



World Bank Support for Digital Economy in the Eurasian Region

The IT industry in Eurasia different paths, common challenges?
StrategEast Forum
November 5, 2019

Juan Navas-Sabater
Digital Development Global Practice
World Bank



Outline of presentation

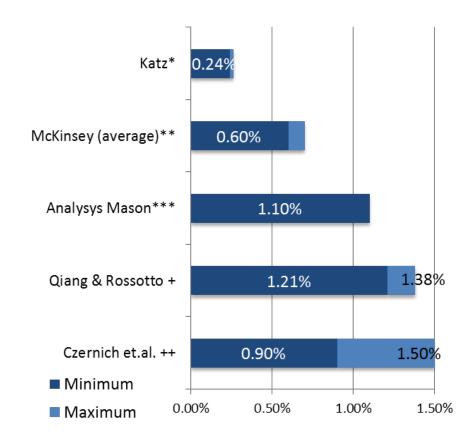
- 1. Economic Impact of Digital Economy programs
- 2. Similar challenges for IT sector development in Eurasia
- 3. World Bank approach to support Digital Economy in the Eurasian Region (examples):
 - EU4Digital broadband technical assistance
 - Digital CASA regional program for Central Asia

Digital economy contributes to growth, employment, innovation, trade



- 10% increase in broadband penetration yields at least 1% increase in GDP growth (see chart)
- 1% increase in Internet penetration correlates with 4.3% export growth (Wallsten, 2007)
- 20% of all jobs will be contracted online in 2020 (oDesk) - SMEs that integrated the Internet into their businesses created twice as many jobs as the average (McKinsey Global Institute)
- 1 new job in the ICT sector creates 2-4
 jobs for the overall economy
 (McKinsey Global Institute)

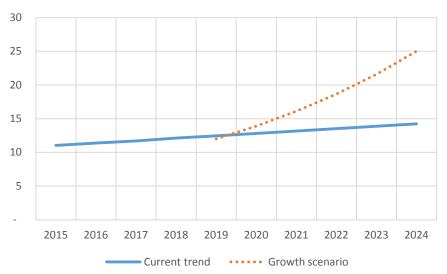
Impact on GDP of an increase of 10% in broadband penetration



Economic impact of broadband adoption and speed (Ukraine example)







Fixed broadband download speed (Mbps)



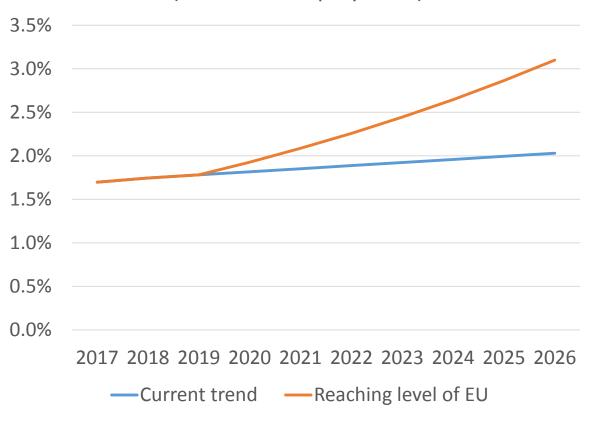
| | 2019 | 2024 |
|---|------------|------------|
| | 4.4 | 40 |
| Fixed broadband (per 100 people) Scenario 1 | 14 | 19 |
| Fixed broadband (per 100 people) Scenario 2 | 14 | 25 |
| Speed (Mbps) Scenario 1 | 48 | 68 |
| Speed (Mbps) Scenario 2 | 48 | 100 |
| | Scenario 1 | Scenario 2 |
| 2020 GDP US \$ billion | \$161.87 | |
| Impact of fixed broadband adoption (%) | 0.6% | 1.5% |
| Impact of fixed broadband adoption (US\$ billion) | \$ 0.49 | \$ 2.43 |
| Impact of speed (%) | 0.2% | 0.5% |
| Impact of speed (US\$ billion) | \$ 0.32 | \$ 0.81 |
| Total impact (adoption + speed) | \$ 0.81 | \$3.2 |
| Difference (Scenario 2 - Scenario 1) US\$ billion | \$ 2.4 | |

Source: World Bank and Ookla.

