

Progress Update on the **Implementation of the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030**

Presented by the CAREC Secretariat
2nd CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee, Astana, Kazakhstan
19th April 2024



CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 – VISION & MISSION

VISION

- Inclusive Economic Growth & Social Well-being
- New jobs (including for the disadvantaged and minority populations)
- Better Services
- Higher Regional Competitiveness

MISSION

Creating a **Data-Driven Digital Regional Economy** with fast and reliable online access to relevant information and trusted, real-time, user-friendly digital services for all citizens, businesses, and administrations across the CAREC region.

CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 – STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1

Encourage
Investment in the Digital infrastructure
across the region to close connectivity gaps.

2

Harmonize
Digital and Data Legislation
to promote an enabling environment.

3

Reduce regional trade barriers to
Increase Cross-border Trade and
expand business opportunities for
companies across the region, particularly in
e-commerce.

4

Develop new **Digital skills**, including for
women, disadvantaged, and minority
populations, to create jobs.

5

Attract **Talent** into the region to strengthen
CAREC's Innovation Ecosystem.

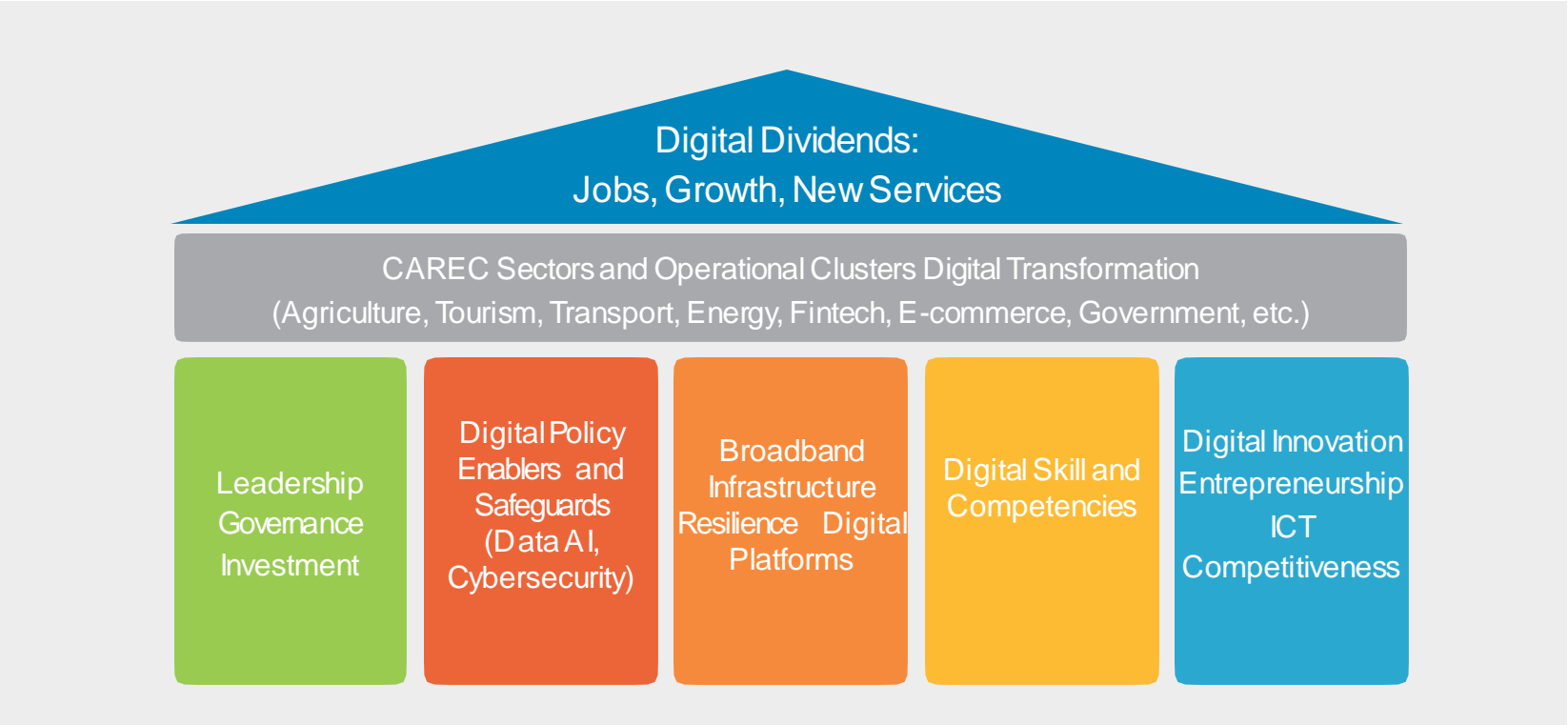
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Improve the **Digital Foundations** and
create interoperable digital platforms to
enable the **development of CAREC's
operational clusters.**

CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 – Overview

The 5 Pillars of the Digital Foundations

To achieve the **Strategic Objectives**, the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030 will strengthen the following **Five Interconnected Pillars** through improved cooperation between CAREC member countries



AI = artificial intelligence, CAREC = Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation, ICT = information and communication technology. Source: CAREC Secretariat.

