

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD), twenty-third session (virtual meeting)**
Geneva, 10-12 June 2020

Discussion on “Harnessing rapid technological change for inclusive and sustainable development”

Submitted by

Mr. Janis Glazkovs
Counsellor – Digital Affairs
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to the European Union

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.



VISION | ACTION | RESULTS

L!DDN

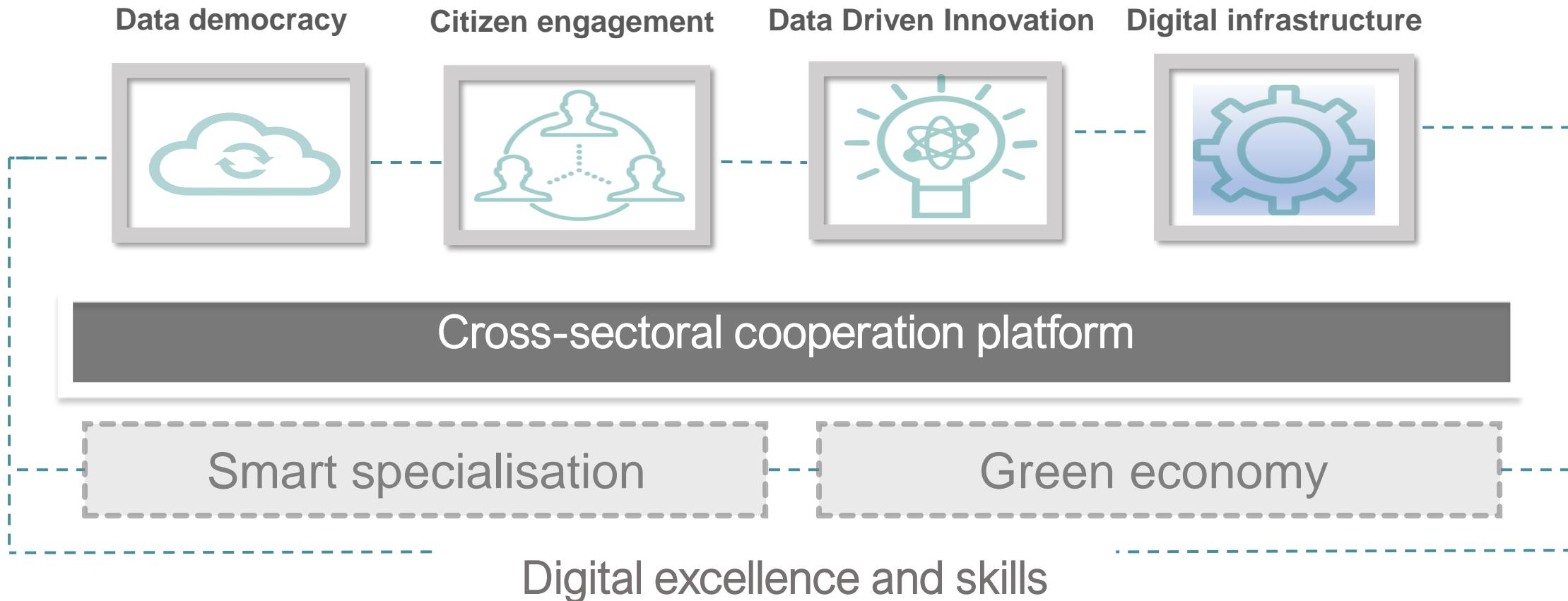
LATVIA IS DATA DRIVEN NATION

Janis Glazkovs
Counsellor - Digital Affairs
Permanent Representation of the Republic of Latvia to
the European Union
Janis.Glazkovs@mfa.gov.lv
11.06.2020



Data Driven Nation 2.0 – focused & cross-sectoral cooperation

Government, business, academia and society





DDN amplified

**Data democracy
and free access to
public data**

**Data enabled
citizen
engagement**

**Data driven
innovations**

Vision

- Developed open data portal regulation, Data strategy, AI strategy (Adopted by CoM)
- Launched Open data portal – data.gov.lv
- Taken public awareness and promotional activities
- Specific investment funds allocated for machine learning/ cross-sectoral virtual assistant/ chatbot project

Actions

- Activated smart specialization ecosystem
- So far more than 395 data sets published from 76 institutions
- From last rank in less than in two years reached top 10 in Europe Open data maturity index
- HUGO.LV machine translation
- Implemented government virtual assistant/chatbot

Results



We work on

CITIZEN CENTRIC
INTEGRATED PROCESSES



PROACTIVE
DELIVERY



INNOVATION AS
FUNCTION



PILOTING AND
PROTOTYPING



HUMAN & MACHINE
INTEGRATION



USER DRIVEN SERVICE
DESIGN, CO-CREATION





Further information available at

[https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/egovernment/
document/cooperation-data-driven-nation-
development-latvia](https://joinup.ec.europa.eu/collection/egovernment/document/cooperation-data-driven-nation-development-latvia)

Dear Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In circumstances where restrictions on movement are applied and social and economic activities have been temporarily transferred to the digital environment, citizens and businesses are using the opportunities provided by the Internet and ICT solutions.

We stand today in front of an immediate challenge related to the COVID and we have to do utmost to address the health, economic and social consequences of the pandemic. At the same time, we should not lose sight of our commitment under the 2030 Agenda. Sustainable Development Goal targets remain as relevant as before.

Governments play an important role in providing an enabling environment in support of frontier technologies for inclusive and sustainable development. Let me share today Latvia's experience in cooperation between government, businesses, academia and society.

Since very end of 2016 we are agreed on Memorandum of Data Driven Nation and it is built on three pillars – Data democracy and accessibility, Data-enabled citizen engagement and data-driven innovations, you can see details in presentation, but what I would like to stress - in a result of joint effort, opening data and frontier technologies, such as Artificial Intelligence solutions are flourishing in Latvia. The Data Driven Nation concept also have helped develop human centric approach in provision of public services by deploying, for instance, Artificial intelligence-based solutions.

Currently we are working on Data driven nation concept second version. One of the main lessons we have learned is that the main precondition for achieving our goals is sufficient digital infrastructure. We are also changing our perspective towards the Data Driven Nation by integrating Smart Specialisation and Green economy aspects in alignment with 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals.

The Covid-19 crisis clearly shows that governments in collaboration with technology companies can swiftly developed effective solutions for crisis management. Latvia is proud to have one of the first COVID applications. Mobile application “STOP COVID” was developed jointly by Latvia's ICT industry and science representatives on voluntary and free bases in order to contain and reverse the spread of virus. It operates with respect for human rights and in compliance with EU regulations and guidance regarding data handling and security. As of today, more than 60 000 users have already downloaded it. It is an open code solution application, which we are open to share.

Finally, let me say that in the face of increasing numbers of challenges, international cooperation is even more important. CSTD provides an important platform for discussion and coordination on the science, technology and innovations for development. It provides a valuable input to ECOSOC

on these issues. Latvia is fully committed to continue engaging actively on these issues with an aim of harnessing full potential of new technologies for the benefit of everyone.

Thank you!