



2021 ACTIVITY REPORT



საქართველოს ეკონომიკისა და
დამგრობის პოლიტიკის მინისტრო
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

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STATE & IT
EURASIAN FORUM

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2021 ACTIVITY REPORT

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Our Team



Michael Sheitelman, Chief Strategic Officer

As CSO, Mr. Sheitelman is responsible for defining our organization's vision and strategy, as well as the creative development of various projects and programs initiated by StrategEast and in cooperation with other organizations.

Mr. Sheitelman's broad and extensive experience includes over 20 years as a strategic consultant and senior manager for various international projects, including political campaigns, media management, and social and environmental initiatives. Mr. Sheitelman has advised nongovernmental organizations and election campaigns in Israel, Russia, Latvia and Kyrgyzstan. He studied physics, mathematics and aerodynamics at St. Petersburg's Polytechnic University and at Bar Ilan University in Israel.



Anna Zub, Senior Director

Anna Zub is StrategEast's Senior Director and responsible for the extension and implementation of educational projects and IT industry advocacy in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

Before joining StrategEast, Anna spent many years as the head of marketing and BD programs in several Western European companies' Ukrainian offices and participated in expos organized in the EU, Israel, and South Africa.

After completing her MA degrees in Finance and Marketing in Kyiv National Economic University, Anna continued her studies in London, Manchester, and Frankfurt.



Lidia Shavlo, Chief Analyst

In this role, Ms. Shavlo is responsible for coordinating StrategEast's research projects, as well as prioritizing the center's information needs. Lidia's experience includes over a decade in communications and public relations in both the private and public sector. Before joining StrategEast, Ms. Shavlo worked at PRP PR agency, a Weber Shandwick affiliate company, implementing award-winning PR strategies for international clients, including Coca-Cola, MasterCard, Microsoft, USAID, and others. Ms. Shavlo has worked on a communications team at a Ukrainian tech start-up, Sayenko Kharenko law firm, the Investment and Trade Facilitation Center, and for Ukrainian MPs and a political party.

Lidia has MAs in English philology from Kyiv National Linguistic University, and in public governance and policy analysis from the Kyiv School of Economics.



Praskovja Bystrova, VP for Strategic Communications

Ms. Bystrova joined StrategEast as a project manager in 2017 after many years of social activism, leading several youth NGOs, and working in project management and public relations at the Educational Human Rights House Chernihiv in Ukraine. After conducting research in the field of pro-sustainable strategies within her International Master's Program, she is currently working on StrategEast's strategy development. Ms. Bystrova studied social science (BA) at the Crimean University of Humanities (Ukraine) and social science and applied science (MA) at the University Rovira i Virgili (Spain), the University of Bordeaux (France), and the University of Porto (Portugal).



The past year has been a turbulent time for Eurasian countries. The globe-spanning COVID-19 pandemic caused the greatest damage in transition countries, which have faced difficulties in coping with the pandemic's medical and economic fallout. Unfortunately, Eurasia's problems were not limited to Covid-19.

In the fall of 2020, a armed conflict broke out between Armenia and Azerbaijan, which resulted in significant geopolitical consequences in the region - the arrival of Russian troops in the Transcaucasus and the increase of Turkish influence. The presidential elections in Belarus, and the suppression of the public protests that followed led to the de facto termination of economic cooperation between Belarus and the Western world. Belarus was completely isolated following the hijacking of a Ryanair plane over Belarusian airspace.

Nevertheless, for StrategEast's mission – reinforcing the values of the rule of law and private property protection in Eurasian countries through the transition from natural-resource-based to knowledge-driven economies – the pandemic became, in a sense, an advocator. In Eurasian countries, IT specialists turned out to be the second-most important players in the fight against the pandemic, second only to medical professionals. In an impressively short turnaround time, IT specialists managed to develop many applications to track the spread of the virus, brought many necessary services online in order to meet consumers' everyday needs, and

made it possible for millions of people forced to stay home to work remotely. The growing importance of IT specialists in public life, which StrategEast has been talking about for so long, has become obvious both to the state and every citizen.

As a result, having worked with the governments of Eurasian countries, the response to our initiatives is overwhelmingly positive. Over the past year, in cooperation with Eurasian country governments and private sector, we have carried out educational projects to train young IT professionals in Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Moldova, and soon we will launch a similar project in Ukraine. We have been developing and promoting special legal regimes for the IT industry in Tajikistan, Georgia and Ukraine, in cooperation with those countries' governments.

We held the StrategEast State and IT Forum in Tbilisi with the participation of numerous representatives of local authorities, and are currently preparing the next one, to be held in the Central Asia region. The pandemic has driven the Georgian economy to the the brink of disaster, since it was primarily focused on international tourism. In 2020, Georgia lost three-quarters of its tourist flow, and so in our work we decided to focus most on that country, which we had chosen as a kind of "pilot site" for our "Global Minds Initiative" program.

Our program in Georgia is extensive. It includes creating a legal and tax ecosystem that is beneficial for international investors, attracts global IT companies to the country, provides remote training for young

specialists with the world's best mentors, and then finds them employment locally in Georgia. In order to make this program a success, we needed to attract many stakeholders, e.g. local universities helped us select students, global IT companies assisted with organizing the training and recruiting employees, and international financial institutions and development agencies financed the implementation of programs. The Georgian government improved its legislation, and the ICT association we specially created ourselves helped design a strategy of further IT development in Georgia. As a result of our activity, in just one year, a modern, globally-integrated IT industry emerged in Georgia.

Now that StrategEast has demonstrated what the transition to a knowledge economy entails on the ground is and how it can help overcome the consequences of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic if it is carried out quickly, it is much easier for us to convince the leaders of other Eurasian countries in need to implement such programs.

We are motivated to carry on with our mission, because we realize that every job created in the knowledge-driven economy is another small step towards transparency, accountability, diversification, the rule of law, and private property protection in Eurasia.

Sincerely,
Anatoly Motkin
President of StrategEast

Anatoly Motkin

Advisory Board



Horton Beebe-Center

President Emeritus
of Eurasia Foundation

As head of the Eurasia Foundation, Mr. Beebe-Center made a great contribution to the development of small and medium-sized businesses in post-Soviet countries. Implementing good governance and involving civil society in political life are always at the center of his attention., Mr. Beebe-Center is fluent in Russian and holds a BA in Soviet studies from Brown University and an MA in Russian studies from Harvard University.



Amb. Clifford G. Bond

Former Official at the U.S.
Department of State

Clifford G. Bond is a retired Foreign Service Officer who served as U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2001–2004 and Special Envoy for Srebrenica in 2007–2008, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim in Tallinn, Estonia in 2018, and as Chargé d’Affaires, ad interim in Stockholm, Sweden in 2019.

Ambassador Bond recently served as the Acting Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia from November 2016 to April 2017.

Prior to that, Ambassador Bond served as the Coordinator for Assistance to Ukraine at the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv. In his Department of State career, he has carried out a variety of political, economic, and commercial assignments in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Mission to the EU in Brussels, and U.S. Embassies in Belgrade, Stockholm, Prague, and Moscow.

From 2004–2006 he was a member of the faculty of National Defense University, where he conducted seminars on national security studies. He has also served as the Special Advisor to Congress’s Commission for Security and Cooperation in Europe, also known as the Helsinki Commission.

Since retirement in late 2011, he has been the Vice President of the American University in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He received his undergraduate degree from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and a graduate degree from the London School of Economics.



