




**Strategeast**  
**STATE & IT**  
 EURASIAN FORUM  
**CHISINAU, 17-18 SEPTEMBER 2024**




# Partners



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Since its foundation in 2017, StrategEast has been focused on developing a knowledge-driven economy in the countries of Eurasia. This effort is grounded in five key educational pillars. First, we educate people—

providing them with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in a modern, digital economy. Second, we educate companies, ensuring they understand how to adapt and thrive in this new landscape. Third, we educate money, transforming old capital into smart capital, better suited to the demands of a rapidly evolving economy.

In addition, we educate governments, helping them adjust their local legislation to align with global and regional best practices, fostering an environment conducive to innovation and growth. Finally, we educate markets. Our aim is to show people in the United States, Europe, and, most recently, the Gulf, that Eurasia is not just a recipient of digital services, but can also serve as a hub of digital expertise at the highest global levels. This region offers excellent investment opportunities, with the potential for remarkable returns.

The knowledge-driven economy is not only a path to economic prosperity, but it also helps to create an equal-opportunity society. It provides opportunities for women, individuals in remote regions, and those in villages—essentially serving as an equalizer. Through the power of technology and knowledge, people who may have been previously excluded from economic participation now have the tools to succeed.

Moreover, the knowledge-driven economy brings with it deeply embedded values: transparency, accountability, and zero tolerance for corruption, among others. These values are not just ideals but are woven into the very fabric of the industry, making it a force for positive social change.

The knowledge-driven economy is the only industry where these core values—transparency, accountability, the rule of law, equal opportunities, and gender equality—are embedded into its DNA. These are all things we often strive to achieve, but it is not always easy. The knowledge-driven economy helps to interconnect Eurasia from within, while also integrating it into the global supply chain.

This year, the StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is being held in Moldova, emphasizing the country's role as a key player in advancing the digital economy across the region. The forum presents an excellent opportunity for Moldova to showcase its progress in IT, attract investment, and foster innovation.

What is especially important for Moldova is that this type of economy helps prevent brain drain. It enables young people to implement their ideas within the country, without having to leave. This year, the main topic of our forum is "Trustworthy AI for a Sustainable Economy." Why is the development of AI so important for Moldova? Here are five potential benefits AI development could bring to the country:

1. **Economic Growth:** AI can drive innovation and create new business opportunities, leading to increased productivity and economic growth. It can help local businesses become more competitive and attract foreign investments.
2. **Enhanced Education:** AI-driven educational tools can provide personalized learning experiences, support teachers with advanced resources, and improve access to quality education, particularly in remote areas.
3. **Efficient Public Services:** AI can optimize government services by automating administrative tasks, improving resource allocation, and enhancing decision-making processes, leading to more efficient and transparent public administration.
4. **Agricultural Innovation:** AI can support Moldova's agriculture by increasing efficiency and productivity in this vital sector.
5. **Improved Healthcare:** AI technologies can enhance diagnostic accuracy, streamline patient management, and facilitate personalized medicine, which will improve healthcare services and outcomes for Moldova.

Of course, this list was not compiled by me, but by AI. Many of us are already trying to use these tools to save time in developing ideas and projects.

The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is crucial for facilitating this progress. It serves as a key platform where government officials, IT entrepreneurs, and investors collaborate to drive the digital economy forward. The forum fosters partnerships and develops policies that align with global best practices, making it an essential venue for Moldova's future. Through these discussions, Moldova has a unique opportunity to develop its knowledge economy, strengthen responsible AI initiatives, and establish itself as a leader in digital innovation.

**Anatoly Motkin,**  
President, StrategEast

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anatoly Motkin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# Policy Recommendations Based on the StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum 2024

