

I am glad to open this Global Forum and to welcome you to our Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia.

The title of this morning's first session "Shaping our Digital Future" sums up some of the major issues that confront us today: the idea of being able to govern technology as it changes and evolves, the transition to a digital 'culture', the way we imagine the future.

And this applies especially to public administration, in which I'm involved every day.

In this Region we are working really hard to reduce the digital divide and to carry forward our "digital agenda", because we truly believe that no reform – and we are introducing several - can be effective without a considerable investment in new technologies and consequent removal of red tape.

We recently named this project 'Go on FVG'. As the president of my Region, Debora Serracchiani, remarked a few days ago at the second Annual Italian Digital Agenda Forum promoted by Confindustria Digitale, our regional strategy is perfectly aligned with the national "Go on Italy" project, which we joined with enthusiasm.

That's why the development of the Region's digital economy lies at the very core of the reforms. We're aiming for a "digital review" that can also provide a substantial reduction in costs.

Of course, the Digital Agenda has to take place in the context of a participatory process that fully involves the whole territory. In this way, the many "local authorities" can be turned de facto into a single "public administration", so that, for instance, their digital databases and computer systems, which at present seem to be independent islands, can at last be truly interconnected.

Specifically, we're planning to set up a single local government data processing centre, provided and run along 'cloud computing' lines... But this is not the time to go into detail...

My real intention was to extend a warm welcome to everyone present and to wish you well in your work!

Thanks!