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|  | | **20 January 2021** | |
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| Chairman, RPM-EUR | | | |
| Report by the RPM-EUR Chairman | | | |

# Introduction

The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (RPM-EUR) was organized online by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, from   
18 to 19 January 2021.

The objective of RPM-EUR was to identify priorities at the regional level, for the development of telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs), taking into account contributions submitted by Member States and ITU-D Sector Members from the region. The meeting concluded with a set of proposals on priority issues that will serve as basis for the formulation of contributions to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, to be held in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), from 8 to 19 November 2021 (WTDC-21). WTDC-21 will consider the ITU-D activities to be carried out over the next four-year period (2022-2025).

This report gives an account of the work and results of the RPM-EUR.

# Participation

The meeting was attended by 114 participants including 59 delegates representing 27 Member States from Europe region, 12 participants from Sector Members, 14 participants representing 11 Observer Member States, 2 United Nations and its specialized agencies, and 30 guests. There were, 64 female and 50 male participants. The list of participants can be found [here](https://www.itu.int/md/D14-RPMEUR-ADM-0002/).

# Informal meeting of Heads of delegation

The informal meeting of Heads of delegation was held on 18 January 2021 and, following ITU's long-standing practice, recommended that the host country, this year being the virtual host, the Czech Republic, would nominate His Excellency Mr Petr Ocko, Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, as the Chairman of RPM-EUR for WTDC-21.

The meeting also recommended the appointment of Ms Inga Rimkevičienė (Republic of Lithuania), as Vice-Chairman. Ms Rimkevičienė is Head of International and Public Relations Division, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT), and the Chair of Com-ITU CEPT Project Team on WTDC-21.

The draft agenda, time management plan and allocation of documents were also informally agreed upon, pending adoption on the first day of the RPM-EUR. In addition it was also agreed, on an exceptional basis to consider late contributions and information documents, taking into account their value for the discussion on the regional priorities.

# Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included several high-level interventions. All interventions are posted on the [RPM-EUR website](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/RPM-EUR.aspx). The speakers of the opening ceremony included the following:

**Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0015)

**H.E. Petr Ocko**, Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0014)

**Ms Cristiana Flutur**, Co-President of CEPT [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0011)

**Ms Gwi-Yeop Son**, Regional Director of DCO for Europe and Central Asia, United Nations [[Speech](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-INF-0012/en)]

In addition, the opening segment benefited from a series of interventions by ministerial-level representatives, a special message from the EU Presidency and the message of the Europe Youth Group, as follows:

**H.E. Mr Urmas Reinsalu**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0008)

**H.E. Ms Valeriya Ionan**, Deputy Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0013)

In addition, a special message from the Presidency of the European Council was delivered by **Ms Cristina Lourenço, Director of External Affairs and Development Office at ANACOM, Portugal**. [[Speech]](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0033)

A special video message by the **Europe Youth Group – Generation Connect** was introduced by the group’s representative **Ms Eljona Avdo**, who drew attention to the Youth Declaration ([Document 22](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0022/en)) and its fully fledged presentation was made by the youth representatives under agenda item 8.

# Election of the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen

Following the recommendations from the Heads of delegation meeting, H.E. Mr Petr Ocko, Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, was unanimously elected as the Chairman of RPM-EUR for WTDC-21.

The meeting also endorsed the recommendation from the Heads of delegation meeting for the Vice-Chairmanship of RPM-EUR of Ms Inga Rimkevičienė (Republic of Lithuania), Head of International and Public Relations Division, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT), and the Chair of Com-ITU CEPT Project Team on WTDC-21.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, was introduced by the Chairman as the Secretary of RPM-EUR.

# Adoption of the agenda and time management plan

The meeting approved the agenda as presented in [Document 1](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0001).

The secretariat noted that RPM-EUR had received 33 contributions: 25 from ITU Member States and ITU-D Sector Members, 5 from the secretariat and 3 from TDAG working groups. In addition, 15 information documents were considered, including 4 from the agencies of the UN system.

RPM agreed to accept all late contributions and information documents to be considered, with the understanding that this approach is applied on an exceptional basis and applicable only for the RPM-EUR meeting and should not be used by others as a precedent in the future.

The agenda was approved.

Having examined all the inputs related to ITU-D action areas, the meeting adopted the proposed draft time management plan ([Document DT/1](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-210118-TD-0001/en)). All the meeting documents are available on the [RPM document management website](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-210118/sum/en).

# Digital trends in Europe

[**Document 2**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0002/en) : The document titled “**Digital trends in Europe“** was presented by Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office.

This document provides an overview of trends and developments in ICT infrastructure, access and use in Europe, which includes 46 Member States and is home to a population of 686 million people. The document highlights changes in ICT adoption since the last World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) and during the COVID-19 pandemic, tracks the evolution of regulation, and reviews progress and challenges in the area of the ITU regional initiatives for Europe. Its objective is to serve the ITU membership as a reference for reviewing progress and identifying ICT development priorities in Europe.

