

UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#DTG4ECA)

UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia Support Offer

Draft June 2021

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) form the backbone of today's digital economy and have enormous potential to fast forward progress on the SDGs and improve people's lives in fundamental ways. Emerging technologies like 5G, Big Data, Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, together with high-speed broadband connectivity, create new avenues for addressing global challenges in the fields of education, employment, health, agriculture, inequalities, climate change, governance and many more.

The United Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UNDTG4ECA) recognizes how cooperation and collaboration are crucial accelerators of ICTs development, ensuring enhanced accessibility, scalability and affordability of digital tools and platforms. Guided by multiple overarching priorities in the domain of digital transformation, the group forms a regional platform for UN agencies to exchange common and good practices to advance digitalization and digitization processes at the regional and national levels through the adoption of a multi-agency, multi-stakeholder and cross-sectoral approach to achieve the SDGs through ICTs by 2030.

The support offer will be finalized at the end of the consultative process engaged by the UNDTG4ECA with the UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators of the regions. Currently, the Support Offer depicts the different endeavors of the group to advance digital transformation in Europe and Central Asia, fostering coordinated implementation of initiatives and projects to accelerate digitalization and digitization processes in the regions.

1. Thematic coverage of the UNDTG4ECA:

The activities of the UNDTG4ECA cover all thematic areas related to digital transformation. The areas identified as priority by the members of the group include (but are not restricted to):

- Connectivity of infrastructures (educational institutions, health facilities, youth centers, community centers, administration units, etc.) and last mile connectivity;
- Digitally skilled population and highly skilled professionals;
- Improving accessibility of ICT services for all (ICT accessibility and digital inclusion for persons with disabilities and minorities);
- Overcoming the gendered digital divide;



UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#DTG4ECA)

- Data protection, data privacy, cybersecurity and mitigation of cyber harassment (including child online protection);
- E-health and social protection;
- E-Agriculture;
- E-governance;
- E-trade;
- Digital transformation of business and productive sectors;
- Digitization and ICT upgrade for the weather, water and climate monitoring, observation, information management and services;
- Enabling policy, legal and institutional environment for digital development;
- Digital innovation (including Artificial Intelligence);
- Sustainable smart cities ecosystem.

2. Geographic coverage:

The UNDTG4ECA's work targets countries and sub-regions from Europe and Central Asia through a series of joint activities, while supporting inter-regional and global coordination.

Specifically, the group's scope of operations focuses on the following countries in Europe and Central Asia: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Rep., Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Republic of North Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Vatican.

The UNDTG4ECA provides special attention to countries characterized by UN in country-presence (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan), which are identified as of key priority to provide customized support advancing digital transformation.

3. Main support modalities:

- The UNDTG4ECA coordinates on flagship multi-agency partnerships and projects involving UN agencies members of the group to support digital transformation in Europe and Central Asia. This type of support modality includes provision of



UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (#DTG4ECA)

regional policy guidance as well as organization of trainings and webinars covering digital related topics and fostering achievement of ICT related objectives.

- The UNDTG4ECA undertakes regional advocacy activities, as follow: Information sharing on the activities of the UN system in Europe and Central Asia in the field of digital transformation; participation in - and organization of - UN System events; elaboration and dissemination of a joint report taking the stock of ICT related initiatives at the regional and national level; creation of a repository to collect relevant knowledge products.
- The UNDTG4ECA also supports the Issue Based Coalition (IBC) and Knowledge Hub.

The UNDTG4ECA is currently conducting a consultative process with UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs) of the regions, which includes the dissemination of a questionnaire aimed at building a detailed mapping of country priorities vis-à-vis the work and activities of the UNDTG4ECA. The questionnaire's objective is to identify country-specific support to be delivered by the group to advance digitalization and digitization processes at the national level. ¹

4. Linkages and coordination with regional/country-level mechanism:

The UNDTG4ECA relies on the consultative processes with UNCTs and RCOs members with the aim of providing unique value proposition and support to UNCTs to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF).

The UNDTG4ECA coordinates its activities with other IBCs, in particular through the IBCs liaison officers regularly participating in the meetings of the Group.

The UNDTG4ECA benefits from regular briefings and updates from its members, ensuring synergies with other coordination processes in field of digital, i.e. UN Brussels Digital TaskForce on Digitalization for Sustainable Development, UN Group on the Information Society, others..

¹ All types of support services provided by the UNDTG4ECA to UNCTs are request based. The UNDTG4ECA does not engage in operational matters, or in mobilizing resources for programmes or projects, or in implementing them.