Debra Cagan

Former Official at the U.S.
Department of State and
Department of Defense

Debra L. Cagan worked as a career diplomat at the Department of State and as an official at the Department of Defense from the Reagan to Trump administrations, including serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Coalition, Peacekeeping, Humanitarian, and Disaster Relief; Senior Director for European, Russian, and Eurasian security issues; Special Advisor for Strategic and Nuclear Policy for Europe; and Senior Advisor to U.S. and NATO military officials. Ms. Cagan led negotiations for the Highly Enriched Uranium Agreement with Russia and headed coalition operations for Iraq and Afghanistan. Ms. Cagan, a native Chicagoan, has a BA and MA from the University of Iowa and completed additional postgraduate work at the University of Chicago towards her doctorate, where she was named the first female fellow for the prestigious Armed Forces and Society Consortium.



Michael Haltzel

Senior fellow, Johns Hopkins
School of Advanced
International Studies

Mr. Haltzel has made great contributions to the establishment of peace and security in Eastern Europe after the fall of many communist regimes. He is the recipient of awards from many Eastern European states, served as an OSCE monitor for the first postwar elections in Bosnia, and is the author or editor of 10 books on European history and international relations. Mr. Haltzel holds a PhD in International Studies history from Harvard University.



David Tkeshelashvili

Head of Administration
(Chief of Staff) to the
President of Georgia
(2010-2013)

Mr. Tkeshelashvili instituted a series of structural and policy reforms for decentralization and sustainable regional development in Georgia.

Mr. Tkeshelashvili led regional development and the local self-government reform process, first as a State Minister for Regional Issues, and later, under his leadership, a new office, the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure was created. He served as a minister in that agency until 2010.

Mr. Tkeshelashvili holds an MA in legal studies from Tbilisi State University and an LLM degree from Emory University in Atlanta.



Daniel A. Witt

President, International
Tax and Investment Center

Working on the drafts of tax codes in many countries of the former USSR, Mr. Witt has always followed the principles of good practices.

Thanks to his contribution, the economies of these countries have gained a new chance for sustainable development and earning confidence around the world. Mr. Witt received a BBA (magna cum laude) in public administration and an MBA in finance from Western Michigan University.

StrategEast Westernization Report 2021



In StrategEast's Westernization Report 2021, experts from Eurasian and Baltic countries describe the most important political and economic events that took place in post-Soviet region in 2020.



The 2021 Westernization Report was prepared with the support of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy.

The experts selected a wide variety of events which are most likely affect the degree of Westernization in their respective countries.

Among the events selected by our experts, there was an unprecedented number related to the use of force: the revolutions in Kyrgyzstan and Belarus, as well as the war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and others.

However, at the same time, the COVID-19 crisis shed light on the path of development that Eurasian countries need in order to take advantage of their full potential. This path is the digital economy.

WESTERNIZATION REPORT 2021: HOW THE EVENTS WILL AFFECT THE WESTERNIZATION DEGREE

● Positive trend ● Negative trend ● Uncertain trend

	Event	Westernization areas	Trend
1	Estonia Battle over Family Values	Lifestyle	●
2	Lithuania New Female-Led Government	Lifestyle	●
3	Latvia Failure to Ratify the Istanbul Convention	Lifestyle	●
4	Georgia COVID-19 Ruined Tourism	Lifestyle, Economic	●
5	Moldova Election of Maia Sandu as President	Political	●
6	Ukraine Negotiations on Donbas	Political	●
7	Armenia War with Azerbaijan	Political	●
8	Azerbaijan Russian Peacekeeping Troops	Political	●
9	Kyrgyzstan Third Revolution	Legal	●
10	Kazakhstan China's Growing Influence	Political, Legal	●
11	Belarus Mass Protests	Political	●
12	Uzbekistan Country's Comprehensive Digitalization	Economic and Cultural	●
13	Tajikistan Pandemic-Aggravated Economic Crisis	Economic	●
14	Turkmenistan Denial of Coronavirus	Political	●

Strategieast Westernization Report 2021 has been presented in the EU and UK:



On April 26th, Anatoly Motkin presented the main findings of the StrategEast Westernization Report 2021 to the European Policy Center. "The Report showed how the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted other social and economic diseases in Eurasian societies, and the global community should help the countries of Eurasia to find a vaccine against these diseases, just as it helped them fight the pandemic," - stated Mr. Motkin, summarizing his speech.

During the special virtual event, "COVID, Politics and Post-Soviet Societies," hosted by the Henry Jackson Society, Anatoly Motkin presented the results of StrategEast's Westernization Report 2021 – a report on the most important events of the past year affecting the Westernization of post-Soviet Eurasian countries.

During the Q&A session, Mr. Motkin answered questions regarding the latest developments in the Eurasian region: Russia's military preparations on the border with Ukraine, new realities in the Caucasus as a result of the war in Karabakh, and the deployment of Russian troops into the region, the prospects for Moldovan development under new President Maia Sandu, and others. Some of the questions were also related to the methodology used to conduct the research.

The event was moderated by the Henry Jackson Society Director of Communications Sam Armstrong.



The events in Eastern Europe were at the forefront of a presentation the Westernization Report 2020 at CEPS, a leading think tank and forum for debate on EU affairs. "After the transition to remote work, the IT industry in Eurasia and the rest of the world kept growing. In countries where it is well-developed (the Baltic countries, Belarus, and Ukraine), it served as a shock absorber for the economic crisis," Anatoly Motkin emphasized in his speech.



StrategEast Westernization Award

In March 2021, StrategEast announced its Westernization Award 2020 nominees. The Westernization Award was established to emphasize significant contributions from politicians, business representatives, and civil activists in building closer ties between Eurasian and Baltic countries and the Western world. It was presented in six categories: **Economic Westernization, Political Westernization, Legal Westernization, Westernization of Lifestyle, Language and Culture Westernization, and Lifetime Achievement.**

NOMINEES IN 2020 WERE:

Political Westernization – Maia Sandu, the President of Moldova

Maia Sandu has been awarded a Political Westernization Award for demanding the withdrawal of foreign troops from Transnistria and adopting a path to fight corruption in her country.

Economic Westernization – Ivane Machavariani, Minister of Finance of Georgia, and Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia



Ivane Machavariani, Minister of Finance of Georgia, and Natia Turnava, Minister of Economy of Georgia, have been awarded the Economic Westernization Award for a special tax regime for IT companies and their contribution to development of the IT industry in Georgia.



Legal Westernization – Lawrence Meredith, Director for Neighbourhood East & Institution Building, European Commission



Lawrence Meredith, Director for Neighbourhood East & Institution Building at the European Commission, has been awarded a Legal Westernization Award for supporting the creation of a common legislative framework for ICT innovations within the EU4Digital project in the Eastern Partnership countries.

Cultural and linguistic Westernization – Yerzhan Yerkinbayev, Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC "NC" Kazakh Tourism"



Yerzhan Yerkinbayev, Chairman of the Board of Directors of JSC "NC" Kazakh Tourism" has been awarded a Cultural and Linguistic Award for launching an extraordinary marketing campaign to promote his country's tourism abroad. Kazakh Tourism capitalized on the film *Borat*, which originally presented Kazakhstan in a sarcastic way, and turned

the Borat character's catchphrase into a positive message and the country's new tourism slogan: "Kazakhstan. Very nice!"

Westernization of Lifestyle – Keith Krach, United States Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment (2019-2021)



Keith Krach, former U.S. Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, has been awarded a Lifestyle Westernization Award for the Clean Network Initiative, which is designed to provide citizens of Eurasia with equipment and applications supplied by trusted vendors. The initiative, which is led by the U.S. State Department, is intended to implement internationally-accepted digital trust standards across a coalition of dependable partners.

Lifetime Achievement – Sir Suma Chakrabarti



Sir Suma Chakrabarti has been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award for his long-standing multi-year contribution to the sustainable development of Eurasian Countries.

Global Minds Initiative

StrategEast remains fully committed to developing a thriving IT industry in Eurasian countries. Within the framework of its Global Minds Initiative, StrategEast has launched a number of new activities aimed at developing the tech industry in Eurasian countries as a part of their economic transition to become better integrated into the free world's economy.

StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum in Tbilisi

The 2020 Forum was held in a hybrid format – in-person and online. The event connected government officials, representatives of international financial institutions, and development agencies, including USAID, EBRD, the World Bank, the United Nations, and Helvetas, and global and local IT industry leaders, including Microsoft, EPAM Systems, and Axios for 12 discussion panels dedicated to various topics related to TECHNOLOGY AS A REMEDY.

The key outcomes of the Forum:

- The IT industry has been declared a priority for the Georgian government, along with tourism and agriculture;
- The reduced 5% tax rate was quickly introduced for international IT companies in Georgia;
- EPAM Systems – one of the leading global engineering companies starts its operation in Georgia.

The forum was co-partnered by:



The 2nd StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum topics were:

- State in a smartphone: The digital transformation of public services
- Eurasia's future tech labor market
- The IT industry in Georgia
- Digital financial solutions
- Central Asia as a Eurasian digital hub
- Startups in Eurasia – Investments and environment
- Digital transformation of SMEs
- COVID-19 – Technology as a remedy
- Global development agencies in Eurasia
- Artificial intelligence in Eurasia
- Digital resilience: Sustaining digital transformation
- New education for the new economy

Professor Beata Javorcik Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. "Automation is going to profoundly affect the labor market. It is going to primarily affect jobs in manufacturing sectors such as textiles, food products agriculture, wood products and transport. While services – financial, legal, telecom, computer programming, and education – are less likely to be affected. This has a very big implication for the ways we should be educating young people and preparing them for entry into the labor force. As automation progresses, many of the jobs for manual workers are likely to disappear."

Dr. Kaush Arha Senior Adviser for Strategic Engagement to USAID Administrator. "Technology is not only a great leveler around the world, but it is also a great disruptor. However, the question is not to prevent the evolution of the new technology, but to manage it to the best ability of most of your citizens. In a development agency, one would engage all fronts to do that:

the government, the private sector, and civil society. You would engage government agencies that deal with digital activities. Most important is the engagement with the private sector, as the government cannot do all the planning and foresee the future – that comes from the private sector. It can tell us where the industry is going, and where the new opportunities are. Civil society serves as a bridge between the government and the private sector, helping to keep them accountable."

Arkadiy Dobkin Founder and President, EPAM Systems. "We are very committed to the region. We at EPAM have created a significant educational infrastructure: Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia, Kazakhstan. And Georgia is next. I truly believe that the start of our activities in Georgia will accelerate the whole IT industry and that the community will create the opportunity to keep all of their talent in the country."



Panelists: Ketevan Gabelia, Associate Banker, EBRD; Dr. Kaush Arha, Senior Adviser for Strategic Engagement to USAID Administrator; Alexander Gogoberidze, Regional Manager for the South Caucasus, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation; Oleksii Sobolev, CEO, Prozorro.Sale



Panelists: Giorgi Iashvili, Co-Founder, CEO, Georgian Information Security Association | Natan Avidan, Founder, CEO, Kernolab, Advisor, BigWallet | Nikoloz Gagua, Deputy Minister of Finance of Georgia | Natia Gvazava, CLO, Identomat Inc. | David Papuashvili, Deputy Head of the Specialized Risk Department, National Bank of Georgia

StrategEast EPAM IT HUB



Anatoly Motkin, President, StrategEast

IT HUB Graduation Ceremony held in Tbilisi

On November 2020, Tbilisi hosted a graduation ceremony for the first graduates of the StrategEast EPAM IT HUB educational center, who were awarded certificates of successful completion of the trainings. The graduates completed their studies in Q/A, Android, ASP.NET, and JAVA. All of them already have their first jobs in the IT industry in their new specialty. The ceremony was attended by Avtandil Kasradze – Chairman of Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency, Anatoly Motkin – President of StrategEast, and Sergey Ageenko – Director, Software Engineering, EPAM.

StrategEast IT HUB has expanded its regional training programs in Eurasia and recruited new students in Georgia, Moldova, and Azerbaijan



Students of Caucasus University in Tbilisi, Khazar University, Azerbaijan Technical University, and Baku State University, as well as students from Moldova

selected by Tekwill, have already successfully passed their preliminary exams and are studying the QA Engineering training program, as well as Front End, Java, and ASP.NET. The first Moldovan and Azerbaijani students graduated from the IT HUB in August 2021, with the opportunity to launch a career with an international IT company, without having to leave their home countries. The StrategEast EPAM IT HUB plans on expanding its activities to other Eurasian countries.

StrategEast and Exadel started training Georgian students at IT HUB



Another cohort of Business and Technology University (Georgia) students have

started training as QA Engineers within the StrategEast IT HUB project in Georgia. IT practitioners from Exadel, an international software engineering and consulting company headquartered in California, USA, will train the students.

Exadel recently started its operations in Georgia and students who successfully complete their studies at IT HUB Georgia will be hired by the Exadel Tbilisi office or other international companies operating in Georgia.

The StrategEast and Tekwill “Better Employment Opportunities” joint program launched in Moldova



Better Employment Opportunities is a new Tekwill program that enables knowledge transfer and international exchange of experience and best practices in ICT.

Following discussions and negotiations with representatives from the private sector in the Republic of Moldova and internationally, as well as representatives of international non-governmental organizations, Tekwill explored the possibility of expanding educational programs to prepare skilled labor in line with international standards. Thus, Tekwill has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with StrategEast, USA, the founder of the IT HUB educational center.

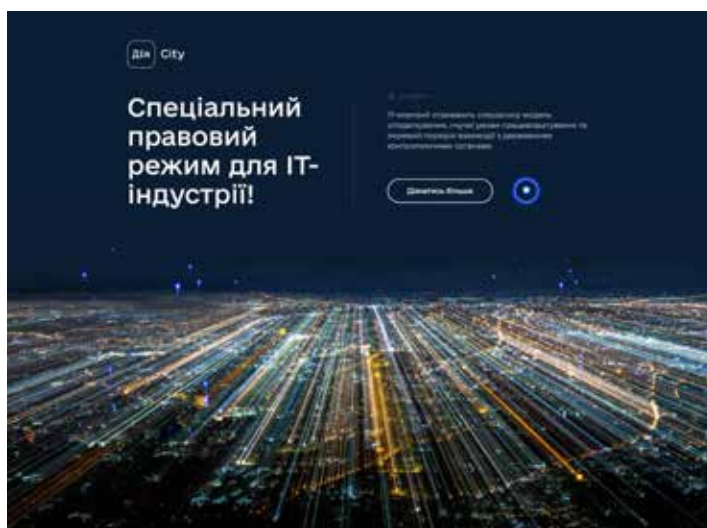
As a result, Tekwill has launched the “Better employment opportunities” program enabling knowledge transfer and international exchange of experience and best practices, thereby contributing to the training of junior ICT specialists. Eligible participants evaluated and selected by StrategEast will benefit from an individual mentoring program with high-level practicing engineers from EPAM Systems and other global IT companies. Each student enrolled in this program will receive training in one of the following areas: Front end Development, Java, ASP.NET, Android, or QA. Only 20 applicants will participate in the first phase of this program. Program graduates will receive job offers for remote employment with international IT companies.

Eligible candidates for the program must fulfill the following criteria:

- final year computer science students;
- English skills at a level B1 or higher;
- basic knowledge in programming and/or software testing;
- willing to cover 20% of the full tuition fee.

Fostering IT industry development in Eurasia

StrategEast joined the project office to create a special legal regime for the IT industry in Ukraine



Anatoly Motkin and StrategEast CSO Michael Sheitelman joined the Diia City project office to work on the creation of a special legal regime for the IT industry in Ukraine. The relevant memorandum was signed with the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine.

