Digital Economy

Digital economy penetration is low in the middle east region

Outcome presentation – Digital Economy working group:
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Digital contribution to Middle East economy is low compared with benchmarks
Share of digital contribution to GDP, %

- United States: 8.0
- Europe: 6.2
- Middle East: 4.1
- Bahrain: 8.0
- Kuwait: 5.1
- Egypt: 4.4
- United Arab Emirates: 4.3
- Saudi Arabia: 3.8
- Oman: 0.9
- Qatar: 0.4
Digital Economy Challenges

• Why is it low?

• Too many borders, low cooperation
• No governmental incentives
• Lack of digital skills
• Limited payment infrastructure
Recommendations

- Open global market
- Establishing the enabling ecosystem and environment to accelerate digitization
- Job creation as mandated by SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth)
- Develop digital skills SDG 4 (quality education)
- Enhance internet infrastructure
- Enhance payment infrastructure