



EU4Digital Country Launch Event in Georgia

Event Concept Note:

EU4Digital Programme: supporting digital economy and society in the Eastern Partnership

Date: 13 May, 2019.

Location: Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), 7 Innovation Street, Okrokana, Tbilisi, Georgia

Summary:

EU4Digital aims to extend the benefits of the European Union's Digital Single Market to the Eastern Partner states, channelling the EU support to develop the potential of the digital economy and society, in order to bring economic growth, generate more jobs, improve people's lives and help businesses.

Through EU4Digital, the EU supports Eastern Partnership countries on reducing roaming tariffs, developing high-speed broadband to boost economies and expand e-services, harmonising digital frameworks across society, in areas ranging from logistics to health, building cyber security and developing digital skills.

The purpose of this event is to bring together key Georgian stakeholders and present the EU4Digital Programme as a flagship initiative channelling a broad range of actions in support of EU policy objectives in the digital area. The event will also take stock of the overall situation and progress made in the spectrum of digital topics in Georgia, and look ahead to the next actions coming up.

Objectives:

- Present the EU4Digital Programme, including upcoming activities, implementation approach, main outputs and benefits in terms of digital region harmonisation.
- Promote the EU4Digital brand as a tool for EU support to the digital economy and society in the EaP region.
- Discuss complementarities with other initiatives in the digital area in the country.

Estimated turnout: 80 participants.



Agenda:

09.30 - 10.00 Press briefing/ Registration and welcome coffee

Official opening:

10.00 - 10.30 Opening remarks and welcome speeches

- Mr. Carlo Natale - Minister, Deputy Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to Georgia
- Mr. Lashsa Mikava – Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

10.30 - 12.00 Presentation of the EU4Digital Programme: bringing the benefits of the harmonised digital market to the Eastern Partnership countries

- Mr. Arturas Piliponis - EU4Digital Programme Team Leader

12.00 - 12.15 Coffee break

12.15 - 13.00 Panel discussion on the complementarity and synergies with other national, bilateral and regional initiatives in the digital area in the country

Panellists:

- Ms. Nino Samvelidze - Program Manager for Youth, Culture and Digitalisation, European Union Delegation to Georgia
- Ms. Eka Kubusidze - HDM National Coordinator for Georgia
- Mr. Juan Navas-Sabater - Lead ICT Policy Specialist, Team leader for Accelerating Broadband Development in the EaP Countries, the World Bank Group [tbc]

Moderator:

- Ms. Nino Esakia - Country Coordinator for EU4Digital Programme in Georgia

13.00 - 13.15 Questions / Discussions

13.15 - 13.30 Closing remarks

13.30 Lunch