's effort to foster innovation and entrepreneurship. Last but not least Greece is interested to start conversation ITU for joining the innovation alliance. And for both of the above proposals, Greece has submitted relevant contributions to this RDF for your consideration.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to intervene to this very interesting development Forum of ITU and thank you Romania for hosting the event. I wish all the best for fruitful discussions in the Forum.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Now I would like to ask Ms. Marinela Lazarevic, head of Department of Electronic communications and radio spectrum to take the floor.

(Applause.)

>> MARINELA LAZAREVIC: Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen. Distinguished participants, it is my great pleasure to be here and greet you on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism Government of Montenegro. And in this session I will present the project in competence of Ministry of Science And Technological Development. . The project -- the program for supporting tech startups and scaleups.

National programs and incentives supporting tech startups and scaleups have been implemented in Montenegro in line with the smart specialization strategy to 2024. And include three programs. The smart specialization strategy features four priority areas among which the ICT is the horizontal priority area, both stand alone one and serving the needs of other three priority areas, sustainable agriculture and food value chain, sustainable and held to reason and energy and sustainable environment. Program for startup preacceleration is tailored for formal and nonformal teams in the early stage. To bring new products or services to the market.

The preacceleration program supports, in validating the innovative ideas on the market. And in further building of the

startup project.

Finally, beneficiaries are not formal teams that jointly develop an idea or project with the potential to grow in to startup or formal teams in already established companies in early stage of startup idea. Program for support to early stage startups aims to support prosperous team to validate the business ideas, endorsements of proposed solutions. And demonstrations of the potential of the new products.

Services or technology via the first prototype or development. The goal is to improve the startup community by fostering growth and development of the current and establishment of new startups. The program supports innovative startup project that offer solutions with the development potential and encourage startups to continue with the development of innovative solutions with a high growth potentials on the market or innovative solutions that contribute to resolving social challenges in various fields including the priority areas of the Montenegro smart specialization strategy. The goals also includes the improvement of business operations in the form of above programs have been implemented in Montenegro since 2019 by the ministry competent for the innovation and technological development. However starting from 2023 they make part of the work program of the innovation fund of Montenegro. Program for strengthening competitiveness of SMEs is oriented towards providing support to SMEs, including startups in more mature stage that develop innovations required by the market. The aforementioned programs show the commitment of Montenegro to foster innovation through entrepreneurial endeavors and we look forward to share our experience and best practices with the ITU and benefit from the knowledge of other Member States as well as the work of ITU in the field of innovation currently developed with the ITU innovation alliance mechanism. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: We move now with our next speaker, I would like to kindly invite Israel. Head of communications department.

>> Thank you. Excellencies, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava esteemed colleagues, Israel telecommunications market has undergone significant changes, mainly due to the introduction of new and advanced technologies as well as changes in regulations which allow all players to offer a comprehensive telephony, ultraspeed Internet and television services. Since 2020, due to new regulations and the establishment of universal fund, there is a significant change and increase in the deployment and access to rapid ultra network and fiber optic networks in Israel. There is deployment for more than 70% of households

today with access to all -- to at least one fiber network out of three fiber networks we have are in Israel. In the field of 5G, there are over 1.2 million 5G fibers and this is out of approximately 8 million, the entire population of Israel. The ministry operated the pilot program for 5G applications. This program is very successful and it is focusing on innovative applications in the field of e-Health, e-education, e-agriculture, transportation. Building an ecosystem with services as you all mentioned and it is obviously it is necessary. This will allow commercial services and commercial use of the technologies and we'll let the companies and the industry to make profits after all the investments they make. I would like to share with you just a few examples of what we do and you are all invited to reach out to me and ask questions via e-mail. And we'll share more information on this case users because we have very interesting ones.

So the first example would be blue wide robotics which develops robotic solutions for various agriculture tasks. Aim to bridge the gap between doctors and paramedics to experts by using special AI glasses. Novel sat provides end to end video delivery solutions for 5G networks. Sensors Sec limited provides solutions for AI based for monitoring detection and classification of post technology, interferences while listening to intelligence. Israel as I said will be happy to share its knowledge and experience and contribute to the ITU in order to promote innovative solutions in emerging technologies.

We will also hold some webinars and workshops with EMERG. I will invite you all to participate and take part.

And thank you again, ITU, Jaroslaw and, of course, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava and our great and amazing host, Romania and Cristiana Flutur, of course. Thank you very much.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you. We will now move with Mr. Nikola Nikolov, ICT state advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia. The floor is yours.

>> NIKOLA NIKOLOV: Excellencies, Mr. Cosmas Zavazava, Mr. Ponder, dear Delegates, friends, guests, it is my pleasure to be here. Congratulations to the organizer and thanks Romania for organizing this RDF. Participating here in this panel I will present the activity about the establishment of the innovation center with the specific focus of the cybersecurity. As you know, the Republic of North Macedonia is a central Balkan country. We were famous for a few years with publishing a lot of those state news. This was done with the little kids that most of them live in Velles. But many of them know details about cybersecurity.

We cannot speak about boosting the digital ecosystem without

speaking about cybersecurity. Cybersecurity is the base of each innovation and each digital IT product.

So we believe that the establishment of this innovation center with a special focus of cybersecurity we will put in the same place all those innovators, all those young people that know details about cybersecurity but in the same time we will find the support from the worldwide famous companies that will support this innovation center to boost the digital ecosystem, with a good security baseline as should be done in nowadays IT products.

We believe that this will also boost the ecosystem not only in our country, but also in the region. And such a support with such a support with the good connection, with all our neighborhood countries and also all other EU countries we participating also in the digital Europe program, we believe that we can find a good finance to start up this innovation center.

Thank you for this opportunity once again. And we believe that this will come -- a good idea that will be realized in our country. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Mr. Nikola Nikolov, thank you. We now move to Mr. Neils Kalnins, 5G Techritory program director, Electronic Communications Office, Latvia.

>> NEILS KALNINS: Good morning. Dear friends, dear colleagues, dear ITU family, it is very special day for me to be here to express the sense of my country. Sense of Latvia in terms of upcoming reality called Metaverse. In our sense we would like to express through our contribution to ITU family related to development of Metaverse standards for Europe.

As you know for many years we are organizing 5G Techritory Forum, discussing things related to many vertical that will be enabled by 5G. And that's how we came to Metaverse. As my colleague said yesterday, what will be after when the Metaverse will be created through Artificial Intelligence tools, connectivity, data clouds, et cetera, et cetera.

And the question what it will be. And our proposition at the moment is Metaverse, what they should create together should have a name, face, and spirit. And I know, this is not a technical terms. It is not about standards. But it's really about future technology based on true innovation, open innovation process, which will be helpful for us and which really will deliver true values for our society. Because if you are talking about Metaverse, I think we are not so much should be focused on technology rather than to the principles and real values delivering values, what we value so much in frame of UN and frame of ITU.

And we are here to work together and here is our kind invitation to participate in our event, 18th, 19th October to discuss together what will be a face, a name and spirit of Metaverse created here in Europe jointly in our family.

Friends, once again, thank you for this opportunity. And I'm open to discuss any details if you are interested in. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you. We now come to the online intervention, Mr. Uwe Beader. Can you hear us?

>> UWE BEADER: Yes, I can hear you very well. Thank you very much. I hope you can hear me as well.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Yes, we can. So Mr. Uwe Beader, director international relations, ITU UN at Rhode & Schwartz. Bead thank you. Dear Excellencies, it is my pleasure to join this Regional Development Forum. Rhode & Schwartz developed products and markets a wide range of electronic capital goods for industry infrastructure operators and Government customers.

We are an independent family owned business and among the technology and market leaders in all of our business fields.

Including wireless communication, and RF test measurement, broadcast and media, air traffic controller, cybersecurity and network technology.

Our company culture following three schemes, reliable, impactful and entrepreneurial. Innovation is part of our DNA to be the reliable partner and technology enabler. As an example, we are at the top of the 6G development. For example, we are concluding to the measurement and test solutions for higher frequency in the above 100 gigahertz range that's a central part of the, 6G development. Here we are actively working in ITU-R, namely Working Party 5D. We also look in to brand new fields of technology. We have strengthened our position in quantum technology market by acquiring instruments. A technology leader in measurement solutions for Universities to support research in the field of electromechanics. This brings us close to the new technology fields. Quantum technology will enter markets and technology solutions with an impact in many fields of ITU's responsibility. Let us name the work in ITU-T for quantum key distribution.

But we don't stop there. Innovative concepts and radio data technology resulted in new security scanners. Bases of this technology is a novel radio sensing. However results can only be derived by the usage of Artificial Intelligence. By this you can see that we need to face the latest technology to develop innovative products. We will not only be presenting this technology at the AI for good Summit, but we also plan to be part of the security concept of this event. Like we have done

at the ITU Plenipotentiary in Romania last year.

With our office in Rwanda, that we have opened lately, we bring our R&D effort to Africa. Young talents are important for us anywhere in the world. And we need to get this perspective of innovative technology jobs to all parts in the world.

All integrated in to our company culture, reliable impactful and entrepreneurial.

Human capacity building in those novel digital technologies is a consequence for us. That's why we are long-standing partner of ITU-D's academy. I hope you could introduce the latest technologies, entrepreneurship and innovation but as well the awareness of it in the society are of highest importance for the private sector.

ITU does a tremendous job to bring these ideals forward and we are committed to support this activity in the future. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. Colleagues we come to the end of the third panel. So I would like to go for a round of applause for all our panelists.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: And while kindly asking our panelists to return to their seats, I would like to ask His Excellency, Mr. Valeriu Zgonea and BDT director to stay with us. And the BDT director to join the podium for the special session.

>> COSMAS ZAVAZAVA: So Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this moment to invite His Excellency, Valeriu Zgonea, please. We're going in the center. So. It is not always that you are invited, you get good food. And good drink. And then you still remain welcome up to the end.

We would like to congratulate the President for his appointment. But also to thank him and his team, Cristiana Flutur and so many others for hosting us with such great warmth and hospitality.

It is not the first time. Romania has always been hosting many of our events. And I should say we celebrated recently the birth of ITU, and the birth of ITU came through the work and sweat of countries like Romania because Romania joined in 1866, just one year after ITU was established. So we call them the founding fathers but also for us to be gender sensitive we'll say the founding mother.

(Laughter).

>> COSMAS ZAVAZAVA: So Excellency thank you very much. This is a small token to recognize.

(Applause.)

>> COSMAS ZAVAZAVA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

>> VALERIU ZGONEA: This is not mine. It is the team of

ANCOM, the national regulators who work in the last decades strongly to become a good friend and a supporter for the ITU all over the world. You know what we have done the last year. It is the greatest event that we created in Romania since we get United Nations as a member. I want to thank Cristiana Flutur and the other guys in working in the headquarters of ANCOM. We don't know them. But I know them in the last ten days after the official general of Romania published my nomination. I want to thank you Mr. Cosmas Zavazava and the team of ITU. In the next six years humbled, I will help you to become much stronger in transformation of the world in digitalization of our society. And kindly remember that Romania is a good team worker, good friend and you are always welcome here in our country. Thank you very much, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Good morning, Excellencies, director of Development Bureau, Dr. Cosmas Zavazava. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen I'm very pleased to welcome to this Round Table for transforming commitments which is the first session of today's five successive Partner 2 Connect Round Tables.

I have the great pleasure and honor to invite our on site speakers. Please welcome Radka Sibille, digital affairs officer, European Union delegation. Please also welcome Mr. Dirk-Olivier Von Der Emden, specialist in international relations, federal office of communications, Switzerland.

Please also welcome Mr. Teddy Woodhouse, international policy manager, OFCOM United Kingdom. And we do have other online speakers which I will introduce shortly. The format of this session is a panel discussions where we will have with us eight distinguished speakers who will share their interventions. In order for us to understand because there are five sessions throughout the day, I would like to set the scene and the process that we have followed to invite the pledges, in fact, the submissions that culminated in to the pledges. Allow to share with you a brief presentation and insight about the Partner 2 Connect pledges that we have in Europe. The Digital Coalition was launched in 2021 by ITU, in close cooperation with the Office of Secretary-General's envoy on technology and the UN OHR LRS. Partner 2 Connect seeks to engage all relevant stakeholders globally to mobilize and announce new resources, partnerships and commitments to foster digital. This is in line with the UN Secretary-General's roadmap for digital cooperation. And also it touches upon the SDGs, WSIS Action Lines, Kigali action line. It has a clear mandate provided by ITU Member States through WTDC Resolution 88, which briefly asked ITU to facilitate regional implementation to catalyze concrete joint

efforts that accelerate connectivity and bridge the digital divide, mobilize new pledges and also to organize events, report and share experiences on the pledge implementation.

Now let me take you very briefly what has happened, what process that has been followed here, which brings all these submissions here today. So as you can see that we have received over 100 submissions. We are grateful for your time and efforts which resulted in cumulative 97 pledges. As of date 4 billion U.S. dollars of financial value, submitted by 59 entities from the governments, private sectors, NGOs, academia, from 34 different countries.

You also see on the left-hand side bottom left, we tried to focus on the areas of the pledge areas of focus as well as the regional initiatives. So certain areas let's say and infrastructure, Digital Economy, digital skills, digital inclusion, et cetera, which are the focus areas of Partner 2 Connect are mapped with the five initiatives. The pledges will make commitments of those pledges matching those areas with us. Finally, this is to ensure that we carry out the matchmaking of the pledges, submissions and the future actions to accelerate in to concrete actionable projects matching with those who are pledging and those which are to be beneficiary countries.