- The successful implementation of AI in digital transformation** will enable Eurasian governments to address complex challenges, such as improving healthcare, modernizing infrastructure, enhancing public safety, and driving innovation. By embracing AI, these countries can position themselves as leaders in the global digital economy while improving the quality of life for their citizens.
- Each Eurasian country should **develop a comprehensive AI strategy** that aligns with its broader digital transformation goals. This strategy should identify key sectors for AI deployment.
- Eurasian countries should **establish ethical and legal standards**: develop AI legislation based on international best practices, ensuring the protection of human rights, privacy, and security. This should include frameworks for accountability, transparency, and fairness in AI systems.
- International financial institutions and development agencies should **support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)** in adopting AI as part of their digital transformation by offering targeted training and financial assistance.
- To combat brain drain and retain top talent**, Eurasian countries must **prioritize the development of their IT industry** by creating a dynamic and innovative ecosystem that offers competitive opportunities for local professionals. This can be achieved through investment in tech education, fostering public-private partnerships, and offering incentives for IT startups and enterprises to thrive domestically.
- Central Asian countries have made significant strides in developing their legal frameworks and IT ecosystems**, making them an attractive and trusted destination for the global tech industry. With clear regulations, growing tech talent, and government support for innovation, the region is well-positioned to become a key player in the global IT landscape. Western companies should recognize this potential, invest in opening branches, and hire local IT engineers, contributing to the development of the region's tech sector. By partnering with Central Asian countries, Western firms can benefit from cost-effective, skilled labor while also fostering innovation and growth in an emerging tech hub.
- Moldova has the potential to become a key hub for Eurasian countries**, acting as a bridge between the West and Eurasia in the development of the IT industry, attracting investment, and integrating IT ecosystems. With its strategic location, multilingual workforce, and growing tech talent pool, Moldova can serve as a gateway for Western companies to access Eurasian markets and for Eurasian businesses to engage with Western technology and investment. Moreover, by prioritizing transparency, privacy, and ethical AI practices, Moldova can attract both Western investment and Eurasian partnerships.
- Ukraine, with its strong IT foundation, has the potential to lead in AI development.** Establishing legal frameworks that prioritize transparency, data protection, and human rights is crucial. This will help retain top talent and drive the growth of ethical AI solutions, solidifying Ukraine's role in the region's digital transformation.
- A key aspect of advancing AI across these countries is the exchange of knowledge.** Joint AI conferences, cross-border partnerships, and digital platforms on the regional level for sharing expertise will be essential to developing and implementing effective AI strategies. This will not only accelerate innovation but also boost a unified approach to Trustworthy AI across Moldova, Ukraine, and Georgia, strengthening their position in the global digital landscape.

# Key speakers



## **Dorin Recean, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova**

"Moldova is a country with an extraordinary potential for innovation and development of digital products. We have talented people and the opportunity to transform the country into a top regional destination for top-notch tech products and services. Moldova Innovation Technology Park plays an essential role in this transformation. Now, more than ever, we can do business more simply and efficiently at home, providing attractive opportunities for both local entrepreneurs and foreign investors."



## **Dumitru Alaiba, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization**

"The IT industry is one of the key drivers of economic transformation in our region. In Moldova, the IT sector has demonstrated consistent growth, contributing 8% to the country's GDP, with a 6.9% expansion in the first half of 2024. These figures reflect the significant impact of innovation on our economy. Continuing to support and develop this sector will remain a top priority, as IT is a crucial engine for Moldova's economic growth and digital progress."



## **Fahed Bizzari, a renowned AI empowerment specialist who helps digital transformation executives build AI capabilities**

"The gap between the capabilities of AI and our ability to collaborate with it has started to open. If we don't raise our level, we'll be left behind, and the gap will continue to grow.

AI is not a replacement for us; it's a co-pilot. But if we don't learn to pilot, AI will become the pilot and we'll be left as passengers."



## **Ana Chirita, Strategic Projects Director at National Association of ICT Companies**

"If we're not using AI and understanding what it can do for us, we risk falling behind. AI is going to change many things, including career choices, so we need to be proactive and embrace this technology."



### **Ali L. Ezzatyar, Deputy Mission Director, USAID Moldova**

“USAID is proud to be the strategic partner of the Moldova Innovation Technology Park. You are truly on the cutting edge of what’s coming next. Recently, I was introduced to a few applications already making waves, with some MITP residents even showcasing their software in Silicon Valley. These solutions are drawing significant interest, serving as a great inspiration for all of us. That’s truly impressive!” SAID is proud to be the strategic partner of the Moldova Innovation Technology Park. You are truly on the cutting edge of what’s coming next. Recently, I was introduced to a few applications already making waves, with some MITP residents even showcasing their software in Silicon Valley. These solutions are drawing significant interest, serving as a great inspiration for all of us. That’s truly impressive!”