Key CAREC Digital Strategy Implementation Priorities

1

Developing the CAREC Digital transformation **Project Portfolio** and **Implementation Roadmap**.

2

Strengthening the **Enabling Environment** and **Capacity Building**.

3

Gathering and sharing **Best Practice** for digital development.

4

Establishing a **Monitoring System** for digital transformation progress and impact.

5

Building **Public-Private Sector Partnerships** for project portfolio development and implementation.

6

Working with **Development Partners** to secure project funding.

7

Strategic Planning, Future Thinking and **Strategic Foresight** for CAREC digital cooperation

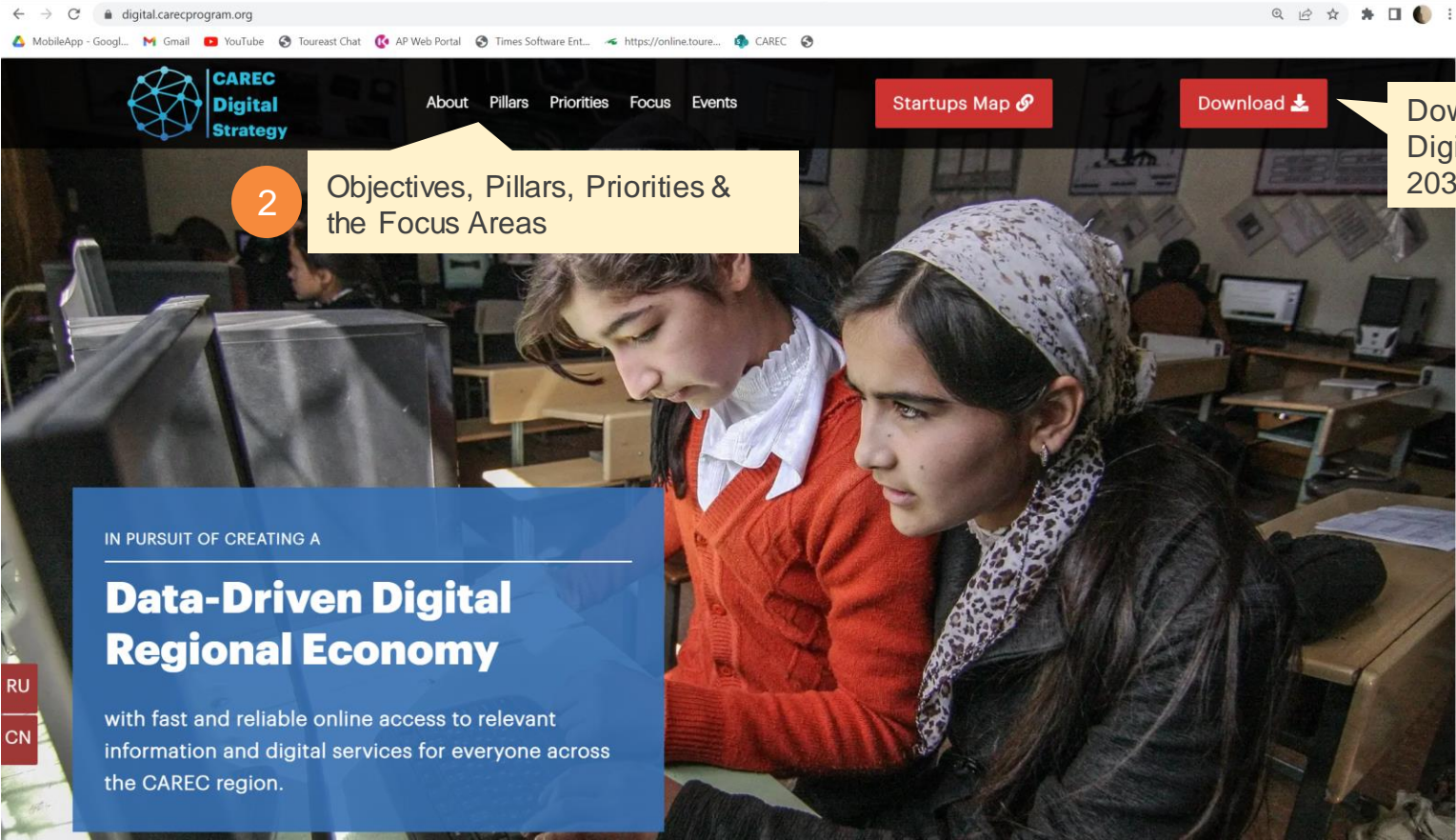
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Developing a **Strategic Communication Plan**

CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

Published Online for everyone to Access

1 For More Information Visit: [HTTPS://DIGITAL.CARECPROGRAM.ORG](https://digital.carecprogram.org)



2 Objectives, Pillars, Priorities & the Focus Areas

4 Download CAREC Digital Strategy 2030

3 Available in English, Russian & Chinese

The role of the CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee (DSSC)

The **CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee** has been established to **Drive the Implementation** of the CAREC Digital Strategy 2030.