Economic impact of growth of ICT jobs due to digitalization

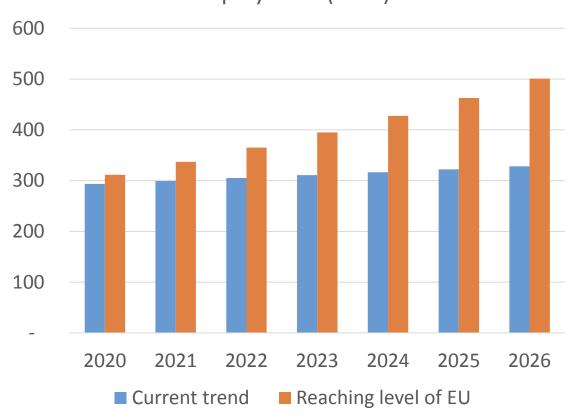






Additional 624,000 jobs

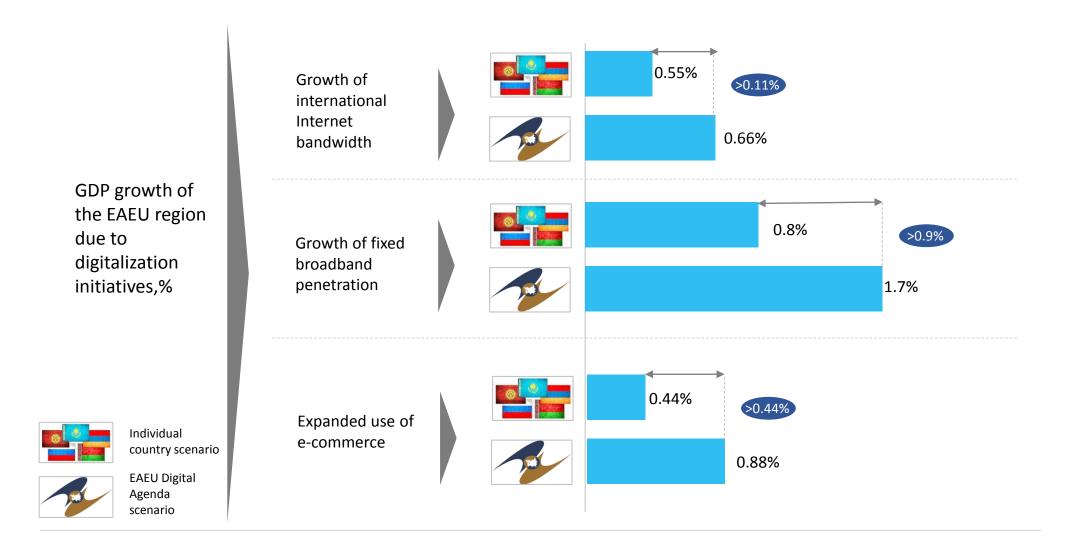
Information & Communications employment (000s)



Source: State Statistics Committee Ukraine and Eurostat.

Impact on GDP growth (individual vs. regional scenario) for 2018–2025



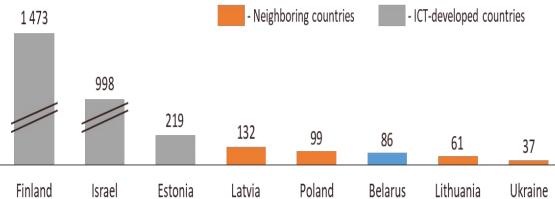


Source: World Bank report for the Eurasian Economic Commission on economic impact of the EAEU Digital Agenda, 2018

Similar challenges: export, employment, salary inflation, access to VC finance

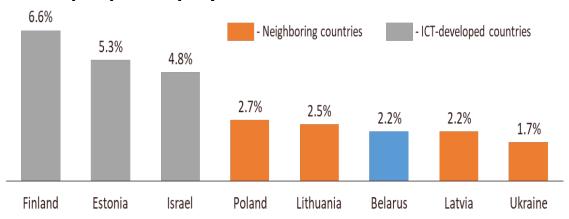


Export of IT-services per capita in 2015, USD



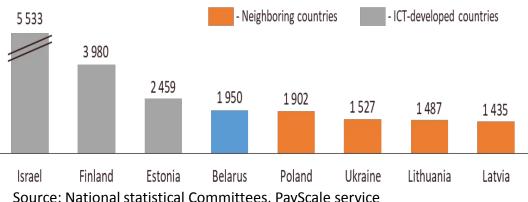
Source: The International Trade Centre, the National Statistical Committee of the Republic of Belarus

Number of people employed in ICT sector as a % of total people employed



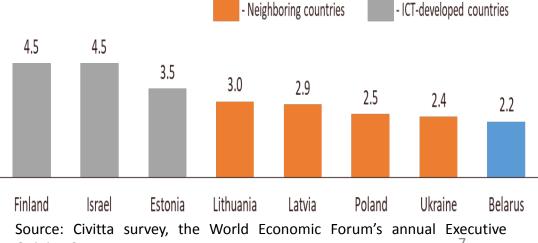
Source: Eurostat, National statistical committees of Belarus, Ukraine and Israel, Civitta analysis

Average salary in IT sector (net), USD/month



Source: National statistical Committees, PayScale service

Ease of access to venture funding [1 = extremely difficult; 7 = extremely easy)