So what we did as I mentioned that we followed the regional consultation process, open transparent process, with the last date. And then those submissions were considered totally under the criteria of pledging platform. And those were converted in to the P2C pledges. And these would be matchmaking would be carried out through a pool of concrete actions and the implementation, the underlying fundamental principle that we followed is the ITU-D Kigali action plan, ITU-D priorities, matching with the regional initiative. So in summary, this is a current process of synchronizing partner to connect with the regional priorities. Leveraging on the P2C platform to maximize the impact of work of Member States and sector members. And fa stating implementation on the pledges through matchmaking of pool pledges and actions that we Member States.

Now with this in process, I have the great pleasure and honor to invite the first speaker, Ms. Radka Sibille, digital affairs officer, European Union and my friend, to present her initiative and the pledges. The floor is yours, please.

>> RADKA SIBILLE: Thank you very much. And thank you very much to the ITU and Romania for organizing this wonderful Forum and giving us the possibility to exchange experiences.

When listening to the previous interventions there was a concept that was mentioned several times and that is meaningful connectivity. When connecting people we need to make sure that they're connected meaningfully which means they should be

empowered to navigate the online space and use technologies. But they should also feel safe. In other words, the Human Rights should be protected online as they are offline. And this is at the heart of all EU digital action both within the EU, but also in partnerships with third countries ending our external action.

We have seen in the past that technologies can do a lot of good. But there are also harms to that, if they are not well regulated. We saw it through the threats to children online, disinformation, interference with elections, with our Democracy, illegal speech. To all of these things need to be prevented and fought against. So when talking about the cooperation with third countries and how the EU is trying to support that in our partner countries and other regions the greatest illustration is the new EU global gateway initiative. The global gateway was launched last year. And it's a positive Human Rights based offer to countries who are trying to find solutions to their infrastructure needs.

It has a very ambitious goal of mobilizing around 300 billion Euros. And the mechanism used is very much the same as the Partner 2 Connect actually. It is trying to pull EU national and private resources together with the financial institutions. And to team up as team Europe, which means EU and EU Member States, in several multi-country or regional projects. The investments that the global gateway is trying to mobilize should be sustainable. Should be made, tailor made for local people and local economies. And without creating unsustainable debt and unwanted dependencies.

So a significant part of that global gateway initiative is, of course, digital projects. And the EU there is trying to prioritize underserved regions, the most remote areas, the most vulnerable communities that really lag behind. And in order to try to bridge the digital divide that we still have. So that's why the European Commission, international partnerships, submitted global gateway as a pledge of Partner 2 Connect of connecting everyone everyone where. We are very happy about it. At the beginning of this year, there was a huge flagship initiative of the global gateway which can give you an example of what we mean by sustainable digital initiative. And that is the launch of the EU/Latin America digital alliance, which was done in March in Colombia. And which is building on the great Bela cable that's already between the EU and Latin America connecting people there.

The digital alliance will also make sure that we support connection to schools in Latin America. And we help with broadband. And there is also a concrete project that we did in terms of multilateral support and that is the partnership with

the ITU.

So just last month, the European Commission DG supported a project with the ITU on meaningful connectivity. It is a project of three million Euros that will go on for the next three years. And that will help countries assess their connectivity capabilities and support policy making for decisions on universal and meaningful connectivity.

We're very happy about this partnership with the ITU. There will be more projects coming this year. We're looking forward to cooperating together. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you for your intervention. And particularly the support that you provided with your digital Development Agenda as well as the global gateway initiative. We do acknowledge your recent signing of the agreement with the director of telecommunications bureau here. That's very inspiring and supporting. And I also see your initiatives is not only helping the Member States in Europe but globally. Thank you so much for your contribution, particularly for Partner 2 Connect. With that I would like to introduce Mr. David Roos, deputy head of GIZ sector program digital development, Germany. The floor is yours. I realize that he is not available. So we can move on to the next speaker.

So let me now introduce Mr. Dirk-Olivier Von Der Emden, specialist in the international relations, federal office of communications, Switzerland who will be making the statement on the GIGA Switzerland. The floor is yours.

>> DIRK-OLIVIER VON DER EMDEN: Hello.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: It works.

>> DIRK-OLIVIER VON DER EMDEN: Thank you. Thank you, good morning. After this slight technical problem, but no good speech starts without a technical problem.

So thank you very much for having me on this panel. So Switzerland is proud to be traditionally a strong supporter of the ITU in its mission to promote, facilitate and foster affordable and universal access to communication networks.

As the pandemic has shown it is more pressing than ever to overcome the still existing connectivity barriers.

For the Swiss authorities it was evident that we have to actively contribute to the Partner 2 Connect coalition.

Apart from it's broader engagement, as Switzerland is specifically proud to support the GIGA initiative, and this is our pledge or one of our pledges in the Partner 2 Connect initiative, the GIGA initiative which was launched by ITU and UNICEF and it is called connecting every school worldwide. So GIGA aims at connecting every school worldwide to the Internet. We are convinced this is an important basis to achieve equal

opportunities for every child.

We also convinced that GIGA's approach can and should be leverage beyond school activity. GIGA areas annual report for the year 2022 has been published on the 1st of March 2023.

You can consult it on the Internet. It makes a good reading. Switzerland maintains its pledge and to support GIGA. We will support financially. Secondly Switzerland looks forward to offering, expertise to GIGA with the aim of connecting every school. We need to find financing models to overcome existing gaps. With respect to innovative financing models, it may interest you that GIGA made fundraising experiment in 2022, with nonfungible tokens. For those who read regularly the financial times, the acronym is NFTs. It created NFTs teaming up with an artist to launch a collection of 1,000 generated NFTs minted on the blockchain.

So the NFT public sale raised around 240 ethers, not Bitcoins but the ethers in totality. And they valued -- they were valued at the head of \$700,000. To show that GIGA is also having resource to innovative financing models to finance its activities.

So Switzerland is providing support to strengthen the expertise within the GIGA team in the field of this innovate tiff financing methods but also in other fields. Thirdly, Switzerland pledges to support GIGA in building a global community of purpose to improve connectivity worldwide.

We can reach this ambitious goal. All right. So it leaves me a minute. That is what it means? Okay.

GIGA offers the basis and the dynamic for the comprehensive approach. Switzerland is assisting GIGA in order to harvest maximum benefit from residing in the ecosystem of international organization and the mission seated in Geneva. Furthermore, the philanthropic institutions have branches in Geneva. We want to make sure that the right actors are on board. Academia, finance institutions, Civil Society organizations and other international organizations that can play a decisive role.

We are convinced that the establishment of the GIGA's headquarters will achieve sustainable connectivity.

GIGA as you can see imagine contributes to achieving several development Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, inter alia, SDG 4 to ensure inclusive and equitable quality quality education. SDG 5, empower all women and girls. SDG 9, foster innovation. And SDG 10 reduce inequality within and among countries. Finally, I thank all of you for your engagement and interest for GIGA's activity, the Romanian administration for hosting the Regional Development Forum here in Timisoara and BDT for this organization of the P2C Round Table. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you for your pledge under GIGA Partner 2 Connect, your support. And your hosting of ITU's GIGA Secretariat, the UNICEF and ITU and also you will be pleased to know that we have this special initiatives GIGA is part of that. So we are very pleased. I want to highlight your support, Mr. Hassan presented the contribution and support in the Study Group earlier this month. We are very grateful. We are also grateful that the support our regional office will be providing for Bosnia Herzegovina and number of initiatives in the pipeline. Thank you very much for your contribution and support. Now let me move to the next speaker. Now I have the pleasure and honor to introduce Ms. Blanca Gonzalez, head of unit, cabinet of the secretary of stayed head of unit, Ministry of Industry energy and tourism, Spain. The floor is yours.

>> BLANCA GONZALEZ: Yes. Excellencies, dear colleagues, it is an honor for me to intervene in this session to highlight the Spanish contribution to the GIGA initiative.

As it has been explained by my Swiss colleague in the ITU, GIGA is a joint initiative of UNICEF and ITU focused on providing meaningful connectivity to schools worldwide with a goal of achieving universal school connectivity by 2030. The Spanish administration, Catalan Government, presented an initiative to GIGA up to 17 and a half million Euro and the tech center in Barcelona. This tech center will enable the mapping of connectivity in schools worldwide. And you can access this information on the GIGA connect website.

And last week on the occasion of the world telecommunications and Information Society day, Spain added a pledge on budgeting junior professional office post in the ITU.

That will work in GIGA issues. The MoU has already been signed and it amounts to 400,000 Euros. And currently we are exploring a possible partnership between GIGA and profit Turo. Profit Turo is a Spanish NGO that focuses on providing digital skills to schools that have no connectivity.

It received this, profitturo received this year the GSMA award in the category best digital contribution to the SDGs.

Since it's creation, 27 million girls and boys and 1.3 million teachers from 46 countries worldwide have benefitted from this program in places such as refugee camps. We look forward to continue our cooperation with the ITU and we take this opportunity to encourage colleagues to contribute to GIGA. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you, Ms. Blanca Gonzalez for sharing the meaningful contribution of GIGA Spain. We are grateful for your pledge under Partner 2 Connect and additional contribution for supporting the JPO. You would be very happy to

know that the infrastructure mapping that BDT is carrying out is through your contribution. We are very grateful and you would see more groundwork in the countries beyond even Europe.

So let me now introduce Mr. Teddy Woodhouse, international policy manager OFCOM, United Kingdom. Mr. Teddy, the floor is yours.

>> TEDDY WOODHOUSE: Thank you so much. And hello, everyone. Thank you to the Romanian administration for hosting us here at the RDF. It is a pleasure to be here to talk about this prompt of effective mechanisms for Partner 2 Connect and I think it is quite convenient as a prompt. We see that experience of reliance on a collaborative environment.

And so when we think about Partner 2 Connect for us it is both thinking about ways of working, and also the end goal that we have in mind of what we want to achieve in the world. So when we think about ways of working, for us it's when we think about the UK working in the ITU, it's in close collaboration with our fellow CT countries and create good common practices and perspectives on regulatory and policy practice in this field. We benefit from a wealth of perspectives from across the UK delegation and sector. So industry, Civil Society contributing to what our voice and what our position is on these issues.

It also expresses itself in the FCDO's digital access program which is conducted conveniently in partnership with the ITU. And it is a great project that we hope to continue in to the future as well.

But recognizing this as a way of working, we also want to be more intentional in the future about dedicating time to building capacity with each other. We feel that there is a lot of experience in this room and there is something -- some things that we have to learn and experience that we can also share with others. So we look forward to doing that both here in Timisoara and to the future as well.

But what's this mean for our end goals? We hope that kind of over the next three years we see that the ITU opens its processes up to more industry and to more Civil Society participation. We think this is going to be crucial for the ITU to remain relevant as an institution and to maintain the high quality outputs it has today. With particular attention to our position as a regulator, which we're very proud of. We also look to working in the development sector to advocate for regulatory independence, and the role of regulators not just being autonomous in their own right but being a Convenor of stakeholders through that autonomy to facilitate conversations at a national level that lead to the partnerships that will connect the world.

So in conclusion, noting that I don't want to get hit by the bell too quickly, is, you know, we're happy to be here with our European colleagues with our first meeting as a Regional Development Forum in many years. And we look forward to having this meeting and this day both being an opportunity to reaffirm the partnerships that we have cultivated over the past few years. But also being an opportunity to set the intention to have new partnerships going in to the future as well. So thank you very much. And I look forward to working with all of you in the coming years.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you, Mr. Teddy for your support, contribution. You are very eloquently put it up in to a partnership. In particular for policy and regulatory environment, this is one of the priorities of ITU-D as, you know, director highlighted in his opening remarks. And as director has already invited for the global symposium for regulatory. Your contribution would be greater appreciated. Let me move on to Ms. Julia Jasinska, head of international relations and strategic advocacy, Nokia. She will be sharing inclusion of women in ICT. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Julia.

>> JULIA JASINSKA: Thank you for using this digital bridge to allow me to be with you in Timisoara. So Nokia delivers high performance connectivity. To drive impact at scale. And to transform business, industry and society.

Because we believe that when the machines, devices are in sync with each other and importantly, in sync with people that they serve new capability falls to create a more sustainable future. This will not be built by any company or any business. We call it collaborative advantage that we come together as businesses as technology providers as innovators to create new value added. But then on top of that there must be strong partnership between private and public sector. Working hand in hand to maximize value for people and for this planet. So given this believe in acting together, you can only imagine that we were very enthusiastic when Partner 2 Connect was created and we made the pledge in Kigali. Let me be more specific of how we contribute to sustainable digital transformation in Europe.

In manufacturing, for instance, we have seen that implementation of digital solutions and we have firsthand experience with Nokia factory, productivity increases go up to 90% and 50% increases in energy efficiency was gained. In Cyprus we are helping to transform the city in to Smart City where information of waste and about traffic information using video analytics, how spare transport emissions and keeping at bay pollution levels. Energy, very important for Europe, 90% of

the energy sector emission reductions needed to reach net zero requires advanced digital technologies. And here again firsthand experience where we implemented micro solution, to connect solar and wind generation on site. We have seen saving of 200 tons of CO2 in just one year. Now okay, this was small scale.

So let me talk big scale. In Germany we deploy 1800 base stations to cover the entire country with dedicated LTE services to connect and control more renewables to the German distribution. We believe the potential is there. But in order to really maximize and to tap in to that potential, we need to upscale Europeans to deliver their necessary digital skills. Europeans, that would soon enter the job market with the right skills matching the market demand. Great role of academia. And also great role of academia in driving innovation. So here to promote Finnish scientific development, telecommunications and related scientific disciplines, Nokia Foundation provides scholarships to Ph.D.s, researchers and Professors.

