



**Project Number:**  
**Project Title:** Broadband Development in Latin American Countries  
**Estimated Start Date:** 2012  
**Estimated End Date:** 2016  
**Regional Cooperation Agencies:** ASETA, CITEL, COMTELCA and REGULATEL  
**Implementing Agency:** International Telecommunication Union (ITU)  
**Beneficiary Countries:** 10 Latin American countries  
**ITU Project Manager:** Regional Office for the Americas, Brazil

#### SUMMARY OF CONTRIBUTIONS

**A) Project Budget**

Description	USD
Personnel Costs	570,000
Missions (Experts and ITU)	82,000
Training	300,000
External Service	48,000
Miscellaneous and Other Costs	78,262
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,078,262</b>

**B) Cost Sharing**

USD 1,078,262

**C) Contributions from Beneficiary Countries:**

In-kind: all those specified in this PRODOC

#### **Brief Description:**

This Project is designed to assist (10) Latin American countries in the design and implementation of policies and programmes for large-scale development of broadband access with a view of reaching national universal services objectives. The Project will support beneficiary countries drafting National Broadband Plans (NBPs) and promote enhanced regional dialogue and the development of common practical guidelines (Action Plan) for the implementation of broadband access technologies in agreement with globally adopted standards.

For the	Signature	Date	Name/Title
ITU:	_____	__/__/____	
Partner(s):	_____	__/__/____	
	_____	__/__/____	

## **1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

Broadband access is becoming essential, since many of the most effective applications and services which help foster development are only available through a high-speed Internet connection – and notably those related to e-health, e-commerce, e-banking and e-government. Broadband-based applications have a far greater impact on people, society and businesses than their narrowband equivalents.

Broadband infrastructure is therefore a key tool for accelerating socio-economic development and for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To help countries in this direction, ITU is working closely with Member States and other partners to make sure that the latest legislative approaches and best practices aimed at facilitating broadband infrastructure development are well-known and implemented worldwide<sup>1</sup>.

Telecommunication networks' operational levels and their capacity for transmitting broadband information are the key issues to deal in regards to the scope of network's physical infrastructure to provide services by means of broadband.

Increasing the capacity, functionality and coverage of the installed infrastructure and keeping it up to date represent a critical challenge. Investment in building and modernizing that infrastructure is essential so that the entire population can be reached. Some of this new broadband capacity is being allocated for public use, such as schools, hospitals/clinics and other government services.

The project will address the regulatory and technical challenges facing the beneficiary countries in the field of broadband access with the goal of promoting a common, fair, transparent, stable, predictable and non-discriminatory access to the telecommunication services to foster technological and services innovation and encourage investment incentives.

The implementation of this project will contribute to the implementation of ITU Plenipotentiary (PP) Resolutions 101 "Internet Protocol-based networks" and 102 "ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses" (Guadalajara 2010).

The Project will be implemented in close collaboration with regional and sub-regional organizations, such as ASETA, CITEC, ISOC, LACNIC, REGULATTEL – and Latin American countries. Prior to the launching of the Project and in close coordination with these organizations and the Administrations of Latin American countries ITU will define the ten (10) beneficiary countries.

## **2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Project aims to assist beneficiary countries by making a regional assessment on the needs related to access technologies and applications and by helping countries in the development of National Plans. One of the main objectives of this Project is to increase awareness on the need to develop a common Action Plan for the implementation of broadband access technologies.

One of the important outputs foreseen in this Project is a Regional Matrix that will map all the different broadband access technologies used by the countries of the region, considering relevant standards. This Matrix will be an important visual instrument to promote and implement a common Action Plan for Latin American countries.

Through the events foreseen to happen during the implementation of the Project, the beneficiary countries will have the opportunity to discuss the main issues and to reiterate the critical importance of broadband access technologies as an essential tool for countries' economic and social development, aiming at facilitating the adoption of a Regional Action Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.broadbandcommission.org>

### **3. PROJECT OBJECTIVES**

The Project aims to increase awareness among national authorities on the importance of developing National Broadband Plans and take priority to implement broadband access technologies in the countries in agreement with globally adopted standards.