Diia City is designed as an extraterritorial high-tech hub. Ukrainian IT companies registered in Diia City will receive significant tax benefits, the opportunity to streamline paperwork, and other special conditions for their activities, which, according to the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, will be a draw to the global IT industry. Diia City will completely change the face of the Ukrainian IT industry, attract new investments, and help shift from outsourcing to the development of Ukraine's own products, with the accumulation of intellectual property rights within the country.

In April 2021, the Ukrainian parliament approved a draft law introducing a special legal regime for Ukraine's IT industry in Ukraine, known as "Diia City". In July 2021, the draft law was adopted.

Together with StrategEast, the Diia City project office includes representatives of the Parliament of Ukraine; the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; Ministry of Finance of Ukraine; Ministry of Economic Development, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine, Kyiv School of Economics, and local and international experts.

StrategEast presented the Diia City Project to international institutions

Anatoly Motkin moderated the presentation of a special legal framework for the Ukrainian IT sector known as "the Diia City Project" for international institutions.

Diia City aims to better realign incentives for supporting the process of moving up the value chain. The reforms unveiled by the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine aim to:

- to simplify the tax system;
- to provide incentives for resident firms to achieve scale, invest and increase formal employment;
- to attract FDI;
- to strengthen governance and improve the business operating environment;
- and provide a more equitable playing field across industry participants.

Modelling by Oxford Economics suggests that Diia City reforms will have a positive impact on government finances and are highly likely to boost tax revenues in the right circumstances.

The key findings from the Oxford Economics report, "A Review of the Impact of Reforms on the Ukrainian IT Sector," which was drafted in collaboration with the International Tax and Investment Center and StrategEast Center for the New Economy, were shared during the online event.



Presentations were made by Oliver Salmon of Oxford Economics and Daniel A. Witt, President at the International Tax and Investment Center. On behalf of the Ukrainian government, the discussion was attended by Oleksandr Boryakov, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and Olga Magaletska, Head of the Office of the National Investment Council of Ukraine. Representatives of USAID; the World Bank; IMF; EBRD; the UK Embassy in Ukraine; and the US Embassy in Ukraine attended the presentation and took part in the discussion.

StrategEast Georgia has established the ICT Association of Georgia



In November 2020, StrategEast Georgia established the ICT Association of Georgia aiming to create a platform for discussing strategies and practical solutions for accelerated development of Georgia's ICT industry. EPAM Systems, Alta Software and, the Bank of Georgia were the first to join the brand new association.

The inaugural meeting of the ICT Association was held at the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia with participation of Minister Natia Turnava, Deputy Minister

Irakli Nadareishvili, Chairman at Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA) Avtandil Kasradze, and Anatoly Motkin.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Exadel Georgia, MySoft.ge, iKnow.ge, Sweeft Digital, and AzRy.

In her opening remarks, Minister Natia Turnava expressed her government's readiness to foster the development of the digital economy and stated that the ministry has many opportunities to provide financial and regulatory assistance to the development of the ICT industry.

Anatoly Motkin noted that "Today, the ICT industry of Georgia is in the initial stage of its integration into the global tech industry. And now it is very important to act together so as not to replicate others' mistakes and avoid wasting time. The main mission of ICT Association of Georgia is to unite the efforts of all stakeholders interested in the development of the ICT industry in Georgia in order to take it to a new level."

At the meeting, representatives of ICT companies agreed to set up a working group and formulate policy recommendations for the government, which will be presented to the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia.

StrategEast organized a meeting of ICT Association of Georgia with international financial institutions and development agencies



On June 21, 2021, a meeting was organized by StrategEast President Anatoly Motkin with key players from the IT industry, members of ICT Association of Georgia, and international institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the United Nations in Georgia (UN), United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), and the Bank of Georgia (BOG).

The meeting was also attended by representatives of Sweeft Digital, iKnow.ge, Alta Software, Exadel Georgia, and EPAM Systems.

Participants discussed the development of Georgia's digital economy, particularly the importance of developing its IT sector, providing Georgian IT stakeholders with access to local and international financing, possible solutions to increase the local talent pool, and availability of the information on the field.

The ICT Association (ICTA) presented its aims and plans to adopt best practices in order to enhance the Georgian IT sector. Mr. Motkin also introduced the newly appointed chairman of the ICT Association of Georgia, Luka Shonia.

International financial institutions and development agencies expressed their willingness to cooperate and provide support to the ICTA and IT sector.

StrategEast joined The Paris Call



The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, held on November 12, 2018, is a call to join forces to tackle new threats endangering both citizens and infrastructure.

The Paris Call invites all cyberspace stakeholders to work together and encourages States to cooperate with private sector partners, researchers, and civil society. Supporters of the Paris Call commit to working together to adopt responsible behavior and implement fundamental principles applied in the physical world in cyberspace. The Paris Call was launched 2018 by the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, during the Internet Governance Forum held at UNESCO and the Paris Peace Forum.

Currently, 79 states, 35 local authorities, approximately 400 members of civil society, and about 700 companies have already joined the Paris Call.

After joining the Paris Call, StrategEast began actively promoting the mission to spread the values of trust and security in cyberspace to the regions of Eurasia where it operates: in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia.

StrategEast initiated Georgia-Kyrgyzstan IT cooperation

At the initiative of Anatoly Motkin, a meeting was held in Tbilisi between the chairman of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA), Avtandil Kasradze, and representatives of the Kyrgyz Services and Software Developers Association (KSSDA) – Shirin Mukanbetova, Executive Director, and Avigail Menashe, deputy CEO.

During the meeting, representatives of Georgia and Kyrgyzstan agreed to collaborate in developing an IT industry ecosystem, develop educational programs and accelerate startups.



The President of StrategEast discussed IT industry development with Azerbaijani government officials



During a series of meetings with government officials in Azerbaijan, Anatoly Motkin discussed the prospects for cooperation between StrategEast and the Government of Azerbaijan in developing the local IT industry.

In particular, StrategEast plans to cooperate with the Azerbaijani government in creating a special tax regime for international IT companies that intend to begin operations in Azerbaijan. StrategEast is aimed at attracting international IT companies to the country, creating new jobs, launching new educational programs for IT specialists, and fostering development of the local startup ecosystem.

During his visit to Baku, Mr. Motkin held meetings with Tural Karimli, chairman of the Innovation Agency of Azerbaijan; Tamerlan Taghiyev, Acting Head of the Center for Analysis and Coordination of the Fourth Industrial Revolution under the Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan, and other government officials responsible for the development of Azerbaijan's IT industry.

Global Minds Initiative Advisory Board



Giorgi Alexidze

Chief Information Officer
of Axios Holding

With a degree in computer software engineering from Georgian Technical University and over a decade of experience as a CTO and CIO in technology companies, Mr. Alexidze brings an in-depth perspective on the way technology impacts the world today. By applying his technical and managerial experience in the workplace, Mr. Alexidze has been instrumental in developing SaaS products with a global reach.

Mr. Alexidze's vast experience and talent will help enhance the transformative effects of technology throughout post-Soviet countries outside of Russia.



Arkadiy Dobkin

President of EPAM Systems

Mr. Dobkin is the principal founder, CEO, and President of EPAM Systems. Under his direction, EPAM has grown to become one of the world's leading software and product engineering services companies.

For the past 20 years, Mr. Dobkin has been increasingly recognized as an instrumental force in bringing the vast software talent pool of the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe to the international business community. In 2015, Mr. Dobkin was inducted into the Ernst & Young World Entrepreneur of the Year Academy and the Elite Entrepreneur of the Year Hall of Fame.

Mr. Dobkin holds an MS in electrical engineering from the Belarusian National Technical University.



Dr. Gregory Asmolov

Lecturer in Digital
Entrepreneurship
and Marketing

Department of Digital
Humanities

King's College London

Gregory Asmolov is a Lecturer in Digital Entrepreneurship and Marketing, Department of Digital Humanities at King's College London.

