

# The Network Readiness Index 2020:

Accelerating Digital Transformation  
in a post-COVID Global Economy

NRI 2020, EURALO, 20 April 2021



PORTULANS  
— INSTITUTE —



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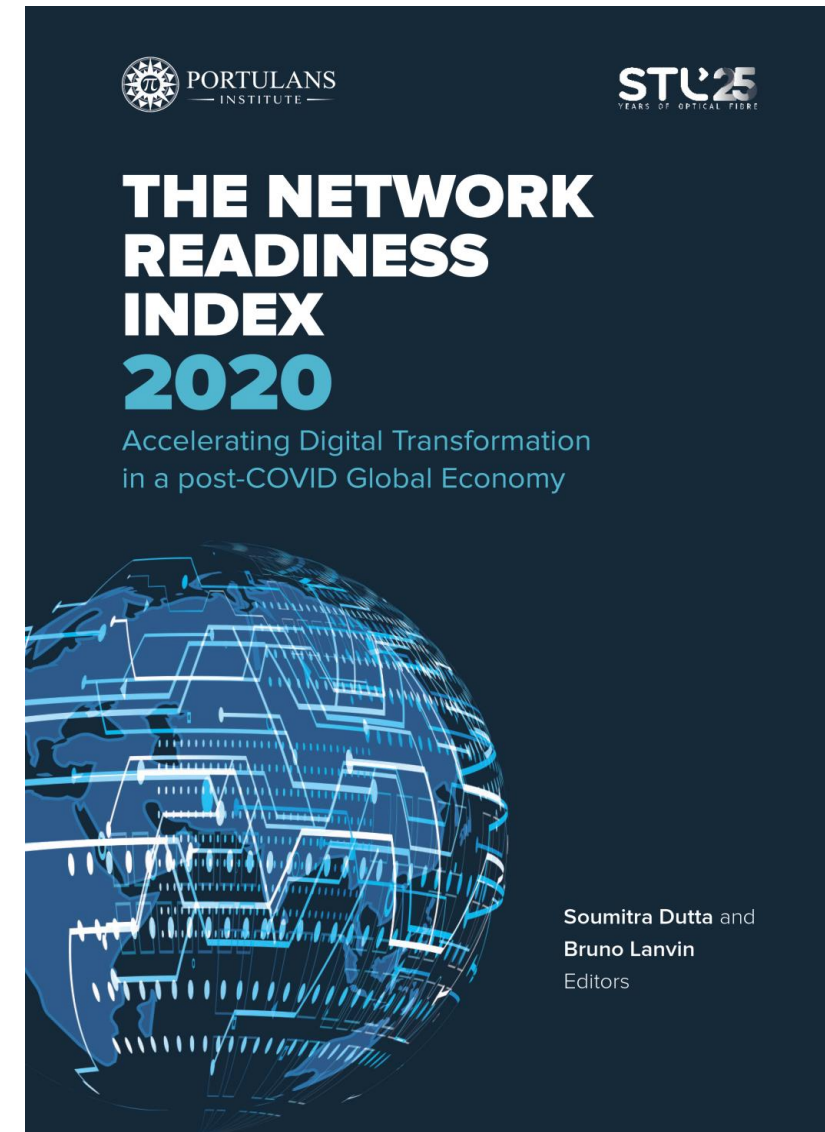


European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO)



