



Co-funded by the
European Union



StrategEast State & IT Eurasian Forum

Panel Discussion - IT Industry in Uzbekistan

16.00-16.50, October 25th 2022, Samarkand, Uzbekistan



Why digital skills matter?

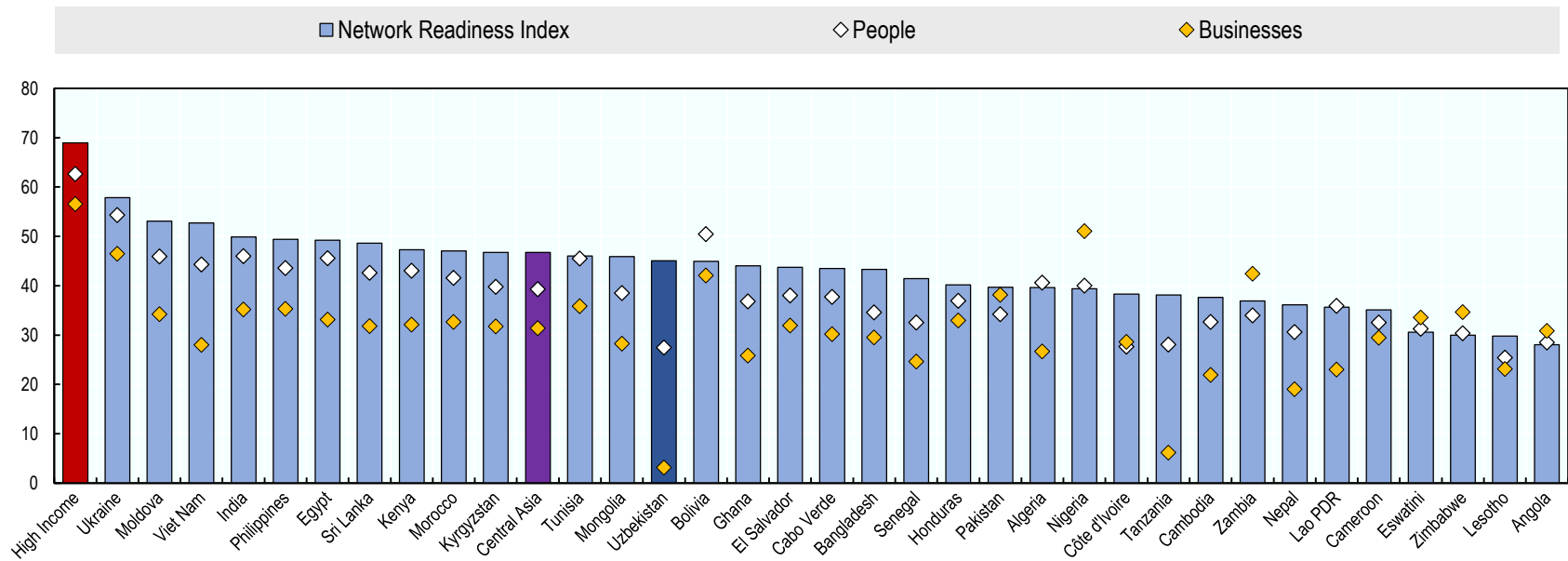


The digital skills gap is one of the greatest barriers to SME digital adoption.



Uzbekistan's private sector firms lack digital skills

Network Readiness Index* (same income group, 2021)



Uzbekistan ranks in the first half of lower-middle income countries in 2021 in Network Readiness.

Yet businesses remain poorly endowed in IT skills.



Uzbekistan can support SMEs' digital skills uptake in 3 areas

1

The institutional and policy framework could be more supportive of SMEs' digital uptake

2

Uzbek SMEs lack knowledge of the opportunities offered by the digital transformation

3

Uzbek SMEs could benefit from more targeted support

The OECD has supported the **definition of a whole-of-government approach for digital skills of the private sector** under the *Digital Uzbekistan Strategy 2030* (NDS)



Summary of OECD recommendations in the digital skills report

1

Institutional & regulatory framework

- Clarify and integrate additional stakeholders
- Set targets on private sector digital upskilling
- Address regulatory barriers

2

Awareness of digitalisation benefits

- Promote skills assessment tools and available support
- Support the acquisition of a broader set of skills

3

Tools and incentives

- Centralise all tools and services
- Expand incentives
- Integrate gender lens to support programmes



Thank you!

Contact details

Céleste Laporte Talamon

Policy Analyst, Central Asia

e-mail: celeste.laportetalamon@oecd.org

For more information:



<https://eu-cai.org>



<https://twitter.com/OECDEurasia>



<https://oecd.org/newsletters>

