

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION  
DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE



# IPEC-25

## Regional Economic Dialogue (RED)

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### If you build it, they will come – Potential Challenges to a Digital Economy in the Eastern Caribbean

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# The Imperative for an Innovative Ecosystem

- How do we create and foster an innovative ecosystem i.e. people working together to develop and use technologies and skills to enhance economic development in small states?
- Pillars of a Digital Economy:
  - Government
  - eBusiness
  - Infrastructure
  - Innovation-Driven Entrepreneurship
  - Digital Skills
  - Value Creation



Governments of the ECTEL Contracting States have identified **digital transformation** and **building a digital economy** as pivotal for economic development.



For an effective Digital Economy digital inputs, including data, technologies, infrastructure and services are required to drive the economy.

# Are we ready to participate?

## Findings of the 2024 Digital Inclusion Survey:

- No meaningful coverage gap, but a usage gap still exists.
- No meaningful rural-urban gap or gender gap exists.
- Lack of digital skills is a major challenge.
- E-commerce and online banking are underdeveloped.
- Digital financial services are limited.
- Digital government is still in its infancy.
- Apathy could be an issue in progressing adoption and participation.

Proportion of Individuals	Commonwealth of Dominica	Grenada	St. Kitts and Nevis	Saint Lucia	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Use the internet	90.3	91.6	88.9	89.3	91.1
Intermediate Skills	18.9	13.9	14.9	8.9	14.5
Did not use e-commerce	64	71.5	41.1	62.8	69.7
Used internet banking	12.8	12.6	25.4	12.3	10.3
Debit card or bank transfer	69.7	73.1	58.3	76.4	50.2
Mobile money account	3.1	1.3	2.2	0.7	1.0
Not interested in e-commerce	75.5	49.8	58.8	48.8	71.2
Do not use internet because don't need it	46.3	40.2	37.3	49.7	49.2

# Initiatives to Foster an Innovative Ecosystem

**Caribbean Digital  
Transformation Project  
(CARDPT)**

Multi-prong approach  
addressing

- Enabling Legal and Regulatory Environment
- Digital Financial Services
- Digital Skills
- Cybersecurity
- Data Protection and Privacy
- Digital Resilience

**Country Initiatives**

**Commonwealth of  
Dominica** – Health  
Management and  
Information System

**Grenada** – Digitisation  
of Government Services

**St. Kitts and Nevis** –  
Digital skills, emerging  
technologies including  
AI, and block chain

**Saint Lucia** – Data  
centre and cybersecurity  
initiatives

**St. Vincent and the  
Grenadines** – AI  
powered learning  
systems and digitizing  
land and property  
transactions

**Thank you!**