- The ongoing **COVID-19** crisis underlined the centrality of digital connectivity, technologies and services to our economy and society worldwide.

- Digital therefore remains, along with our response to climate change, the **top priority** for the European Commission.

- The EU intends to lead the transition to a **healthy planet and a human-centric digital world (green & digital)**.

- Shaping Europe's Digital Future announces that a **Global Digital Cooperation Strategy** will put forward by 2021 a European approach to the digital transformation.

- Massive gap between the under-connected and the hyper-digitalised countries. Today 46% of the globe, 3.5 billion people, remain digitally unconnected. We must avoid a **connectivity divide**.

- **Women and girls** are vastly underrepresented in digitalisation and men are twice more likely to have access to the internet than women.

- **Misuse** of digital technologies compounded by low awareness and digital literacy can lead to control, manipulation and radicalisation.

- Can also cause harm to **fundamental rights and freedoms** -> **mainstreaming cybersecurity** in development cooperation

The EU response: the **four pillars** of the digital transformation

- Governance, policy and regulatory frameworks

- Supporting universal access to enhanced, affordable and secure connectivity

- Digital literacy, skills, and entrepreneurship

- Accelerating the adoption of eServices for achieving the SDGs

Everyone is experiencing the digital transformation in their life. The EU digital strategy will make it work for people, businesses and the planet, in line with EU values.

What will we do? **3 streams of action**:
- Technology that works for people
- A fair and competitive digital economy
- An open, democratic and sustainable society

One of the main objectives of the **Eastern Partnership beyond 2020** include Digital Transformation:
- Resilient, sustainable and integrated economies
- Accountable institutions, the rule of law and security;
- Environmental and climate resilience;
- **Resilient digital transformation**;
- Resilient, fair and inclusive societies.

The EU will invest further in the digital transformation of the partner countries, to extend the benefits of the **Digital Single Market**:

• Digital infrastructure

• eGovernance

• Digital economy and innovation

• Cyber resilience

- In the ENP East, the EU has focussed on the harmonisation of roaming, the promotion of high-speed broadband internet to boost economies and expand e-services, and the creation of more jobs in the digital industry.

- Through the ongoing EU4Digital Facility: activities in the policy areas of Telecom rules, Trust & Security, eTrade, ICT innovation, eHealth, and eSkills.

The programme will support the Government of Georgia's priorities under the National Broadband Development Strategy

- **Connectivity**: Increase access to affordable and secure broadband connectivity and digital infrastructure;
- **Digital Technologies**, **ICT**: Improve access and usage of digital services and modernise financial infrastructure;
- **Digital Skills and Literacy**: Enhance awareness about digital economy and develop digital skills and e-literacy;
- **Digital for Growth, Creative Industries and Entrepreneurship**: Support the digitalisation of businesses and the development of creative industries.

- Move up digitalization on **political agenda** and mobilize decision-making;

- Speed up finalization of **policy and regulatory** framework for connectivity and digitalization (law on infrastructure sharing, e-commerce, digital entrepreneurship etc);

- Raise **awareness** of general public and public servants (conduct public campaign);

- Strengthen **e-learning** tools and methods within education system;

- Support **MSMEs** in Digital Transformation;

- Strengthen and support innovation and digital **entrepreneurship**.