Second it is about upgrading digital capacities of those currently in the employment. So have them acquire skills to drive further advancements.

So to support specifically public sector transformation, we have partner UNESCO in the framework of the Broadband Commission and together we worked on delivering AI capacity building report.

And given that my time has finished, the last one would be to say that for those who are at risk of exclusion from the job market, we are helping them to acquire necessary skills to get back, to acquire the jobs through rescaling initiative where Nokia drives a Finnish doctrine. Thank you very much.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you for your insightful and encouraging contribution, particularly for building capacity, human, institutional as well as building the skills. Before going to the next speaker I think there was a technical glitch and the technology also produced some solutions. So we have -- we have been able to bring back our earlier speaker who could not come online, Mr. David Roos. Deputy head of GIZ sector program digital development from Germany. Is able to connect on phone. I hope it works. So maybe, if you can just bring the phone here so that you can hear him.

>> The floor is yours.

>> DAVID ROOS: Good morning. Dear International Telecommunication Union, during distinguished Excellencies, partners, Ladies and Gentlemen, good morning. I'm sincerely apologies for the technical hiccup. I was hoping to see you virtually. And I'm sure we will make it for the next intervention. I'm going to introduce you to the approach that

German development corporation and behalf of the ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, BMC, GIZ is implementing across Europe, the initiative for digital public infrastructure to scale reusable interoperable building blocks. Assists Ukraine and countries globally in building a resilient DPI and sharing their best practices.

Launched by Estonia, Germany, ITU and the digital impact alliance housed at the UN Foundation, the initiative aims to create technical practice for developing reusable and interoperable components. We call these the digital building blocks needed for virtual transformation of Government services.

Gastic invests in building blocks not only reduce the cost, to create and modify platform, e-services applications.

These building blocks are easier to customize, design and implement and scale across different sectors. Gastic has partner countries, Governments in Europe and globally with insight and leading examples to accelerate the effectiveness of core functions and services. Reduce unnecessary systems applications, corruption through increased security and improve specific engagement and accountability.

And to increase country ownership of Government solutions to improve social well-being services. We remain committed to engage countries from Europe and beyond. And invites you all and them to join forces in piloting digital Government use cases. Strengthening local capacity, participating in communities of practice, government strategies and roadmaps.

Current developments with the partner ministry in Ukraine, digital transformation and I compliment the huge efforts that Ukraine is doing despite the war of regression of Russia. Ukraine has extensive experience, especially since the start of the war.

Millions have used the application Gia at the front end, connected to the back end and the platform of registries. That also can be scaled as a digital applicant, open and reusable. In Europe shared with partners globally.

Ukraine is actively contributing to Gastic as a partner country and promotes the initiative and the building block approach to its target audiences at several events. In fact, the Republic infrastructure that you build is a great example of countries can leap for digital transformation with building a digital public build. Ukraine adopted the Estonian platform.

Platform of registry, it is a software solutions for -- which then -- the efficient creation of new eGovernment services. It is a huge learning case and can be scaled across Europe.

Now ready to get funds and support other countries and digitalize their services. Cooperation with the Ministry of

Digital Transformation is to make the platform of registry globally available as part of Gastic and to provide users with suitable tools for the efficient creation of these services. A fit -- between Gastic specifications of the core building block and the platform is currently finished, commissioned by Gastic in order to determine the compliance of PR with the building blocks. Ukraine is now ready to share this platform of registry and contributes to Gastic. We invite all partner countries from Europe and globally to join the initiative to exchange on reverse innovation and digital Government transformation on a CIO level but also on a technical level. It is technology and governance that we need to discuss. And we have the toolbox to share scaleable solutions that are reusable interoperable and ready to share with partners in Europe. So I invite you to join the Gastic initiative (cutting out).

Digital Government transformation based on reusable building blocks. Thank you.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you. Please join me in appreciating the patience you had and the contribution. Let me move on to Mr. Tomas Marques who is the regional subprogram coordinator, science policy and air quality in Europe from the office of UNEP. Please join me in welcoming his remarks in environmental initiatives. Tomas, the floor is yours.

>> TOMAS MARQUES: Thank you so much for the invitation to contribute to the discussions taking place during this Regional Development Forum for the region. I was not able to travel and join you there in person. So UNEP has been partnering with ITU and UNITAR for several years for the promotion of EU waste data and statistics.

So electronic waste data and statistics give us very useful information.

And as such they are very important to allow us to evaluate developments over time and also to inform the development of national and international policies, to limit e-waste generation, to prevent illegal dumping to promote recycling, create jobs in the recycling sectors, et cetera. As I'm sure you are aware only a very limited number of countries do collect internationally comparable e-waste statistics. And statistical overviews of e-waste management at regional levels are very sparse. UNEP together with ITU and UNITAR have been partnering in a series of projects to support countries in the development of this information.

For example, between 2020 and 2021 we run together the regional e-waste monitor for the CIS region. So this project was very good. Provided a lot of training for the participating countries. And led to the development of national e-waste profiles for each country. And to a regional e-waste monitor

report for the CIS region.

So more recently, after this project we partnered again, UNITAR, ITU and UNEP. Now in another regional e-waste monitor project. This time devoted to the western Balkans subregion. And my colleague, Giulia from UNITAR will provide a few more words now on the objective of that project. And on the exact deliverables that we are expecting.

Again this covers the five countries in the western Balkans subregion. And I will pass now the floor to my colleague from UNITAR. Thank you.

>> GIULIA LATTONI: Thank you, Tomas for your words and introduction. Dear ITU officials and dear Delegates, electronic waste offers great opportunities for sustainable development and constitutes one of the fastest growing waste treatment and most challenging. A lot of e-waste is not properly recycled. And this can pose a risk to human, to the environment and also result in a way a loss of valuable resources that we could use.

So Tomas already stressed the importance to have comparable data on e-waste, to be able to monitor e-waste quantities and elaborate tools more appropriately. In the waste situation in the Chris of the western Balkans where we launch this initiative to have a regional e-waste monitor is limited as it is in many other regions, also worldwide.

And leaning on our expertise the key objectives of the project will be to train the national statistical offices to produce e-waste data comparable and harmonize e-waste data also for the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals.

To contribute to the development of internationally comparable information. And to inform policymakers, industries as well as the public about the e-waste situation in the countries and in the region.

So the ultimate goal is to support the development of national and regional country measures through policies awareness raising, and industrial response.

Let's say that our plan, the key results of the project will consist of five country profiles with an assessment of the stages on e-waste legislation, management, and statistics in the region per country, one for each country in the scope of the project as mentioned by Tomas. We will have five national statistical offices or other relevant institutions in the country trained. And a final regional e-waste monitoring report, the first one in the western Balkans. And also five national e-waste awareness webinars to inform the stakeholders of the main findings e-waste situation in the country. This is our plan and hopefully will be an important step for the countries along the journey to having more greener sector. We would like to give our support for that as far as possible. And

I would like now to thank ITU for the opportunity of presenting our work at this event.

And thank all of you for your interest. Thanks and I am handing back over to Tomas for his final statement.

>> TOMAS MARQUES: I understand that we are already over time. Just a few words to reiterate our joint commitment to continue working collaboratively to continue supporting interested countries in the western Balkans to address the gaps and challenges identified throughout this project and to continue working with interested countries to further build national capacities for the development of comparable and harmonized e-waste related statistics in this region and, of course, in any other interested countries of the Europe region as we already put forward in our joint pledge submitted to this Forum.

Thank you for your attention.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you very much. Please join me in appreciating this great contribution, in particular, the collaboration with ITU, UNEP and UNITAR. I would say there is a great a combination of the support that we are receiving from our Member States, international organizations, private sector and also the UN system. So we are really grateful and I just have a recollection of my previous role in the Regional Office for Asia and Pacific where I used to be the focal point for e-waste. I had the privilege of working with the UN colleagues who spoke today on this topic. So we also look forward to their support and contribution in the western Balkans on the e-waste collaboration. So with that let me invite my colleague, Mr. Thierry Geiger who is the senior economist and the head of data and the analytics. Before that I have been informed that I must close this panel to relieve you from your -- this duty. So please join me in thanking the panelists here for this great contribution in Partner 2 Connect with their support and with their contribution. And I want to say that the setting the tone and the support that you provided for the Partner 2 Connect to various initiatives that we have, we look forward to the other sessions and with your work and contribution. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Now we just have two more speakers here. One of my colleagues, Thierry, who will be online who will be presenting on connectivity, addressing the measurement challenges.

>> THIERRY GEIGER: I'm here. Can you hear me?

>> SAMEER SHARMA: The floor is yours.

>> THIERRY GEIGER: Thank you. Just going to share my screen. Can you see my screen?

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Yes. Very well. Go ahead.

>> THIERRY GEIGER: Thank you. So thank you, everyone.

And pleasure to be here. We have heard a lot about universal and meaningful connectivity over the past hour or so. And indeed ITU has made universal need for connectivity a strategic goal. One of its strategic goals. Just as a reminder, this is what we mean by meaningful connectivity. It is the possibility to enjoy a safe, satisfying and enriching and productive and affordable online experience. And in short basically it is the possibility for everyone to do whatever they want online. And that's the way to harness the power of connectivity. And this definition was kind of coined in the year end consultation in the context of UN Secretary-General, digital cooperation roadmap. That was in 2021 in 2022 launched a set of targets to help prioritize interventions, make progress, evaluate policy effectiveness, and basically galvanize efforts along this objective of achieving universal meaningful connectivity.

And building of these groundwork of 2021-2022, as we just heard from the European Union Delegates, we announced a project to promote and measure universal and meaningful connectivity. It is a 3 million, three year project that started on May 1st, following the announcement a few days earlier. We are extremely grateful to the European Union for their support and we look forward to implementing this project. I will give you an overview of this project, although we heard about some of the key aspects of it earlier and how you can contribute to this project.

So essentially there are three workstreams. One is advocacy. Another is measurement capacity building and the third one is research. And through these activities in each of these workstreams we hope to achieve these four outputs, increased awareness around universal connectivity, and improved UMC data dissemination, enhanced statistical capacity to measure UMC and finally better policies for achieving UMC.

And on this slide you see the range of activities and products that we will be delivering in the context of that projects. And I won't go over that list. But they range from meetings to workshops, to digital tools, to reports, et cetera, et cetera.

So how can you contribute to this project? Well, around advocacy you can help by hosting high level stakeholder dialogues and the topic. You can identify or help us identify relevant events that offer potential for sessions or segments around UMC. You can ensure in the measurement capacity building workstream you can ensure the presence of all relevant actors from administrations from workshops that ITU will be holding next year. Ensuring the timely submission of UMC data that we

use for monitoring progress towards this objective. You can also help by joining a coalition of countries, embarking on Big Data projects to supplement the traditional statistics.

And finally, the research web stream you can express interest in sharing at your experience and contributing case studies. I stop here, if you want more information, you are welcome to visit our websites. And write to us. And again thank you to the European Union to the commission and to all of you for your attention.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you for a very exciting presentation. The role of ITU, particularly whenever you look for the data on analysis and some kind of policy recommendation, you always consider ITU's ICTs statistics and data is very authoritative and authentic and the future work on ICT development would be something to watch and work together. So with that, I think the last, very interesting exercise that my colleague Valentina Stadnic would be presenting. We keep you awake and active, in particularly on an exercise on the quiz on the states.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. So I very much hope that you are paying great attention to our message from the GIZ colleagues because what we are going to do is build upon the GovStack. I want to announce the GovStack quiz. We have five goody bags from the GovStack. That will give to the winners of the quiz. I very kindly ask our technical team to display the QR code. The QR code will offer you a possibility to join the Slido. Yeah. So you can add, enter the Slido.com and introduce the word Govtech tag. We are waiting on you to join it.

So please we have -- so thank you. So what are the challenges that prevent governments from achieving the digital transformation. So please share your thoughts on this matter.

So and the correct answer is, show the result. So yeah. So the correct answer is the following, is all the above. Yeah.

I am so sorry for this short issue.

I'm going to ask our technical team to take the lead with using the laptop and I am really sorry for this small delay. Can you do this? Running the quiz. There are some things that happen that are not exactly in our control.

So I do apologize for this.

So yeah, a little break. And once again my apologies.

So this is the time for you to again remember everything that was said per our colleague and start over again. So second chance for everyone. Yes. So once again please choose what you think that prevent the Government the most from achieving the Government transformation goals. So yeah. Thank you. We need a bit of a time to answer. And yeah, we have 46% answered

correctly. It's all the above. That's true. And we have seen a lot of those cases in different countries and, of course, some countries struggle with one other the other. But we agree who select all of the above. What are the challenges that we have -- thank you. The next one.

In case I wouldn't wish to have the exact results counted, I would have ran this one. But we are for the digital transformation for technologies. Should we give it a third try? Okay. So there is another idea. We'll come back later to this one. We will sort out of the technical issue that our guys are facing. So yeah. Sorry. We'll have a relaunch of this exercise.

>> SAMEER SHARMA: Thank you to Valentina Stadnic for her efforts and trying to keep you awake. We promise that we will come back. So thank you. Then with that, we conclude this session. We have set the scene and tone for Partner 2 Connect Round Table. There are five priorities that we have here in Europe and there are focus areas of Partner 2 Connect with the pledges that you are here. I look forward going smoothly to the next session. And with that thank you very much for your support and very active participation today. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> SAMEER SHARMA: And here is the coffee break for ten minutes. Please remember to come back and you can bring your coffee and save time. Thank you very much.

