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| **Regional Preparatory Meeting**  **for Europe for WTDC-25 (RPM-EUR)**  **Budapest, Hungary, 25-26 February 2025** | A close up of a sign  Description automatically generated |
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|  | **Document** **RPM-EUR25/DT/3-E** |
|  | **25 February 2025** |
|  | **English only** |
| Chair, Drafting Group on European Regional Initiatives | |
| Draft Regional Initiatives for Europe the 2026-2029 Cycle | |
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| **Agenda item:**  Item 8  **Summary:**  This document outlines the proposal of Regional Initiatives (RIs) for Europe for the implementation cycle 2026-2029, building upon the successful implementation of existing Regional Initiatives for Europe, oral interventions at the RDF/RPM and all written inputs submitted to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe.  **Action required:**  The RPM-EUR is invited to consider this document and take action as appropriate. | |

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# Introduction

RPM Plenary Meeting established a Drafting Group on Regional Initiatives for Europe. Ms. Inga Rimkevičienė, Chief Advisor on International Cooperation, RRT, Lithuania and the RPM Vice-Chair, was appointed as the Chair of the Group. Mr. Johann Gross, Senior Executive Officer, Federal Ministry for Digital and Transport, Germany and Dr. Milan B. Radulović, PhD EE, President of the Council, EKIP, Montenegro, Vice-Chairs were invited to provide support to the meeting.

Drafting Group met on 25 February 2025, from 15:45 to 17:30 and agreed on the presented below draft Regional Initiatives (RIs) for Europe for the implementation cycle 2026-2029, building upon the successful implementation of existing Regional Initiatives for Europe, oral interventions at the RDF/RPM and all written inputs submitted to the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe.

# Draft Regional Initiatives for Europe for 2026-2029 period

The Europe Region's initiatives highlight its dedication to harnessing ICTs for sustainable development, addressing critical challenges, and fostering growth and innovation. Resolution 17 underscores the need for coordinated efforts and partnerships to implement these initiatives effectively. All activities carried out in the context of the ITU Regional Initiatives should support the implementation of WSIS Action Lines, SDGs the Objectives of the Global Digital Compact. Activities of the Regional Initiatives for Europe should build upon the work carried out by three sectors, including their Study Groups.

The following presents the objectives and expected results of each Regional Initiative for Europe for cycle 2026-2029.

**EUR1: Digital infrastructure development**: Objective of this initiative is to facilitate the attainment of universal and meaningful connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment, ensuring ubiquitous coverage.  
  
**Expected Results**  
Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

* 1. Development and updating 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 rollout of resilient high-speed connectivity to inform best practice sharing on the various above-mentioned aspects through the organization of regional workshops, conferences or webinars.
  3. Rehabilitation and rebuilding of telecommunication/ICTs infrastructure in countries affected by natural hazards or human-induced crises, to ensure digital resilience for all.
  4. Providing national or regional platforms for building capacities in the field of universal and meaningful connectivity, including enabling environment and collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation.
  5. Mapping of ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries, including the development of broadband mapping systems for broadband networks and related facilities and promoting innovative solutions for meaningful connectivity.
  6. Initiatives on the wider deployment of broadband information and communication technology (ICT) services and contributing to environmental sustainability.

**Implementation of this Regional Initiative will contribute to WSIS, GDC, SDGs:**

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| Process | Focus Area |
| [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html) | C1, C2, C6, C11 |
| [Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf) | Objective 1. Close all digital divides and accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals |
| [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) | SDG9 |

**EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience:** Objective of this initiative is to facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (e.g. agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, in order to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including the challenges of pandemics, natural hazards or human-introduced crises.  
  
**Expected Results**  
Assistance to the countries in need in the following areas:

* 1. Creating an experience- and knowledge-exchange platform between countries.
  2. Developing 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. Strengthening the emergency preparedness in the case of natural hazards or human introduced crises, including through special initiatives, such as Support to Western Balkans on Emergency Warning Systems, aiming at roll-out of cell broadcast systems in concerned countries.
  4. Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the digitalization process, through the development of national strategies and dedicated programmes, including the cross-sectorial actions in support of the digitalization of different sectors of economy.
  5. Raising public trust in and successful development/uptake of e-government services and digitalization processes while avoiding digital exclusion through inter-alia digital literacy.

