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Digital economy as a driver for growth and connectivity

26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum

"Promoting economic progress and security in the OSCE area through innovation, human capital development, and good public and corporate governance"

FIRST PREPARATORY MEETING

Vienna, 22-23 January 2018

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Expected Benefits of Digital Economy

for GROWTH AND CONNECTIVITY

Ensuring prosperity and equality for individuals, businesses, states and nations.

But some opposite effects are already visible and new can appear.

Digital Transformation Threats

(e.g. towards Human resources)

- New unemployment & complication of creating new jobs (Not all people are suited to work in the digital economy)
- Disconnected national education and healthcare systems
- Traditional & Virtual Talents (Brain) Drain intensification -> new emigration & immigration disbalances
- Disruption of Human Capital & Organizational Capital of the Nation
- Revision of the moral code of individuals, businesses, states
- etc

Digital Trade & Digital Infrastructure

- Niche of Digital Trade in the Digital Economy
- Big Data, Artificial Intelligence Software and Digital Platforms is part of an digital infrastructure?

Weakness of the national digital trade and digital infrastructures reinforce economic disparities:

- Big Economies vs Smaller ones (Cross-countries economic disparities)
- Global Corporations vs National Economies
- Global Corporations vs Smaller Businesses
- Big Data and Transnational Data Flow disparities
- etc

OSCE role in Digital Transformation

Digital economy is both the cause and the result of digital transformation.

Digital transformation is extremely important and requires the involvement of the OSCE and its participating States in this process.

Regulation of digital transformation process requires good governance in each participating State of the OSCE

(alone and in co-operation with other participating States)

And this is not the only reason why

digital transformation should be within the competence of the OSCE.

Ideas for potential OSCE priorities

to overcame threats & expand the benefits of digital economy:

- 1. convergence of the digital agendas of the OSCE participating States
- 2. creating conditions for the formation of the OSCE participating States single digital market
- 3. unification of regulation should expand
- 4. Digital barriers at borders should be eliminated

For this purpose, we need to know what has already been done, what is happening now and what is planned in the EU and the Eurasian Economic Union.

Belarus Inputs

Is done:

• The state and business of Belarus have jointly put forward some initiatives in the field of digital economy for the European Union and the Eurasian Economic Union.

To do:

- Belarus considers it important for itself to involve other OSCE participating States in these and forthcoming initiatives, which would then implement them together.
- Belarus welcomes digital initiatives of OSCE participating States.

Finding ways together

Involving business associations in the work of the 26th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum will help business to get on the ways to expand the benefits of digital economy.

To enhance partnership and further business interactions the business associations together with other interested parties can organize a <u>continuous</u> forum on

Digital Transformation, Digital Economy and Digital Business with focus on growth and connectivity.

Thanks for your attention

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