Turkey thanked BDT for preparing this report and expressed its appreciation for the important work that the BDT does in terms of tracking the information society. ITU’s work in the area of data and statistics continues to be critical for ITU membership and other organizations. The Digital trends report highlights that while Europe leads in comparison to other ITU regions, disparities in ICT developments within the region remain. This emphasizes the need for the European regional initiatives to focus on addressing and bridging the regional digital divide.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# Reporting on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

[**Document 3**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0003/en): The document titled “**Result-Based Management (RBM) implementation in BDT**” was introduced on behalf of the Director of BDT by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the BDT Director. In 2019, BDT embarked on a comprehensive overhaul of its use of results-based management (RBM) to equip the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) for the challenges of a rapidly changing development landscape and make it Fit4Purpose. This reform introduces RBM for the implementation of all work programmes, as a managerial decision and monitoring tool, and to provide the evidence to demonstrate BDT's impact. RBM also serves as the platform to engage with internal and external partners, and to replicate and scale up successful projects and work programme initiatives.

[**Document 4**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0004/en): entitled *Reporting on the implementation of the Buenos Aires Action Plan (including the Regional Initiatives), and contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* was presented by Mr Stephen Bereaux, Deputy to the BDT Director. Annex 2 entitled *Detailed information on work towards the achievement of the Regional Initiatives for Europe* was presented by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe.

The 2017 ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17) convened in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and adopted the [Buenos Aires Action Plan](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_final_report_en.pdf) (BaAP). The plan, which includes the ITU-D programmes, a set of regional initiatives, and new and revised resolutions, recommendations and study group Questions, defines the mandate, objectives and priorities of the ITU Development Sector (ITU-D) for the period 2018-2021. It also aligns the Development Sector work with the strategic objectives of ITU to allow countries to harness the full benefits of ICTs.

Document 4 reports on the implementation of the BaAP, and its contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also highlights the change that the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), the executing arm of ITU-D, has undergone to ensure that it is able to keep pace with the fast-changing environment in which it serves.

[**Annex two**](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/md/18/rpmeur/c/D18-RPMEUR-C-0004!N2!MSW-E.docx)outlines all activities undertaken by ITU between 2018 and 2020, as a direct response to the expected results of the ITU regional initiatives for the Europe region, which consists of 46 countries. Activities presented in this document depict outcomes and generated impact per regional initiative as well as per activity. They are grouped in chronological order per topic. All activities carried out under the ITU regional initiatives for Europe are directly linked to and coordinated within the corresponding BDT thematic priorities, strengthening ITU’s delivery and impact at the regional and national level. Simultaneously the document identified the contribution of activities to the work of the ITU study groups, as well as ITU’s contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals.

Regional initiatives are the five priority areas that were elaborated and agreed by the members of the Europe region and approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference, held in 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and are described in the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas that require special action of the ITU at the regional level. Under each regional initiative, a set of activities, initiatives, partnerships, and projects have been developed to meet the region's needs. Annual ITU Regional Development Forums have been serving as coordination mechanisms, facilitating implementation of the regional initiatives. The ITU regional initiatives for Europe are as follows:

* EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
* EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
* EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
* EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
* EUR5: Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

Information Document 1 is an extended version of Annex 2 and provides detailed information on all actions.

Estonia informed the meeting about its dedication to digital development cooperation. Estonia, together with Germany DIAL, and ITU, and other joining partners is establishing an open digital governance platform that will allow to accelerate the digital transformation and the digitization of government services for achieving the SDGs. The portal will showcase best practices and highlight model references of implementation to allow all countries to learn from the experiences in other countries. It will help avoid duplication of efforts and accelerate digital transformation and scaling efforts. Collaboration between stakeholders will eventually help to establish a global high-level framework for digital cooperation and to move away from vertical solutions. The platform will build capacity amongst government officials, policy-makers and other stakeholders to develop relevant services for a more digital society, and ultimately a digitally equal world.

Hungary took the floor to reaffirm its support to the work of ITU, and to announce its intention to nominate a chairman for Study Group 2 at WTDC-21.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16

[**Document 5**](https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0005/en): The document, entitled **Report on the implementation of outcomes of other ITU Conferences, Assemblies and meetings related to ITU-D work: PP-18, WRC-19, RA-19, and WTSA-16,** was introduced on behalf of the BDT Director by Mr Marco Obiso, i.a. Chief of the DNS Department.

The importance of ensuring alignment of Resolution 1 among all three Sectors was highlighted as well as the importance of inter-Sector liaison statements.

The importance of work on the EMF was reiterated, in particular in the context of 5G implementation, drawing attention to the recently published ITU [background report](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Events/2020/5G_EUR_CIS/%28final%29%20Background%20Paper%20-%20Implementing%205G%20for%20Good_Does%20EMF%20Matter_Haim%20Mazar.pdf) developed under the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe for the ITU Regional Forum for Europe on 5G strategies, policies and implementation.

TSB Chief of Study Groups, Dr Bilel Jamoussi, provided reference documents on the status of the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) preparations, informing delegates that the Assembly has been postponed to March 2022 and drawing attention to [**[TD 932]**](https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/md/17/tsag/td/210111/GEN/T17-TSAG-210111-TD-GEN-0932!R1!MSW-E.docx) on continuity towards WTSA, as well as [WTSA 20 Inter-regional coordination](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/wtsa20/irc/Pages/default.aspx) and IRM and TSAG on [**Planning**](https://www.itu.int/md/T17-TSAG-210111-TD-GEN-0994/en) of WTSA and WTDC Regional Preparatory Meetings.