### **Olga Surugiu, CEO of Orange Moldova**

“Today, Moldova is emerging as one of the fastest-growing hubs for connectivity in the world, with connectivity serving as the foundation of our progress. At the same time, AI has become a critical driver of efficiency and development, an area where Orange is actively innovating and implementing solutions.

Currently, over 52,000 Orange Group employees are using Gen AI tools, including 25,000 using it daily. At Orange Moldova, 400 employees use AI tools daily to enhance productivity and deliver better service to our customers.”



### **Maria Claudia Pachon, Senior Digital Development Specialist at World Bank**

“Digitalization is a core priority for the World Bank, highlighted by the recent establishment of a dedicated Vice Presidency, reflecting its commitment to supporting countries in building the foundations needed to accelerate digitalization at scale. This initiative aligns closely with the digital strategies in the region.

The Bank’s vision is that digital transformation, including AI, can drive economic development, deliver a wide range of services to populations without the traditional challenges, and significantly lower costs. Furthermore, it enables governments to govern more effectively, transparently, and accountably. We are already seeing these improvements take shape across the region.”



### **Cezara Panait, Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova**

“At Google, we’ve focused over the past years on helping people catch up with technology and understand its benefits, whether for businesses, society, or governments. One program we’re particularly proud of is ‘Grow with Google,’ which offers free training in digital marketing, programming, and now AI courses, helping to bridge the skills gap.”



# Global IT Trends 2024: Shaping the Future with AI and Relevant Emerging Technologies



## **Cezara Panait**, Head of Government Affairs & Public Policy, Google Romania, Bulgaria and Moldova

“AI has tremendous potential to advance societal good, whether in education, work, healthcare, or climate action. We’re now generally just scratching the surface of what this technology can achieve. But it’s crucial to also understand its challenges and risks.

In Romania, we partnered with the Ministry of Environment to implement cloud AI solutions that monitor illegal deforestation. Foresters are required to take photos of logging activities and upload them for verification, but the manual review process was overwhelming for the Ministry. By using AI, we automated the verification, which allowed for faster, more accurate oversight, and prevented manipulation, such as submitting photos of old or unrelated logging. This initiative has resulted in fines of 700,000 euros and has protected a significant number of trees, showcasing how AI can be used effectively to combat illegal deforestation and promote sustainable practices.”

## **Victor Sagaidac**, Chief Information and Data Officer at Orange Moldova

“We are still in the stage where AI acts as a copilot—assisting tasks but not yet autonomous. To really harness its potential, both private companies and governments need to collaborate, ensuring that AI doesn’t just augment the world, but also preserves human agency.

The future of AI depends on cooperation between government, big tech, and civil society. This collaboration is essential to ensure AI is deployed responsibly and ethically, benefiting all sectors of society.”

## **Veaceslav Cunev**, Member of the Board ATIC, Entrepreneur and Startups Founder

“Twenty years ago, the internet took away our right to say, ‘I don’t know,’ and now artificial intelligence has taken away our right to say, ‘I can’t.’ This paradigm is changing education as well. ChatGPT is becoming an indispensable tool for acquiring any kind of knowledge.

Soon, you won’t be competing with artificial intelligence itself, but with people who know how to use it. Not understanding how AI can help you now is a crime against yourself.

Every state must take responsibility for training basic AI models, upon which businesses and startups can build their solutions.

In the near future, AI will become basic infrastructure, just like water, electricity, and sewage systems. We will all have access to and use AI, even without realizing it.”



## Global Resilience and Innovation in Business Services: Exploring Local and International Trends



**Olga Levitscaia**, Executive Director of ABSL Moldova

"Moldova is writing its important pages in history textbook.

It's the best time for development the full way BSS (Business Services Sectors)."

**Andrew Wrobel**, Founding Partner of Emerging Europe

"Little might be known about Moldova's economic and technological potential internationally but that does not mean the potential and the opportunities are not there. On the contrary, they just need to be uncovered."



**Lilia Sinciuc-Engelen**, Business Consultant, Project Manager and Business Developer, Honorary President ABSL Moldova, Operational Executive Moldova of Belgium Luxembourg Romanian Moldovan Chamber of Commerce

"United in diversity - all the business services!"

**Daniela Vicol**, Country Manager H.Essers Moldova

"Small continuous improvements long term lead to remarkable results."

