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|  | **Second Inter-Regional Meeting (IRM-2) to prepare for the WTDC-21 Virtual, 13-14 December 2021** | | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | | **Document** **IRM21-2/44-E** | |
|  | | **28 April 2021** | |
|  | | **Original: English and Russian** | |
| Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) | | | |
| CIS Regional Initiative Project “Development and increasing digital literacy for persons with disabilities/special needs” | | | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Item 5.c  **Summary:**  Currently, all countries are transitioning to a digital economy and the number of professions without digital skills is decreasing. The COVID-19 pandemic, forcing everyone to reconsider the methods and technologies of work organization, has further accelerated the transition to digital technologies in all spheres of human activity. This situation has exacerbated the plight of persons with disabilities (PWD), significantly reduced the total number of jobs and added digital skills to priority recruitment requirements. Thereby, the development and increasing of digital literacy for PwDs has become even more urgent than ever before. This regional initiative is intended to determine the conditions for the sustainable functioning of digital literacy development services for PwD and to prepare appropriate recommendations.  **Expected results:**   1. 1Analytical material that will allow to quantify the problems and ways to resolve them, supporting measures, including government support. 2. Recommendations for the developing and increasing digital literacy for PwD. 3. Network of Training Centers for PwD with a single methodological/coordinating center. 4. Methodological support of remote Training Centers for PwD. 5. Training of trainers for such Training Centers and their remote branches.   **Reference:**  N/a | | | |

1. **Introduction**

The ITU regional initiative “Providing access to telecommunication services for persons with disabilities” for the CIS countries, approved at WTDC-14 and was implemented in the Kyrgyz Republic in 2015-2018.

As a result, an Information and Training Center for people with disabilities (PwD) was established at the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications in Bishkek, which became a part of the ITU Center of Excellence (CoE). Further experience of the operation of this Center has shown that, indeed, PwD face enormous, often insurmountable, difficulties in accessing modern ICT services.

Currently, all countries are transitioning to a digital economy and the number of professions without digital skills is decreasing. The COVID-19 pandemic, forcing everyone to reconsider the methods and technologies of work organization, has further accelerated the transition to digital technologies in all spheres of human activity. This situation has exacerbated the plight of persons with disabilities (PWD), significantly reduced the total number of jobs and added digital skills to priority recruitment requirements. Thereby, the development and increasing of digital literacy for PwDs has become even more urgent than ever before.

The experience of the Center for PwD at the Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications has shown that in the Kyrgyz Republic, even though the number of PwD is growing, there is no organized support for development and increasing digital literacy among PwD. Most likely, this is also not yet set up to the proper level in other CIS countries. This problem is extremely urgent.

1. **Proposal**

The Kyrgyz Republic proposes the following regional initiative for the period 2021-2024: “Development and increasing digital literacy for persons with disabilities/special needs”.

1. **Goals and objectives of the proposed initiative:**

The goal of the regional initiative is to determine the conditions for sustainable functioning of services for the development and increasing digital literacy among people with disabilities and to preparing appropriate recommendations.

As part of the implementation of the above-mentioned regional initiative, it is planned to solve the following tasks:

1. Detailed study of the problems of PwD associated with increase in number and specific needs in methodology to train the digital skills.

Analysis of the sources and possible solutions of those problems.

The study should also cover remote/hard-to-reach areas of the country.

2. Creation of a small Network of Training Centers for PwD covering remote areas but with a single methodological/coordinating center. This would allow to test on such a network the possible solutions to emerging problems.

1. **Expected results:**

1. Analytical material that will allow to quantify the problems and ways to resolve them, supporting measures, including government support.

2. Recommendations for the developing and increasing digital literacy for PwD.

3. Network of Training Centers for PwD with a single methodological/coordinating center.

4. Methodological support of remote Training Centers for PwD.

5. Training of trainers for such Training Centers and their remote branches.

1. **Projects proposed for implementation**

Include the development of analytical material to research the problems of PwD associated with increase in number and specific needs in methodology to train the digital skills, especially in remote and hard-to-reach areas; analysis of the sources and determination of possible ways to solve the identified problems; creation of a small Network of Training Centers for PwD with a single methodological/coordinating center. which would allow to test on such a network the possible solutions to emerging problems.; training of trainers for such Training Centers and their remote branches as a sub-regional initiative for the CIS countries.

The results of the implementation of this project can be disseminated in the CIS countries.

**2021-2022**

Project №1 "Development of analytical material for the study of the problems of PwD associated with increase in number and specific needs in methodology to train the digital skills"

Analytical material will allow to quantify the problems and ways to resolve them, supporting measures, including government support on an ongoing basis. The project should also cover remote/hard-to-reach areas. Based on the results of the study and analytical material, the recommendations regarding the development digital literacy for PwD will be prepared.

**2023-2024**

Project # 2 "Creation of a small Network of Training Centers for PwD"

There are few training centers for PwD, but only in the capital, and in remote areas they are practically absent, which further exacerbates the situation of PwD and limits their access to ICT, to education and further employment opportunities.

Within the framework of this project, it is planned to create a small Network of Training Centers for PwDs with their localization in remote areas as well. The designed Network will not only create favorable conditions for the access of PwD to ICT but will also help to test “possible ways to solve the identified problems and recommendations”, which were prepared based on the developed in 2021-2022 analytical material. Based on the testing results, it will be possible to correct the previously developed recommendations.

**2024**

Project # 3 Training of trainers (organization of training sessions, seminars) for such Training Centers and their remote branches.

1. **VIII Required funding and potential partners**

**Required funding**

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| **№** | **Description** | **Amount** | **ITU** | **Partners** |
| 1 | Development of analytical material for the study of the problems of PwD associated with increase in number and specific needs in methodology to train the digital skills |  |  |  |
| 2 | Creation of a small Network of Training Centers for PwD |  |  |  |
| 3 | Training of teachers (organization of training sessions, seminars) for Training Centers for PwD and their remote branches |  |  |  |
|  | **Overall for the project** |  |  |  |

**Potential partners:**

1. Profile ministries and departments of the CIS countries;
2. Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications, Kyrgyz Republic.

**Countries involved:**

1. Kyrgyz Republic
2. Republic of Uzbekistan

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