Chairman of Inter-Sector Coordination Team (ISCT), Dr Fabio Bigi, also reminded participants that close coordination between TSAG and TDAG as well as [inter-Sectoral mapping](https://www.itu.int/en/general-secretariat/Pages/ISCG/default.aspx) is under way.

BR Counsellor of Study Group 1 and the CPM, Mr Philippe Aubineau, drew attention to the outcomes of WRC-19 (Annex 2 to Document 5) and to the new 2020 edition of the Radio Regulations which includes the outcomes of WRC-19 and the provisions that entered into force on 1 January 2021. It was mentioned that WRC-23 preparations are well under way in the ITU-R study groups.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# Preparation for WTDC‑21

* 1. **Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)**

[**Document 6:**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0006) The document entitled **Final report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)** was presented by Mr Santiago Reyes-Borda, Chairman of the TDAG-WG-Prep. It contains a final report on the work of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep), including those items where the group had not reached a consensus and TDAG-20/3 took a decision.

The Chairman reminded participants about two important initiatives Europe region is involved in, namely: meaningful Youth engagement through the [Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Projects/GCEUR/About.aspx) and the [Network of Women (NoW)](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC21/Pages/NoW/Europe/default.aspx) for the Telecommunication Development Sector, officially launched on 19 January 2021. For the first time, these initiatives are part of the preparatory process for WTDC.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

* 1. **Report of the TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)**

[**Document 7:**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0007) The document entitled **Report of the meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)** was presented by Dr Ahmad Reza Sharafat, Chairman, TDAG Working Group on WTDC Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities. It contains the progress report of the meeting of the TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP). The group will continue its work and submit its final report to TDAG-21.

During discussions, it was proposed that streamlining of resolutions across different Sectors may be done by adopting resolutions of the Plenipotentiary Conference. Study group Questions should also be as vertical as possible to avoid duplications.

On the other hand, t was noted that the Questions should be kept as they are to the extent possible, to ensure continuity of work on important areas of work.

The presenter addressed the comments, assuring that consultations are under way on the best way forward to ensure that study group Questions are as focused as possible and that they address the most important areas of work proposed during TDAG. The presenter also mentioned that a clear understanding on the way forward is aimed for at the next TDAG meeting.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

* 1. **TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)**

[**Document 8:**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0008) The document entitled **Report on the meeting of TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)** was presented by Ms Blanca Gonzalez. It contains a report on the activities of the TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP) since its creation. It also contains some recommendations on the way forward, that TDAG-20/3 approved.

RPM-EUR welcomed the document and noted the contribution.

# 8 Priority setting for Regional Initiatives, related projects and financing mechanisms

RPM agreed to group contributions by topic, including *Generic crosscutting proposals, Digital infrastructure, Digital services, Digital Inclusion, Cybersecurity, Innovation.*

Upon proposal from the Vice-Chairman, RPM also agreed to take the contribution from Poland [**[28]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0028) as a comprehensive starting point for drafting a temporary document on regional priorities to be submitted to the plenary during the following day.

RPM also agreed to establish a dedicated drafting group led by the Vice-Chairman of RPM that would benefit from the support of the following delegates: Vilem Vesely, Czech Republic, Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak, Poland, Vadym Kaptur, ONAT, Ukraine. The drafting group met three times elaborating a set of regional priorities that have been approved by RPM.

# Member Contributions

***Generic crosscutting proposals***

**Document** [**[19]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0019) entitled ***“Contribution on the identification of regional priority areas for 2022-2025”*** was introduced by Albania. It provides a proposal advocating for increased synergy between regional and subregional initiatives and projects. It recognizes that existing regional priority areas are still valid, and that activities for 2022-2025 should be planned considering the impact of COVID-19. It highlights that in order to achieve the digital transformation, better broadband connectivity including 5G rollout, development of digital skills, adoption of policies for digital inclusion, and establishment of the regulatory environment for new technology developments are needed.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[20]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0020) entitled ***“Current developments, plans and priorities in Ukraine”*** was presented by Ukraine. It provides an overview of the developments of the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine in the field of capacity building, digital skills, and children online protection and readiness for cooperation and exchange of experience to identify a better understanding and more cohesive work.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[21]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0021) entitled ***“Proposal to further strengthen mutual cooperation between ITU and sub-regional organizations”*** was presented by the Czech Republic. The document provides a proposal on the increasing need to improve infrastructure development in underserved areas, highlights examples of good practice at national level, and proposes strengthening the valuable cooperation that already exists between ITU and other organizations and ways to ensure a human-centric approach to development and deployment of new technologies.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[23]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0023) entitled ***“Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Ensuring a stronger and more sustainable digital transformation”*** was introduced by Bulgaria. It contains a proposal on “Ensuring a stronger and more sustainable digital transformation” as one of the European regional priorities. Focus is on enhancing connectivity within and across countries to support digital transformation, cybersecurity, COP and women in ICTs.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[24]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0024) entitled ***“Contribution by the State of Israel”*** was presented by Israel. Itprovides three main proposals for priorities in Europe region: i) Inclusiveness, strengthening the role of ICTs in education and among women and girls; ii) Innovation in secure infrastructure, ensuring trusted deployment of advanced technologies, and iii) partnership and coordination among regulatory groups.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[28]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0028) entitled **“Regional Priorities for Europe 2022-2025"** was introduced by Poland. It provides a proposal on regional priorities for 2022-2025, in consideration of the implementation and outcomes of the regional initiatives for the period 2018-2021 [4], and in the light of the trends and developments shaping Europe region [2]. Whilst recognizing the importance of maintaining the five topics as priority in the region, this document provides points where expected results should be developed in line with BDT thematic priorities, Sustainable Development Goals, WSIS Action Lines, and the Connect 2030 Agenda.