**Alexandru Canter**, Head of Investment Promotion Department, Invest Moldova

"Moldova has the best fiscal system on the European continent for Business Services Sector, inclusiv IT"

## Digital Transformation in Eurasia: The Role of International Donors



### **Galina Cicanci**, Country Officer for Moldova at IFC

"IFC's priorities and concerns are primarily driven by the needs of the private sector. Building strong relationships with the state is also crucial for creating an environment that facilitates private sector growth, particularly in terms of the regulatory framework. In many countries, we have encouraged regulators to establish regulatory sandboxes to support them in achieving the right balance between the strictness of regulations and their ability to enable innovation."

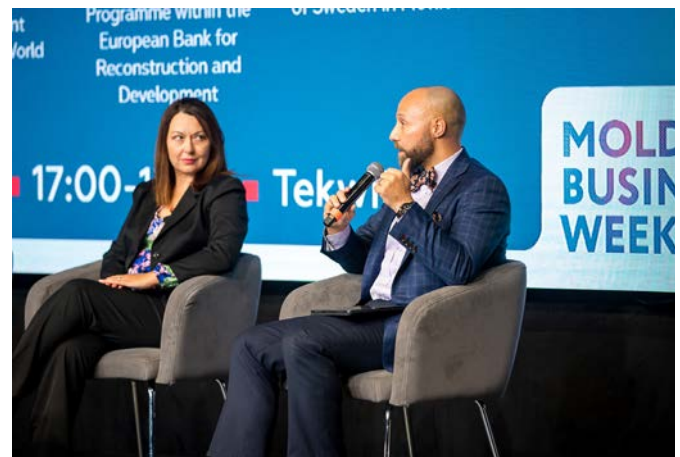
### **Irina Buzu**, Advisor to the Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Digitalisation of Moldova.

"Trust is a core pillar that is very hard to earn and very easy to lose, especially in the realm of technology, where it is deeply linked to security. The adoption of technological advancements and digital transformation largely depends on how much trust people, companies, and states have in the process itself."

### **Dumitru Buhai**, Analyst, Advice for Small Business Programme within the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

"Digitalization is a top priority within a green economy and inclusion pillar. At EBRD, we support SMEs by focusing specifically on access to capital, capacity building, and innovation. Our support is delivered through tailored programs designed to help local SMEs and startups overcome barriers to their development, such as limited access to finance and expertise."

We strongly believe that investing in digital tools is crucial for a company's growth. These tools can help businesses scale up to three times their current size while requiring less investment compared to physical assets, making them a highly efficient path to development."



### **Thomas Alveteg**, Deputy Head of Cooperation at Embassy of Sweden in Moldova

"Moldova is investing heavily in the development of digital skills, digital infrastructure, and the digitalization of services for both the public and private sectors. Drawing from Sweden's positive experience in digitalization, these efforts demonstrate that Moldova is on the right track. We, as donors in Moldova, are committed to supporting these initiatives in collaboration with other donor representatives in the country."



### **William Trigg**, Economic Growth Office Director at USAID Moldova

"While we see some challenges, there is also a silver lining. Limited infrastructure in rural areas remains an issue, but the 90% penetration rate is remarkable, particularly for a developing country. At the same time, cybersecurity concerns highlight the need for greater collaboration with the private sector."

There are also significant opportunities, especially in growing tech ecosystems and advancing digital transformation in public services to better reach rural areas. USAID is dedicated to expanding digital infrastructure, enhancing public service delivery, and improving digital skills while ensuring a secure and rights-driven digital environment."



## SUM IT UP #6: Global Connect – Powered by MITP



Speakers: **Dorin Recean**, Prime Minister of the Republic of Moldova; **Dumitru Alaiba**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization; **Marina Bzovîi**, Administrator MITP; **Ali L. Ezzatyar**, Deputy Mission Director USAID Moldova; **Vadim Echim**, Business Consultant; **Cristina Matciac**, HR Business Partner & Site Manager, Cegeka; **Vasile Putina**, CTO Pentalog / VP of Technology Globant; **Mihai Cernei**, General Manager Eastern Europe/ CTO, Amdaris

## Future Tech and Service Labor Market in Eurasia: From Brain Drain to Brain Gain



**Catalina Plinschi**, State Secretary of the Ministry of Economic Development and Digitalization:

“The economies of Eurasian countries are experiencing a significant shortage of skilled professionals, particularly in the tech and service sectors, due to ongoing brain drain as talent migrates to the West. Official statistics indicate that in 2024, Moldova’s labor force stood at 900,000 people, marking a 3.7% decline compared to the second quarter of 2023. The employed population also saw a decrease of 3.8% year-over-year.

