

Localised IXP (Georgia)

Good practice: Enhancing digital infrastructure and connectivity through localised Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)

Relevant DFI commitment: Refrain from blocking or degrading access to lawful content, services, and applications on the Internet, consistent with principles of Net Neutrality subject to applicable law, including international human rights law.

Type of the initiative: Project

Stakeholder Group: Multistakeholder

Launch/adoption: 2021 - Now

Goals

Georgia's plan to establish a new Internet Exchange Point (IXP) reflects its commitment to enhancing its digital infrastructure, improving Internet connectivity, and boosting its position as a regional hub for digital traffic. The primary goal of this initiative is to reduce the latency and cost of Internet services within the country by facilitating direct local interconnection between Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and content providers. By doing so, Georgia aims to minimise reliance on international data routes, which are typically more expensive and time-consuming. The establishment of the new IXP also seeks to improve the quality of internet services, fostering innovation and economic growth by enabling faster, more reliable connectivity. Additionally, the initiative supports digital sovereignty by keeping more internet traffic within national borders, ensuring better security and resilience against cyber threats. Beyond the national scope, the IXP is a critical asset in positioning Georgia as a digital transit hub for the Caucasus region, enabling it to attract more international content providers and foster regional collaboration in digital services.

Description

Georgia's Internet Exchange Point initiative is a collaborative effort involving national stakeholders, the Internet Society, and local ISPs. IXPs are critical infrastructure components that facilitate the direct exchange of internet traffic between networks, improving efficiency and reducing costs. A significant portion of Georgia's internet traffic is routed through international exchange points, adding latency and cost. The new IXP addresses these challenges by localising traffic exchange, significantly enhancing internet quality and affordability.

The project is structured around several key components. First, the technical infrastructure for the IXP is being developed, including installing high-performance switching equipment and ensuring robust power and cooling systems. The facility will offer high-speed ports for connecting with local ISPs, government agencies, and other stakeholders. Second, the initiative includes capacity-building programs to train local engineers and IT professionals to manage and optimise the IXP. These efforts are expected to strengthen the country's technical expertise and ensure the infrastructure's long-term sustainability.

Lastly, the IXP project is tied to broader digital policies to foster innovation and support businesses. Improved internet performance and reduced costs will enable local startups, businesses, and researchers to thrive, creating economic and social benefits across Georgia. This initiative marks a significant milestone in Georgia's digital evolution.

Disclaimer: This note was prepared by the GIFl team to illustrate certain good practices contributing to the implementation of the commitments contained in the Declaration on the Future of the Internet. The information provided in this note is based on the official documents and sources originating from donors or implementors and has not been verified for accuracy. Please see sources in the Internet Accountability Compass for additional information. The content of this note does not represent the views of the European Union or any of its bodies or agencies.