The Vice-Chairman reminded participants about the importance of the document that will be used as a zero draft to proceed in identifying the regional priorities for 2022-2025.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** **[32]** entitled **“Proposal on the Work of Study Groups”** was introduced by Romania. Itrecognizes the important work of ITU-D study groups in the period 2018-2021. It proposes to strengthen the connection between implementation of BDT thematic priorities and invites RPM to make suggestions on the next Questions forsStudy over the period 2022-2025.

RPM agreed that additional efforts need to be dedicated in order to strengthen content contribution from European membership, in particular aiming at TDAG and ITU-D study groups.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[33]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0033) **entitled “EU Portuguese Presidency 2021 (PPUE2021) - "A Digital Europe**" was introduced by Portugal. It illustrates the main priorities and challenges for the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU) on Digital-related matters. The Presidency takes place in the first semester of 2021.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

The secretary thanked Portugal for its close collaboration with ITU, particularly in the field of ICT accessibility notably its collaboration on Accessible Europe, and for supporting the process of building synergies between ITU actions and the actions undertaken in the context of the European Union Council Presidency.

**Oral contribution by Turkey.** Turkey reiterated the validity of the five regional initiatives for the period 2022-2025. In particular, Turkey drew attention to successful activities carried out in partnership with ITU including Cybershield 2019, capacity building and international cooperation in cybersecurity as of paramount importance and that this should be an expected result for the period 2022-2025

***Digital Infrastructure***

**Document** [**[25]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0025) entitled ***“EaPeReg Contribution to the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21)”*** was introduced by Ukraine on behalf of EaPeReg. It contains the objectives of the current digital agenda of EaPeReg for 2025 and relevant measures in order to achieve the targets set. Particular focus on synergies to be developed on connectivity (infrastructure development including 5G) and enabling regulatory environment.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regionalinitiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

The secretariat recalled the good collaboration between ITU and the EaPeReg over the past months following the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations. The secretariat recalled a similar positive development with BEREC.

**Document [10]** entitled ***“Regional Initiative on mapping and shared use of infrastructure and associated equipment as base for effective development of high-speed broadband network*s”** was introduced by Montenegro and provides a proposal on broadband mapping. Mapping systems are fundamental enablers for NRAs as they are an inevitable tool for efficient construction of infrastructure suitable for setting up ultra-high speed broadband networks, needed for new services development at the national level. The proposal calls for strengthening capacity development in this area of infrastructure development.

Montenegro was encouraged to submit this document to Study Group1 Question 1/1.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** **[9]** entitled ***“Regional Initiative on enhancing DAB implementation and development”*** was introduced by Montenegro and provides a proposal on Digital Audio Broadcasting. Bearing in mind differences in terms of DAB implementation and development in European countries, there is a need for a regional initiative through which administrations in need can be assisted in the process of digital radio introduction, in order to ensure accelerated sustainable development in the field of audiovisual media services provided through terrestrial digital audio broadcasting systems in the medium and long term.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[29]**](mailto:https://www.itu.int/md/D18-RPMEUR-C-0029/en) entitled “***Proposal on EMF****”* was introduced by the Republic of Serbia. The document recognizes the increasing relevance of monitoring electromagnetic field levels and outlines the approach undertaken at the country level. The contribution proposes to strengthen capacity in the region towards open data monitoring platforms on EMF to foster trust among the general public.

Serbia was encouraged to submit this document to Study Group 2 Question 7/2. Clarification was also sought on the effectiveness of conducting EMF measurements at the national level.

Serbia responded that live monitoring of EMF level supports raising awareness towards citizens at the country level. The Czech Republic supported this position, particularly recognizing monitoring EMF as important measure to mitigate the effects of misinformation around this topic.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[30]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0030) entitled “***Regional Initiative on mapping of broadband infrastructure and related equipment for effective development of very high-capacity network infrastructure (VHCN)***” was introduced by the Republic of Serbia. The document provides a proposal that seeks to strengthen capacity and harmonize approaches in the region with regards to broadband mapping systeMs These empower NRAs in making the regulatory process more efficient and ensure that investment programs including state aid are rolled out effectively.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Digital Services:***

**Document** [**[15]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0015) entitled “***Translating series of specialized multimedia distance-learning courses on eHealth (eHealthcourses.online) into English and other European languages***” was introduced by Ukraine. The document provides a proposal to translate the multimedia distance-learning courses on eHealth (eHealthcourses.online) developed by ITU BDT with the support of A.S. Popov ONAT (Ukraine) within the framework of the Regional Initiative CIS4, “Introduction of integrated, ubiquitous telemedicine technologies and systems for bridging the digital divide (in rural regions; for combating epidemics of infectious illnesses; in emergency situations; creation of a single medical information space)”, approved by WTDC-06, into English and other European languages.