In Moldova’s ICT sector alone, there are over 33,000 employees, contributing 6.7% to the country’s GDP. However, with an annual average growth of only 2,900 new employees, the sector is struggling to keep pace with demand. These indicators highlight that Moldova, like many other Eurasian nations, is grappling with the effects of brain drain, which continues to impact its workforce and economic development.”

**Irina Stamatovic**, Project Coordinator in Help, implementing partner of Helvetas in RECONOMY

“Brain drain poses a significant threat not only to the current economy but also to future generations. While moving abroad may seem like the easiest path to better opportunities, remaining in one’s home country presents both challenges and potential rewards. The rapid development of technology, particularly AI-driven innovations, is transforming the labor market, creating new opportunities through freelancing and remote work. These trends offer a viable alternative for talent to stay and thrive locally. Additionally, Moldova’s flat tax rate presents a compelling model for the region, fostering a more attractive environment for tech professionals and businesses alike.”





**Eugenia Danu**, President of ABSL Moldova, Executive Director of DOPOMOGA GROUP in Moldova

"Engaging with the diaspora is crucial for supporting Moldova's local economy. At ABSL, we actively collaborate with the diaspora by offering benefits and creating strong linkages to facilitate their reintegration. Our association operates across multiple channels, focusing on business development, investment opportunities, knowledge sharing, workforce engagement, and professional networking.

A key driver of this engagement is the growing export of business and technology services, which creates attractive career opportunities for highly skilled professionals from the diaspora. By working in Moldova, they can earn salaries close to European levels while staying and developing their careers at home. This not only strengthens the local workforce but also enhances Moldova's competitiveness on the international market. Furthermore, the presence of global companies sets high industry standards, fostering a dynamic and innovative business environment."



**Vasile Putina**, Chief Technology officer at Pentalog, Vice President of Technology at Globant

"Great people want to work with great people, which is why we invest heavily in leveraging knowledge and expertise. Our approach focuses on building specialized groups, or "studios," where professionals collaborate to drive growth and innovation. These studios serve as pools of experts who share insights on development strategies, technological advancements, and industry-specific knowledge—whether in AI or specialized engineering processes.

We provide content support, mentorship, and a structured environment for knowledge exchange. What sets this model apart is the transformative role of AI. As AI reshapes industries, there are two ways to approach it—fear its impact on jobs or embrace it as a powerful tool for progress. Having worked with AI for the past decade, we firmly believe in harnessing its potential to enhance lives, drive efficiency, and create new opportunities for growth."



**Pavel Liber**, CEO of Nations Digital Platform

"Our goal at Nations Digital Platform is to bring together 70,000 people through culture and social activities within a secure digital space, fostering connections both within the country and across borders. This initiative builds bridges between those living abroad and those at home, encouraging collaboration and future contributions.

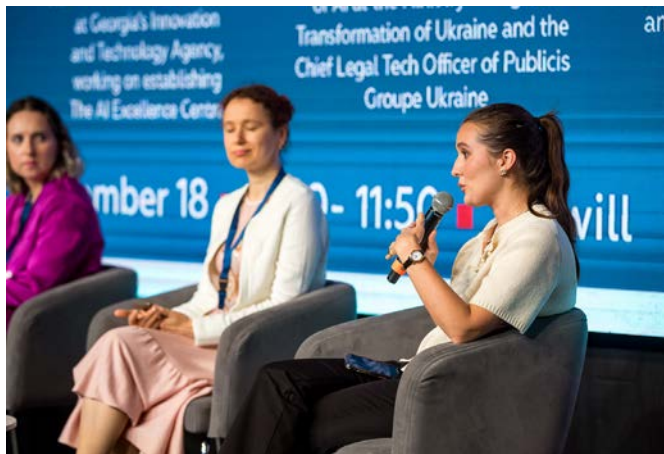
While our tools are designed to support the diaspora, maintaining meaningful connections is just as important as creating them. A digital platform helps facilitate these interactions, but technology alone is not enough—people must come first. Strong relationships need to be established before digital solutions can effectively support them. Culture serves as a powerful way to unite the diaspora. By aggregating cultural events on digital platforms, we create an inviting space where people from all over the world can engage, participate, and feel connected to their roots in a way that is both familiar and meaningful."