His work focuses on how information technologies, specifically social media and crowdsourcing platforms, constitute the role of individual users and crowds in crisis situations. His current research explores how digital platforms change the everyday lives of users who are located far away from a conflict zone, and how information technologies contribute to their users' participation in warfare. His additional research interests include disinformation and social polarization and the role of digital networks in the emergence of alternative socio-political spaces.

He holds a BA in Communication and International Affairs from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, an MA in Global Communication from George Washington University, and PhD in Media and Communications from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE).



Talmon Marco

Co-founder of Viber and
Juno

Talmon Marco is the founder of Viber, a proprietary cross-platform instant messaging VoIP application for smartphones with over 400 million users, and Juno, a ride-sharing service.

In 1995, Mr. Marco co-founded Nortex Software, a Civil Engineering software developer. In 1997, he co-founded Expand Networks, a privately held venture, and the world leader in Application Traffic Management. Mr. Marco served as the President of Expand Networks until 2004.

Reports and Analytics



StrategEast Westernization Report 2021

In February 2021, StrategEast released the StrategEast Westernization Report 2021, in which the experts from Eurasian and Baltic countries describe the most important political and economic events that took place in the post-Soviet region in 2020.

The experts selected a wide variety of events which are most likely to affect the degree of Westernization in their respective countries.

Digital Resilience in Eurasia – proceedings of the policy dialogue

In November 2020, StrategEast and the World Bank jointly published the proceedings of the policy dialogue, “Digital Resilience in Eurasia”.

The paper was prepared based on the panel discussion, “Digital resilience: Sustaining digital transformation,” at the StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum 2020 in Tbilisi. The document includes introductions by Sebastian Molineus, Regional Director for the South Caucasus at the World Bank, and Anatoly Motkin; opening remarks by Oleg Petrov, Senior Digital Development Specialist at the World Bank; a keynote speech by Rafal Rohozinski, Principal of the SecDev Group; and excerpts from the panelists’ discussion.

- Proposed policy recommendations emphasize the importance of specific measures:
- Investing in people. The reality is that digital resilience is ultimately dependent upon people who have digital skills and understand digital hygiene;
- Investing more in digital services and less in physical infrastructure;
- Investing in educating society, enabling citizens to use electronic services and increasing awareness of those services;
- Building capabilities to deliver educational services through technology and having high-quality education provided via that technology.



EaP Development: expert views

In June 2021 StrategEast published the report, “EaP Development: expert views.” In its report, StrategEast has compiled the opinions of experts from Eastern Partnership countries – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine – in response to all the most significant events of the last year with regard to the EU and member countries of the region.

The main goal of the report is to give European institutions an opportunity to adjust their cooperation programs with Eastern Partnership countries based on the feedback received and to shift the focus of that collaboration to areas demanded by civil society in order to ensure the initiative’s greatest success for the benefit of those for whom it was conceived – that is, people living in EaP countries.

StrategEast.Live: online discussions with global thought leaders

Amid the pandemic, we at StrategEast have launched a series of online public events to discuss the digital solutions assisting the fight against the pandemic and how COVID-19 is reshaping the economies and labor markets in Eurasian countries, etc.

We are delighted to present the results of these beneficial discussions within this brief report.



StrategEast **:LIVE**

Online discussions with global thought leaders

StrategEast continued its series of StrategEast Live online panels to discuss how technology can lead to an overall transformation in Eurasia amid the pandemic.



The Blockchain as a Good Governance Technology

Panel speakers: Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia; Anatoly Motkin; H.E. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan; Vasyl Zadvornyy, CEO of Prozorro, Ukraine; Valery Vavilov, Founder and CEO of the Bitfury Group; Misha Hanin, CEO & Co-Founder of Deep Dive Technology; Azizjon Azimi, Knight-Hennessy Scholar at Stanford University, Founder TajRupt and tajrupt.ai; Anthony Kalaikovan – Chief Technology Officer at Serba Dinamik Holdings Berhad; Shaukat Ali Khan, Chief Information Officer, University of Central Asia.



Digital Resilience in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Panel speakers: Nino Samvelidze, Program Manager for Digital Economy, Youth, Culture, and M&E, Delegation of the European Union to Georgia; Anatoly Motkin; Gulsanna Mamediieva, Director-General of the Directorate for Strategic Planning and European Integration, Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; Sebastian Molineus, Regional Director for the South Caucasus at World Bank.



The IT industry moves to Georgia. New opportunities and tax incentives

Panel speakers: Mikheil Khidureli, CEO, Enterprise Georgia; Avtandil Kasradze, Chairman of Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency; Mari Khurtsidze, Head of International Taxation Division, Ministry of Finance of Georgia; Sergey Ageenko, Director, Software Engineering, EPAM; Givi Sartania, CEO, Wandio; Anatoly Motkin.



Women in Tech

Panel speakers: Mariam Kobalia, Gender and Youth Expert for USAID/Georgia Economic Security Program; Anastasia Zaitseva, Co-founder and CCO at WITA.by; Mayya Vu, Community Lead at Women Techmakers Lviv; Amy Peck, Founder and CEO at Endeavor VR, Advisor and Mentor at US Market Access Center.



Digital Resilience in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Anett Numa, Digital Transformation Adviser, E-estonia Briefing Center; Giorgi Iashvili, Co-Founder, CEO, Georgian Information Security Association; Dmytro Lazuchenko, Senior Manager, Advisory Department, Leader of IT Risks and Assurance Practice, EY Ukraine; Igor Kotsiuba, CEO, iSolutions LLC; Co-Founder, Healthymity; Anatoly Motkin.



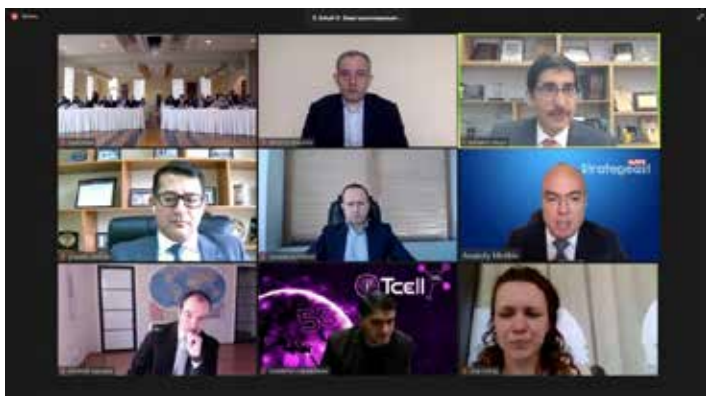
Digital Solutions for Tax System

Panel speakers: Arsen Aldanov, Chief Expert of the Strategic Development, Division of the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Nijat Hasanov, Head of Information technologies division at the Digital Tax Administration Department, State Tax Service under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Imam Hoque, Co-founder and CPO at Quantexa; Giorgi Kandelaki, Deputy Head of Analytics, Revenue Service of Georgia; Evgeny Koren, Country Manager at Microsoft Belarus



Startup acceleration in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Chris Burry, Co-CEO at the US Market Access Center; Ana Chirita, Executive Director of the ICT Association of Moldova - ATIC, Project Director at Tekwill, Moldova; Vusal Karimli, Managing Director at SUP VC, Azerbaijan; Pavel Koktyshov, Deputy Chairman of the Board, Zerde National Infocommunication Holding, Kazakhstan.



