



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/CIS-EUR/DM/226

Geneva, 10 February 2017

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from CIS and Europe
- Regulators, ITU Sector Members, Associates, and Academia from CIS and Europe
- Regional telecommunication organizations from CIS and Europe
- Specialized agencies of the United Nations

Subject: **ITU Regional Forum for CIS and Europe "Strengthening Innovation Capabilities in the ICT-centric Ecosystem and Fostering the Growth of ICT Startups", Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 28-29 March 2017**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I am pleased to invite you to the ITU Regional Forum for CIS and Europe "Strengthening Innovation Capabilities in the ICT-centric Ecosystem and Fostering the Growth of ICT Startups", which is jointly organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the ITU and the Ministry of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova and will be held in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, from 28 to 29 March 2017.

This Forum will be attended by representatives of national policy and decision makers, legislators, regulators, telecommunication operators, telecommunication equipment manufacturers, software developers, academia, civil society and other interested stakeholders, including development and funding agencies from CIS and Europe.

This Forum will provide a platform for strengthening regional cooperation, information sharing, and discussion on innovation and startups in the field of ICT, as well as for promoting constructive dialogue between international, regional and national organizations, governments, industry, consumers and academia.

In particular, the Forum will cover the following topics:

- Creating inclusive ICT-centric innovation ecosystem
- Role of national and international stakeholders in fostering the growth of ICT startups
- Future technology developments: opportunities, challenges and business strategies
- Strengthening the culture of entrepreneurship and business skills of all stakeholders
- Funding mechanisms for applied research, innovation and development
- Intellectual property protection

- Incorporation of innovation and entrepreneurship in the education system
- Regional and international cooperation to promote ICT innovations

Draft agenda of the Forum is available in Annex 1 (attached hereto). The Forum will be conducted in Russian and English with simultaneous interpretation. The Forum will be paperless. All materials of the Forum, including presentations, will be available on the ITU http://itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/CIS/Pages/EVENTS/2017/03_Chisinau/03_Chisinau.aspx.

There is no participation fee for this event. However, all expenses related to the travel, accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by your Administration/Organization. Participants are kindly requested to fill out the Registration Form (Annex 2) and send it as indicated in the form by 13 March 2017.

To encourage the participation of low-income developing countries and subject to the availability of funds, the ITU will grant one full or two partial fellowships per eligible country of the CIS Region. An application for a fellowship must be authorized by the relevant Administration. Those intending to apply for a fellowship are required to complete the Fellowship Form (Annex 4) and send it to the ITU Fellowships Service by email: bdtfellowships@itu.int or by fax: +41 22 730 57 78 no later than 6 March 2017.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact Mr Farid Nakhli, Programme Officer, ITU Area Office for CIS, tel: +7-495-926-60-70, email: farid.nakhli@itu.int and Mr Sergiu Voitovschii, Deputy Head of Directorate for International Cooperation and European Integration, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications of the Republic of Moldova, tel: +373-22-25-11-75, email: sergiu.voitovschii@mtic.gov.md

I look forward to active participation from your Administration/Organization.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
BDT Director

Annexes:

1. Draft Agenda
2. Registration Form
3. Practical Information
4. Fellowship Form
5. Visa Support Form