## Trustworthy AI: Global and Regional Outlook



**Alexandru Gozun**, Director of PWC Moldova

“Collaboration is key, not only within countries but between countries as well. Building trust in AI means working together across borders to embrace the opportunities AI brings while addressing the risks.”



**Irina Buzu**, Advisor to the Deputy Prime-Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Digitalisation of Moldova

“Trustworthiness in AI requires clear boundaries between human and machine. When we blur the line between what is human and what is technological, it becomes harder to build trust. We need to invest in people to enhance our human experiences and foster trust in AI.

Collaboration has made everything possible so far—from developing a widely accepted definition of AI to building Moldova’s AI ecosystem. Networking, sharing experiences, and aligning with regional efforts have given me optimism that we’re moving in the right direction.

Moldova is poised at a perfect timing when it comes to regulating AI. While we don’t have formal regulation yet, our vision is to align with EU standards but also address the needs of our national ecosystem.”



**Salome Khachiauri-Soltau**, Head of the Grants Department and working on establishing The Ai Excellence Centre at Georgia’s Innovation and Technology Agency

“The key to handling disruptive technologies like AI is to keep an open mind but remain cautious. We need to trust the system, educate more people, and make sure they understand how AI works—because without understanding, trust is hard to achieve.

Trust in AI grows when people see it improving their lives and businesses—whether by saving time, improving processes, or offering practical solutions. By building AI tools that offer real value, startups are helping to strengthen this trust and connect people to the technology in meaningful ways.”



**Olena Andriienko**, Member of the Expert Advisory Committee on the Development of AI at the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine and the Chief Legal Tech Officer of Publicis Groupe Ukraine

“For me, artificial intelligence is a form of collective intelligence. Collaboration between countries, regulators, and the private sector is crucial to developing trustworthy AI and building resilience against the negative uses of this technology.”



## Opportunities for Global IT Companies in Central Asia



**Chubak Temirov**, Deputy Director of the High Technology Park of Kyrgyzstan.

"There are several important requirements for companies looking to enter our region, but I want to focus on education. Without young talent, these companies may come and say 'Okay,' but they won't achieve real success. In addition to this, it's also crucial to develop the market. Central Asian countries were part of the Silk Road for many years; we have a rich history, and we need a kind of rebranding. As a new destination, we have the potential to revive the renewal of the Silk Road."



**Umedjon Kamilov**, Head of International Department of the State Enterprise Institution "Business Incubator of Tajikistan".

"First of all, believe the top priority when it comes to technological advancements is to train new IT specialists. We have a new generation of professionals who have transitioned from traditional fields, such as law and economics. The second priority is AI development. We are the first country in Central Asia to establish a National AI Strategy. By 2025, we plan to open an AI academy to train more specialists and contribute to the growth of this field."



**Daniyar Zhumagulov**, Director of Technological Centers Office, Astana.

"We invite companies to investigate what Astana Hub is, and which possible benefits you may get cooperating with us, and then to come to Astana for collaboration. I urge all of you to share your experiences with one another. I believe that this is the only way we can truly be productive."



**Marina Bzovii**, administrator MITP and Moderator.

"In Moldova, while many prominent companies are based abroad, not all of them are. We can proudly say that we have at least one unicorn, although it doesn't identify as a Moldovan company. There is a strong emphasis on developing human capital here. To attract foreign talent, Moldova has implemented a special IT visa. Our IT park hosts around 2,000 resident companies employing over 22,000 people—representing 4.4% of the country's active population engaged in the IT sector."



## Navigating IT Investment and Startup Acceleration in Eurasia



### **Moderator: Olga Melniciuc, CEO at Startup Moldova**

“Moldova, like many countries in Eurasia, is still developing its startup ecosystem. We need to work together—government, accelerators, investors, and startups—to ensure that we create the right environment for innovation and cross-border collaboration.”