The Project will also encourage administrations to put public policies in place that will promote investment in developing the infrastructure necessary for the large-scale deployment of broadband services, in order to fulfill national universal service objectives and allow access to affordable ICT services, mainly in rural and isolated areas.

Finally, the Project aims at promoting capacity building in broadband access technologies at national level, including policy, regulatory, technical, standardization, economic and sustainability issues.

### **4. EXPECTED RESULTS**

The following results are envisaged:

- A complete and detailed regional assessment on the demands of broadband wired and wireless access technologies and applications in Latin American countries;
- Preparation of National Broadband Plans (NBPs) for beneficiary countries;
- Adoption and implementation of a common Action Plan for the deployment of broadband access technologies in the countries;
- A Matrix showing the different broadband access technologies used by the countries, considering relevant standards. The relevant ITU-Recommendations (mainly ITU-R on Broadband wireless access) and Deliverables (e.g.: Report from former ITU-D SG2 Q.20/2 now Q.25/2) will be taken into consideration;
- A Regional event – to be delivered in partnership with regional and international organizations – where all Latin American countries will have the opportunity to discuss concrete actions towards the development and adoption of a common Action Plan;
- Training programmes on the use of broadband access technologies and relevant standards.

### **5. INDICATORS**

The following indicators will be used to measure the success of the Project:

- Assessment carried out;
- Number of National Broadband Plans developed;
- A common Action Plan defined and implemented;
- Matrix on broadband access technologies developed;
- Number of participating countries in the regional event delivered;
- Number of on-line and face-to-face courses delivered.

### **6. MAIN ACTIVITIES**

#### **6.1 Multi Stakeholders (Kick-Off) meeting**

At the start of the Project, a multi-stakeholder (kick-off) meeting will be convened with all project beneficiaries to formally launch the project, recall its objectives and solicit views from relevant stakeholders. This meeting will review and confirm/modify priorities and agree upon an implementation plan, introduce necessary adaptations within the limits set by the financial partners and establish a consultative mechanism for countries to gain public input. It will also be an opportunity to ensure and formalize the full commitment and participation of all beneficiary organizations and countries.

## **6.2 Assessment**

A multidisciplinary group of three (3) specialists will be recruited to develop the assessment. An in-depth analysis of the regulatory, economic and technical aspects, as well as the development factors involved in the effective deployment of broadband access technologies will be carried out by each specialist in his/her area of expertise. Final product shall reflect the actual scenario in the ten beneficiary countries in regards to broadband access technologies.

Aiming at providing information that will allow the development of a regional matrix, the specialists shall present an overall assessment of the scenario in other countries of the Americas region, considering therefore, all thirty five (35)<sup>2</sup> ITU State Members.

## **6.3 Development of National Broadband Plans**

The first activity will be mainly dedicated to information gathering and assessment of the existing situation in each country with regard to the priorities selected by the beneficiaries at the kick-off meeting (including international best practices).

All information will be analyzed and recommendations and guidelines will be drafted on the selected topics by the Project team through consultation with beneficiary countries. This methodology aims to improve efficiency and effectiveness in the identification process of difficulties and needs and will facilitate the decision making process of national authorities in addressing the most relevant issues to enable a feasible and tailor-made Broadband Plan to each beneficiary country.

## **6.4 Common Action Plan**

Beneficiary countries and other stakeholders such as regional and subregional organizations will share information on broadband access technologies aiming at developing common guidelines through an online ITU/CITEL Forum that will be specifically created for this purpose. The online forum will be managed and supervised by the specialists that will be recruited to elaborate the common Action Plan. The Forum will welcome all Latin American countries to share information and will promote a dialogue among them aiming at reaching an agreement towards a Latin American Action Plan instead of just a common Action Plan between the ten (10) beneficiary countries.

