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Ministry of Transport, Information Technology
and Communications 

26TH OSCE ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM



Digital technologies and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS – AGENDA 2030

- All 193 nations represented at the U. N. formally agreed to an ambitious set of 17 “Sustainable Development Goals” — a framework to coordinate global efforts for ending poverty and hunger, combating inequality and disease, slowing climate change and building peace.
- These 17 “SDGs” are a non-binding framework for cooperating global development efforts over the next 15 years. The idea is to keep the efforts of national and subnational governments, development banks, foundations, civil society and other development actors all moving in the same direction.

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EUROPEAN COMMISSION - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In November 2016 the European Commission published the Communication „Next steps for a sustainable European future“.

- The **Commission** has confirmed its commitment to sustainable development and its intention to further mainstreaming it into its policy-making.
- The effective implementation of existing EU policies, many of which are linked to sustainability objectives in the long term, is also needed to continue progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals globally and within the EU, including in developing countries.
- The achievement of many Sustainable Development Goals will also depend largely on actions taken by the Member States. EU supports, coordinates and complements Member States' policies or has a shared responsibility.

BULGARIA - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The Republic of Bulgaria strongly supports the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015, which represents an ambitious plan to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for everyone in the world.
- The government policies (national, sector, regional, etc.) envisage to different extent the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) formulated in the UN General Assembly Resolution **“Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**.
- A number of government institutions are responsible for the actions necessary for the success of the SDGs and their specific targets, and have included them in their policies. These institutions work in close cooperation with all interested stakeholders.

ICT AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- ICTs offer significant contributions to all socio-economic and environmental dimensions and play a key role in promoting democracy, good governance, inclusion and participation in the decision-making processes, non-discrimination, equality and equity, as well as transparency and accountability.
- ICTs enable the transformation of the most expensive public services, such as education and health care, and the advancement of low income countries' agriculture, trade/ ecommerce and transportation sectors in many parts of the world.
- The future advances in ICTs - including 5G mobile broadband, the Internet of Things (IoT), robotics, artificial intelligence, 3-D printing and others - will provide the tools necessary for additional, unprecedented advances in healthcare, education, energy services, agriculture, and environmental monitoring and protection.
- The accelerated adoption of ICT-based services will be key for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by their 2030 target date, e.g. healthcare (SDG 3), pre-primary up to secondary education (SDG 4), access to safe water and sanitation (SDG6), and access to reliable electricity (SDG 7).

Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the EU 2018

The Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union during the first half of 2018 presents a good opportunity for discussing the implementation of the SDGs and for monitoring the progress towards achieving these goals.



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THE BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY

- During our Presidency we will work towards:
 - **A Secure Europe**
 - **A Stable Europe**
 - **A Solidary Europe**
- How are we going to achieve this?
 - Through **Consensus, Competitiveness and Cohesion**. We are convinced that these priorities of the Bulgarian Presidency are fundamental for the future of Europe, and to achieve them one needs courage, political vision and shared efforts.
 - The key to reaching our common goals is unity between the member states, as well as between the European institutions. It is not by chance that we chose “**United We Stand Strong**” for the Bulgarian Presidency slogan. This is the slogan of our National Assembly and of the Coat of Arms of the Republic of Bulgaria.

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THE BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY

DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET STRATEGY INITIATIVES

Europe's role in the rapidly developing world is directly linked to the competitiveness of the European economy and, in particular, to fully utilizing the potential of the digital economy. Bulgaria is part of the presidency trio pursuing the ambitious goal of leading and successfully completing the Council's work on realizing all **Digital Single Market Strategy** initiatives.

- The free access to innovations and the link between education and the demands of the future labor market are at the heart of this technological development.
- Electronic communications, copyright, e-privacy, cyber security and the provision of cross-border services, especially by small and medium-sized enterprises, are just some of the issues before us.
- Integrating the "skills of the future" into the education of young people is the path to a competitive, flexible and successful Europe.

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THE BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY

PRIORITIES OF THE BULGARIAN PRESIDENCY

- **The regulatory framework for electronic communications reform** as a further step towards the **Gigabit society**
- **The free movement of non-personal data** - an important component for building a data-based economy
- **Cyber security**, which is an important element of today's digital economy and society
- Promoting the EU's **digital policies in the Western Balkan countries**
- **Digital competences** enhancement initiatives, among which is **the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition**

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DIGITAL BULGARIA 2020 PROGRAM

The main priorities of the program are:

- Creating the right conditions for the development and accessibility of digital networks and services;
- Developing a dynamic and innovative digital economy and increasing its growth potential;
- Increasing digital competences and skills;
- Ensuring effective and high-quality public e-services for businesses, citizens and the government;
- Promoting a secure digital ecosystem: tackling the cyber security challenges;
- Internet governance.

