

Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT)

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Geneva, 2 October 2024

- Administrations of ITU Member States,
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- ITU-affiliated Academic entities,
- United Nations specialized agencies, and
- Regional and other International Organizations in the CIS region.

Subject: Invitation to the ITU Workshop for CIS countries: Advanced technologies to support sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies (November 28-29, 2024, Minsk, Republic of Belarus)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite your organization to participate in the event "ITU Workshop for CIS countries: Advanced technologies to support sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies" to be held in Minsk, Republic of Belarus, from 28 to 29 November 2024. This event is organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Belarusian State Academy of Communications, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education with a support of the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Republic of Belarus.

The workshop will serve as regional platform dedicated to promoting ICT accessibility and digital skills, aiming to ensure digital inclusion and empowerment for all individuals, regardless of age, gender, ability, or location. The main objective is to enhance knowledge of stakeholders on digital inclusion policies and strategies; to foster the sharing of best practices on ICT digital accessibility and successful experience in implementing educational programs for persons with disabilities and special needs.

This event represents a unique opportunity for all interested stakeholders to advance the implementation of an inclusive digital ecosystem. It will focus on the role of ICT accessibility and digital skills in regulatory landscape, educational programs and programs of social support in CIS countries. Special attention will be addressed to showcasing digital solutions and assistive technologies for improving digital skills of persons with disabilities. Participants will benefit from a training session on educational programs for persons with different forms of disabilities, methodological approaches and specific practical examples. The event will also promote the exchange of experiences on successful cases of national stakeholders implemented to support sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies.

Details about the event are available on the event <u>website</u>. An <u>ITU User Account</u> is required to <u>register</u>. Draft agenda is in annex for your reference.

Should you require further information, Ms Natalia Mochu, ITU Regional Director for CIS Region (<u>natalia.mochu@itu.int</u>) is at your full disposal.

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

(Signed)

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava Director

Annex: Draft Agenda

Annex Draft Agenda

ITU Workshop for CIS countries: Advanced technologies to support sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies

28-29 November 2024

Minsk, Republic of Belarus

Organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International

Telecommunication Union (ITU) in partnership with the Belarusian State Academy of Communications,

the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education with a support of the Ministry of

Communications and Informatization of Republic of Belarus

Thursday 28 November 2024 (GMT+3)	
09:30-10:00	Badging of participants
10:00-10:30	Opening ceremony. Welcome remarks
10:30 -11:30	Group photo and coffee break
11:30-13:00	Session 1. Government policy regulation of education and employment accessibility for persons with disabilities and the activities of international organizations in building a sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies The session will facilitate the sharing of experience on building strategies for government policy and regulation of digital accessibility and the implementation of programs on development of digital skills, ICT accessibility and social integration for persons with disabilities, and will also highlight the approaches and activities of international organizations aimed to create inclusive digital communities.
13:00-14:30	Lunch break
14:30-16:00	Session 2. Educational programs, methodological approaches and advanced technologies to bridge the digital skills divide for persons with disabilities This session will present existing approaches and methods, educational programs, courses, trainings, as well as advanced digital and assistive technologies used to increase digital skills and provide new opportunities for persons with disabilities. Q&A
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:15	Session 3. Presentations of practical cases, developments and recommendations that promote the accessibility of ICT and digital services for people with disabilities

	The session will provide an opportunity for developers and specialists to present services and technologies, provide recommendations on the implementation and scaling of best practices in the CIS Region, and will also facilitate the establishment of new partnerships and projects that promote digital accessibility and the growth of digital skills among people with disabilities in the CIS Region.
	Q&A
17:15-17:30	Conclusions of the first day
	Friday, 29 November (GMT+3)
09:30-09:40	Opening of the second day
09:40-11:00	Practical training "Advanced digital technologies to support a sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies"
	The session will provide an opportunity to show advanced digital technologies and software developments (artificial intelligence technologies and Chat GPT), and to train participants using modern approaches and ICT tools for education, work and social adaptation of persons with disabilities.
	Q&A
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11.30-13:30	Practical training "Advanced technologies to support a sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies" (continued)
	Q&A
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Closing of the workshop

13:30-14:00