Ukraine was encouraged to submit this document to Study Group 2 Question 2/2.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Digital Inclusion:***

**Document** [**[31]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0031) entitled “***Contribution on ICT Accessibility as a Priority for Europe Region***” was introduced by Portugal. The document provides a proposal to keep ICT accessibility as a key regional priority for Europe, taking into account the experiences and progress undertaken by Portugal in the field of ICT accessibility and web accessibility, and recognizing the need for continuous action in this field. Portugal reminded participants that this year it will be supporting the organization of Accessible Europe, the ITU-European Commission flagship event on ICT Accessibility.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the Regional Initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[26]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0026) entitled “***Proposal of Lithuania for Regional Priorities: Digital Inclusion to reduce the digital divide by means of ICTs***” was introduced by the Republic of Lithuania. The document contains the proposal with priority actions identified in the field of digital inclusion. Particular focus is given to the three areas of ICT accessibility, empowerment of all social groups including women, and digital skills development.

Lithuania was encouraged to submit the document as input to Study Group 2 Question 7/1.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[12]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0012) entitled “***Proposal of activities to ensure implementation of accessible and affordable ICTs and services for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development***” was introduced by Bosnia and Herzegovina. The document provides a proposal on digital inclusion. Key steps to achieve digital inclusion and sustainable development require devising national policies and legal frameworks, developing standards, creating capabilities, raising awareness, sharing good practices, and ensuring the timely implementation to respond to the new technological trends. In this context, Bosnia and Herzegovina proposes a set of priorities in the field of ICT accessibility development.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Digital Skills and Literacy***

**Document** [**[13]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0013) entitled ***“Development of a complex of electronic tools, resources and technologies to motivate graduates to choose professions in the field of Telecommunication/ICT”*** was introduced by Ukraine. It provides a proposal on assisting young graduates to undertake a career in ICTs/telecommunications. As it is known, human resources in the modern world continue to be the most important asset. At the same time, continuous and constant professional training and exchange of ideas with other specialists in the field of advanced training, education and development are crucial for the development of any skills. This issue is especially topical today in rural areas, where inhabitants have limited ability to use ICT in full. ONAT is hereby proposing the development of a complex of electronic tools, resources and technologies to assist in motivating graduates to choose professions in the field of telecommunications/ICTs.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[16]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0016) entitled ***“Regional forum for Europe "Using e-education for training ICT professionals"*** was introduced by Ukraine. It provides a proposal to hold a regional forum for Europe on “Using e-education for training ICT professionals”, within the framework of the Regional Initiative EUR3,“Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development”, approved by WTDC-17.

It was mentioned that in context of e-education, the lack of physical access to ICT laboratories is a challenge for many countries.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[17]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0017) entitled ***“Development of a multimedia distance-learning course on improving digital literacy for adults”*** was introduced by Ukraine. Itprovides a proposal to develop a multimedia distance-learning course on improving digital literacy for adults, within the framework of the Regional Initiative EUR3, “Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development”, approved by WTDC-17.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Youth***

**Document** [**[27]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0027) entitled ***“Youth for Digital Development“*** was introduced by Poland. It reiterates that in the context of revision of priorities for Europe, the inputs of youth obtained through the successful Generation Connect Initiative for Europe should held in high consideration by Member States.

The Vice-Chairman noted that meaningful engagement of youth is widely supported across the Europe region.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Cybersecurity***

**Document** [**[11]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0011) entitled ***“Proposal of activities to ensure Child Online Protection (COP)”*** was provided by Bosnia and Herzegovina. It provides a proposal on Child Online Protection. Governments, the ICT industry and civil society, need to work with children and young people to understand their perspectives and spark genuine public debate about risks and opportunities. Although supporting children and young people to manage online threats can be useful, governments must ensure adequate support services for those who experience harm online and that children are aware of how to access those services. In this context, Bosnia and Herzegovina proposes a series of expected results on Child Online Protection to be achieved.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[14]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0014) entitled ***“Translating multimedia distance-learning course on the safe use of Internet resources (Onlinesafety.info) into English and other European languages”*** was introduced by Ukraine andprovides a proposal to translate the multimedia distance-learning course on the safe use of Internet resources (Onlinesafety.info) developed by ITU BDT with the support of A.S. Popov ONAT (Ukraine) within the framework of the CIS Regional Initiative on “Creating a child online protection centre for the CIS region”, approved by WTDC-14, into English and other European languages.

It was mentioned that the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau is already using an automated translation tool.