Led and constituted by Governments of the CAREC member countries,

Facilitated by the CAREC Secretariat.

Chaired by CAREC countries on a **Rotational Basis** following the CAREC chairmanship rules.

Based on **Mutual Good Will** and an **inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation model**.

Role of the CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee (DSSC)



To have Regular meetings to coordinate all aspects of the **Implementation Process**.



To Agree upon **Annual Deliverables** and communicate them to the **Ministerial Conference**.



To Engage with all the **Members of the CAREC Digital Transformation ecosystem** like:



Public sector organizations across CAREC, NGOs



Private sector companies, regional and global IT players



Academic institutions, the expert community

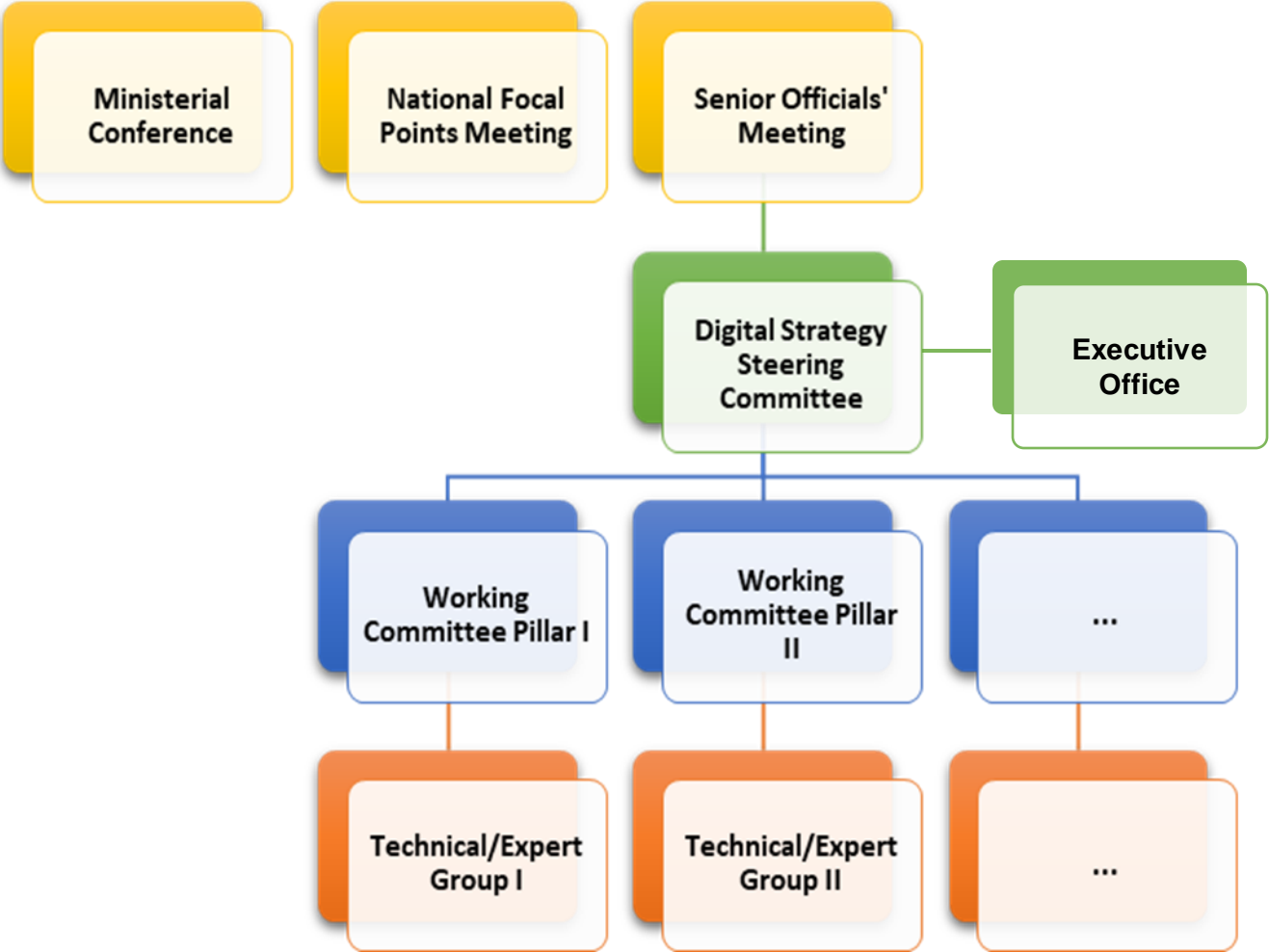


International donor organizations

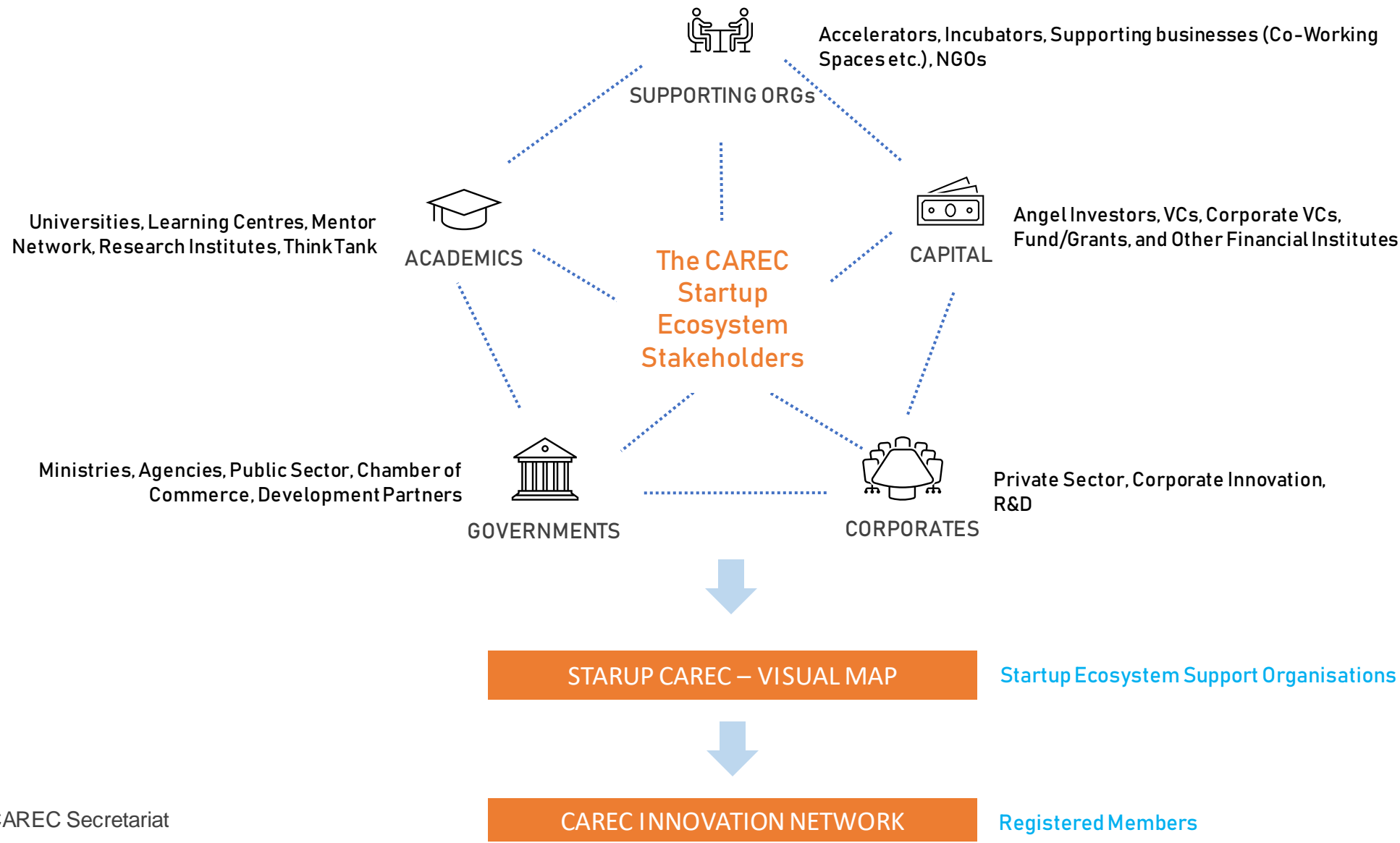


Citizens organizations, others.

CAREC Digital Strategy Steering Committee: Proposed Evolution



CAREC Start-up Ecosystem Development Hub



Overview of CAREC Initiatives for Startup Ecosystem



CAREC Startup Map

Visual Representation of
Startup Ecosystem
Supporting organizations in
the CAREC region



CAREC Innovation Network (CIN)

Network of Ecosystem
ecosystem-supporting
organizations that are
connected with CAREC
Secretariat



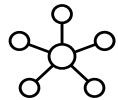
CAREC Innovation Decoded

A platform for Learning
and Connecting, by
analyzing success stories in
the region



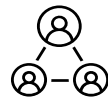
University Open Innovation Challenge

University open
innovation challenge,
organized by universities
under CAREC affiliation



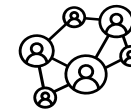
University Innovation Exchange Program

Regional study tour for
University Pre-seed
Startups on innovation
and entrepreneurship



CAREC Startup Bootcamp

Regional study tour and
boot camp for seed-
stage startups



CAREC Business Angel Network

A Network of Business
Angels interested in
investing startups with a
regional focus.