(Break).

>> ELIND SULMINA: Colleagues, may I kindly invite you to take the seats.

Sorry, colleagues we are running out of time. Time is unfortunately against us. Some colleagues have to be taking flights and other colleagues have to be in meetings. For the sake of time I believe we shall start. So thank you very much for joining this P2C round table. This is a P2C Round Table 2 and digital infrastructure development. The regional initiative 1 on ICT infrastructure development is a fundamental component of the regional initiative of the work of the development sector and for the IT office for Europe. We have received more than 30 contributions in the field of matching the original initiative 1. So for this I really thank all the participants, all the Member States for having submitted contributions. We have not only received contributions from the Member States but also from the privilege sector academia. I would like to invite our panelists to join here. We will start with Mr. Nicos Ioannou, electronic communications officer, Ministry of Research, innovation and digital policy at Cyprus.

Dr. Szabolcs Szentleleky, expert on international media and

info Communications Authority, Hungary. We kindly follow with Ms. Marinela Lazarevic, head of department for electronic communications and radio spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism. Ms. Handan Cantekinler. We now follow with Mr. Head of sector for monitoring infrastructure development at the agency for communication networks and services of the Republic of Slovenia. We will have Ms. -- international cooperation directorate for Bulgaria. Ms. Aleksandra Pecysz-Okonska head of international organizations unit, Department of Foreign Affairs office for the electronic communications of Poland. Mr. Georgian Grigore, for management and regulation and communications, ANCOM. And Ms. Kerstin Borglin, executive advisor in digital transformation, Swedish Program in Development Regions, SPIDER.

So colleagues, and also yes, we will also have the Ministry of Slovenia, thank you very much. So colleagues, here we have in front of us the onsite participants but we also have the rest of the online participants. Again this is the most, you know, the biggest Round Table that we have for this Forum. We have received more than 30 contributions in the field of ICT infrastructure. Most of you know me as, you know, the ICT infrastructure officer for the office. Some also know me for the innovation.

But the fact that we have here so many Distinguished Guests, and also the online, there will be the online interventions shows the importance of the component for our work. We are really going to have a dedicated time. So let's try to be concise. Myself included.

The idea is to really present your contributions. I will kindly start now with the first one, we have from the National Regulatory Authority of Alcos. Will present the work of Alcos, what they have done internally. So Nicos, over to you.

>> NICOS IOANNOU: Okay. So good morning, esteemed participants and colleagues. I'd like to express first the gratitude on behalf of the Republic of Slovenia to the National Authority of Romania for hosting this wonderful event. And thank you ITU for giving us the possibility to present the Sloveniaen experience. The agency of electronic communications, decided to public so-called Alcos geo portal. Since the primary aim which was in a way one of the aspects of single information point as you know it from broadband cost reductive directive, the geo portal has evolved in to a tool which provides access to information about physical infrastructure which is well beyond the starting minimum. It also helps to factually plan and cost effectively enable the deployment of high speed networks. Also helps to ensure the most effective use of already existing infrastructure. So it gives the possibility and encourages the

sharing of already existing infrastructures all in the ways of making costs lower. On the other hand, it is also a tool which is used for supporting regulatory and also policy decisions in the country.

As the use of geo portal is related to highest possible transparency in the country, about spatial infrastructure, information, such type of infrastructure information in Slovenia is open to all citizens. So citizens industries, stakeholders, so we also went for the same way of preparing the tool.

Thereby we have all the tool is an open source software. All the other free available softwares and tools is also in use. This way we are able to provide to everyone that is interested detailed information on fixed networks, mobile networks, which expands at this moment to the latest 5G development in the country, wide spots, investment planning, et cetera, et cetera.

So since we have short time I won't count all of it. But we can just say that we are proud that Alcos's geo portal is recognized and one of the best mapping tools in Europe, often presented in events as good practice around Europe.

And the agency itself has been involved in different training programs on the ITU umbrella, in this field specifically. We are talking about Slovenia and Bosnia Herzegovina. The agency is very, very happy to offer and share its experience in this field, in the future as well to all of you. So all information is at hand as we are. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We continue again with the first matchmaking group, and we move now with Albania. Dr. Irena Malolli, director of telecommunication and post strategy development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania. Thank you.

>> IRENA MALOLLI: Thank you. Thank you for giving the floor. And regarding the broadband mapping, we have submitted a contribution on behalf of our authority for geospatial data. I would like to share with the participants in this session that Albania has already transposed the broadband cost reduction directive. And we have in place since 2016, specific law for development of high speed networks of communication and the insurance of right-of-way.

And based on this law for broadband (Off microphone).

>> ELIND SULMINA: Dr. Irena Malolli, we cannot hear you.

>> IRENA MALOLLI: Sorry. Sorry. It's my mistake. Not open the microphone. Regarding the broadband mapping, Albania has a contribution on behalf of authority for geospatial information in Albania. And this authority which is in charge

to implement, inspire directive in Albania is also defined as single point of information for existing physical infrastructure under the law for broadband development, which has transposed the broadband cost reduction directive.

And this authority which has established geo portal national geo portal in Albania, expressed interest to cooperate with ITU and other European countries based on best practices and knowledge in order to make an assessment of these national spatial development infrastructure in Albania. Improve the regional dataset. And to raise capacities and also to establish the interoperability between international portal and broadband which is already established based on our authority. A colleague has already mentioned that we have cooperated with Slovenia and other experiences in the Europe countries. This is our contribution on the mapping. And more detailed information on written contribution.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We now move on with the next speaker, Ms. Adelina Ognianska, Bulgaria.

>> ADELINA OGNYANSKA: So I'm going to present two projects. Project is for upgrading the capacity of the -- its capacity. So the aim of the project is to establish as part of the measures to -- to reduce cost (no audio). Information available infrastructure, integration with various public authorities and integration with other sectors as transport, for example.

The aim is to facilitate it and simulate the deployment of high speed electronic communication networks by reducing costs through a set of harmonized measures to digitize processes and to provide the population with connectivity information. In this regard, the SIP will be upgraded with a new model that will provide information on the availability of broadband at the addresses level where possible.

A new data subsystem creating thematic broadband maps will be developed and implemented.

For currently the following organization -- the following have access to the -- so this SIP platform. Network operators, municipalities, competent authorities and other organizations. For the existing users of the volume of information to which they will have access in the system, we'll significantly increase information on the availability of broadband data subsystem creating thematic broadband maps integration of the system with other public platforms.

According to data from the national statistical institute of Bulgaria for 2021, potential users are 83.5% of household with Internet access and 73.9% persons regularly using the Internet. These targets group will have access to up-to-date information for broadband services which will allow them to have received

services at the lowest possible price. In addition, with the upgrade of the platform, users are expected to increase significantly with the establishment of the national point of access to information services for multimodal travel. The platform will give access to all Internet users in the country to access to information about transport services routes and territories. So the total estimated value of the project in Europe for the full planned implementation period is 2 million 550,000.

This is the first one. The second project is -- the second project is for improving the connectivity of peripheral sparsely populated and rural areas and deploying very high capacity networks. Bulgaria will invest in symmetric gigabit backbone network and creating conditions for connecting with networks at European level. The focus of the project is to improve coverage in the settlements with focus on peripheral sparsely populated in rural areas. Currently significant parts of Bulgaria are excluded from the possibility of connecting to high speed networks, which is an obstacle to the growth of the gigabit society in the country. Are trying to stimulate rural areas and to ensure access to very high capacity networks for all Bulgarians on the other. This digital divide further increases the risk of rural population in large parts of the country.

The implementation of the objectives in the project will improve the socioeconomic conditions of the country's regions. The use of the Internet will be significantly facilitated and encouraged for use by local enterprises to implement new business strategies and models as well as to develop new digital services.

I should mention that the planning and construction phase will be carried out in close cooperation with the private sector. Presenting the two projects, on behalf of Bulgaria, aims to share our experience but also to request the assistance of ITU and the Regional Office of Europe to facilitate the connection to other ITU Member States with similar projects for exchanging experience in the challenges in the implementation of such project as well as regarding results measurement of the effectiveness and specific indicators. Thank you.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We will now move with the online intervention from the National Regulatory Authority of Italy, Mr. Davide Gallino, head of unit, statistics and research directorate, Authority for Communications Guarantees AGCOM.

>> DAVIDE GALLINO: Yeah, I'm here. So I would like to briefly introduce you to the experience we have in Italy on mapping. And the experience is actually two-fold. The map managed by AGCOM, I can perhaps share the video. It's used

essentially for realtime analysis to the existing coverage to (Off microphone). And it is also used to vouchers to monitoring process by registered operators which can use the map to see if the vouchers requested an address with a the biggest technology available. To make an example, if I -- if I want to get a voucher for, my operator will check the map to see if the address in these -- in -- is actually possible. And the conditions require some study, then they can provide me with a voucher.

But the map has many other uses used by real estate agents. It is open to everyone. So you can check the -- here is the box here. And you can go down deep and find the exact technology. And capacity. The other map is not managed by AGCOM. It is managed by the Ministry of Current development. It is a map of networks financed by the public. So by going on the map, you can discover where the -- where the work is taking place. And it is were one of two maps referred by Article 22 of the electronic communication code. You can see on the map which kind of work is about to take place. The kind of technology. And the works. So this is more for operators who share a duty to connect and to make -- it is also a way of controlling how. Also this map is an available to the general public. And the registered operator had access to the precise communication of the existing laws, the technology, and it is used as a -- for operators connected to the Internet, developed by the large operators. Both maps are widely used. The Article map has regular updates. The latest update was provided today by the person responsible for the map.

And increasingly the (Off microphone), understand there are many, many different kind of (Off microphone). End users and people being in real estate, academics, who want to study or economists who want to study coverage and take under the various -- they are both an operational instrument. And -- a way to distribute public funds. And also upgrade to deepen the knowledge for fixed network and mobile network. And I think I have consumed all of the available time for me. If you have questions, please refer. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much Mr. Davide Gallino. We now move with the National Regulatory Authority of Poland, Ms. Aleksandra Peczzsz-Okonska together with online support and intervention of Mr. Michal Chojnowski.

>> ALEKSANDRA PECZSZ-OKONSKA: As you probably know Poland has made a huge step ahead. Since we started first in 2010, developing our infrastructure mapping tool. We have already over 13 years of experience in a constant perfecting of our infrastructure mapping tool.

We have also many years of experience in knowledge sharing about this tool, as probably many of you know, since last ten years we've been working on a multilateral basis and bilateral basis, where the institutions such as ITU in organizing conferences and webinars on infrastructure mapping, and we've been cooperating with BEREC and EPREC countries and organizations as well as European Commission within, for example, tech projects.

We've been also delivering our webinars and conferences, trainings and internships during the last five years despite the pandemics. And we've been also changing the ways of delivering the knowledge to the interested parties.

Because we've been not only working physically, but also online. We have produced some webinars which are available online. And only during the last five years we've been cooperating with Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine, Armenia, Montenegro, Serbia and Romania in the theme of infrastructure mapping.

So we're very much open and committed to further knowledge sharing in the subject which would mean that we would share institutional knowledge about inventory development and new functionalities that we are adding to the system.

Like, for example, this year we also added some new functions. And we would like -- we are able to provide expertise also on a mapping project through the webinars through the trainings and any other Forums. We can also provide the tailor made expertise, like Guidelines, roadmaps on the problems that the countries share with us.

We are also open for any other form of the cooperation that could be needed. And I'd like to pass the floor to my colleague who could maybe add a few sentences about technicalities of the system. He is an expert, office of electronic communication expert on UKE mapping tool.

>> MICHAL CHOJNOWSKI: Yes. Thank you. Hello, everyone. Thank you for having me today. I got some echo. Okay. Thank you. So as my colleague said, I'm an expert at UKE, the National Regulatory Authority in Poland. It was the broad mapping Guidelines that we elaborated in 2022.

And in that regard, we were sharing our knowledge and expertise in the project setup and technical requirements for broadband mapping.

We had identified key project areas, minimum technical project requirements to implement the broadband mapping system. As well as we have addressed the project management issues regarding commercial engine solutions, general success factors. As well as long-term sustainability.

The other project was addressing the broadband mapping system for Moldova. And in that scope, we were engaged in

legislative and operational and IT infrastructure.

We have addressed a specific requirements for systems interoperability in Moldova. We have dived deep in to their legislative and operational, let's say constraints.

We have estimated the budget that our colleagues have provided universal for budget estimation. And I know that ITU is successfully using and developing this concept and tool.

So it was a very fruitful cooperation. We have both extended our knowledge and expertise. And maybe to sum it up, I can share the visual idea just as our Italian colleagues did of our mapping system in Poland.

So very quickly, we can take a brief look at the Polish mapping system that's based on the single information point. As you can see we have very detailed information regarding each individual address.

And we have several layers regarding physical passive and active infrastructure. We are very much in to the subject of -- of broadcasting. And estimating the wireless, mobile networks and services availability.

So very briefly, this is -- that would be all from my side. You have myself presented and as well as UKE. And we look forward to providing our services. Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. So we now move with ANCOM, the National Regulatory Authority of Romania and Mr. Georgian Grigore, please. You have the floor. We have a particular session with our hosting country. We're going to kindly present a brief video. Sometimes videos and images are stronger than words. So..

>> GEORGIAN GRIGORE: Okay. Thank you. Good afternoon everyone. Even though two days would not be enough to talk about this platform, this platform which is called ISLM a project that makes us very proud. I think it is quite unique. I will briefly present this in to two minutes. To present to the end user and mobile operators a coverage map for each separator, for each technology, for every street or every locality above ten inhabitants.

