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|  | | **5 March 2021** | |
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| European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) | | | |
| Regional Priorities for Europe (2022-2025) | | | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Item 4  **Summary:**  The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (RPM-EUR) on 18-19 January 2021 established the Drafting Group on Regional Priorities for Europe (2022-2025). The outcome of its work was presented to the PT WTDC-21. After minor changes PT WTDC-21 agreed on the last version the European Regional Priorities for 2022-2025.  **Expected results:**  IRM-1 is invited to take note of the document.  **References:**  N/A | | | |

**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 telecommunications/ICTs and topics such as human exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF) 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 telecommunications/ICTs.

*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 telecommunications/ICTs 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 telecommunications/ICTs 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 telecommunications/ICTs

*Objective:* To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/ICTs 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 telecommunications/ICTs, including establishing common approaches to cybersecurity capacity-building 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 telecommunications/ICTs, 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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