Ecosystem Health Check and Case Study Initiative

Evaluate and rank the
health and potential of
selected startup ecosystems
within the CAREC region.

CAREC Startup Map

Lists over **6,000 entities**
(Startups, Accelerators,
incubators, Universities, etc.)

The largest regional database
of startup ecosystem support
organizations

The map represents the target
audience of the CAREC Startup
Ecosystem Development Hub



<https://www.startupCAREC.org/>

CAREC Innovation Network (CIN)

- 60 Active members representing the Startup Ecosystem Support Organizations from the CAREC countries.
- 5 CIN Members' Workshop (virtual events)
- 250+ participants have attended the capacity-building sessions

CAREC INNOVATION NETWORK
MEMBERS' WORKSHOP

EAKPF CAREC ADB

**CHALLENGES OF A
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM**

27 April, 2023
16:00 - 17:00 GMT +8

SPEAKER
Eli David
CEO Startup Blink



CAREC INNOVATION NETWORK
MEMBERS' WORKSHOP

EAKPF CAREC ADB

**FUNDRAISING
AND ACCESSING
THE SINGAPORE
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM**

18 APRIL 2023
15:30 (GMT +8)

MUSTAFA RASHEED
ANGEL INVESTOR
STARTUP ECOSYSTEM PROFESSIONAL



CAREC INNOVATION NETWORK
MEMBERS' WORKSHOP

EAKPF CAREC ADB

**HOW STARTUPS CAN RAISE MONEY
IN EMERGING MARKETS TODAY**

9 June, 2023
10:00 a.m. (UK time)
5:00 p.m. (Manila time)

Speaker
Robin Butler
Partner and Head of Impact
Sturgeon Capital



CAREC INNOVATION NETWORK (CIN) MEMBERS' WORKSHOP

Understanding startup ecosystems

16 NOV, 2022
04:00 PM
MANILA TIME



CAREC INNOVATION NETWORK (CIN) Members' Workshop

Investing in frontier and Emerging Markets

December 8, 2022
4 P.M. MANILA TIME



CAREC Innovation Decoded (CID)

- CID aims to provide South-South **learning** and **networking** opportunities for the startup ecosystem players in the CAREC region.
- The first series of workshops focused on China's startup ecosystem. Four online sessions were organized to provide in-depth insights into the development of China's startup ecosystem and digital economy.



CAREC INNOVATION DECODED -
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA EPISODE

ONLINE WEBINAR

INVESTMENT
AND INCUBATION

FROM ACADEMIA
TO INDUSTRY

 **10 MAY, 2023**
15.00 - 16.30 (GMT +8)

OUR SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

**DR. KAI YIN**
MD of Chinese Academy of Sciences
Capital Management Co., Ltd

**MR. JOHN REN**
MD. and CM of Shanghai
SIMIC Incubator

**MR. AIMING ZHOU**
Deputy Country Director,
ADB PRC Resident Mission

**MS. HIRA WAJAHAT**
Ecosystem Specialist,
Consultant, ADB

**MR. SHAYAN YAR**
Head of Investments & Partnership,
National Incubation Center



CAREC INNOVATION DECODED -
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA EPISODE

ONLINE WEBINAR

CREATE AN INTEGRATIVE INNOVATION
ECOSYSTEM FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

 **DATE**
20 July, 2023

 **TIME**
15:00 (GMT +8)

**SHUJUN ZOU**
Senior Economist for the Transfer and
Transformation of Scientific and
Technological Achievements, Shanghai, PRC