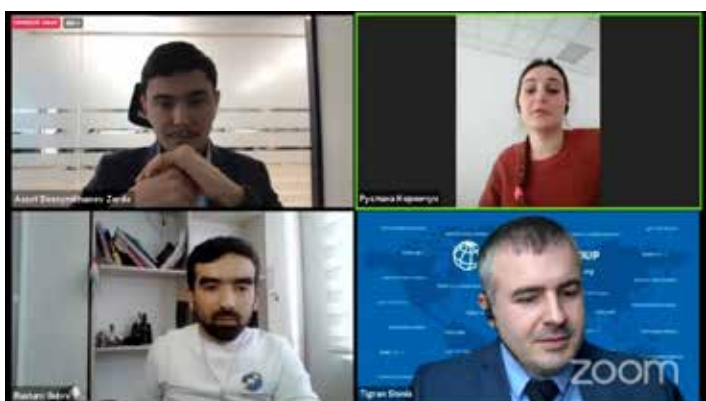
High-Tech Parks in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Farhod Bilalzoda, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan; Shaukat Ali Khan, Chief Information Officer at the University of Central Asia; H.E. Sherali Kabir, Minister of Industry and New Technologies, Republic of Tajikistan; Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia; Anatoly Motkin; Konstantin Mikhel, VMP Vlasova, Mikhel and Partners Law office (Belarus); Avtandil Kasradze, Chairman at Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency, Tech Park (Georgia); Dmytro Yeriomin, Member of the Supervisory Board of UNIT.City (Ukraine); Ana Chirita, Project Director at Tekwill (Moldova), executive director of ICT Association of (Moldova); Oleksandr Bornyakov, Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine, Diia City Project (Ukraine).



Artificial Intelligence in Civil Service

Panel speakers: Evgeny Koren, Country Manager at Microsoft Belarus; Andrei Shubadziorau, GR-director at EPAM Systems Belarus; Petter Svaetichin, Chief Executive Officer at Neiron, Georgia; Oleh Hrynyk, Data & Analytics Consultant, Head of Data Architecture, Data Practice coordinator at EPAM Systems Ukraine; Shaukat Ali Khan, Chief Information Officer at the University of Central Asia.



Digital literacy in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Asset Dosymkhanov, Head of the Department of ICT and Innovations at Zerde National Infocommunication Holding JSC, Digital Kazakhstan; Rustam Gulov, Media Literacy and Multimedia Specialist, MediaCAMP project, Internews in Tajikistan; Ruslana Korenchuk, Head of the Diia.Digital Education Project at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; Tigran Shmis - Senior Education Specialist at World Bank.



The academy's role in developing the IT industry

Panel speakers: Elvin Aliyev, Director of E-Training Department of Baku Higher Oil School, Azerbaijan; Andrii Glybovets, Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Maxim Khomyakov, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan; Kakha Shengelia, President of Caucasus University, Georgia; Anatoly Motkin.



How to Create an Inclusive IT Park in Tajikistan

Panel speakers: Farhod Bilolzoda, Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies of Tajikistan; Shaukat Ali Khan, CIO at the Aga Khan University and Hospitals; Anatoly Motkin; Zarrina Rajabova, Director of Alif Academy; Filip Stoyanovich, Chief of Party, USAID's Future Growth Initiative (FGI) for Central Asia; Firuz Saidkhadzhaev, Project Manager / Economic Development Advisor, United Nations Development Programme; Bagrat Yengibaryan, Director of Enterprise Incubator Foundation, Armenia.



Social Entrepreneurship and Impact Investment in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Olga Afanasyeva, PhD, Head of Kyiv Branch Office at ELEKS; Olesea Ghedrovici, Senior Economic Policy Advisor to the Moldovan Government at GIZ; Jeffrey Liebert, CEO at Gazelle Finance; Roman Zinchenko, Co-Founder of Greencubator, Head of energy committee at Ukrainian Venture Capital Association.



Deep Tech in Eurasia

Panel speakers: Tamar Japaridze, Head of the Center for Entrepreneurship at Business and Technology University, Georgia; Ilona Gulchak, Partnerships Manager at Commercialization Reactor, Latvia; Oleksandra Humenna, Acting President of the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Jumat Kargin, Director of Technologies Commercialization Department at L. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan; Maxim Khomyakov, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan.



IT Investment Funds in Eurasia

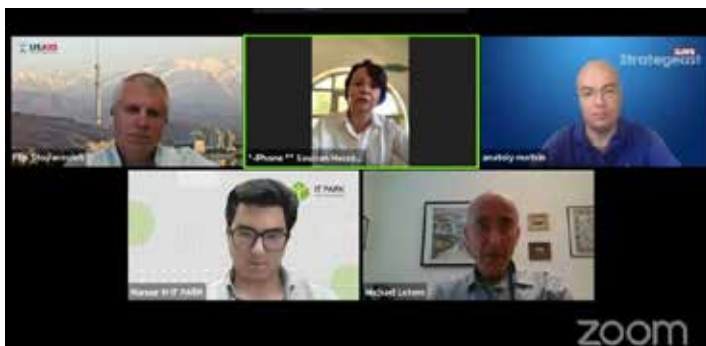
Panel speakers: Dilshod Zufarov, CEO of Uzbekistan Venture Capital Association; Maria Barsuk, Investor, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) Technology Venture Capital team; Kheyreddin Mehdi Zada, Senior Engineer of the Department of Strategic Development of SOCAR, Azerbaijan; Ruslan Rakymbay, Investment Director at Quest Ventures, Kazakhstan; Andre Tikhomirov, Partner at Kolos Ventures, Belarus.



Webinar: Selling and Marketing in Silicon Valley

As part of the joint Eurasian Startup Acceleration Program, StrategEast and Silicon Valley Startup Accelerator USMAC held a webinar for entrepreneurs from Central Asia. Webinar attendees learned about the requirements for program participants, the skills that the participants will learn at the acceleration Bootcamp, and internship opportunities in Silicon Valley.

Panel speakers: Anatoly Motkin; Alfredo Coppola, Co-CEO at US Market Access Center.



Abraham Accords as an opportunity to transform Central Asia and Azerbaijan

Panel speakers: Anatoly Motkin; Sawsan Hasson, Director of Middle East Economic Relations Department, Middle East Division at the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Michael Lotem, Director of Economic Department, Asia, CIS, Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Mansur Mamadjanov, International Operations Manager of the Investment and Export Office at IT-Park, Uzbekistan; Filip Stoyanovich, Chief of Party, USAID's Future Growth Initiative for Central Asia.



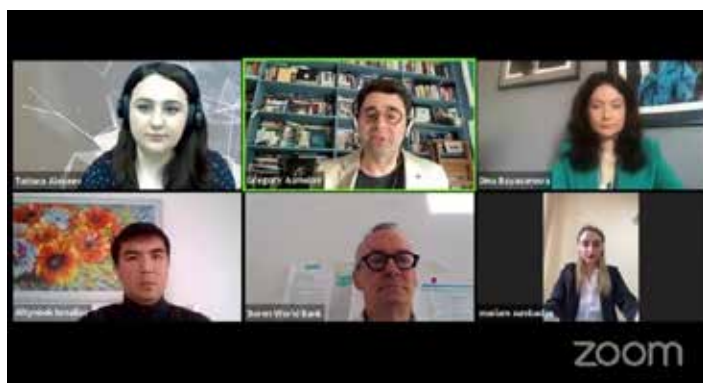
The Digital Innovation Agenda for Transition Countries

Panel speakers: Dr Jade McGlynn, the Director of Research at the Henry Jackson Society; Dr Andreas Aktoudianakis, Digital Policy Lead Analyst at the European Policy Centre; Darius Gaidys, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania; Anatoly Motkin; Nino Shekrladze, the Head of the UN Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia, Chair of the Community of Democracies Working Group on the Democracy and Technology



Digital Economy in the Republic of Tajikistan

Panel speakers: Farhod Bilalzoda, Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of Republic of Tajikistan; Prof. Dr. S. Sohail H. Naqvi, Rector, University of Central Asia; Jan-Peter Olters, Country Manager, World Bank Office in Republic of Tajikistan; Stefano Ellero, Head of Cooperation, European Union Delegation to the Republic of Tajikistan; Muhammadi Ibodulloev, Director of the Public Fund Civil Internet Policy Initiative (CIPI); Azizjon Azimi, founder and chairman of TajRupt; Anatoly Motkin; Kate Gromova, Co-founder of Women in Digital Transformation, Digital Development Consultant, World Bank; Shaukat Ali Khan, Chief Information Officer at the University of Central Asia.