TSB Chief of Study Groups, Dr Bilel Jamoussi, drew the attention of delegates to the tool, encouraging them to make use of it.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

**Document** [**[18]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0018) entitled ***“ITU Training for Youth and for Educators and Parents promoting new 2020 ITU Guidelines on Child Online Protection”*** was introduced by Ukraine. It provides a proposal to practically adapt the COP Guidelines across the European region to ensure an efficient delivery, with training designed within the framework of the CIS Regional Initiative on “Creating a child online protection centre for the CIS region”, approved by WTDC-14.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further discuss in order to achieve consensus on a common proposal for the regional initiatives, taking also into consideration this contribution.

***Digital innovation***

Contributions addressing digital innovation were presented by Albania, Israel, Poland under section on Generic Crosscutting Proposals.

***Other documents***

The Chairman drew the attention of participants to a series of contributions received from the UN agencies, explaining that in line with the rules and regulations of ITU, these contributions can be only considered as information documents.

Nevertheless, the Chairman drew attention to the core messages unless RPM agrees to give the floor to the representatives.

* + **Document** [**[ INF/3 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0003) entitled *“Enhancing local government capacities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through digital government”*
  + **Document** [**[ INF/4 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0004) entitled *“Expediting the implementation of ongoing initiatives that enable the digital revolution in Europe and CIS countries”*
  + **Document** [**[ INF/5 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0005) entitled *“Inputs by UNIDO to RPM-EUR - UNIDO, Telecommunications, and ICT's”*
  + **Document** [**[ INF/6 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0006) entitled *“Proposal to strengthen cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe in the digital field to promote common principles and guidelines for the digital economy”*
  + **Document** [**[ INF/7 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0007) entitled *“Futures By Design: Enabling Soft Digital Network Infrastructures, by developing Digital Tools and Data Driven Innovations for SMEs in the North Sea Region”*

Delegates also took note of the following information documents submitted by the Secretariat:

* + **Document** [**[ INF/1 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0001) entitled *“Implementation report - Implementation of ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe “*
  + **Document** [**[ INF/2 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0002) entitled *“Europe - ITU Centres of Excellence Training Catalogue 2021“*

The secretariat drew special attention to the **document** [**[INF/9]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0009)entitled “***Regional WSIS Stocktaking Report 2019-2020"*** underlining the importance of collection of information on ongoing ICT4SDG projects, initiatives and partnerships that serve as inspiration for many stakeholders across the region and beyond. The secretary underlined that all actions at the regional level are contributing to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and to the achievement of SDGs.

A special information session was held to draw attention to I-CoDI initiative presented in **document** [**[INF/10]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-INF-0010) entitled ***“I-CoDI - ITU International Centre of Digital Innovation“****.* Membership from Europe region was invited to engage in the initiative and consider its value proposition when implementing the regional priorities.

RPM-EUR took note of all information documents.

***Youth Declaration***

The document [**[22]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-C-0022) was presented by the Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group. It contained a Declaration developed by the “Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group”. In line with the ITU Youth Strategy, the declaration and set out in this document identifies five thematic priorities as primary (capacity development, policy and regulation, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion) while recognizing the importance of several other thematic priorities, elaborating on the key actions foreseen for Europe region for the period 2022-2025.

The ITU Youth Strategy aims to improve and have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world, and to ensure meaningful participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In line with the Strategy, European Youth have been called upon to contribute to the preparatory process for WTDC-21, in particular the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for Europe, through the establishment of the “[Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Projects/GCEUR/About.aspx)”.

The Members of the Europe Youth Group, consisting of 24 youth aged between 18 and 24, have been tasked to develop a document providing their views on the regional priorities of relevance to the Europe region, as an input to the RPM for Europe. Members of the Group have been selected through a competitive process and worked in their own capacity as individuals for a period of eight weeks.

Poland expressed support for the Youth Declaration and reiterated that youth is an important priority in the context of IGF2021, which will be hosted by Poland.

RPM-EUR noted the document and agreed to further consider this contribution while drafting the common proposal for the regional initiatives.

***Network of Women (NoW)***

RPM Europe established the Network of Women (NoW) for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector. This initiative aims at building a community to support female delegates, expand their network, and advocate and share experiences and knowledge with other female delegates. The Network of Women also aims at promoting the active participation of women in ITU activities and the tech sector in general.

The Network of Women (NoW) encourages gender balance in the activities leading up to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC-21, scheduled to take place from 8 to 19 November 2021 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

# European Regional Priorities for 2022-2025

RPM agreed to create a drafting group that was chaired by Ms Inga Rimkevičienė, the Vice-Chairman of the RPM. The Drafting Group met three times. The consolidated proposal was presented to the plenary [**[TD/3]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D18-RPMEUR-210118-TD-0003) and discussed in detail.

RPM-EUR approved five proposed regional priorities for Europe for the period 2022-2025, as follows:

* RP-EUR 1: Digital infrastructure development
* RP-EUR 2: Digital transformation for resilience
* RP-EUR-3: Digital inclusion and skills development
* RP-EUR-4: Trust and confidence in the use of digital technologies
* RP-EUR-5: Digital innovation ecosystems

Simultaneously, RPM agreed that Resolution 17 (Rev. Buenos Aires, 2017) will require updating, in order to reflect recent reforms aiming at making BDT fit for purpose and strengthening application of the results-based management approach. This will also include a stronger alignment of regional priorities with BDT thematic priorities.