**JAHONGIR KAGIROV**
Head of startup ecosystem
development department,
IT Park Uzbekistan

**HAOSHU PENG**
Ecosystem specialist,
ADB consultant



CAREC INNOVATION DECODED
The People's Republic of China episode

For a prosperous CAREC economy through
ICT based cross-border e-Commerce

**Dr. Rui Zhang**
Deputy dean of Zhejiang Gongshang
University's cross-border-commerce college

**Mr. Daniel Zhou**
Senior Business Manager of Central Asia
Alibaba ICBU

Online webinar

15 August, 2023 | 15:00 (GMT +8)

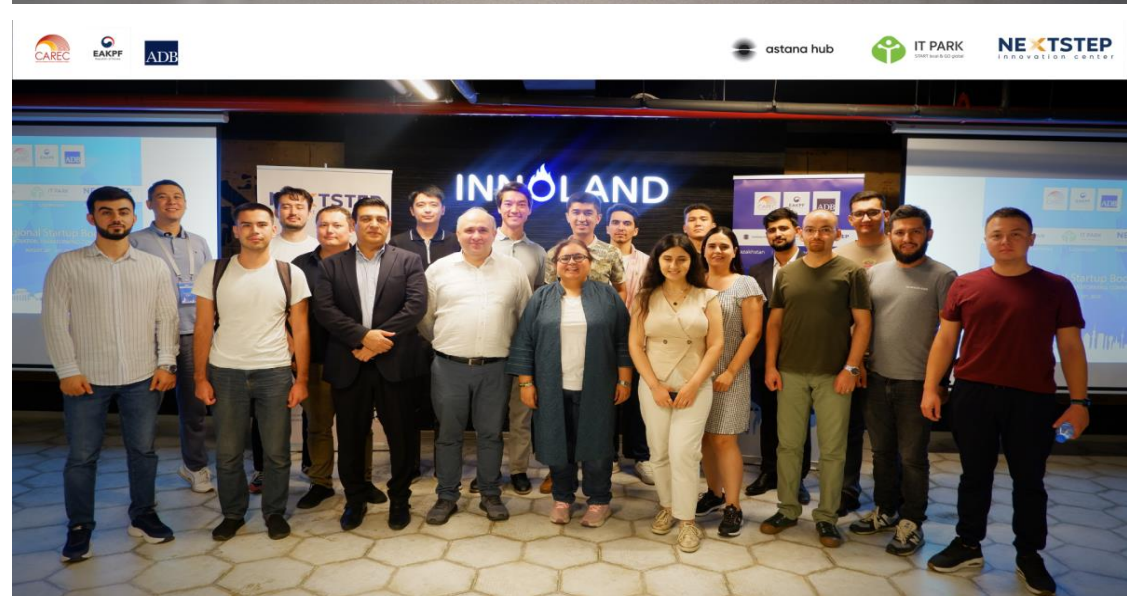
CAREC University Innovation Exchange Program (UIEP)

- A dynamic 2-week program across 4 countries in the CAREC region.
- 22 young entrepreneurs (12 startup teams), 4 university coordinators
- 18 training sessions for students
- 2 roundtable discussions for coordinators with key stakeholders. 40+ experts and mentors connected
- 14 site visits to startup ecosystem stakeholders



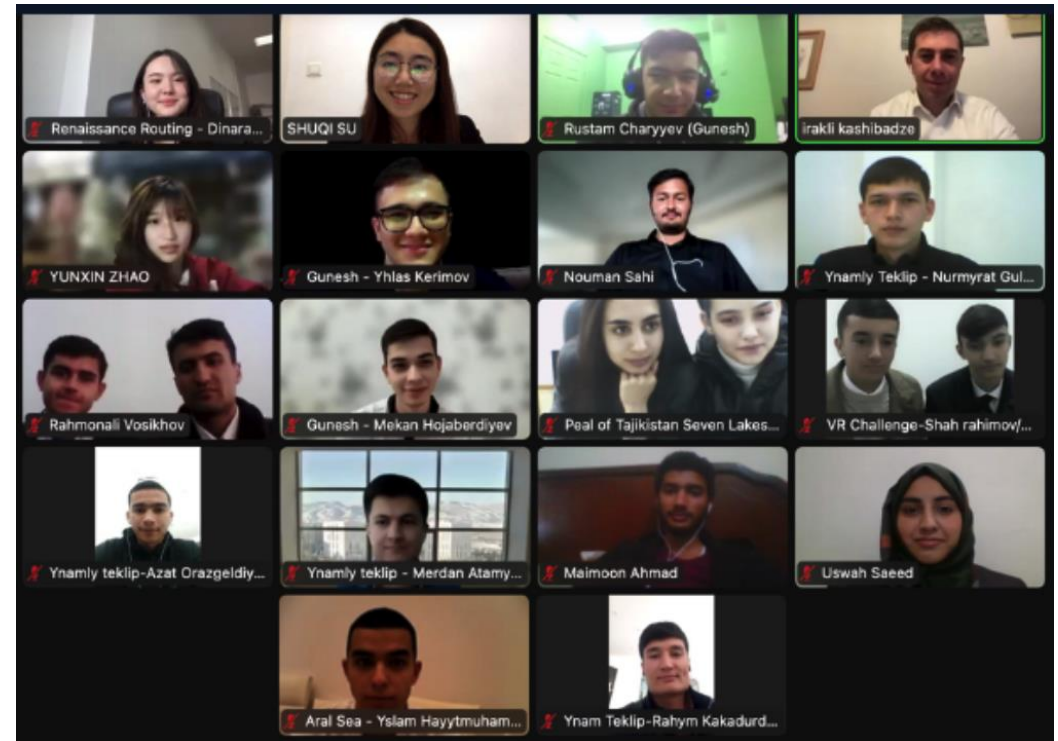
CAREC Regional Startup Bootcamp (RSBC)

- A Vigorus 2-week program across 3 countries in the CAREC region.
- 8 startup teams 3 incubation/ accelerator coordinators
- 10 training sessions for participants
- 3 roundtable discussions for coordinators with key stakeholders
- 15+ experts and mentors connected
- 14+ site visits to startup ecosystem stakeholders



CAREC University Open Innovation Challenge

- 168 teams, 580 students across 10 CAREC countries.
- 8 weeks of training, marketing research, brainstorming, validating ideas, developing business models, value proposition, mentorship, mock pitching, demo day, etc.
- 10 finalist teams for demo day; 4 winning teams received up to USD 5000 cash prize.