You can select which operator do you want to see, to follow. Which technology. Also you have a possibility to watch the -- to see the development of the networks throughout the years. For example, for 3G you can see this is 2022. This is 2021. This is 2020. And this is 2019.

You can see for this one, for example, here is a difference. They stopped to use 3G services.

What is the idea behind this? This map is based on real measurements made through the real drive test by our colleagues and experts. And this is an in-house software made by one of

our colleagues. This tool is very useful for the end user but we got some very good feedback from the mobile operators which told us that they use it to use -- use it to develop the network in their white areas and so on.

Another feature of this map is that we have a subway map also for each operator. For each technology you can select. You can zoom. You can switch between the operators and so on.

What another feature would be that we have accumulated coverage for emergency services, for 112 services. And also we have an overview of the areas with roaming risk along the borders.

So as I told you there would be not enough time in today to talk about it in detail.

And I want to ensure if you have any questions, I'm available offline after this moment. And allow me to finish with this movie that reflects my work and my colleague's work. Thank you.

(Video with captions)

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. Thank you. We move with our last intervention for the broadband mapping, we have online with us, Mr. Henri Haxhiraj head of international subsidiaries atene KOM.

>> HENRI HAXHIRAJ: Can you hear me?

>> ELIND SULMINA: We can hear you. The floor is yours.

>> HENRI HAXHIRAJ: Thank you very much. So dear colleagues, thank you very much again for the possibility to make this intervention and contribute to this very important Forum. As a telecom we manage multiple broadband mapping systems based on open source. But now due to the limited time I would like to emphasize one aspect. And I believe it can bring more benefit to the public authorities and to citizens. Is to potential is unlocked with seamlessly integrates with other infrastructure systems. Official coordination between growth networks and other infrastructure networks, such as transportation energy and health care, is length for the overall development and progress of the community. With these networks they work in harmony they create a Foundation for sustainable growth and public services. Let us consider the transportation infrastructure, for example. The integration of broadband mapping is transportation networks allows for smart traffic network and logistics.

Furthermore, broadband mapping case also is supporting energy infrastructure. By accurately mapping broadband access in areas with renewable energy resources we can facilitate resources of energy grids. With energy networks enables realtime -- and it also promotes the adoption of clean and

sustainable energy solutions.

The other example in health care, so broadband mapping has the potential to revolutionize patient care by coordinating broadband networks with health care infrastructure. We can enable telemedicine, remote monitoring and digital health solutions. This integration allows patients in remote areas to connect with health care professionals, special consultation and so on.

The efficiency of broadband mapping, license duty to create synergy, by implementing and also other sectors. We can build smart communities and cities that are sustainable and interconnected and resilient. The truth is collaboration between stakeholders is crucial. But it's also important that Governments and communication companies, infrastructure developers and so on collaborate with each other.

Yes. So that was my contribution. Thank you very much. And yeah. If there are other questions, I'm here.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you. So colleagues, we come at the end of the first matchmaking. As you can see we have heard a series of contributions about the countries that foresee work in the field of broadband mapping and countries that have developed and have consolidated their experience in this field. And so at the ITU office for Europe, now what we foresee is to pursue discussion and see how we can best support each other and, you know, move from words in to action.

Again because of the sake of time I will need also to crunch on my interventions and I would like to move with the second group of matchmaking, the broadband development. So I would like now to give the floor again to Dr. Irena Malolli director of data communication and post strategy development for the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy of Albania. Dr. Irena Malolli, you have the floor. Thank you.

>> IRENA MALOLLI: Thank you. Thank you for giving me the floor to continue with the contribution we submitted under the first priority of European Development Program. In this contribution we have a proposal for organizing the regional conference on development of future digital infrastructure. Being aware for the importance of digital infrastructure development as a critical point for all economic sector in digital area towards the gigabit society and being aware that number of projects and duties are ongoing and further developing digital infrastructure in Europe countries and in western Balkan regions. We propose to host an ITU conference in spring next year, between March, April 2024 and the title is future digital infrastructure. This conference aims to bring together entities from different countries and stakeholders from the region.

Institutions and industry, to present their views of the development of future digital infrastructure and challenges and opportunities based on best practices. During the first session now we hear a lot of the projects and experiences from different countries in Europe.

And we have lots to learn from each other. The conference saw different topics linked with digital infrastructure developments, demands for their capacity networks based on fiber and advanced technologies, next generation regulatory aspects. And another topic to be covered during the conference will be the emerging telecommunications and ICTs and topics of exposure of electromagnetic fields originating from wireless system which will be useful to raise awareness for the topics and to see how to streamline the procedures for next generation networks.

We are based on success in organizing such events in previous years and other original activities in the topic.

Thank you.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you, Dr. Irena Malolli. We now move with Mr. Nicos Ioannou, electronic communications officer, Ministry of Research, innovation and digital policy, Cyprus.

>> NICOS IOANNOU: I will talk about Cyprus. Cyprus is making progress and rolling out very high capacity networks as our main operators are seeking to deploy, it was mainly fiber. But still lags behind. Strong political -- sorry. Strong political decisions and new updated Strategic Plans have been put in place. The new national broadband plan which was adopted in 2021 includes measures to expand in digital rural areas. The project aims to close the relevant investment gap in order to reach connectivity through a public tender addressed to telecom operators in areas of no interest.

The implementation of the project will follow a private DPO, designed built operate gap funding model. Contractor will undertake the design construction and operation of the network as well as part of the financing and the public sector will cover the funding gap with a grant which will be approximately 35 million Euros. Was divided in to three lots. For each lot, the maximum amount of public financial contribution will be set and our criteria will include the requested public support as well as the price to the end users and other retail operators as a wholesale price. For the uptake, high speed -- the uptake of the high speed broadband continues to face significant challenge such as a lack of demand of operators. Pricing issues should be resolved. Especially in very high speed connections. In that direction are, a voucher scheme has been put in place in order to subsidize part of the setup cost and cost of 12 months of subscription to the legible services. The total amount of this

project is 10 million Euros. And both projects are funded by the recovery and resilience fund. So I suppose my time is over. So in line with, with the programs these programs Cyprus looks forward to cooperate closely with the ITU to share experience and best practices to ITU community in the Europe region as well as benefit from ITU's cooperation and assistance. Technical assistance for Cyprus is very important. We are a small country with no resources. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We have the online contribution from Ms. Gulnaz Bokuchava, chief specialist of electronic communications and information technologies development division of Ministry of Economy and sustainable development of the Republic of Georgia. The floor is yours.

>> GULNAZ BOKUCHAVA: Thank you. Good afternoon. It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to attend the meeting of development Forum for Europe. We express our interest with regard to broadband infrastructure development. I want to congratulate you on yesterday's very interesting and successful sessions and we share fruitful discussions today as well. I will try to briefly introduce the vision of Georgia regarding the broadband infrastructure development.

You know that bridging the digital divide is one of the main challenges worldwide and for Georgia as well. The Government of Georgia has undertaken lots of measures. For the time being 100% population of Georgia is covered by the 4G signal. Subscribers per hundred households composed almost 19%. The density of mobile Internet subscribers per hundred is composed more than 100% and mobile subscribers around more than 5 millions.

Development of broadband infrastructure and developing project project which is implementation project of the national broadband development strategy of Georgia and implementation plan for 2022-2025. The state program was launched which facilitates the increased coverage of high speed coverage. Whereas at population is greater than 200 and operators do not plan to build broadband infrastructure in the next three years. Project should be completed by the end of 2025, around 5,000 kilometers will be constructed. And after the 1,000 villages will be covered by the broadband middle man infrastructure. And with the household will have the possibility to access at least 100 megabit per second. At least one gigabit per second. The Government of Georgia continues to support the deployment of community networks in less than populated areas. The Internet Society, in mountainous and remote regions of Georgia that the network project had successfully completed in 2017 and 2019. Georgia does its best to align with legal framework to the

European framework and to this regard the ministry drafted a law of Georgia sharing its infrastructure used for telecommunication infrastructure and telecommunication purposes. The draft law considers measures such as sharing and reuse of telecom grading which are expected to create conditions for more cost efficient network deployment. Broadband development in deep.

While we are talking about broadband development, one of the important issues for Georgia is creation of digital hub. We have the potential to take advantage of geographic location and regional digital hub which will help to address challenges of limited international data connectivity and development of regional ICT capabilities. By sharing a border with, Georgia is well positioned to participate more actively in the markets by creating opportunities to develop data connectivity portals in the short term between Europe and the Middle East and South Asia as well as in the medium to long term. Creation of the digital hub in Georgia and development of the submarine connectivity, Georgia is someone of the strategic priorities for Georgia which is identified under the national broadband development strategy and Government program towards building a European state. Development of the digital connectivity defined by the U.S. -- is defined by U.S. as one of the flagship initiatives. Georgia has constructed legal frameworks, industrial zones affordable (inaudible), et cetera.

Along with well developed broadband infrastructure makes Georgia a location for operating data centers. The ministry in Georgia has been actively working with donor organizations, partner countries and investments for years. In this regard it should be noted that ministry in collaboration with the Georgia national communications commission in the World Bank Group organized an international geo connectivity Summit, Georgia 2022. In cooperation with the World Bank and the AP operation of the advisory services is in progress.

Considering the fact that the -- is critical infrastructure for the Government of Georgia is very important to support the creation of open secure and trusted networks. The government of Georgia intends to enhance cooperation in partnership relations in European and Asian countries in this direction which will be bring social benefits to all remote countries and implement priorities defined by the ITU. Last but not least, Georgia appreciates invitation to participate in Regional Development Forum for Europe to discuss broadband development and creation of digital hub, et cetera. Also in collaboration with ITU, to promote meaningful connectivity in the advanced digital development with the European region. Thank you once again for this opportunity. And we wish you a very fruitful rest of the day. Thank you.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. Colleagues, for the sake of time I will kindly remind you to be concise. We now move with Hungary, Dr. Szabolcs Szentleleky. Please you have the floor.

>> SZABOLCS SZENTLELEKY: Thank you. Thank you for the invitation and thanks for the hospitality of Romanian colleagues. I will be brief, I promise. The national media Communications Authority, launched a two tier program in 2021 to speed up the 3G phase out to safeguard interest and to boost mobile interest by exchanging the old 2G or 3G phones to 4G or 5G ones. Project has just ended on the 21st of March we are still collecting and synthesizing the data. But I have some to share with you. The program consisted a communication campaign, including educational website and exchange program to active of 2G, 3G phone to 4 or 5G handset. In cooperation with the electronic stores. Guarantee the recyclement of the old phones in an environmentally friendly way. The program was most popular among the elderly population. And the least developed populations. The number of 2G handsets were dropped by more than 20% by the end of the program.

While we are preparing the program we had to examine the pros and cons by executing such an action. A part of the evidence positive outcomes also some negative ones.

For example, losing customers for the first operators switching of 3G and the risk of complaints. And also we shouldn't forget about the competition low aspects as well. And to make our lives even more complicated, some of the cash registers in the shops were using 3G directly connected to the national text and customs administration.

The image age is ready to share its experiences. Should you have any further questions, I'm at your disposal, thanks.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We now move with Ms. Marinela Lazarevic, head of department for electronic communications and radio spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro.

>> MARINELA LAZAREVIC: Thank you. It is my pleasure to greet you again. I will present for contribution in this sessions. And I will have to shorten it.

The Ministry of Economy in 2020 started to work on the implementation of the development of infrastructure for broadband Internet access in Montenegro projects. This is -- which is on the single list of priority infrastructure projects of the Government of Montenegro in the digital infrastructure sector. The project forces the finishing of the type of infrastructure that will be built in areas where there is no commercial interest for investment by market participants

as well as a feasibility study and cost effectiveness analysis in certain zones. The general goal of this project is to strengthen the economic and social development of Montenegro through the installation of fixed broadband infrastructure. The first phase of the preparation of the national broadband plan for Montenegro has been completed in February 2022, with the technical assistance obtained through the western Balkans framework. It including the existing development study, cost benefit analysis and market model, preparation of the necessary tender documentation as well as the environmental and social action plan for Montenegro broadband infrastructure development.

During 2023, the preparation of the national plan for the development of networks for broadband Internet access is planned. Next project, capacity building for Internet Protocol V6 transition in competence of the University of Montenegro system of information system. Technical assistance program for Montenegro in raising awareness, providing strategic overview and building capacity at the national level with regards to the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 is held within the framework of the ITU regional initiative for Europe on broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management aimed at facilitating high speed connectivity with resilient and synergic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing.

IPv6 was established in March 2023 which is an important milestone for Montenegro in its efforts to enact the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

Also the university of Montenegro has accepted to take over the ownership of the equipment that was provided by ITU.

Next contribution is regional initiative on enhancing digital audio broadcasting, implementation and development. In the competence of agency for electronic communications and Postal Services of Montenegro, use of ICT technologies and services has a major impact to the sustainable development of the society, radio plays an important social, cultural and Democratic role across Europe. The digitalization of radio addresses the needs of listeners and provide an economic boost for EU industry in countries advanced in this process.

Digital audio broadcasting is the most widespread terrestrial broadcast digital radio standard offering broadcasters to enhance their radio offerings in order to meet high quality expectations of listeners for cable and fixed signal reception in the very high frequency, frequency bands while reducing in consumptions. Regional initiative on enhancing digital audio, will directly speed up the digitalization of the audio broadcasting services in the region. And we will trace the part for a wide deployment of ICT broadband services.