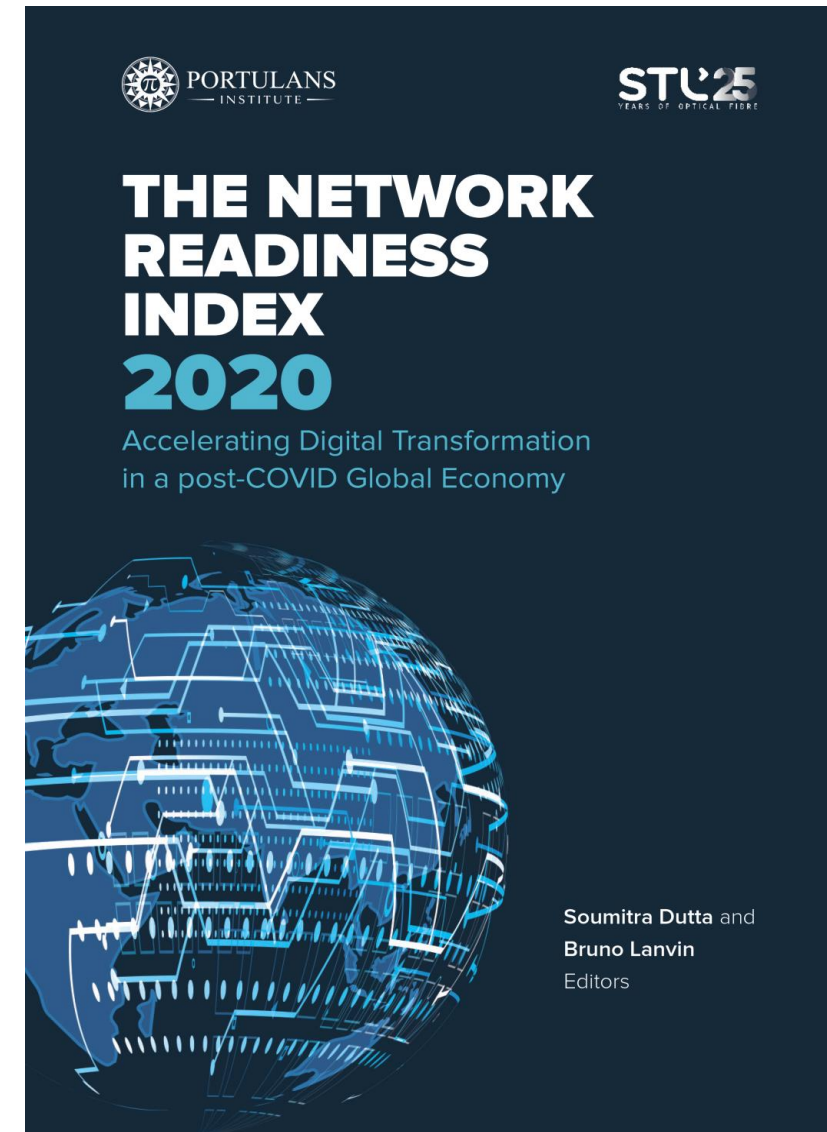
# Three points

- ❖ What is NRI ?
- ❖ Rankings NRI 2020
- ❖ Issues for Europe



# Point 1

- ❖ What is NRI ?
- ❖ Rankings NRI 2020
- ❖ Issues for Europe





# NRI: A human-centric approach to ICTs

- Key metrics of the use of ICT for development and competitiveness
- Launched in 2002 by the World Economic Forum as part of the Global Information Technology Report (GITR)
- Redesigned in 2019 to make it more reflective of current ICT issues and make it more future-ready
- NRI 2020 welcomes a new sponsor : STL, an industry-leading integrator of digital networks

# The NRI 2020 model

- **Underlying principle:** our collective future will require a harmonious integration of people and technology