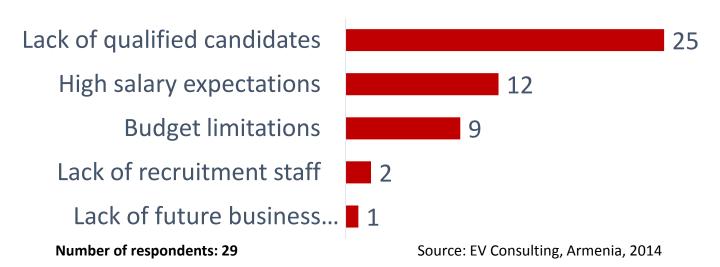


Opinion Survey

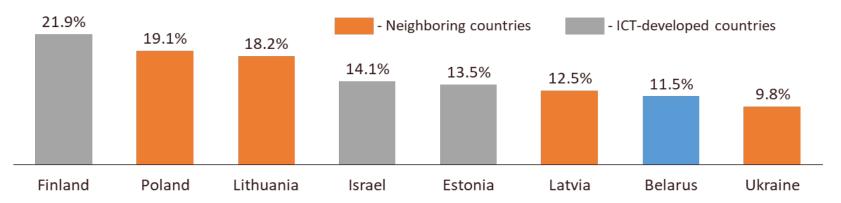
Similar challenges: quality of IT skills



Armenia: Recruitment constraints in IT and Engineering companies



STEM graduates as a % of total graduates



Source: Eurostat, National statistical committees of Belarus, Ukraine and Israel, Civitta Analysis

World Bank Digital Economy Framework

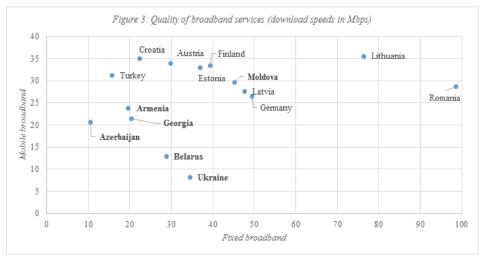




(example) EU4Digital broadband TA: sample preliminary results and approach to broadband strategy development

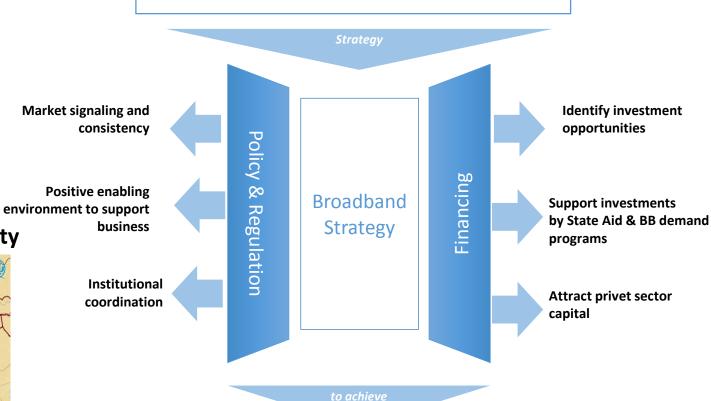


Average broadband speeds are low compared to EU

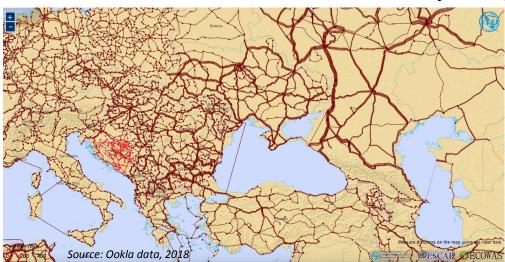


Guiding policy objectives

(e.g. increased access, affordability, use)



Domestic backbone networks need more capillarity



Specific measurable targets within appropriate timeframe

Digital CASA - Uzbekistan proposed components (~US\$ 300 million)



Component 1. Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure

- Improving Regional Connectivity: pre-purchase of international bandwidth
- Bridging the Rural Connectivity gap
- Increasing the security, capacity and reach of the government network «G-Net»

Component 2: Datacenters, Digital Platforms, and Smart Solutions

- G-Cloud
- Digital Platforms and Shared Services
- E-services and Smart Solutions in key sectors (health, agriculture, education)

Component 3: Enabling Environment for the Digital Economy

- Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Framework for digital transformation
- Digital Leadership, Capacity Building and Strategic Communication

Component 4. Digital Innovations and Skills

- Digital Entrepreneurship
- Digital Skills and Human Capital Development
- Digital Innovations; Center of Excellence
- Digital Literacy

Component 5. Project Management

Project Implementation Unit (PIU) establishment, various operating costs

Thank you!

Juan Navas-Sabater jnavassabater@worldbank.org