## **6.5 Matrix to reflect the regional scenario**

The Project will elaborate the visual matrix based on the final report of the assessment. This matrix will be an important tool to help the promotion and implementation of a common Action Plan.

## **6.6 Regional Seminar**

A Regional event will be organized by the Project team in order to promote discussions among beneficiary countries, other Latin American countries, regional and subregional organizations and other stakeholders to define concrete actions for the implementation of a common Action Plan.

## **6.7 Capacity building**

A training Agenda will be defined in order to provide courses related to broadband access technologies and relevant standards.

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<sup>2</sup> Antigua and Barbuda; Argentina; Bahamas; Barbados; Belize; Bolivia; Brazil; Canada, Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; El Salvador; Grenada; Guatemala; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Jamaica; Mexico; Nicaragua; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Saint Kitts & Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent & the Grenadines; Suriname; Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

## **7. INPUTS**

### **7.1 International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**

ITU will manage the staff resources that will be funded and hired through this Project. Information on broadband related issues, access to ITU existing materials, including training courses and relevant publications will be provided. ITU will exercise all reasonable skill, care and diligence to ensure the success of the project.

### **7.2 Partners**

It is necessary to identify partners interested in providing funding support, in kind contributions, for the implementation of the Project.

### **7.3 Beneficiaries**

The regional and sub-regional organizations and respective countries will provide qualified and dedicated Focal Points that will play a key role for ownership of the project, for effective transfer of the know-how and sustainability. These Focal Points will be participating as far as possible in the consultation process and meetings and adapting the Project deliverables to the national context of the concerned countries. Commitment from each beneficiary country as well as from the regional organizations will be an important aspect of the project. The beneficiary countries are also expected to provide information/data necessary to carry out the work, access to all relevant documents, secured premises to host the project team meetings and training activities, logistics arrangements and support as well as any other assistance to the project that may be required by the Project staff.

## **8. RISKS ASSESSMENT**

The Project requires close coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations, multiple national government institutions and local partners. Primary risk is that in-country activities may suffer delays due to unforeseen local events and/or circumstances. This risk will be minimized through the close involvement of local staff, the Project's team and ITU staff in the Americas Region.

The main advantage of this project, namely the fact that it addresses several countries at a time, can be viewed as a risk factor. In general, the decision process with a large number of countries can be slow and the degree of accountability and interest may be low compared to a single country case. This risk will be reduced by closely linking the Project to established regional organizations that are mandated at the highest political level for achieving economic integration of their respective countries.

## **9. PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

The roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders will be clearly defined at the beginning of the Project. ITU is the Executing Agency. After the identification of the primary funding partner and in order to facilitate the implementation of the project, a Project Team funded by the project, will be constituted by ITU. The Project Team will work in close collaboration with ITU personnel in the Americas region, as well as with ITU Headquarters and will be assisted by subject experts. The Project Team will work in close relationship with the regional and sub-regional organizations/institutions, and beneficiary countries that will provide, at their own cost, a dedicated National Project Team, for the coordination and implementation of the Project at local level, mainly in relation to the preparation of the National Broadband Plans.

## **10. MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

The progress of the project will be monitored through periodic reports prepared by the National Project Teams. A Final Evaluation Report will be prepared at the end of the Project assessing the achievements of the stated objectives and developmental impact based on expected outcomes and pre-identified key performance indicators to be submitted to Partners. The ITU Project Manager will prepare a Project Closure Report.



## 12. ESTIMATED BUDGET

Budget estimation considers Project implementation in ten (10) Latin American countries.

SPONSOR CLASSES	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL in USD
3000	STAFF COSTS	570,000
3100	MISSIONS EXPENSES	82,000
3200	TRAINING	300,000
3300	EXTERNAL SERVICES	48,000
3500	MISCELANEOUS AND OTHER CHARGES	78,262
	<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>1,078,262</b>

