



Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

Georgia's role in Regional Digital Connectivity



Policy making for the ICTs in Georgia



- ❑ **Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) through the Department of Communications, Information and Modern Technologies is a policy maker body in the field of ICTs and Post in Georgia.**

The main functions of the Department:

- ✓ Elaboration and implementation of the state policy directions within the competence in the fields of electronic communications, information technologies and post, as well as scientific and technological innovations;
- ✓ Determination of basic state policy directions for promotion of creation export-oriented scientific and technological innovation and information technology products and commercialization of scientific and technological products as well;
- ✓ Elaboration of development and improvement strategies, programs for the fields of electronic communications, information technologies and post, scientific and technological innovations;
- ✓ Elaboration of concept, strategic plan and program of e-government for improvement of the State governance on the basis of innovations, information and telecommunication technologies development;
- ✓ Coordination of the public use electronic communications, information technologies and postal networks and the operation of the facilities during the emergency situation and/or a war, including cyber and/or information attack, according to the legislation, regardless their ownership status;
- ✓ International cooperation in the fields of Communications, Information and Modern Technologies, and Innovations etc.



- 290 entities operating in the field of electronic communications.
- The penetration rate of the mobile services subscribers - 169%
- The penetration of mobile internet users - 125%
- The penetration of fixed broadband internet subscribers - 95.7%
- For the time being 100% population of Georgia is covered by the 4G signal



- ❑ The National Broadband Development Strategy and its Implementation Action Plan 2020-2025 (NBDS) adopted by the Government of Georgia (GoG) on January 10, 2020
- ❑ Targets of NBDS are in line with the EU's Gigabit Society objectives 2025
- ❑ Directions of NBDS: 1. Increase Competitive Pressure 2. Attract Investments; 3. Build Digital Skills & Demand.
- NBDS targets for 2025 are:
 - 4G covers 99% of Georgia; pilots for 5G services in three municipalities
 - All institutional entities have access to 1 Gbps connectivity
 - All households have access to networks for high-speed (100 Mbps+) broadband.



➤ Project components:

1. Increasing access to affordable broadband internet

✓ This Component helps to expand access to broadband internet in rural settlements across Georgia and improve the enabling environment for digital development.

2. Promoting the use of broadband-enabled digital services

✓ This Component supports the improvement of the enabling environment for the digital economy beyond connectivity, promote digital use-cases of broadband, and address barriers to the participation of individuals in the digital economy

3. Project implementation support

✓ This Component supports Project management activities



➤ “State Programme for Broadband Infrastructure Development”

Aim of the Programme:

- Bridge the digital divide between rural and urban areas;
- Creation of a unified neutral fiber optic network;
- Development of wholesale broadband services in the target geographic area of white zones;
- Connection between any two access points of the created network.

Until 2025:

- Totally 5,000 km of fiber-optic infrastructure will be deployed;
- Up to 1000 villages, 170 093 households (585 750 inhabitants) of rural areas will have the possibility to access at least 100 Mbps broadband internet services, administrative entities and enterprises - at least 1 Gbps



The law of Georgia “On Sharing Telecommunication Infrastructure and Physical Infrastructure Applicable for Telecommunication Purposes” (according to the Directive 2014/61/EU)

The draft law focuses on :

- Access to existing physical infrastructure (e.g. ducts, poles or masts) including those belonging to other utilities, for operators willing to deploy high speed broadband networks;
- Efficient coordination of civil works;
- Single information point;
- Equipment of new buildings and major renovations with high-speed physical infrastructures (e.g. mini-ducts, access point) and access to in-building infrastructure;



- The Law of Georgia on „Electronic Commerce’’ (According to the Directive 2000/31/EC) was adopted in 2023 by the GoG

The Law:

- aims to ensure the free movement of information society services;
- defines the rights and obligations of the intermediary service providers;
- aims to enhance a consumer protection;
- aims to provide „safe harbor regime’’ (the condition under which intermediary service providers are exempted from liability for third party content);
- Provides „no general obligation to monitor’’ (prohibition of a general obligation on providers, when providing the services (caching, mere conduit or hosting), to monitor the information which they transmit or store, nor a general obligation actively to seek facts or circumstances indicating illegal activity);



- One of the goals of the National Broadband Networks Development Strategy of Georgia for 2020-2025, is to promote 5G services by 2025
- In summer 2023, Georgian Communications Commission (ComCom) concluded auctions for the implementation of 5G mobile services. “Cellfie Mobile” emerged as the successful bidder
- Gudauri region is already covered by the 5G