Further details on the expected results of regional priorities are available in Annex 1 to this document.

These regional priorities will be submitted to the CEPT Com-ITU meeting, taking place remotely on 20-21 January 2021, for comments and further processing towards submission to the WTDC-21 as a European Common Proposal.

# 9. Main outcomes

RPM-EUR, after considering all input documents and discussions, came to the following conclusions:

* RPM-EUR considered the final Report of **TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)** welcoming all innovations proposed so far and reiterating the importance of involvement of youth and equal participation of women in WTDC.
* RPM-EUR considered the final Report of **TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)** underlining the importance of the outcomes and proposals therein, considering strengthened involvement of Europe facilitated by CEPT.
* RPM-EUR considered the final Report of**TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)** drawing the attention to the importance of aligning BDT activities with the goals of the Union.
* RPM-EUR recognized that the ITU-D regional priorities constitute an effective mechanism for fostering implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
* RPM-EUR approved five regional priorities for Europe for the period 2022-2025, for submission to WTDC-21 as follows:
* RP-EUR 1: Digital infrastructure development
* RP-EUR 2: Digital transformation for resilience
* RP-EUR-3: Digital inclusion and skills development
* RP-EUR-4: Trust and confidence in the use of digital technologies
* RP-EUR-5: Digital innovation ecosystems

These regional initiatives will be submitted to the CEPT Com-ITU meeting, taking place virtually on 20-21 January 2021, for comments, if any.

* RPM-EUR welcomed the “Digital trends” report as the new series of BDT, highlighting of developments at the regional level in field of ICTs.
* RPM-EUR launched the Network of Women (NoW) for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, paving the way for involvement in WTDC-21.
* RPM-EUR recognized that RPM-EUR was the first meeting to have a majority of women participating.
* RPM-EUR welcomed the Youth Declaration developed by the Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group as meaningful engagement, empowerment and participation of youth in the work of ITU.
* RPM-EUR recognized the important work of the ITU Centres of Excellence in capacity building in Europe region and noted the launch of the 2021 CoE training catalogue providing over 20 training opportunities in the field of broadband, cybersecurity and digital services.

# 11. Closing ceremony

The BDT Director, Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, thanked the Government of the Czech Republic for hosting the RPM and for its support for the successful organization of the event. She emphasized the success of this RPM-EUR as an emblematic example of the spirit of dialogue, cooperation and collaboration permeating ITU-D. Such spirit will be brought into all meetings and interactions engaging ITU-D membership, such as TDAG-21 and finally WTDC-21.

She noted the important outcomes reflected in the Chairman’s report, which would serve as the building blocks for the region’s contributions to WTDC-21.

She reiterated the importance of making WTDC a more inclusive procees through youth engagement and by ensuring gender balance.

She thanked the Chairman, H.E. Mr Petr Ocko, as well as the Vice-Chairman, Ms Inga Rimkevičienė, for their excellent leadership of the meeting and for facilitating consensus on the issues discussed during the meeting.

She also thanked all delegates for their contributions and for sharing their views and ideas, as well as those who worked behind the scenes to help make the meeting a success.

She concluded by thanking Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, as Secretary of the RPM, his staff and the other ITU colleagues, who contributed to the success of the meeting.

Closing the meeting, H.E. Mr Petr Ocko, speaking on behalf of the Government of the Czech Republic, expressed his gratitude to all ITU members having participated in the work of RPM-EUR. He also expressed his particular gratitude to Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, BDT Director, to Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of ITU Office for Europe. He also thanked the ITU staff for their assistance in the organization and running of the meeting.

H.E. Mr Ocko also reiterated the importance of the constructive discussions and deliberations of RPM-EUR, in particular those aimed at bridging the digital divide and connecting the unconnected.

The RPM-EUR participants thanked the Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the meeting for their effective leadership, as well as for their excellent organization of the meeting and for the facilities and working conditions provided, highlighting in particular the spirit of collaboration among membership and with ITU.

The participants thanked the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic for its warm and generous hospitality, despite the virtual environment.

H.E. Mr Petr Ocko,   
Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

Chairman, RPM-EUR for WTDC‑21

19 January 2021, Czech Republic

Annex 1

**Outcome of the Drafting Group on Regional Priorities for Europe (2022-2025)**

EUR1: Digital Infrastructure development

*Objective:* To facilitate attainment of Gigabit connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment ensuring ubiquitous coverage.

*Expected results:* *Assistance to the countries in need on the following:*

1. Development and update of plans and feasibility studies for the deployment of ubiquitous resilient high-speed connectivity with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed.
2. Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities in respect of the roll-out thereof and sharing of best practices and case studies on various above-mentioned possibilities via organizing regional workshops, conferences or webinars.
3. Sharing of guidelines on collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation.
4. Mapping of ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries, including development of broadband mapping systems for broadband networks and related facilities and promoting innovative solutions for meaningful connectivity.
5. Initiatives on wider deployment of ICT broadband services and contributing to the environmental sustainability.
6. Initiatives to raise the state of awareness and education of citizens on new and emerging technologies and topics such as radiation originating from wireless radio systems.