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BULGARIA'S MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS

The implementation of the Digital Bulgaria 2020 program have so far led to advancements in:

- **Connectivity**
- **Digital Economy**
- **E-Governance**
- **Digital skills and competencies**
- **Internet governance**
- **ICT sector**

CONNECTIVITY

The deployment of high-speed broadband access for all and facilitating the investment in the new ultra high-speed open and competitive Internet networks

The main task of the Bulgarian Presidency – the successful completion of the negotiation process on the **regulatory framework for electronic communications reform** as a further step towards the **Gigabit society** – will be achieved through:

- fast and coordinated deployment of 5G networks, which in turn is dependent on a coordinated radio spectrum release;
- In connection with these guidelines, we are updating the National NGA Plan and the Roadmap to it;
- New investment initiatives.

DIGITAL ECONOMY

The innovation strategy for smart specialization (ISIS)

Reaching this goal is linked to an effective growth policy based on the competitive advantages of the industry and research, and will be realized by achieving two operational objectives:

- Developing the innovation potential of identified thematic areas (creating and developing new technologies that will lead to competitive advantages and increase the added value of national products and services).
- Facilitating the accelerated adoption of technologies, methods, etc., for improving resource efficiency and ICT implementation in enterprises across all industries.

DIGITAL ECONOMY(2)

Concept for Digital Transformation of the Bulgarian Industry(Industry 4.0)

The areas of intervention covered in the Concept aiming at Business Digitization, Export Orientation and Competitiveness are as follows:

- Strengthening the relationship between science and the industry in the country and accelerating the integration of Bulgaria into European and international programs;
- A technological revitalization of the Bulgarian economy through the implementation of standards, building of infrastructure and market introduction of technological innovations through the technologies of Industry 4.0;
- Building human, scientific, organizational and institutional capacity for the development of Industry 4.0 in Bulgaria.

E-GOVERNANCE

The recent e-Governance developments are as follows:

- The adoption of the Strategy for the Development of e-Governance for the 2016-2020 period and its corresponding Roadmap;
- The amendment of the Electronic Governance Act in June 2016 which introduced a key change: the establishment of a new State e-Governance Agency;
- The creation of the government cloud (G-cloud) and the communication network of the State Administration;
- The launch of the National Open Data Portal, which ranks Bulgaria among the Europe Top 10 countries.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet is considered vital for economic and social activities, such as: doing business, working, playing, communicating and self-expressing freely.

Recent developments:

- Balkans - one of the priorities of the Bulgarian presidency. The successful launch of the national top-level domain in Cyrillic - an opportunity for ever more people to use the World Wide Web - both for communicating and work.
- Cooperation with international partners, in particular with ICANN and the Council of Europe - annual meeting of Eurodig – 2015.
- The first SEEDIG was launched in Sofia by and for the stakeholders in South-Eastern Europe. This event represented the beginning of an interaction between the countries of the Western Balkans - one of the priorities of the Bulgarian presidency

EDUCATION

Strategy for Effective Implementation of Information and Communication Technologies in Education and Science in the Republic of Bulgaria (2014-2020)

The strategy outlines several primary aims:

- To create equal opportunities for access to quality education regardless of place of residence or level of education by integrating modern ICT in the system;
- To form personalities, well-prepared for living in the information society with all its opportunities, threats, challenges and risks; and
- To ensure a smooth, effective and manageable transition of the society towards the knowledge economy.

DIGITAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCE

The National Digital Alliance - part of the initiative of the European Commission Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition. In the realization of NDA's projects, we look in priority to:

- Breaking ICT stereotypes;
- Increasing the percentage of people in Bulgaria with basic digital skills;
- Increasing the number of women in the world of technologies;
- Contributing to a digitally skilful future generation;
- Other initiatives that help young people, and especially women and girls to acquire digital skills and competences: DigiGirlz; Coderdojo; Hour of code - "don't wait, girls, go for digital!";
- **The National Strategy for Lifelong Learning (2014-2020)** adopted by the Ministry of Education and Science.

CONCLUSION

- The SDGs are a collaborative agenda between all levels of government and civil society, signed by all UN member states. Their implementation needs to be accompanied by mutual partnership.
- Sustainable development requires a holistic and cross-sector policy approach that addresses economic, social and environmental challenges as different parts of the same problem. Sustainable development is ultimately an issue of governance and requires the right instruments to ensure policy cohesion across thematic areas, as well as between the EU's external actions and its other policies.
- Sustainable development will not be brought about by public sector policies alone. It is a joint agenda of citizens, civil society, organisations and businesses. Bulgaria is committed to play an active role in achieving it.

Thank you for your attention!



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