## Structure of model:

4

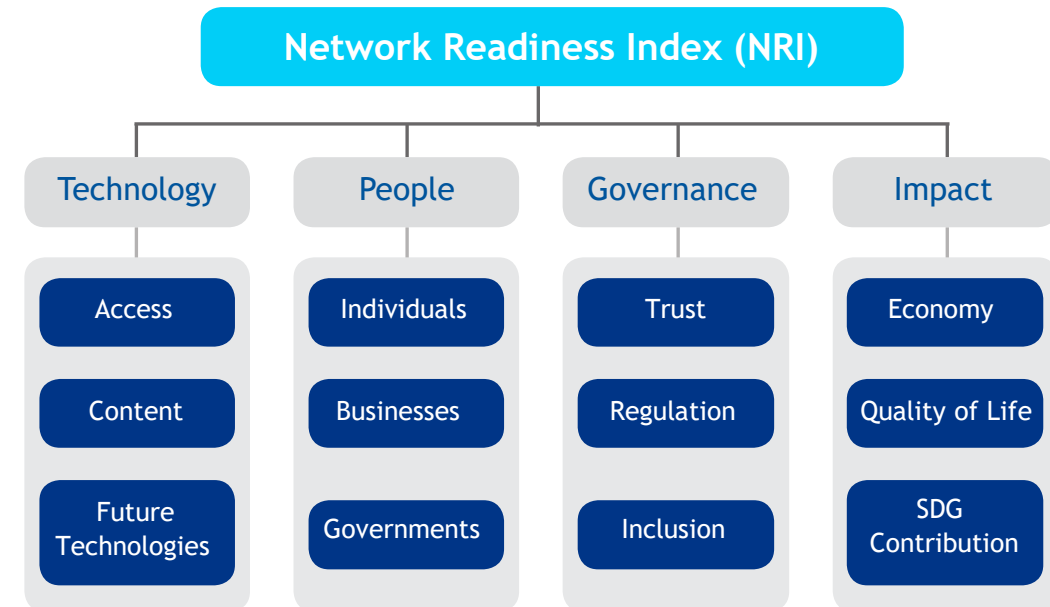
pillars

12

sub-pillars

60

indicators



# NRI theme: digital transformation

- Digital Transformation Dialogue Series
- Exclusive interviews with global thought leaders, government experts, CEOs and private sector innovators, and academics

“(COVID-19 has) highlighted a great disparity across our society, (...) We are in the midst of a forced transformation, but I would argue that it’s been underway for quite a while.”

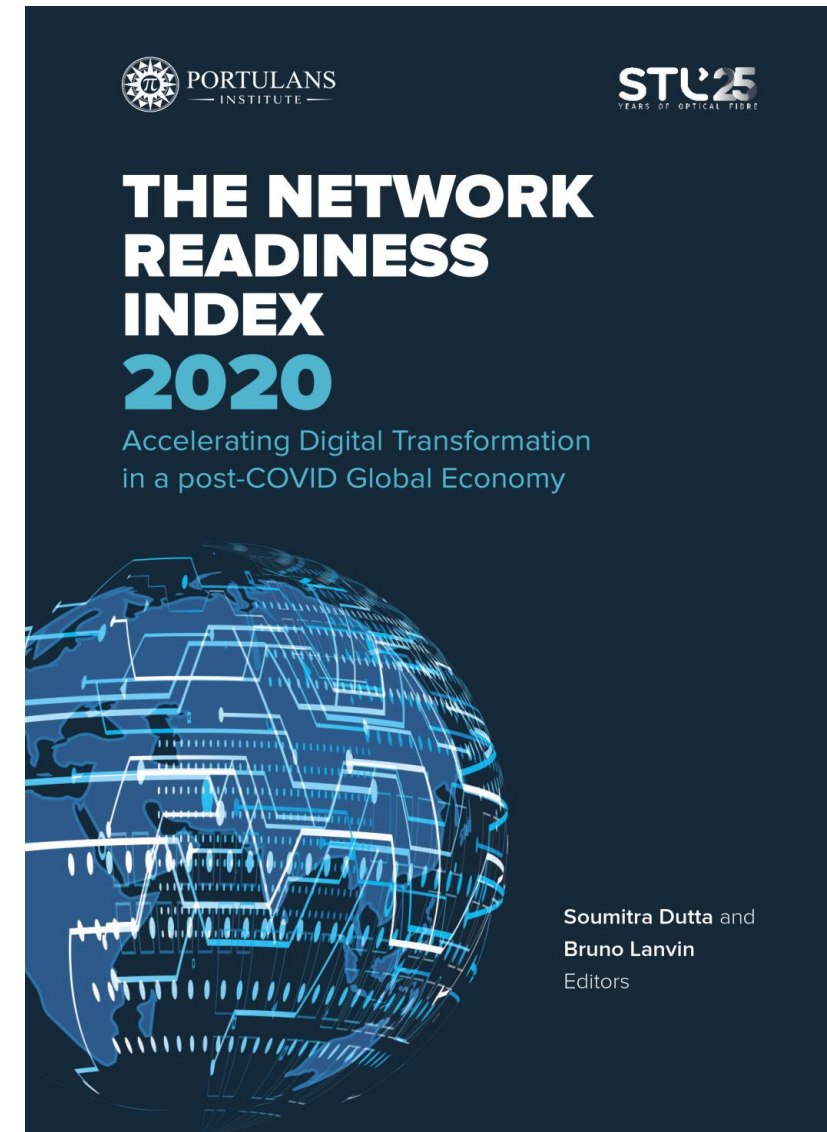
Vint Cerf  
VP and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google