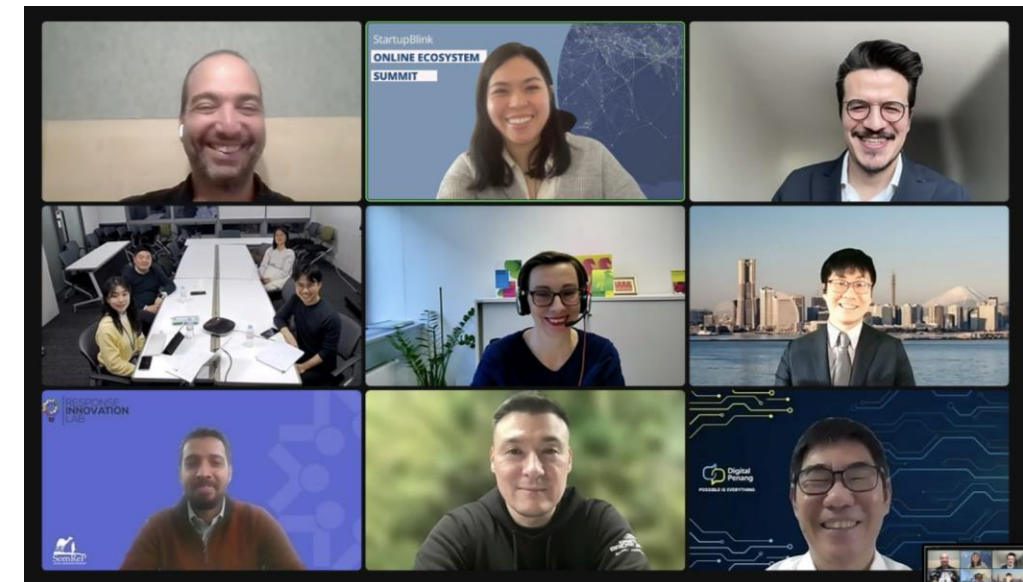
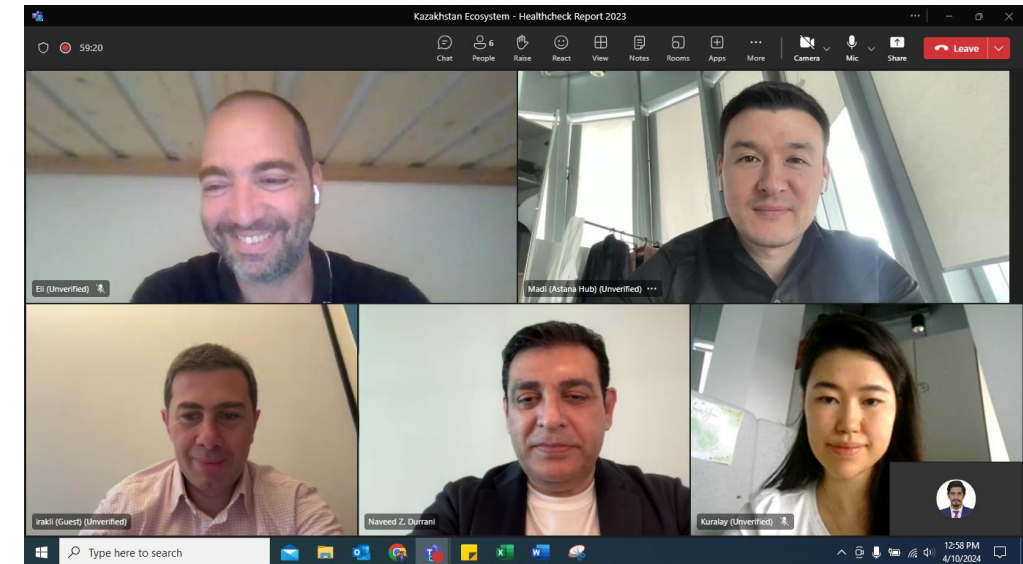
Workshop and Korea Showcase: University as Enablers of Vibrant Startup Ecosystems

- 21 representatives from government and universities across Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan
- International Practice Sharing by 4 countries
- Site Visits to Soongsil University, Hannam University, Global Digital Innovation Network, Korea Development Institute, and Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
- 4 thematic areas identified to support startup ecosystem: Commercialization, Curriculum, Incubation and Acceleration Program, Regulation