And finally, contributions from the agency for electronic communications and postal services in Montenegro. The ITU regional regulatory Forum for Europe jointly organized by International Telecommunication Union is an annual regional meeting held each year on an annual basis. More than 150 stakeholders from all over the Europe are join this meeting. The Forum provides the opportunity for high level dialogue between stakeholders on strategies and policies directed towards broadband development in the region. While discussing the challenges and opportunities offered by resilient high speed networks coupled with regulatory actions that are flexible and collaborative. I have to shorten it. And on this occasion, regarding the organization of ITU regional regulatory Forum for Europe on this occasion, I invite you and interested parties to participate in the 2023 edition of the Forum from 28 to 29 of this year in Montenegro. Thank you very much.

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you. We are now moving to Ms. Handan Cantekinler, chief ICT expert Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Türkiye. The floor is yours.

>> HANDAN CANTEKINLER: Thank you very much colleagues, on behalf of the administration of Türkiye I would like to take the opportunity to thank ITU and, of course, ANCOM our host for organization of this very successful RDF. I will briefly share the studies of Türkiye on broadband development in the framework of universal service mechanism.

As you know Türkiye is a large country in terms of geographical area and also population. The universal service mechanism in Türkiye envisages that communication services are provided by the universal service provider at regions where operators does not invest due to geographical difficulties or financial reasons. Infrastructure investment is very important. In terms of ensuring and expanding affordable access to ICTs, especially in the rural areas. Universal service fund was utilized. Phase 1 and phase 2 projects were launched by the Ministry of Transport and infrastructure in 2011 and 2017.

With this projects mobile broadband Internet services were provided to 2500 settlements that were not served by any operator before. In 2021, the universal service law was amended and the regulatory authority, BTK was allowed to provide universal service projects along with Ministry. To approximately 1,000 more settlements. With the scope of the phase 3, 136 satellite upgrade sites, 325 mobile trainer sites and 625 fixed sites have been set up for mobile broadband services. All installation, maintenance, repair and operating costers of the networks are paid to the universal service provider from the Universal Service Fund which is generated by

the universal service revenues and managed by the Ministry of Transport and infrastructure. Payments for the projects are made periodically and after the sites are established according to the net cost calculation.

The earthquake disaster that struck Türkiye on February 6 this year, affected mobile communications in the region due to the physical collapse of the buildings and heavy damage of some of the base stations on the buildings. Follow the earthquake, 36 portable base stations have been deployed in the container for emergency communications.

Now as the services are being established by the operators in the zone, it is planned to move these stations to other areas where they are needed. Once again thank you very much and we look forward to cooperation with the ITU and with all of you. Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. Colleagues we come to the end of the second matchmaking group. Here we've discussed about the broadband development. We have seen the series of contributions of broadband development is becoming an opportunity where there is actual successful stories of activities in Hungary or other countries. We have on the other side we have -- we see and witness that there are still challenges and this is a similar thing that's -- that we have witnessed with the broadband mapping. There are some countries that are showing the great skills and the potential and they are continuing implementing and advancing with the new layer. This is the case, for example, of ANCOM. And so we see mapping and deploying. But there is one other component that we have to take in to account and this is the human capacity development. We are able as administrations, Governments, sector members that we are trained to continue and advance digital infrastructure development.

So for this I would like now to kindly give the floor to the representative of the component on the human capacity development. So I would like to kindly ask if Mr. Meliha Kovacevic, head of telecommunication licensing department, Communications Regulatory Agency, CRA.

>> MELIHA KOVACEVIC: It is good to see you all. It is good to see you all on site and online as well. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. On behalf of Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia Herzegovina, we would like to thank to ITU and kindly host to organize this conference. So we appreciate very much the opportunity to exchange views and discuss plans on future work in this manner. We have to apologize for not being on site, joining you all in the city of Timisoara. So I have no doubt that you are enjoying yourself

here.

We have been invited today to present our planned joint activities with ITU aiming at adoption on G5, fifth generation regulations. Communications Regulatory Agency pledges to develop a regulatory framework that provides incentives and communities to promote competition and to ensure affordable access to all.

Furthermore, following global trends, agency monitors the development of Digital Economy with the aim of addressing new regulatory challenges stemming from digital technologies. We recognize the importance of digital technologies and would take to take a practice test so that it is an industry can benefit from the digital transformation.

So Bosnia Herzegovina, specifically we have recognized that mastering fundamentals of fifth generation as an ITU concept of continual technological development appear to be indispensable. Include digital transformation and development, coherent and cross-sector policy and regulation have become imperative. In order to get insight in to collaborative regulation policies, and practices, our agency has applied for ITU assistance proposing an organization of digital regulation training programs.

So aim of the project is to enable transfer of knowledge on G5 regulation. So that would empower us to adopt successive concept, evolving from -- collaborative regulation. So to conclude, training programs are expected to enable CRA to understand evolution of regulation. And to adopt necessary steps to enable a successful transition to G5 regulation. So there -- I would like to mention, we recently received significant support from ITU on establishing framework of broadband mapping. I would like to present special greetings to our colleagues from Alcos that were involved. And really looking forward to cooperate with ITU in this manner. That's it.

(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you very much. We now move to Ms. Kerstin Borclin, executive advisor in digital transformation, Swedish Program in Development Regions, SPIDER.

>> KERSTIN BORGLIN: Thank you. I guess I will be on time here. I guess I'm also the last one. I represent SPIDER which means the Swedish program for ICT in Development regions. We are part of Stockholm University. And we work with a program together with the Swedish regulatory authority, PTS. The aim for the program is to support the regulators in Sub-Saharan Africa. And we have been doing this for around seven years now. Approximately 300 students have passed our program.

We also work with other Swedish organizations or companies

such as Ericsson and the Swedish operator Talia. The training is not a traditional training. Training has a different method which means that all participants bring one project or they -- I would rather say that each country taking part will bring one project. And that project must be a strategical importance for the organization, for the national regulator authority for that country.

I can give some examples of programs or projects that they brought that like network sharing, rural coverage and so on. They're supposed to work for ten months with the project. There will be two weeks in Sweden to have support from experts from PTS Swedish regulator or other experts. And they will also get training in project management by myself actually. And also some ideas around how inclusivity is a part of the regulator's work. And we will actually learn more about that later on today.

And then they keep on working and they have support from experts both locally and in Sweden. I would say that the focus is to get results and implementation of the actual projects. And it has been so far pretty successful. And I'm really happy to say that EU INTPA they have agreed to finance us for five more years.

And that will give us the opportunity to cover 40 countries. We will be working together, partnering with ILR, the regulator of Luxembourg. And that will make it possible for us also to cover the Francophone countries in Africa which has been a little bit of an issue before. So if you have any further questions, I will be here.

And you can find us on our website. Thank you very much.
(Applause.)

>> ELIND SULMINA: Thank you, colleagues. We come at the end of this segment on the ICT infrastructure and the different clusters that we have identified. The ITU office for Europe will follow up in a positive manner on all of the contributions that have been made to really put this work and activities on the ground and see how we can advance and achieve the objectives or tackle the challenges that have been presented so far.

We now move with the second part of the session on the ICT infrastructure, the interventions related to ITU Council Resolution 1408. So I would like to ask the panelists to take their seat and I hand it over to Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, head of ITU office for Europe. Thank you very much.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you very much. One more time congratulations to all those who have made the submissions to this cluster of focusing on the infrastructure. In this exercise we have received several

contributions related to the Ukraine.

As you know, the ITU Council in 2022 resolved to have a special set of the actions to be carried out by the ITU from, from Sweden -- so please join us on the stage. Before we are starting the session, please let me also update you that within the framework of this Resolution, we're working hand in hand with our colleagues from the Ukraine on different type of activities. In December we have released the reports interim report assessing the level of the damages which led also to the other activities, currently we're focusing on the broadcasting stations, developing the concrete bankable set of the projects for this infrastructure. And to be reconstructed and revealed as well as currently we're also in the discussion on the actions related to the development of enabling environment for the state aid related projects.

Of course, in the meantime, we're encouraging all countries to make the pledges but also to make the financial contributions. I would like to take this opportunity to thank to the Government of Japan for allocating special funds to scale up, that allows us to scale up some activities. We are recruiting one person to be fully dedicated to Ukraine. This is only one part of the actions. And the more updates will be coming shortly. We invite you to refer to our website dedicated to those actions.

Not to prolong I would like to welcome all our colleagues from different countries on the stage. We would start this session with a message from the Chairman of the state service of the Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine. And I would like to invite colleagues to connect.

>> YURII SHCHYHOL: Good afternoon. It is an honor for me to speak at the ITU regional development for Europe. The first line of the institution of the international telecommunication unit recognizes the importance of the telecommunication for the preservation of peace and the economic and social development of all the Member States. Ukraine is an independent and sovereign Ukraine state. Russia is trying to occupy through a brutal invasion, using means of information and cyber warfare in a digital Convention weapons. Every day the Russian Federation launches multiple missiles and bomb strikes and attacks on civil infrastructure. They have destroyed. A quarter of all online networks amounting to millions of dollars. Nonetheless Ukrainian telecom withstood. We are online and in touch with our loved ones. Target for Russian attacks since the very first day of the full scale war. 27 structures have been attacked using missiles among other things.

The estimate incurred by -- every day digital communication operators, extremely challenging conditions. Meanwhile there

are a billion, within one year since the beginning of the full scale invasion, the operators have prepared over 3200 kilometers of fiber optic cables. Constructed over 2700 base stations. Information and communication infrastructure is also subject to cyber attacks in addition to physical attacks.

The Computer Emergency Response Team has studied 100 cyber attacks. We are in need of your continued support and assistance in the communication of network infrastructure. So that Ukraine stay in touch and online. We are grateful for the support offered to Ukraine by ITU. Recovery of Ukraine infrastructure contributes to the social and economic development of each Member State in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time we invite our partners to intensify the support of Ukraine, especially through the emergency fund created presented to the ITU solution 1408 in support to Ukraine for aid and communication sector. It is an important instrument for recovery of Ukrainian telecommunications. We are interested in making the process of supporting Ukraine more transparent. So we ask the Member States to participate and partner assistance funds. It is your support that keeps us strong.

I thank everyone who helped our country. Glory to Ukraine.
(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much Chairman for providing us the update. Reiterating the call for supporting the activities related to the Resolution.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me hand over and connect now to the Vice-Minister of transport and communications, ready to provide a message. So over to Julius.

>> JULIUS SKACKAUSKAS: Director, Ladies and Gentlemen, to begin with us I would like to sincerely thank the ITU for its initiative to support Ukraine. The country which for more than a year has been fighting for its own our freedom and our values and our security. Furthermore, I welcome the Regional Development Forum which creates a platform for various support and targeted help to the countries and areas which it is necessary to foster connectivity and digital transformation with the help of ICT. After the beginning of Russia's full scale military invasion of Ukraine, the Government and television center provided Ukraine with vital technical assistance. Located in the territory of Republic of Uvaa. They provided the support has a significant impact on dissemination of truthful information about the events in Ukraine to all Ukrainians, regardless of location and access to Internet or television. Radio remains the only reliable and timely information source for citizens under occupation, where Russia propaganda and disinformation are actively spread.

To ensure extend retransmission. We welcome the invitation of ITU to support Ukraine. And look forward to hearing from the community from other series of contributions supporting the country. We continue ready to continue cooperation with ITU. Thank you for your attention.

(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much, for this statement Excellency and we thank also for all your support to those activities including those who are mentioned and also supporting by the regulator. And this brings me to the intervention of our colleague, Inga. Over to you.

>> INGA RIMKEVICIENE: We contributed to implementation of Resolution 1408 participating in the interim assessment report preparation. And for this RDF we are also making a contribution, reiterating our dedication to look further under the umbrella of Partner 2 Connect and also looks at the needs expressed by our Ukrainian partners and also looking for the decisions made in the ITU Council.

So for this Communications Regulatory Authority of Lithuania is ready upon the request of our partners to provide the in-kind contribution that is to dedicate the resources of our RT experts for the implementation of concrete tasks in the partnership with the ITU in the scope of connect to recover or in other best ways possible. That term of our participation is 2023 or 2024 or as much as it is needed. So thank you very much.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much, Inga for that and thank you very much for the RTR dedication. It is definitely -- it is a source of the inspiration for many countries. And this brings me to the next speaker, chief expert of the International Telecommunication Policy at the Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Republic of Poland.

>> RAFAL BARTOSZEWSKI: Thank you. Good morning. First of all thank you for opening an important track on ITU counselor 1408. I'm very pleased that we have a chance to discuss. We appreciate Resolution 1408 was adopted in March of 2022, the first month of the invasion of Ukraine. So for the last 453 days Poland has been running many simultaneous projects to support Ukraine. In this context telecommunication -- in the context of telecommunication infrastructure we have managed to donate to ew crane, data centers and 20,000 starting satellite units. For the service expenses covered that are currently deployed in Ukraine and operational, taking this opportunity and pleased to reconfirm the Ministry of Digital Affairs to Poland to the process. As we recognize the additional action is required.

As Poland has very recently conducted redistribution of public aid for rollout of telecom development projects and we

are looking at scaling up the process with additional 2 billion Euros, by 2027, we recognize that it takes the public sector to development necessary tools at national level to effective use of financial support, provided by international community. For Ministry of Digital Affairs would be pleased to share experience and know how in the area of granting public aid within the scope of the ITU and Resolution on rebuilding Ukrainian telecommunications sector.

On the other hand, we recognize that the changing nature of digital affairs does determine the necessity for public sector to adapt. We recognize that many European states to different approaches that comes with advantage and disadvantages. As the very goal of the ITU is to promote common standardization we wish to share and learn from other Member States to automate to establish automate in most initiate model.