“Even though there is a lot of celebration around how far Africa has come, in terms of digitization, there still is a lot more that needs to be done, if we really want to deliver an inclusive Africa.”

Vera Songwe  
Executive Secretary, UNECA

# Point 2


- ❖ What is NRI ?
- ❖ Rankings NRI 2020
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# NRI 2020 champions : few non-Europeans

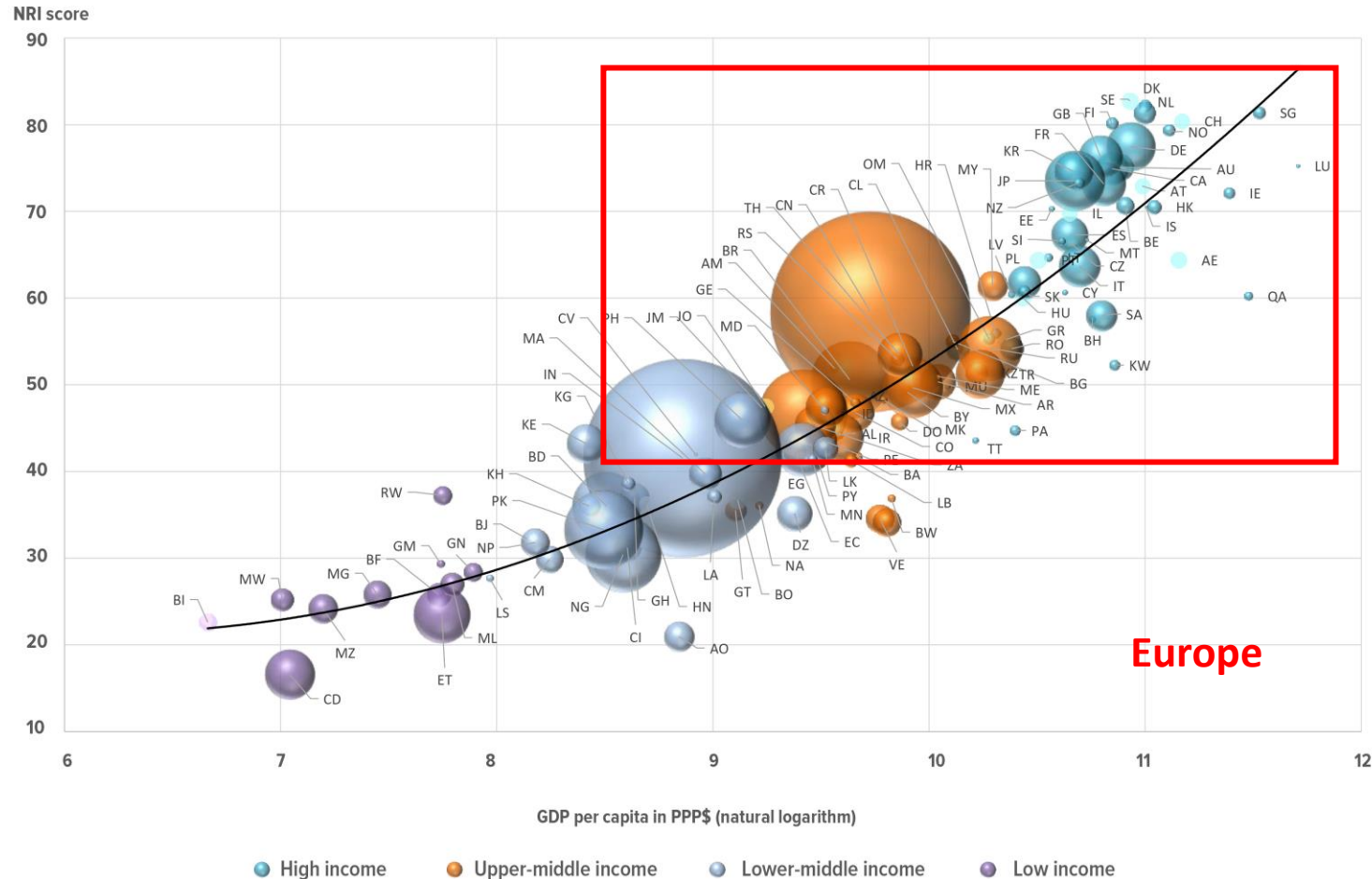
## Main results:

- 134 economies covered
- Top 3: Sweden, Denmark, Singapore
- High-income countries (and Europe) continue to dominate overall rankings

Country		NRI rank	NRI score
Sweden		1	82.75
Denmark		2	82.19
Singapore		3	81.39
Netherlands		4	81.37
Switzerland		5	80.41
Finland		6	80.16
Norway		7	79.39
United States		8	78.91
Germany		9	77.48
United Kingdom		10	76.27



# Network readiness and income



# NRI 2020 pillar rankings: Europe everywhere ?

## Top 3 performers:



### Technology:

Switzerland  
Sweden  
Netherlands



### People:

Denmark  
**Korea, Rep.**  
Finland



### Governance:

Norway  
Denmark  
Netherlands



### Impact:

**Singapore**  
Switzerland  
Sweden

# Top performers by income group

- All but one country in the top quartile are high-income economies
- High-income economies primarily dominate in Technology and Governance

## High-income countries

1. Sweden (1)

2. Denmark (2)

3. Singapore (3)

## Upper-middle-income countries

1. Malaysia (34)

2. China (40)

3. Bulgaria (46)

## Lower-middle-income countries

1. Viet Nam (62)

2. Ukraine (64)

3. Moldova (71)

## Low-income countries

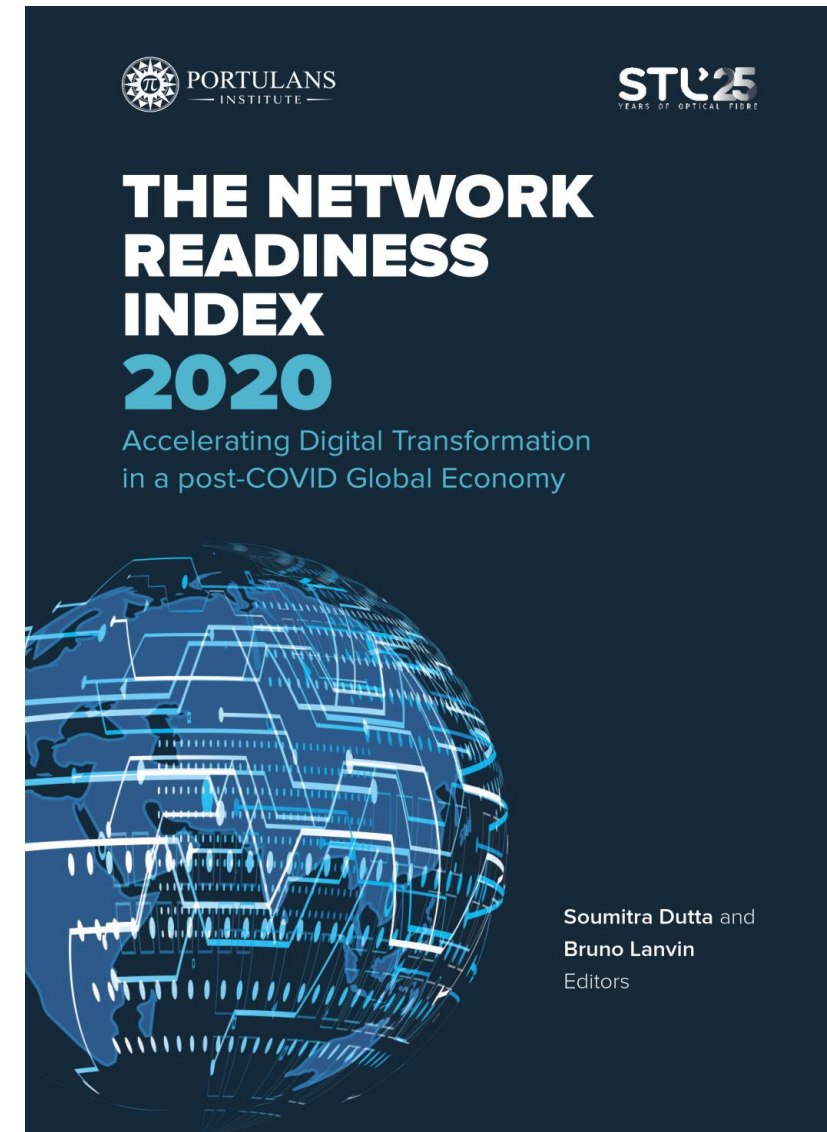
1. Rwanda (96)

2. Tajikistan (109)

3. Uganda (114)

# Point 3

- ❖ What is NRI ?
- ❖ Rankings NRI 2020
- ❖ Issues for Europe