The future of talent: new tools and policies to address skills

Panel speakers: Dr Gregory Asmolov, King's College London; Tatiana Alexeev, Digital Education Consultant at ATIC companies Moldova; Dina Bayasanova, Founder and CEO of PitchMe; Altynbek Ismailov, Ex-Chairman of the State Committee of Information; Technology and Communications of Kyrgyz Republic (2020-2021); Soren Nellemann, Senior Economist with the World Bank's Education Global Practice; Mariam Sumbadze, Managing Director at Georgian ICT Cluster



Smart Solutions in the Energy Industry

Panel speakers: Volodymyr Buchyk, Head of Strategic Development Department, State Agency on Energy Efficiency and Energy Saving of Ukraine; Tornike Kazarashvili, Head of Energy Policy and Investment Projects Department at the Ministry of Economy And Sustainable Development of Georgia; Baltugan Tazhmakina, RES Department Head of Division, Adaldyq Alańy, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Kazakhstan; Tea Avazashvili, Junior Energy Expert at the EBRD Georgia project



European Data Strategy Implementation in EaP

Panel speakers: Federico Milani, Deputy Head of the Data Policy and Innovation Unit of CNECT Directorate General, European Commission; Florian Marcus, Digital Transformation Adviser at the e-Estonia Briefing Centre; Oleksii Sobolev, CFA, Chief Executive Officer at PROZORRO.SALE, Ukraine; Vitalie Tarlev, Moldova Digitalization Advisor at European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD); Kesi Katsitadze, Development Manager Business and Technology University (BTU), Georgia

Our Advocacy

StrategEast takes part in the Working Group on Democracy and Technology



On January 28th, 2021, Anatoly Motkin participated in the Community of Democracies' newly established Working Group on Democracy and Technology.

The Working Group is chaired by Georgia, with participation from India and Poland, along with key government, civil society, and private sector partners from other countries.

The Working Group acts as a platform for joint discussion and actions aimed at harnessing digital technology to support effective and accountable democratic governance. It aims to foster collaboration aimed at the development and use of digital public goods, including

governance platforms, open-source tools, and other solutions that strengthen democracy and democratic institutions. The Working Group coordinators are the Permanent Secretariat of the Community of Democracies and Digital Impact and Governance Initiative, New America.

StrategEast presented its Eastern Partnership Development Report to EU officials, international financial organizations, and development agencies

On June 30, 2021, Anatoly Motkin presented the report "Eastern Partnership Development: Expert Views". The presentation was attended by the EU officials, international financial organizations, and development agencies, as well as experts from the EaP countries, who shared their views on the initiative's work.

During last year, at the request of StrategEast, experts from Eastern Partnership countries commented on the Partnership's most critical issues. StrategEast presented this work in the report "Eastern Partnership Development". The main goal of the report is to reflect local perspectives on EU programs being implemented in the Eastern Partnership countries. That feedback assists in adjusting the programs to meet civil society's needs.



The event was attended by representatives of the European Commission, World Bank, EBRD, OSCE, GIZ, and other organizations.

StrategEast president delivers a speech at Columbia University



On December 14, 2020, Anatoly Motkin delivered a speech at Columbia University as part of a graduate-level course on Systemic Corruption in Post-Soviet Nations, at the invitation of Professor Matthew H. Murray.

The topic of the event was how the IT industry has become a facilitator for the transparent economy in Eurasia, based on the rule of law and private property protection.

The students were most interested in the tech sector's role in social transformation in the post-Soviet region, especially in Armenia and Belarus.

The event was followed by a Q/A session.

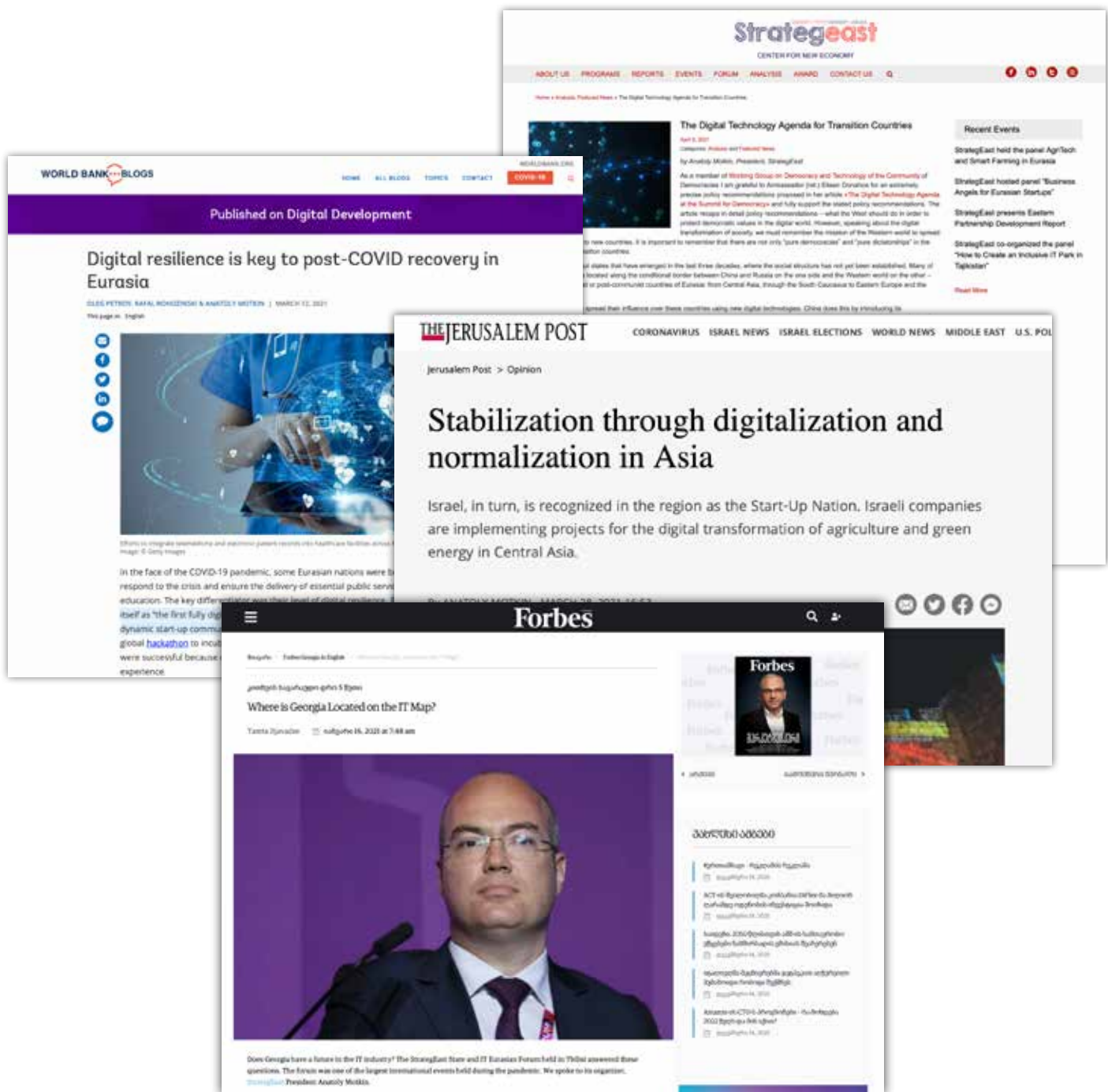
In the Media

In January 2021, Anatoly Motkin gave an interview to Forbes Georgia, where he spoke about the StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum held in the country, the prospects for the development of the IT industry in Georgia, and StrategEast's projects in the region.