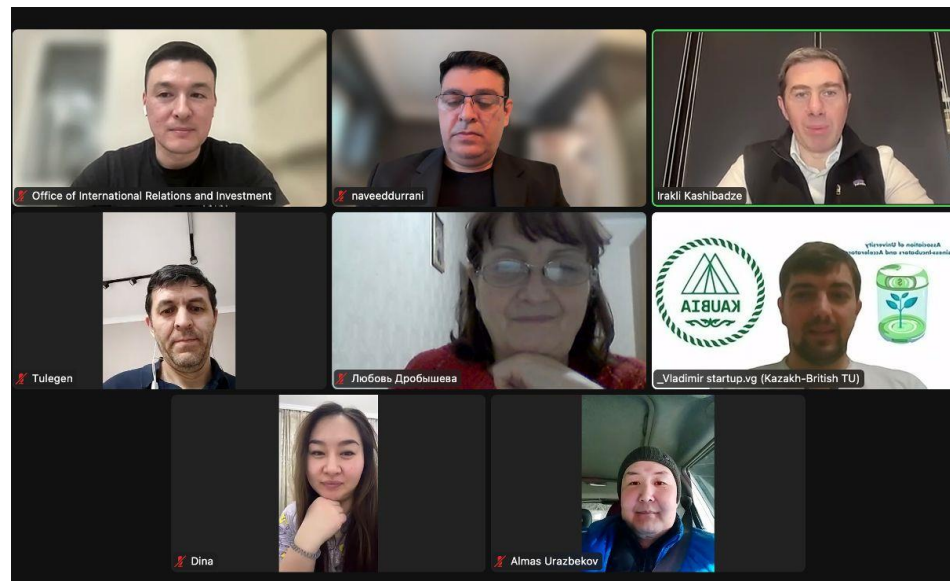
CAREC Ecosystem Health Check and Case Study Initiative

- Evaluate and rank the health and potential of selected start-up ecosystems within the CAREC region.
- Focused on those ecosystems that are ranked within the top 500 globally.
- The objective is to provide a comprehensive analysis, leveraging the Global Start-up Ecosystem Index (GSEI) framework



CAREC Business Angel Network

- Analysis of the existing Angel Networks covering the CAREC region and promoting a Regional focus.
- Start-up Deals Mapping & Share the information on our CAREC Start-up Map
- Regional Angel and Venture Financing Training for the (High Net Worth Individuals)
- Cross Border Angel Investment Summit – In partnership with Axel's Venture Capital Builder Interactive Event 29th September 2023



CAREC Business Angel Network

Current Challenges

- Lack of financial literacy and an understanding of the importance of investment diversification among high-net-worth individuals.
- Lack of follow-on investments.
- Angel networks and VCs are increasingly investing less in startups at the idea stage, preferring more developed ventures.

Key Strategies and Interventions

- Encourage cross-border investments and cooperation between angel networks and regional venture funds.
- Improve venture legislation in CAREC countries.
- Explore the possibility and cooperative potential for a CAREC Fund of Funds.
- Increase the capacity of VC funds and angel network managers.
- Boost the interest and capacity of high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs).



CAREC Business Angel Network



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CAREC Innovation Week and Digital Economy Tour (Hangzhou, PRC)

- 54 CAREC delegates and 150 PRC delegates attended
- Several MoUs, collaboration agreements, and letters of intent were signed during the event.
- Participants explored the Global Digital Trade Expo and joined the Digital Economy Tours featuring Alibaba Group, Cainiao Smart Warehouse, Ant International, etc.



Events Planned for 2024

Planned Events	Schedule	Venue	Under Initiative
Start-up Ecosystem Regional Networking	May 2024 (4 Days)	Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan	Regional Start up Boot Camp & University Innovation Exchange Program
University Start-up Generator 2024	Jun/ Jul 2024	Virtual	Open Innovation Challenge
CAREC Innovation Week	25-29 Sep 2024	China	Innovation Decoded
CAREC Innovation Network	8 Workshops	Virtual	CAREC Innovation Network
Business Angel Network	4 Workshops	Virtual	Business Angel Network

Consultations for **CAREC 2030 Strategy Midterm Review** (April – May 2024), which aims to enhance the effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, governance, and sustainability of the CAREC Program and align it with CAREC members' emerging priorities and challenges amid the rapidly evolving global and regional landscape

Consultations for **Mainstreaming Climate Change Actions in CAREC Trade** as part of the implementation of the CAREC Climate Change Vision

CAREC Digital TA Team



Dorothea Lazaro
Regional Cooperation
Specialist, CWRC



Eli David
Team Lead
Eco System Specialist



Haoshu Peng
Ecosystem
Specialist



Mr. Arndt Husar,
Senior Public
Management Specialist,
CCSD



Hira Wajahat
Ecosystem
Specialist



Shuqi Su
Open Innovation
Challenge Coordinator



Naveed Durrani
Team Lead
ICT Specialist



Irakli Kashibadze
Ecosystem
Specialist



**Muhammad
Muddassir Naveed**
TA/ Project Coordinator

Thank you.