Summarizing Ministry of Digital Affairs is willing to provide all support to initiative bringing closer the experts on capacity building in public sector that are relevant to digital affairs. As for the year 2023 we encourage Europe establishing a remote Forum for Europe. We convinced that all European states will support them to face challenges that are to be addressed in national initiatives and rollouts. Thank you for your attention. I'm looking forward to other colleagues' responses.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much to Poland. Thank you very much for all offering and support to those activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, now let's move to Spain. I hope that Blanca Gonzalez head of the cabinet of the Secretary of State of telecommunication digital infrastructure is already with us. I see her on the screen. So welcome back to this session. And over to you for your contribution.

>> BLANCA GONZALEZ: Yes. Chair, Excellencies, dear colleagues, good morning, again. I'm pleased to intervene in this session to present an update of the pledge presented by Spain last year at the world telecommunications development conference, it is pledge No. 35 -- sorry. 358.

And it's called EU for digital UA. It is part of the EU support to Ukraine and focused on digital Government infrastructure, public services, cybersecurity, and data protection.

It amounts to 20.5 million Euros and it is financed by the European Union.

The project was launched in October 2020. And due to the invasion, the project had to adapt to the current situation. And therefore, first, new applications have been developed to enable displaced citizens to access public services.

Furthermore, civil telecommunications equipment has been provided to replace the one destroyed by Russian attacks. And there has also been a reinforcement of the public administration cybersecurity skills. However, other goals of the project remain as originally foreseen. Such a support to the creation of an independent public body for data protection. Also the pilot project on an IT course to all levels of primary and secondary education, has already been launched.

And I personally was invited to participate in one of the sessions that were held last month in Madrid. And was able to see the excellent digital capabilities of our Ukrainian Delegates and colleagues. And that has enabled success stories such as IDEA that has been highlighted also by previous speakers.

Thank you very much.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. Thanks a lot to Blanca Gonzalez who was intervening from Spain. Now let's move to the north. We have with us Karolina Solsnaes. Please correct me. Legal advisor at Swedish Post and Telecom Authority of Sweden. Great, thank you very much for being with us. Over to you for your intervention.

>> KAROLINA SOLSNAES: Hello. First of all I would like to take the opportunity to make a thanks to you, Jaroslaw and also to ANCOM for this. And the possibility to make an intervention related to ITU Council Resolution 1408.

Sweden support to Ukraine and Eastern neighborhood is important part of Swedish development assistance. We assist Ukraine with military, economic humanitarian and civilian crisis management support and we support recovery, reconstruction and reform.

Sweden is also bilaterally supporting the project urgently improve the robustness of Ukraine's Internet access, resist cyber attacks and resist attack. Sweden will continue to do for as long as needed. ATS is an international authority engaged in global interaction. Global spectrum issues but also in areas such as Internet Governance and cybersecurity. We have been active in ITU and Sweden now this year represented in the ITU Council. Capacity building like the work PTS is doing in Sub-Saharan African region is, of course, a possibility to assist Developing Countries with technical expertise but at the same time give it an opportunity to strengthen Democratic values.

On that note, we shall share the concern we all share the concern of the war in Ukraine. Standing up to the Russian federation's aggression is important for the preservation of our Democratic values. We need to do our utmost to support Ukraine. PTS has been involved in interaction with our counterpart with

Ukraine for the last ten years. Starting with EU twinning and a strong engagement bilateral but also under the Eastern partnership, regulators networks. When Ukraine -- where Ukraine has played an important role, we stand ready to continue to support Ukraine in their journey towards EU membership.

And on a more practical level in the current situation, we have tried to support Ukraine and we have been active in international fora to limit the influence of Russia and to protect Democratic values. We supported Ukraine with telecom equipment and we are in discussions of how to extend the support even further. Thank you.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you. Thank you for the commitment to supporting these activities related to the council Resolution 1408. Now let's move to UK. We have head international Internet policy division out of OFCOM. The floor is yours.

>> OLI BIRD: Thank you. And good day everyone. The UK condemn the Russian' government. And is united with other international partners in support of Ukraine. The UK is providing a range of economic, humanitarian and defensive military assistance to Ukraine. In the context of Partner 2 Connect the UK committed to supporting Ukraine's recovery. I just want to mention four specific areas where we have provided support in areas of telecoms and ICTs. In November last year the UK announced the Ukraine's cyber program, a 6.35 million pound support package to protect Ukraine's critical national infrastructure and vital public services to cyber attacks. We have provided incident support to Government of Ukraine entities protecting them from destructive cyber attacks. With limited attacker access to vital networks to harden their critical infrastructure against future attacks. And we have delivered front line cybersecurity hardware and software, including firewalls to prevent attacks taking place and DDOS protection and forensic capabilities.

Secondly, the UK has recently signed a digital trade deal with Ukraine that will support the country's economy and enhance our trade investment relationship. This includes extending tariff free trade to early 2024 and giving guarantee access.

Ukraine businesses will be able to trade through the UK with electronic transactions and e-signatures. OFCOM has directly supported the Ukrainian regulator with bilateral discussions on a range of topics.

Alongside this work, the UK is cohosting the Ukraine recovery conference in London next month. Tech is a priority theme for this conference. And we will explore opportunities to realize the potential of Ukraine's strong tech sector to strengthen post war recovery and boost growth. We have

continued to expand including grant funding for partnerships, to develop research and innovation.

These four pillars of action speak to the need for a response that supports the resilience and sustainability of Ukraine's digital infrastructure. And economy.

In addition to rebuilding the digital infrastructure that has been damaged or destroyed in the course of Russian invasion or concerted efforts should support against further attacks and provide catalyzing conditions for Ukraine's Digital Economy to play a critical role in its recovery.

In these ways the UK remains a Partner 2 Connect for Ukraine and invites other countries to take aligned actions to support Ukraine's recovery in line with Resolution 1408. Thank you.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much. Thank you very much and now let's move to the south of the Europe. We have contribution from Slovenia, over to you.

>> KSENJA PODPECAN: Thank you. Supported Ukraine's needs for assistance in ICT equipment. Slovenia is one of the coordinating countries of donation of 5,000 Starlink kits. In the beginning of March of 2022, we received a list of ICT equipment that Ukraine needed and has sent demand to ICT suppliers. It is procured by the Ministry of Defense which also organized the delivery to the Romanian Ukrainian border. ICT equipment supplied included IP phones, computer equipment, generators and containers and UDP cables. The Republic of Slovenia is ready to provide further assistance to Ukraine in the exchange of good practices and experience in the field of digital transformation. At this stage, ICT equipment is for seen to be supplied to Ukraine. But not -- but on the 6th of -- 16th of May 2023, a visit of Ukrainian representatives took place on the topic of effective provision and digital services. And now between 22nd and 23rd of May 2023 representatives of Ukraine in the field of data economy are visiting Slovenia.

Thank you very much.

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: This brings us to the end of this session. I would like to thank all Governments for engaging in the implementation of the Resolution 1408. We are standing committed also as the Secretariat said to address all results of the Resolutions, we will be reporting on those activities to the Council. In the meantime we have also joined the World Bank United Nations and the European Union in the regular reporting on the management assessment which is regularly updated since we are providing the hands to have the newest releases, the last one released in March which also incorporated our input. We

invite you also to take a look at those reports. While working on the different parts of the infrastructure supporting the development of the hands on approach towards supporting the rollout of the infrastructure. Just closing, also to mention we are continuing activities related to the resilience in the country through the different operations related to the digitalization of the country. As we heard already in the previous session through the activities of the GovStack we are also helping the country, but also further expansion of excellence, offering this excellence to the others.

So one more time thank you very much to all our country representatives for their commitment and for being with us. Thank you to the also the Chairman for dedicating the time to be with us. Update us on what is happening in the country. And we are looking forward to the fruitful collaboration. Last round of applause for our guests and the countries.

(Applause.)

>> JAROSLAW PONDER: Since I hope that it was also a source of inspiration for many of the countries to follow your path. So thank you very much. And with that I would like to invite you to take the seats in the public. And Ladies and Gentlemen, this brings us to the end of the morning session. It was a lot of activities presented. It was a lot of activities presented during the morning session. But also we had the -- a lot of expectations from you to participate in the activity related to the GovStack which I mentioned. And this brings me to the point that I will invite Valentina to join us and to conduct the activity related to the GovStack. The floor is yours.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: We will do the activity. I invite everyone to finish with the one session that we still have. I kindly invite all the speakers of the connect on the digital transformation for resilience to join the floor.

Thank you for joining you today. We have a lot of speakers on the ground. We have a lot of speakers joining us. We are going to try to stick to the timing that was announced by Jaroslaw. So yeah. Speaking about digital transformation for resilience, we do have a lot of -- received a lot of submissions and contributions on the actions and needs of the Member States to streamline the efforts on this area. And today we will hear a lot from our speakers in the sense. We do look at the actions and needs, including the public sector transformation as well as on the ensuring of resilience of the -- and responding on and critical situations.

So we have received 23 submissions on this matter. And we decided to cluster them in three groups. So we have digitalization emergency response and enabling environment. And

taking in to account the 12 submissions were on the digitalization I would like to start with this one. And yeah, I would like to first offer the floor to the Government of Montenegro.

>> MARINELA LAZAREVIC: I will present the smart specialization strategy of Montenegro, 2019 to 2024. In the field of innovation policy and technological we have opted for an innovative approach for Strategic Planning that enables dedication. In which there is a strong concentration of research and innovation capacity and a great economic potential. This European Union recite of strategic planning is better known as smart specialization. And brings together public administration, academia, businesses and Civil Society on the task of the implementation of a long term economic growth strategy based on knowledge and innovation.

Strategy identifies four key priority areas, sustainable agriculture and food value chain and energy and sustainable environment. Sustainable and health tourism and information and communications -- communication technologies as horizontal priority in the function of the development of the previous three vertical priorities.

Vision of the strategy for information and communication technologies digital Montenegro, in all branches of the economy and developed in awareness which enables a dynamic and proactive approach to new and innovative technologies.

Objective of the sector is improving the competitiveness of the ICT sector through innovative activities. Strategies identifies several focus areas as a great potential such as new generation communication technologies, Internet of Things, virtual reality, altered reality, ERP systems, e-business financial technologies, GIZ, et cetera, blockchain technologies and Crypto currencies. Big Data, cloud services. Video games. Security of information systems, smart technologies, green ICT, machine learning, and Artificial Intelligence, telecommunications and software engineer are recognized as a strong focus area.

Montenegro welcomes strengthening the collaboration with ITU on aforementioned area. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. Moving from this cross-cutting approach towards the digitalization, I would like to invite Mr. Rafal Bartoszewski, chief expert in international telecommunication policy unit Ministry of Digital Affairs of the the Republic of Poland to take the floor. Thank you.

>> RAFAL BARTOSZEWSKI: Yes. Thank you. And dear colleagues, this time I'm going to be much more brief. After experiencing firsthand the discussion on digital issues at ITU

world Summit, to place human centric approach in the heart of all aspects of digital development. Republic of Poland propose a special initiative often human centric approach in digital transformation. Our initiative entitles a series of workshops and webinars that would involve interested countries and identify particular examples on human centric digital transformation across Europe, exploring the best practices and emerging trends in the field. Being the action under the ITU regional initiative for Europe the initiative 6, engagement of all European countries while remaining open to other stakeholders beyond Europe we are very grateful to ITU from an opportunity to introduce this proposal. Would you like to --

>> Yeah. Just very briefly if you allow just two or three sentences because Techitory being the coproducer. During the last Plenipotentiary Conference stood behind the joint policy statement on human centric approach. We are glad that it turns in to particular projects now. And there will be really great and everyone is invited to be on board and to participate in these projects. So thank you very much.

(Applause.)

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. So I would like to continue and give the floor to Dragan Mladenovic, and Ms. Ana Nedeljkovic, program manager UNOPS Serbia.

>> DRAGAN MLADENOVIC: Okay. You can hear me. So as many so of you may remember, I'm on behalf of the UNOPS multi-country office headquartered in Serbia. We are not a Government agency. We are not in a position to make policies and stuff like that. But we are in a position to implement those policies by -- with our expertise, especially working at local level. But let me be very short and very brief actually with what I am trying to point out, resilience, we at UN office in working with local governments in the area, in the region, in Serbia in Montenegro, we working with the citizens of local level and with local governance. Resilience is linked to Government issues. The principles of good governance are implemented. We can go back to the country level governance but the things that we are talking about here all these two days about technology and rapidly developing interconnectiveness, it is all fine and dandy, but when it comes to actually making all these approachable to regular citizens, then we see that there is a gap in governance in ordering these areas that are emerging. For example, AI, Artificial Intelligence, by vast majority of those who are wondering this new phenomenon is not governed. It is not regulated. It is a field that yet to be approached.

So we were recently -- I mean our office in Montenegro was recently approached by the line ministry of the Government of

Montenegro whether we can support them in addressing e-governance issues at the local level. My voice is more like an solo considering a chorus here. I'm putting this, you know, very down to earth actually. The needs of citizens to use all these technologies that are made available by the Government entities, by the international organizations and stuff is actually out of question, if not properly regulated at local level where they are actually approaching all these possibilities. Thanks.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you. Thank you so much. Building upon the need to address a Government needs at the local and global level, I would like to start a subsection under the section, I would say with a lot of speakers that will intervene on the GovStack topic. We have David Roos who managed to connect and is today with us. The floor is yours. David Roos is the head of the GIZ sector program of digital development in the GIZ.