*BDT Thematic Priorities:* Network and Infrastructure Development, Policy and Regulation.

*SDGs:* 9, 17

*WSIS Action Lines: C2, C9, C6*

*Connect 2030 Agenda:* Goal 1, Goal 2

EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

*Objective:* To facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including pandemic challenges.

*Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:*

1. Creation of an experience- and knowledge-exchange platform between countries.

2. Development of technical and service infrastructure (data centres, networks, secure gateways, authentication, interoperability, standards and metadata) as well as capacity building within the national administrations and institutions.

3. Fostering the development of, and increase in, types of online transactional services, including applications for administration-to-administration (A2A) and administration to-customer (A2C) services.

4. Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the process of national and regional digitization, through development of national strategies and dedicated programmes.

5. Raising public trust through security enhancements in e-government services, digitization processes and awareness-raising campaigns, including promotion of application-based solutions for e-government by national administrations and other institutions.

6. Identification of areas for improvement and key horizontal factors for the successful implementation of e-government services and digitization, such as secure and accessible digital identification, tools for data analysis, integrating workflow solutions, approach to re-use of data, and fostering their development.

*BDT Thematic Priority:* Digital Services and Applications

*SDGs:* 2,3

*WSIS Action Lines:* C7

*Connect 2030 Agenda: N/A*

EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

*Objective:* To facilitate equitable access to ICTs and necessary digital skills to all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as women and youth, in order to take advantage of digital technologies.

*Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:*

1. Leveraging digital accessibility for persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs as a priority to the countries and supporting them through creation and update of strategies and policies, taking into account regional or global standards, capacity building, fostering the innovation, monitoring of the implementation of digital accessibility, and creating new or strengthening existing partnerships such as Accessible Europe – ICT for All.
2. Improving gender equality in all groups in the digital sector and beyond by providing opportunities for collaboration; maximizing impact and supporting the set up of new projects and the scaling up of ongoing successful projects.
3. Meaningful empowerment, engagement and participation of youth in the digital sector and beyond, and creating new career schemes and opportunities.
4. Assessment of national and regional approaches for digital skills development, elaboration of national and regional strategies or action plans, development of necessary digital skills, knowledge, and literacy programmes, and providing support for educators.
5. Building and/or strengthening partnerships with private sector, regional and sub-regional organizations, UN system organizations, academia and other possible stakeholders for the benefit of digital inclusion in the European region and globally.

*BDT Thematic Priority:* Digital Inclusion, Capacity Development

*SDGs: 4, 5, 8, 10, 17*

*WSIS Action Lines:* C3, C4, C7

*Connect 2030 Agenda:* Goal 2

EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of digital technologies

*Objective:* To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use digital technologies in their daily lives with confidence.

*Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:*

1. Providing regional platforms and tools for building human capacities to enhance trust and confidence in the use of ICTs, including establishing common cybersecurity capacity-building standards for European countries with cross-sectoral cybersecurity skills curriculum, guidelines promoting skills related to multiple sectors, such as law, psychology, social sciences, economics, security and risk management, diplomacy and interdisciplinary skills.

2. Sharing national and regional best practices and case studies, conducting surveys on enhancing confidence and trust in the use of ICTs, including trainings, and creating other opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience.

3. Elaboration or review of national cybersecurity strategies, including promotion of online safety, ensuring a multi-stakeholders' engagement (government, children and young people, parents, guardians and educators, industry and connectivity providers, research and academia, non-governmental organizations, law enforcement, health, and social services).

4. Setting up or improving the capabilities of national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and the corresponding networks to support these CSIRTs in cooperating with each other.

5. Conducting simulation or educational exercises such as cyberdrills or other events at national and regional level in cooperation with international and regional organizations, and assisting countries in developing tools through synergies and resource optimization.

6. Creation of the safer online environment for children and young people by raising awareness and education about cybersecurity, implementation and promotion of available COP Guidelines and other educational resources, encouraging the governments to identify risks and vulnerabilities to children in cyberspace, promoting the media literacy on cybersecurity.

*BDT Thematic Priority:* Cybersecurity, Capacity Building

*SDGs:* 9, 16, 17

*WSIS Action Lines:* C5

*Connect 2030 Agenda: N/A*

EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

*Objective:* To foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic approaches based on digital technologies, aimed at closing the growing digital innovation divide in the region.

*Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:*

1. National digital innovation strategies and policies such us country profiles and reviews, sectoral innovation assessments to provide an accurate assessment of the digital innovation gaps.
2. Capacity building and knowledge-sharing platforms such as Regional Innovation Forums, Open Innovation Competitions, ecosystem development trainings to empower stakeholders.
3. Ecosystem building initiatives and projects such as technology sandboxes, programmes supporting tech start-ups and entrepreneurship to create concrete impact.
4. Promoting multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships between and within different ecosystems, for sustainability and scale-up.
5. Fostering inclusion by sharing, twinning best practices and connecting different ecosystems with special attention to gender and youth.

*BDT Thematic Priority:* Digital Innovation Ecosystems

*SDGs:* 9, 17, 8

*WSIS Action Lines:* C1

*Connect 2030 Agenda:* Goal 4

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