

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

### *Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

Tuesday 26 May 2020 | 11:00 – 15:30 | Remote Meeting

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2020/RDF/Remote.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia; Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency

#### TITLE:

CONTACT: Mariam Lashkhi, [mlashkhi@gita.gov.ge](mailto:mlashkhi@gita.gov.ge) +995 599 00 82 22 ; Eka Kubusidze, [ekubusidze@moesd.gov.ge](mailto:ekubusidze@moesd.gov.ge)

**Europe Regional Initiative:** [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

**Year(s) of implementation:** [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- 2020
- 2021

**Background** [max 300 words]

Government of Georgia prioritized developing knowledge-based and innovation-driven economy and institutionalized the support by creating Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), the legal entity, under the supervision of the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD). GITA's core mandate is to integrate innovation in the national agenda.

GITA is assigned to supervise, coordinate and mediate innovation and technology policy in the country together with the MoESD through the five main dimensions: a) simplifying innovation regulatory framework, b) providing infrastructure for innovation (techno-park, fab-labs, etc.), c)



enhancing entrepreneurial skills and knowledge, d) promoting R&D commercialization through technology transfer system and e) providing access to finance.

With the numerous projects and programs, GITA is aspiring to achieve new jobs creation, and improvement of income generating capacities for innovation stakeholders (education, government and private sector representatives) through stimulation of digital business environment, improvement of digital literacy, creation of knowledge transfers systems (vocational education programs, technology transfer and etc.) and raising awareness on opportunities provided by digital technologies. GITA through the programs is raising the competitiveness of the country and putting Georgia on global innovation value chain.

The global pandemic situation has accelerated the process and innovation and technology absorption are raising their role and importance. Georgia in recent months has introduced programs to facilitate the process of technology absorption, as well as development of innovative solutions fighting against pandemic. It has to be highlighted that MoESD/GITA is having the vision to support the innovative solutions, which are globally scalable.

MoESD/GITA actively works with donor organizations and international financial institutions in order to enhance the process and mechanisms.

### Proposal [max 400 words]

World is facing global challenge, as never before digitalization and integration of innovation and raising importance of shared economy is crucially important. Government of Georgia has conducted successful reforms, reflected on global rankings and acknowledged by international organizations. Acceleration of the reforms and integration of all stakeholders in innovation policy development is vital. International organization's facilitation of the process is important in order to ensure the efficiency, as well as inclusive approach of all stakeholders, bringing international best practice and facilitating the co-creation instruments.

Government of Georgia expresses readiness and willingness to be part of the process of Global Innovation Profiles development, understanding where the countries stand and where the improvement needs are, as well as involving all stakeholders in the process. The innovation ecosystem is relatively fresh and the capabilities are being developed. The speed of the process has to be improved and capacity of the stakeholders has to be improved in order to enhance the innovation policy in the country.

Government envisages the process through several phases. First and most important is identification of the factual ecosystem, existing gaps, accurate assessment of the existing tools and mechanisms as well as players and contributors in innovation policy. One of the core pillars of the process throughout all phases is the integration of stakeholders, co-creation and





understanding the roles and responsibilities. Assessing the impact of existing programs is very important and comparing to the final indicators and goals. One of the next phases will be evaluating the programs and through the agile methodology working jointly on improving them or reshaping. Learning from the best practice and matching to the country needs and characteristics is very important. Getting and jointly elaborating the recommendations and concrete tools and instruments for promoting innovation agenda.

The exercise will also assess the existing strategies and the reports assessing Georgia’s ecosystem, which will be supporting documents conducting Country Innovation and Digital Profile. UNECE is currently conducted the study on Innovation for Sustainable Development, which is a country report analyzing ecosystem players and existing situation. In addition, through the USAID program Deloitte has conducted recommendations for Innovation Strategy, which is highlighting importance of FDI development in innovation.

Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia with the support of Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) expresses readiness to be the main contact point of the exercise and facilitate co-creation process.

