



## Contribution to the Consultation for the Global Symposium for Regulators (GSR-25) Best Practice Guidelines on “What does it take for regulators to become digital ecosystem builders?”

### Cross-border cooperation for building national, regional and global digital ecosystems

Cross-border cooperation is essential to constructing resilient, inclusive, and sustainable digital ecosystems. The Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg), as an independent platform of NRAs from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine, works closely with the EU Member States and the Western Balkan countries' NRAs to implement the EU best practices, sharing expertise and aligning regulation through regional groupings.

Supporting the digital transformation of Eastern Partnership countries is among main aspirations of EaPeReg. EaPeReg has established three expert working groups - Spectrum, Independence of Regulators and Broadband Development, and Roaming - serving as a vibrant exchange platform among Eastern Partnership NRAs. Supported by the EU technical assistance, it advances harmonization in spectrum management, regulatory autonomy, and digital market integration.

EaPeReg's impact includes:

- Broadband Access Monitoring Reports for Eastern Partnership countries
- Coordination of regional spectrum planning and 5G deployment strategies
- Support in approximation with the EU legal framework (Telecom Package of 2002, EECC, BCRD...)
- Promoting digital inclusion and adoption programmes focused on rural and vulnerable groups.

EaPeReg actively supports the digital transformation goals of its member countries. According to the Regional Broadband Access Monitoring Report of 2024, -

- In terms of fixed broadband take-up, Georgia leads the Eastern partner countries, followed by Azerbaijan, Moldova and Armenia. For mobile broadband, Moldova shows the highest take-up rate among the Eastern partner countries, followed by Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan.
- Government of **Armenia** develops a Strategy on Development of Broadband, Mobile and Fixed high-speed Internet connection in the territory of Armenia; around 30 municipalities are covered by the 5G services.
- **Azerbaijan** is working on transposition of BCRD. The draft law is expected to be adopted by the end of 2025.

- In 2020, the Government of **Georgia** adopted the National Broadband Development Strategy and the action plan for 2020 – 2025. To implement the Broadband Strategy, the “Log-In Georgia” project is successfully conducted. Under the project, 500.000 inhabitants of around 1,000 villages including high mountainous regions will have the opportunity to receive high-quality Internet and use digital services. In 2023, the Law of Georgia on Sharing the Telecommunication Infrastructure and Physical Infrastructure Applicable for Telecommunication Purposes, based on the BCRD Directive (2014/61/EU) was approved.  
In 2024 5G services covered the major cities and more than 60 other municipalities with more than half of Georgia population. SpaceX’s Starlink satellite internet was launched in Georgia in 2023, granted access to high-speed Internet across the country.
- The Government of **Moldova** has approved the "Digital Transformation Strategy for 2023-2030," aiming to ensure universal, affordable internet access for all. In addition, the National Development Strategy „Moldova 2030” was approved in 2020. As for the introduction of 5G technology, the Tender was conducted in October 2024 by ANRCETI, Moldovan regulator.

Coming from the above-mentioned, grounded in EaPeReg’s practical experience and aligned with the GSR-25 consultation pillars, EaPeReg is submitting the following proposals:

- **Regional G5 Benchmark Integration & Peer Review:**  
Integrate ITU’s G5 Benchmark into EaPeReg’s annual assessments to enable peer-based evaluations and align regional progress with global regulatory maturity indicators
- **Launch the Regional Regulatory Sandboxes (i.e. Cross-Border 5G Use Cases):**  
Initiate sandbox pilots on AI in telecom services, cross-border IoT, and 5G innovation, coordinated by the EaPeReg’s Spectrum Expert Working Group
- **Advanced Digital Ecosystem Mapping:**  
Expand broadband mapping to include digital adoption, QoS, and resilience indicators; harmonize methodologies and share tools through the DRN
- **Serve as a regional node within the DRN, coordinating peer learning, capacity-building events, and regulatory knowledge sharing**
- **Mainstreaming Climate-Resilient and Inclusive Regulation**

With more than a decade of regulatory cooperation, EaPeReg has built a legacy of harmonization, capacity development, and innovation. We stand ready to expand these efforts globally through different ITU platforms, and invite collaboration to scale our models, methods, and shared vision for sustainable digital development.