### **Amir Hegazi, Managing Director of Capital Democracy**

“In emerging markets like Eurasia, you need a minimum viable ecosystem. This means removing regulatory bottlenecks that deter founders from starting or staying local and that prevent investors from entering the market. It’s not just about capital; it’s about creating the right environment with clear regulations, strong education, and community support to help startups thrive. In Saudi Arabia, simplifying processes, removing red tape—such as enabling company registration in a day or a few days not weeks or months—unlocked massive potential. Eurasia can achieve the same by eliminating regulatory hurdles.

One thing I always tell entrepreneurs: you can’t disguise a bad business with AI. The key is to get the fundamentals right first. Use technology as an accelerant to build on solid foundations, not as a substitute for solving core problems and having a solid team and business model.

If you’re in a smaller country, you need to think beyond your borders. Investors are looking for companies that can scale, so from day one, you should be building with the mindset that you’ll expand into multiple markets.”

### **Steinar Hoel Korsmo, Seed Forum Global Founder & CEO**

“In Moldova and Eurasia, we need to move away from the old economy to what I call ‘2.0 economy.’ Government-backed accelerators, like Ukraine’s startup fund, could be a game-changer, setting the framework for massive growth in startups.

The biggest challenge for early-stage startups is thinking big enough. You have to kill modesty and bootstrap through the painful early stage until you’ve secured funding and reached acceleration.

In Eurasia, we need to evolve the company legislation so that investors feel confident. If the legal framework is right, we can bring more investments into this part of the world. Political risk must be minimized to make these markets more attractive.”

### **Nihat Muradzade, Chief Technology Officer at SABAH HUB Innovation Centre of Azerbaijan**

“In Azerbaijan, we’re developing a full ecosystem to support startups—from investment days to technology parks. By gathering the right people and creating the right networking opportunities, we’re fostering collaboration and innovation, which is essential for startups to grow and succeed.”

### **Dumitru Ciorici, Digital enthusiast and Chief Business Development Officer at Fagura**

“We have promoted for years the adoption of the crowdfunding law in Moldova, according to EU standards. It took four governments, but now Moldova has a framework for crowdfunding, which will also boost the startup ecosystem.

Moldova has made important steps into developing the start-up ecosystem. We have joined the effort, by promoting the adoption of the crowdfunding law in Moldova, according to EU standards, that all the market can now benefit. Of course, there is still to improve, but I think we are on the right path.”

# New Education for the New (AI) Economy: Integrating AI Across Traditional Academia and Corporate Initiatives



**Anatol Poiata**, Chief of Data Science Department at AC- Technologies

“Artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science are interdisciplinary fields that impact all areas—from news to biochemistry. We must teach students from various disciplines how to use AI tools. It’s crucial to ensure that students are prepared for the changes and the development of AI products. The second important aspect is preparing professors and teachers for AI. Many of them focus on theory and are unaware of current industry trends. Everything is evolving, so we need people to adapt to these changes as quickly as possible.”

**Jenny Romano**, Co-founder of Newsroom.

“The media and information landscape is more complex than ever, not just for readers but for journalists too. Navigating this complexity requires a strong foundation in both media literacy and AI. Readers need to understand media, data and AI to critically assess the information they consume, while journalists need to familiarise and play with AI to learn how to trust and harness it, fully aware of its strengths as well as risks.”

**Nana Dikhaminjia**, Co-founder of Clear Signal Solutions and educational non-profit Techdro in Georgia

“Right now, the traditional 4- or 6-year education system is becoming outdated; it's time for lifelong learning. It's not about competing with machines but using machine tools to achieve our goals. That's why continuous self-education is crucial. I believe the future of education lies in self-learning platforms, which should keep evolving. Teachers will need to become facilitators in this process. Every government should invest in high-quality platforms that can provide new tools for education.”

**Irina Oriol**, Executive Director, Moderator of National Association of ICT Companies.

“We launched the Tekwill at Every School program, offering 10 diverse courses such as artificial intelligence, web design, mobile app development, graphic design, video storytelling, and emotional intelligence in communication. Over the span of four years, we’ve successfully trained around 3,000 teachers and engaged nearly 400 schools. Today, we’re proud to say that close to 80,000 students have completed at least one course through our platform.”



