



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 8 January 2025

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia
- National Regulatory Authorities from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia

**Subject: Invitation to the Regional Initiative Accelerator Workshop on Strengthening the Emergency Preparedness Capabilities in the Western Balkan Countries, 11-13 February 2025, Podgorica, Montenegro**

Dear Sir/Madam,

In the run-up to the ITU [Regional Development Forum for Europe](#) (24 February 2025) and [Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) for WTDC-25 for Europe (25-26 February 2025), both held in Budapest, Hungary, I have the pleasure to invite the representatives of your institution to the *Regional Initiative Accelerator Workshop on Strengthening the Emergency Preparedness Capabilities in the Western Balkan Countries*, which will be held from February 11 to February 13, 2025, in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Nowadays countries are increasingly exposed to emergency situations, including effects of climate change which result in natural hazards. It is fundamental for the Member States to be equipped with the necessary means to prevent, manage and recover from emergencies. In this context, this workshop will be dedicated to accelerating the implementation of the ITU Europe Regional Initiative 'EUR2: Digital Transformation for Resilience', while supporting relevant stakeholders in shaping the sub-regional initiative on Emergency Telecommunications. Through collaborative discussions and solution design, the workshop will focus on developing customizable initiatives to achieve tangible outcomes.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- Identification and analysis of signals, trends, blind spots, and opportunities that could shape future projects for enhancing digital resilience and emergency response in the Western Balkans;
- Development of a regional blueprint that incorporates the changing environment, fosters collaboration across countries, and drives collective progress within the sub-region;
- Definition of an actionable partnership manifesto, uniting stakeholders under a common goal and vision for digital transformation and resilience;

- Outlining of the ways the regional blueprint can be tailored to each country's unique needs and capabilities, ensuring effective implementation at the national level.

The workshop will involve key stakeholders in the domain of emergency response and preparedness, including early warning systems and will delve into evolving signals and trends shaping the future of emergency preparedness of the Western Balkans, their implications, and the potential impact on digital transformation and emergency telecommunications.

Designated representatives of your institution are kindly invited to confirm their participation by email to be sent to Ms. Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer at the ITU Office for Europe ([valentina.stadnic@itu.int](mailto:valentina.stadnic@itu.int)) with copy to [EURregion@itu.int](mailto:EURregion@itu.int) for any further information you might need.

We look forward to welcoming you to Podgorica, Montenegro.

Yours faithfully,

*(Signed)*

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava  
Director