>> DAVID ROOS: Thank you. And distinguished Excellencies, partners, Ladies and Gentlemen, first of all, on behalf of German development corporation, congratulations. And all the many important and exciting submissions we have heard today. I wish I could personally be with you in Timisoara. It is my pleasure to speak to you again.

You might agree the pandemic like really had a bad con trust with countries, those with interoperable and robust public infrastructure. Before the Russian aggression, Ukraine had an ambition mission, and today we can all learn how to important the digital public infrastructure contributes to Ukraine's resilience and it will to its reconstruction. German development corporation is a firmly committed to cooperate with European partners in Ukraine and strategic alignment and committed to global digitalization along standards for resilience. In doing so we count on the cooperation of our international ecosystem of policymakers, the private sector, academia and Civil Society. We as German development corporation aim to spearhead the implementation of equitable. It is sovereign, fair and feminist and sustainable. Our activities focus on the following topics. Promoting fair regulation and enabling digital innovation. Specifically around digital public infrastructure, we talk a lot about resilience. The German development corporation supports the digital sovereignty of citizens and companies and public institutions.

But digital sovereignty and resilience requires a powerful and secure infrastructure based on open building blocks that can be reused and shared. DPI includes free pieces of core components, Foundational layers that form the digital Foundation for public service delivery and resilient inclusive economies.

Interoperable payment systems, inclusive digital identity systems and data exchange systems.

The Gastic initiative assists partner countries in Europe and globally to build a resilient public infrastructure. It is funded from Germany and EU with 35 million Euros. Work together we have partners, Estonia, France, Spain, for instance, and Ukraine Egypt, Rwanda, Kenya, Somalia .

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you. We are once again glad to have you on board with us. So having once again a reference to Ukraine, it gives me particular pleasure to invite to take the floor Maksym Shkilov.

>> MAKSYM SHKILOV: Thank you very much. Dear Excellencies, distinguished guests, let me stand before you and with gratitude and appreciation for all the countries who have extended their help to Ukraine in providing great support to Ukrainians who have been forced to seek shelter in new countries. Fleeing from the horrors of war, thank you very much. But despite the war Ukraine stands as one of the most advanced digital nations in Europe. With over 19 million citizens using digital services, we have pioneered the Government in the foreign concept. Currently, digital services cover most of all life events in -- for Ukrainian citizens. Today, I will focus only one topic, that can empower fully digital services. That operate people less. Some technical terms, this is about the open source, low code platform for developing and hosting automated digital public services and Government registries.

We call it platform for registries and digital services. The platform operates in a concept of the business process modeling system. The platform secured by design, data is encrypted and digitally signed with low resistance. In simple words, what does it mean for you? You can get charged free complex IT platform for developing digital services and hosted state registries.

Quite simple. We are ready to prepare the concept how to integrate the platform to the digital ecosystem of your country. Deploy ready to go platform to the data center or cloud account of your choice. Train your team to create digital services and registries. Make all necessary connection to the existing digital ecosystem in your country. Right now more than ever, Ukraine considered as a strong and accountable partner. Today, our team together with USAID Google and Visa are launching the DS Summit in Washington D.C. Ukraine is to fight not only with Russian Turr but with the bureaucracy and inefficient public services world wide. It cost 10 million Euros to develop the platform and we made it open source to share for free with the countries.

This is our way for Ukraine to say thank you, world. Give it a try to digital transformation. Let's make this world a better place together.

(Applause.)

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you. Thank you. I would like to next give the floor to Margus.

>> MARGUS MAGI: I hope that you can hear me well. I'm doing this intervention on behalf of the Ambassador of digital for Estonia and thank you for having us and congratulations for your successful event there. That's why Estonia contributes to the global development of digitalization that follows Democratic principles of openness and inclusiveness while parenting privacy and safety. To multilateral and bilateral we continue building capacity for digital transformation all partners.

E-governance, cybersecurity, has been our focus areas of digital collaboration. Our partners in this field have been -- who we have been working in development cooperation have been Ukraine, Moldova, the western Balkans region, African countries. We strongly believe that trust and openness are the Foundation of human centric digital society. Plus resilience.

This is why Estonia continues contributing to developing and spreading digital public infrastructure and digital public goods. We support and fund the Nordic institution for interoperability solution that builds DPI product called (inaudible). Take a look. This is a really interesting initiative. And moreover, one of our flagship projects is the GovStack initiative us that you have heard quite a bit for now. Together with the digital impact alliance we call you to join the initiative and work together with us.

Is it working with Ukraine to help them to build interoperable eGovernment or working with digital societies to build capacities around digital realms around the world. The idea of digital sovereignty and resilience has been a hiding theme in our collaboration. I thank you for the attention. And I call you all to join us in this endeavor on GovStack initiatives. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. Having Moldova being mentioned a couple of times already in the interventions today, I would like to next offer the floor to Ms. Olga Tumuruc who is the head of the governance agency.

>> OLGA TUMURUC: Many thanks for your patience and foreign your interest. I would like first to refer to what I was mentioning yesterday during the opening panel, and I will reiterate that our Government has made a bold decision to explore at maximum the benefits of the technologies in order to advance with the digital transformation of the public sector. So that we create a favorable environment to the economical

development. And this is critical now because the strong economy actually is a premise for the resilience and the sustainability for us as a country.

Thus we want our entrepreneurs to not be overwhelmed with bureaucracy when doing business in Moldova. We want to provide more transparency and predictability in the interaction with the state. We focus to strengthen the trust of our citizens in to state institutions. Digitalization of public services is the way to boost digital transformation of the public sector. And this is definitely possible considering existing technologies but also the developments and the advancements that were already made by our country in building e-governance ecosystem and requires prerequisites of digitalization of service. In our country a new law on public services entered in to force and the law prescribes expressly that all public services must be provided and available online by default. So there is no way back already. Existing legal platforms aimed to catalyze the digitalization of public services in a simple standardized manner ensuring the beneficiaries a seamless experience. The available shared governmental services e-gov building blocks, front office digitalization platform developed by Moldova e-governance agency make the effort of service providers less demanding and shortens the period of service digitalization. And our progress in this context is pretty good. More than 300 services out of 700 public services were already digitized. To assist service providers in implementing the provision of the law on public services, and achieving the target of having all public services available online through the scaleup of the FOD platform and e-gov building blocks are needed to respond better to the requirements and needs of our public service providers. Therefore we want to lever arrange the cooperation and the potential cooperation on bilateral or multilateral with ITU community to attract additional funding and capabilities in order to digitize more public services. And thus to make and to enable the accessibility and to contribute to the development and resilience of our country.

Thank you.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much, Olga. And then I invite you to move to the next speaker who is also one of the countries that are joining the GovStack initiative and they are doing first in our community to say so. I would like to ask to join the representative of North Macedonia from the Information Society and Administration.

>> NIKOLA NIKOLOV: I'm working as a national coordinate for the national register. A register that is developed and it is maintaining the Ministry of information administration. The project was founded by the European Union. And this definitely

set up the key building blocks for digital identification.

This register conducts several data sources and work automatically using the strictly defined roles each day and processing the data from all institutions, building a one muster database. That is responsible to sharing the information for each and other systems.

This was the base data source. And up until now around 15 million transactions for the citizens' data are shared starting from October 2019.

So this amount is just show us that we are on a good way to proceed further. And speaking about from the citizens' perspective, definitely we know each citizens, we enable to each citizens a free service to know who, when and by which reason we process their personal data. This is the GDPR regulation in the European Union that is also translated in our country.

This building block definitely needs and operate and this is the let's say the way to change the host mailboxes with the digital e-communication. This will enable all institutions and all businesses to connect with each citizen and to be in a real communication, knowing that the message from a given institution or a given business will directly be sent to a given citizens, be open. And be notified about this.

This is very important in today's world because with this we will definitely eliminate the paper. If we set up a digital schema for electronic identification with the two providers, this type of upgrade of this system will definitely bring the e-communication and will eliminate the paper that's using in communication with the citizens. We will have opportunity to develop this service together with ITU and GovStack and present a real case during the next years. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. We actually have two speakers from North Macedonia. To keep the information flow in a correct matter, I would like to invite Mr. Toni Janevski who is representing the group and electronic engineering and information technologies and he is from North Macedonia. So the floor is yours.

>> TONI JANEVSKI: Okay. I will speak about two contributions. I will be quick and fast, short. First contribution refers to the line of digital transformation, ITU office in Europe has helped drafting with the help of the local experts that is me. Drafting the national ICT strategy for North Macedonia which should help in the digital transformation of the country in the years to come. The second contribution comes from the capacity building area, I'm Professor from the faculty of electrical engineering and information technologies. And I have been head coordinator of ITU centers of excellence from 2009 to 2022. Providing to thousands of people from many

countries just to give you an idea, in the last four year cycle, we had 1500 participants from over 130 countries, including Developed Countries, like Sweden, Norway, Spain, Portugal, United States, United Kingdom and Australia and so on. All countries in central and Eastern Europe had participated. Almost all African countries. Southeast Asia and many Pacific Islands.

And we -- continue that manner in the following time as ITU academy training center. We want to be one and also we continue collaboration with existing ITU academy center. So why we want to do that? Because people like you, Governments, regulators, private sectors in the telecom ICT sectors, trust the ITU the most. Thank you.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. Yes, speaking about the work that we're doing together and about the fact that it is always a pleasure to hear from the Government officials about the aspirations and the current evolution of the country. But it is also important to acknowledge the fact. Continuing on this thought I would like to invite Mr. Dejan Buha who is the project manager of the UNDP of Bosnia Herzegovina to take the floor.

>> DEJAN BUHA: Good afternoon. Country office of Bosnia Herzegovina and it is an honor and privilege to be able to speak here today, because I'm not really representing a country. I would maybe drill a little bit of a background about Bosnia, it is one of the most complex countries. To delivery services we don't have a kind of wholistic. Our kind of excitement is to create something we call public service design toolkit or more similar to the GovStack where we try to set up the minimum standard of and that's logically something where we actually are going to draw upon the experience and partnership with the ITU and the GovStack and basically use the existing GovStack experience to create something as a kind of Bosnia Herzegovina country stack that would give a bit of easiness to our complex system on that. And we are planning to partner up with the ITU and I would also like to use the opportunity and invite all of you to share the experiences to give us some kind of -- some kind of peer exchange and basically share all the good practices you see, you have from your own parts on this road. Thank you very much and again good luck and with the rest of today's very interesting program. Thank you very much and kind regards.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. I would like to invite another GovStack partner to join us. Sherman, the floor is yours.

>> SHERMAN KONG: It is my pleasure to represent the digital impact alliance at the United Nations Foundations to

address you all today. You have heard a lot about the GovStack initiative. So I'm not going to go in to detail again but to just repeat a pledge to be a part of this community that's growing and working jointly toward a harmonization and synthesis of good practices on digital Government services. The dial or digital impact alliance, in short has been excited about this kind of harmonization exercises. And we are very pleased to work with many partners when it comes to digital development looking at actors in this space that are jointly working on coordinating partnerships to support digital Government both nationally and internationally. So in this sense, it's the harmonization I would like to emphasize a little bit more towards the work that we do in our contribution to the European priorities initiative as well as how it manifests itself in GovStack itself. Simply put we have heard a lot from the panelists today and I'm from different country representatives that they're embarking on digital transformation efforts. So GovStack, in some sense it is a platform to provide a harmonized experience how countries can come together to work on same sets of problems together. And this has been -- I believe in previous presidency period under the Council of European Union and this is a very powerful way of thinking about reusability and modularity when it comes to what is required in the individual public infrastructure both by our, you know, sets of countries sitting here but also partner countries beyond a region. And Europe itself presents a very unique opportunity to showcase that very well. Not only around conflict resilience and climate resilience and social economic resilience. The greater we are working together, the less risk there is when it comes to facing these resiliency issues or problems. To close I would love to invite all the European partners again to join us and to coordinate and synthesize these digital practices together under the GovStack framework. Thank you very much.

>> VALENTINA STADNIC: Thank you so much. And to conclude this session, I would like to mention that it is really difficult to mention the digital transformation technical process without the private sector. We have the CEO of Estonian information technology and telecommunications. The floor is yours.

>> DORIS POLD: Thank you for inviting me for this event. I have listed previous discussion and I think I will not repeat all the good things but already have been spoken here as regarding the GovStack, for example, where we are also part. But in our class when we speak about digital literacy and let's say there are some critical success factors, what we all say that need to be in the place in order to ensure that we can have a crisis prove digital services in all the time for all the

citizens and entrepreneurs. And this is something where we in Estonia are very happy and proud that we could experience. And in the same time we believe strongly that it is not actually possible to just take some let's digital services proxies and to take it from one country to the other.

We -- every country is special. Every country has their own ecosystem. And the experience is something what we can share. So it's very important always to set the right standards for the digital literacy and infrastructure frameworks. And digital skills in order to leave no one behind and then to have the digital mind leadership. And this is important to have it in public sector and private sector. This kind of partnership is something what have been definitely one of our success structures. And this is something that we always speak to the other countries when we would like to support their digitalization path.

That private and public sector have to work in close cooperation, this helps them in the best way and always we can share the other country's experiences but local community have to be strong there in order to help each other and build up the digital resilience in our country.

These have been always this kind of like main success factors for us and I think the others. We as a cluster are organizing digital skills building in very various countries. And collaborating there with very different organizations together. And so thank you.

>> And since then, this issue is a national priority that is included in the National Strategy on the Emergency Management for 2022 to 2025.

(Switching of captioners)