# No room for complacency

- Europe is ahead of the rest of the world in terms of network readiness, but digital divides remain
- Specific fields are dominated by other players: broadband (Korea), 5G (China, US), AI (US, China), QC (US, China)

Africa	
1. Mauritius	(61)
2. South Africa	(76)
3. Kenya	(82)

Asia & Pacific	
1. Singapore	(3)
2. Australia	(12)
3. Korea, Rep.	(14)

Europe	
1. Sweden	(1)
2. Denmark	(2)
3. Netherlands	(4)

Arab States	
1. United Arab Emirates	(30)
2. Qatar	(38)
3. Saudi Arabia	(41)

CIS	
1. Russia	(48)
2. Armenia	(55)
3. Kazakhstan	(56)

The Americas	
1. United States	(8)
2. Canada	(13)
3. Uruguay	(47)



# What did we learn from COVID ?

- European coordination remains a work in progress
- Europe still needs to affirm its personality, somewhere between China and the US
- Digital transformation is one vital area in which this needs to happen
  - Governance, privacy (GDPR) and fiscal issues have allowed some European leadership to emerge; it needs to be reinforced
  - Fighting local and global inequalities (digital divides) should be a visible priority, as post-COVID recovery will be a ‘split recovery’
  - Fully leveraging of the ‘European recovery package’ (Green + Digital) is essential, especially vis-à-vis younger generations

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Visit:

<http://networkreadinessindex.org>

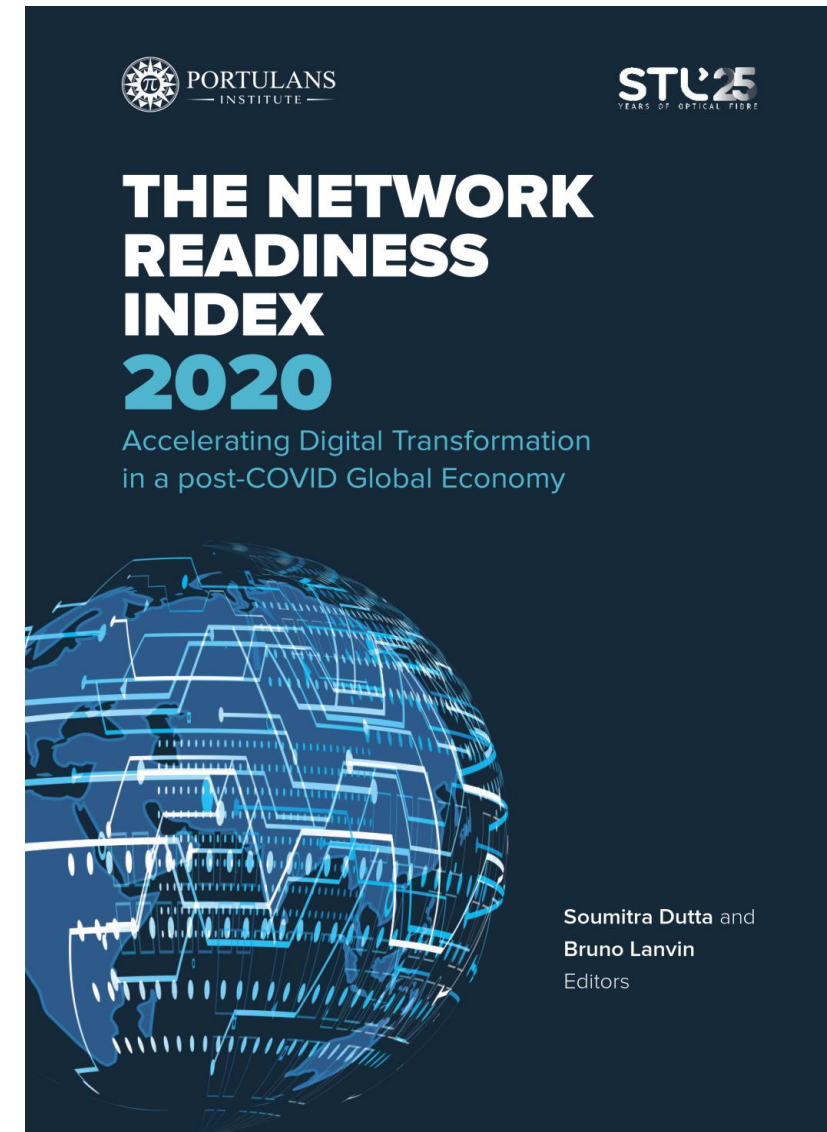
Contact:

[info@portulansinstitute.org](mailto:info@portulansinstitute.org)



Thank you for  
your attention

# Annexes



# Key questions on digital transformation

- ❖ How is digital transformation impacting global inequality?
- ❖ Is digital transformation leading to better lives?
- ❖ Are we controlling or being controlled by technology?

The NRI provides us with a framework for analyzing the above questions by putting the human-technology dyad at the center of a global vision of digital transformation.





# Key messages of NRI 2020

- 1 Digital transformation needs to be “system-wide”
- 2 Digital transformation may create new forms of digital divides
- 3 Trust and security are central to successful digital transformation
- 4 The COVID crisis is accelerating digital transformation
- 5 Education and re-skilling are critically important for successful and sustainable digital transformation
- 6 Digital transformation can help the accelerated implementation of SDGs
- 7 Digital transformation can help rebuild global cooperation and redefine globalization