- Georgia can serve as a conduit on the one hand between Europe, Middle East, and South Asia, and on the other hand to Central and East Asia. The international connectivity routes provide opportunity for Georgia to become as a major node and digital hub for Europe-Asia.
- Creation of the Digital Hub in Georgia and development of the submarine digital connectivity between the EU and Asia through Georgia is one of the strategic priorities for Georgia which is identified under the National Broadband Development Strategy (NBDS) and Georgia's Vision 2030. Mentioned issue is defined by the EU as one of the flagship initiatives for Georgia in the EaP Economic and Investment Plan.
- By sharing a border with EU via the Black Sea, Georgia is the node to develop data connectivity corridors in the short term (between Europe and the Middle-East and South Asia) as well as in the medium-to-long-term (between Europe and Central and East Asia).
- Establishing new international broadband connections and regional data centers, aiming to provide alternative, diversified, and secure routes for connectivity between continents



Georgia is well placed to be a digital hub in the South Caucasus

- ❑ Georgia offers a good environment to investors looking to enter the South Caucasus region
- ❑ Comparative advantages
 - Access to Europe
 - Common interconnection points for both corridors
 - Ease of doing business
 - Existing ICT Infrastructure





❑ Investment Attraction for International Connectivity (Including The Digital Hub and Regional Data Center in Georgia)

Currently, in cooperation with the World Bank and EIB, the elaboration of the technical and economic research for the investment attraction for development of a digital corridor between Europe-Asia via Black Sea is in progress.

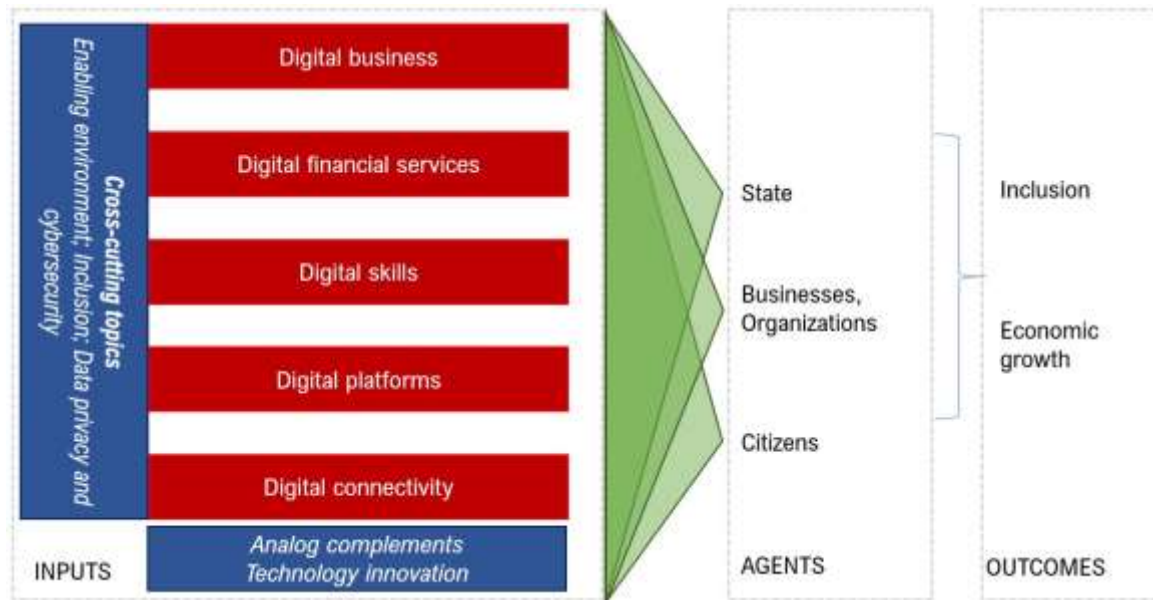
Study will describe the conditions of the submarine internet connectivity development in the region with its technical and economic aspects (Capex/Opex etc.), tendencies for its improvement, activities to be implemented by the State and the private sector to utilize the potential of creation a digital transit hub and regional data centers in Georgia.

National Strategy for Development of Digital Economy and Information society of Georgia 2025 – 2030



- Aim of the Long-term national strategy is the digital transformation of Georgia’s society and economy and it will reflect the future directions of the development of electronic communications, information and modern technologies and services of the country under one umbrella.
- Main future priorities will be addressed on Digital Government Platforms, Digital Financial Services, Digital Business/ Entrepreneurship, Digital Skills, Digital Infrastructure, Digital Innovations, Legal/Regulatory Aspects, etc.

The digital economy framework



Thank you for your attention

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