# Participants

**Menasri Abdelheq**

**Ahmed Adebayo** BAM

**Oluwafisayo Thompson Adebowale** Literacy Education and Development Research Organization

**Andronic Adrian** ECO GARDEN CONSTRUCT

**Catruc Adriana** ASEM

**Patricia Afteni** Storm (wave agency s.r.l.)

**Alphan Akpece** Efes Vitanta Moldova

**Alcaz Alex** SONA STAND ART

**Rosioru Alexandru** Alvys COM

**Asyad AL-Haza A** Franchise Arabia

**Leiciu Alla** IW International

**Noah Aloys Bertrand** ULTRA SARL

**Umit Altin** TURCONSUL

**Ionela Alina** Alupoaei Smart Event Marketing SRL

**Petru Amihalachioaie** Endava

**Nedea Ana** Simtel Team S.A.

**Donciu Andreea** Bolle blu

**Ujeniuc Andreea** ITfintech

**Olena Andriienko** Expert Committee on the Development of AI Sphere in Ukraine under the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine; Publicis Groupe Ukraine

**Adam Angela** SRL PRIMA PLASTIC

**Cristian Apostol** Bloomcoding

**Iurie Apreutesei** Production Telecom and IT Consulting SRL

**Ivana Arapu** Orange

**Yuliia Arnautova**

**Vladimir Artemenko** Capital Times

**Ion Artin** NEXT ERA

**Marin Artur** Purcari Wineries

**Mariam Avakova**

**Alexandru Averbuh** Telecomservis SRL

**Andrey Aydov** QSYSTEMS SRL

**Joshua Badach** GOPA/EU4Business

**Alina Banul** Virim-Impex SRL

**Timur Bartash** Zense IT SRL / Part of We As Web Group

**Elena Batin** Tax Trand SRL

**Elizaveta Bazilevici** FusionWorks

**Daniela Bechet** MISRA USAID

**Vlad Bercu** MELNIC | BERCU Legal Advisors

**Tatiana Bilba** GIZ

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# Highlights

- The 6th StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum took place on September 17-18, marking a significant milestone in fostering collaboration between governments and the tech industry across Eurasia. The event was held in strategic partnership with Tekwill, Moldova's leading tech ecosystem networking platform, along with Invest Moldova, Moldova Innovation Technology Park, and ABSL Moldova. This prestigious gathering was supported by USAID and Orange Moldova, making it a cornerstone event within Moldova Business Week 2024.
- With its central theme, "**Trustworthy AI for a Sustainable Economy**," the Forum explored the transformative potential of artificial intelligence while addressing critical aspects of economic sustainability. The event brought together a stellar lineup of supporters, including DAAC Digital, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the World Bank, Tekwill, InvestMoldova, ABSL Moldova, Sigma Software, and the High Technology Park of the Kyrgyz Republic. This diverse coalition of partners underscored the Forum's role as a dynamic platform for dialogue and innovation.
- Over 40 distinguished speakers took the stage, including **Dorin Recean**, Prime Minister of Moldova, and **Dumitru Alaiba**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economic Development and Digitalization of Moldova. Their contributions, alongside those of leading tech minds, industry experts, and policymakers, enriched the discussions and provided valuable insights into the Forum's focus areas.
- With more than 150 participants, the Forum addressed a range of critical topics such as talent retention, the role of trust in AI development, and the vast opportunities for global IT companies in the Eurasian region. This collaborative effort created a vibrant space for knowledge exchange, networking, and actionable strategies, emphasizing the essential interplay between technology and sustainable growth.
- By uniting visionaries and decision-makers, the 6th StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum reinforced its position as a premier platform driving the digital transformation of Eurasia.

# StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum

The StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is held annually in different countries of the Eurasian region.

The Annual StrategEast State and IT Eurasian Forum is a unique platform that brings together global and local representatives of the private sector, governments, and financial institutions. The Forum provides a unique opportunity to discuss what needs to be done in order to enhance the innovative economy across the region and assist the Eurasian countries with integration into the global economic and security system.

- **Over 70 high-level speakers**
- **Over 200 participants**
- **Over 30 global and regional institutional partners**

## About StrategEast

StrategEast is a leading independent institution working to develop the Eurasian digital economy, in collaboration with international financial institutions, development agencies, global tech companies, and Eurasian governments.

StrategEast is a non-profit organization with offices in the United States, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Ukraine



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