In March 2021, Anatoly Motkin; Oleg Petrov, Senior Program Officer, Digital Development, World Bank; and Rafal Rohozinski, an expert in geopolitical digital risk, published their blog "Digital resilience is key to post-COVID recovery in Eurasia" on the World Bank website. In their post, the authors discuss the role of digital transformation in Eurasian states in countering COVID-19.

Anatoly Motkin published an op-ed in the *Jerusalem Post* entitled "Stabilization through digitalization and normalization in Asia". In his article, Mr. Motkin proposes creating an Israel-UAE consortium for the digital transformation of moderate Muslim countries in the post-Soviet region, including Central Asia and Azerbaijan.

As a member of the Community of Democracies Working Group on Democracy and Technology, Anatoly Motkin has published recommendations related to the West's digital policy in transition countries. The article supplements the policy recommendations proposed in the article "The Digital Technology Agenda at the Summit for Democracy," by Ambassador (ret.) Eileen Donahoe.



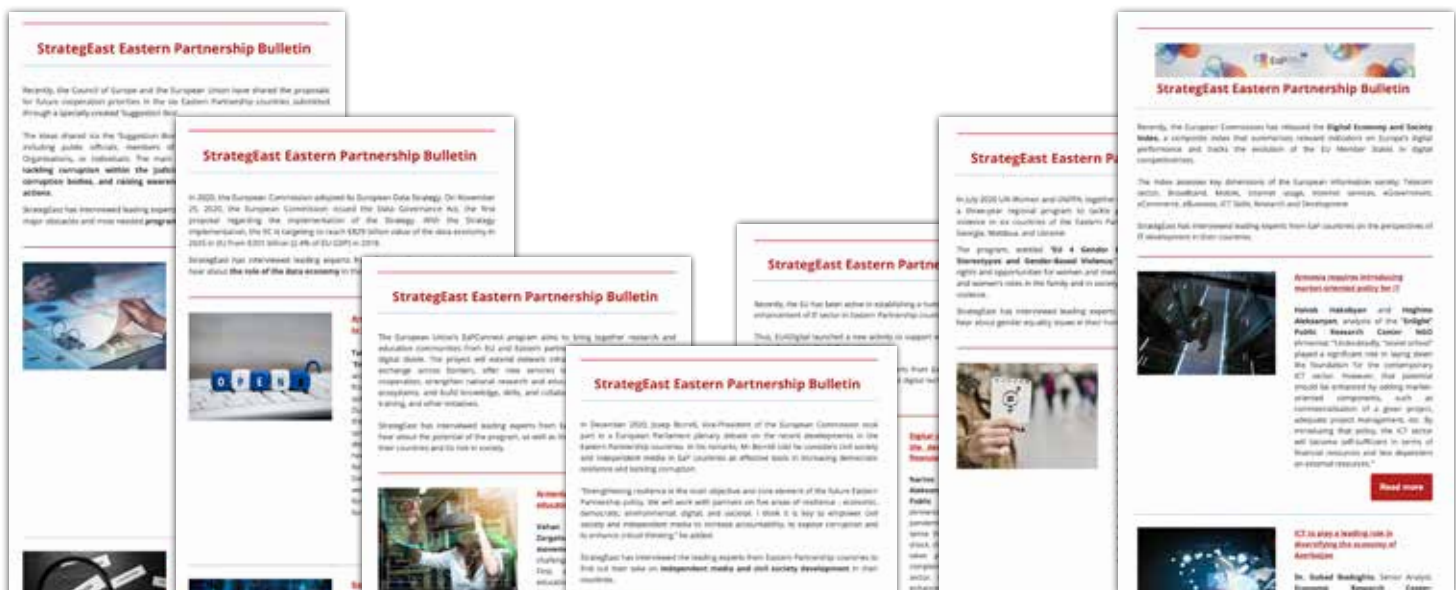
Newsletters



StrategEast continues to communicate with its partners and colleagues through regular monthly newsletters. We share updates and latest developments to keep our audience informed.

StrategEast Eastern Partnership Bulletin

Throughout the year, the Bulletin has proven to be a successful series of reports on major issues of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries' bilateral agenda. StrategEast continues to interview leading experts from Eastern Partner countries on top priorities for cooperation with the EU.



Our plans

3rd StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum



The next StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on November 9-10, 2021.

The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum will provide a unique platform for dialogue between governments and local and global IT industry leaders. About 50 speakers and over 150 guests are expected to take part in the forum.

The Project's Goals:

- To identify common opportunities and challenges faced by the IT sectors in Eurasian and Baltic countries
- To propose practical solutions to existing challenges in the fields of legislation, taxation, and intellectual property rights
- To attract international IT companies and venture capital funds to opportunities in the regional IT industry
- To share best practices, experience, and knowledge

Expansion of the IT HUB to other countries of Eurasia



In late 2020, the first graduates of the StrategEast EPAM IT HUB in Georgia received certificates of course completion. The graduates

learned specialties in Software Testing, Introduction to C # and .NET, and JAVA. All of them have already begun working at their first jobs in their new IT specialty.

StrategEast IT HUB has also expanded its regional training programs in Eurasia and recruited new students in Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan. The first Moldovan and Azerbaijani students will graduate from the IT HUB in the autumn of 2021 with an opportunity to launch a career in a global IT company without leaving their native countries.

The StrategEast EPAM IT HUB plans to expand its activity to other Eurasian countries, primarily in Central Asia and Eastern Ukraine

The Project's Goals

- To create new jobs and attract FDI to the region
- To provide educated youth with the opportunity to find highly paid jobs and encourage them to remain in their country
- To strengthen the region's economy while creating a new high-income population segment
- To promote non-IT job opportunities: The IT industry's presence will have a "side effect" of creating jobs in related sectors

Startup acceleration in Eurasia in partnership with Silicon Valley's USMAC



StrategEast will work with the US Market Access Center (USMAC), a startup accelerator in Silicon Valley, to promote Eurasian startups.

Silicon Valley serial entrepreneurs (USMAC instructors), faculty of UC Berkeley Center for Entrepreneurship, industry experts from Silicon Valley (USMAC mentors), corporate executives, angel investors, and venture capitalists from Silicon Valley will work with startups under the joint StrategEast and USMAC programs in Eurasia.

The program's goal is to create a large group of startups that will be well-acquainted with the Silicon Valley ecosystem, well-connected with the Valley's professional and investment community, and able to attract foreign investments to the most promising startups.

Additionally, StrategEast will work in concert with the USMAC to develop PROSPERA WOMEN, a scale readiness program from Silicon Valley for female-led startups which provides an intensive learning program featuring instructors and experts from Silicon Valley's most accomplished female executives and serial entrepreneurs.

StrategEast will launch discussion groups on Eurasia



Despite the strategic importance of the post-Soviet Eurasian region, there is no one place or center in the United States or the European Union that is developing strategic, tactical and operational policy to address the events in these countries, both individually and more broadly as a region. We propose bridging this gap.

We will convene discussion groups of Eurasian affairs experts in the US and EU in order to come up with pragmatic

solutions and recommendations tailored to address these countries' unique needs, as well as those of the region at large. The discussion groups will meet approximately four times per year and consist of StrategEast experts and experts from the US and EU, as well as other governments, private sector representatives, and knowledgeable representatives from academic institutions and think tank organizations.

Each session will result in a working paper summarizing the key points and any follow-up activities discussed during the session.

About StrategEast

StrategEast Center for a New Economy has the mission to reinforce the values of the rule of law and private property protection in Eurasian and Baltic countries through the transition from natural-resource-based to knowledge-driven economies.

Our work is focused on the 14 countries that proclaimed or restored their independence following the collapse of the USSR: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

StrategEast is a registered 501(c)3 organization based in the United States with the regional offices in Ukraine and Georgia.



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