**Implementation of this Regional Initiative will contribute to WSIS, GDC, SDGs:**

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| Process | Focus Area |
| [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html) | C1, C7, C11 |
| [Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf) | Objective 4. Advance responsible, equitable and interoperable data governance approaches Objective 5. Enhance international governance of artificial intelligence for the benefit of humanity |
| [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) | SDG2, SDG3, SDG4, SDG9, SDG 11 |

**EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development:** Objective of this initiative is to facilitate equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and necessary digital skills for 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 for the countries, and supporting them through the creation and updating of strategies and policies, taking into account regional or global standards, building capacity , fostering application of innovative approaches, monitoring the implementation of digital accessibility, and creating new partnerships or strengthening existing ones such as ''Accessible Europe – ICT for All''.
2. Improving gender equality in all groups in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond by providing opportunities for collaboration, skills enhancement, maximizing impact and supporting the setting up of new projects and the scaling up of successful ongoing projects.
3. Meaningful empowerment, engagement and participation of youth in the telecommunication/ICT sector and beyond leading towards the creation of 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 the private sector, regional and subregional organizations, United Nations system organizations, academia and other possible stakeholders for the benefit of digital inclusion in the European region and globally.

**Implementation of this Regional Initiative will contribute to WSIS, GDC, SDGs:**

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| Process | Focus Area |
| [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html) | C1, C3, C4, C11 |
| [Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf) | Objective 2. Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all |
| [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) | SDG4, SDG5, SDG8, SDG10 |

**EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ information and communication technologies**: Objective of this initiative is to support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their daily lives with confidence.

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

1. Providing 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 a cross-sectoral cybersecurity-skills curriculum and guidelines promoting skills related to multiple sectors, such as law, psychology, social sciences, economics, security and risk management, diplomacy and interdisciplinary skills.
2. Sharing best practices and case studies, conducting surveys on confidence and trust in the use of ICTs, including training, and creating other opportunities for sharing knowledge and experience.
3. Elaboration or reviewing national cybersecurity strategies that promote online safety, multistakeholder engagement, and secure adoption of emerging technologies.
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 the national and regional levels in cooperation with international and regional organizations.
6. Creating a safer online environment for children and young people through raising awareness and education about cybersecurity, implementation and promotion of the Guidelines on Child Online Protection and other educational resources, encouraging governments to identify risks and vulnerabilities for children in cyberspace, and promoting media literacy in respect of cybersecurity.

**Implementation of this Regional Initiative will contribute to WSIS, GDC, SDGs:**

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| Process | Focus Area |
| [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html) | C1, C5, C11 |
| [Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf) | Objective 3. Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights |
| [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) | SDG9, SDG16 |

**EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems:** Objective of this initiative is to foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic approaches based on digital telecommunications/information and communication technologies (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, country profiles and reviews, and sectoral innovation assessments to provide an accurate assessment of digital innovation gaps.
2. Conduct trend research readiness and foresight studies to support countries in navigating the changing environment.
3. Capacity-building and knowledge-sharing platforms such as regional innovation forums, open innovation competitions and ecosystem development training to empower stakeholders.
4. Ecosystem-building initiatives and projects developed in line with the Regional Initiative Accelerator Framework such as technology sandboxes and programmes supporting tech start-ups and entrepreneurship to create concrete impact.
5. Promoting multistakeholder and multisectoral partnerships between and within different ecosystems, for sustainability and scale-up.
6. Fostering inclusion by sharing, twinning best practices and connecting different ecosystems, with special attention to gender and youth.

**Implementation of this Regional Initiative will contribute to WSIS, GDC, SDGs:**

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| Process | Focus Area |
| [WSIS Action Lines](https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs/geneva/official/poa.html) | C1, C4, C5, C7, C6, C11 |
| [Global Digital Compact](https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-09/Global%20Digital%20Compact%20-%20English_0.pdf) | Objective 2. Expand inclusion in and benefits from the digital economy for all |
| [Sustainable Development Goals](https://sdgs.un.org/goals) | SDG9 |

**Annex One: Contributions Received**

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| **Number** | **Title** | **Source** | **Date** |
| [**[ 29 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0029) | Satellite Solutions for Universal Service: Bridging the Digital Divide  Contribution received after the deadline | [Global Satellite Operators' Association (GSOA)](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Global%20Satellite%20Operators&#127;%20Association%20%28GSOA%29) | 2025-02-21 |
| [**[ 28 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0028) | Ensuring the Secure Use of Telecommunications/ICTs and Implementing Risk Mitigation  Measures for Emerging Technologies | [Turkiye](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Turkiye) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 27 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0027) | Addressing Barriers to Global Internet Adoption | [GSM Association](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=GSM%20Association) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 26 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0026) | Improvement of Broadband Mapping Systems in Georgia | [Georgia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Georgia) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 25 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0025) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Advancing Digital Infrastructure Development: Strengthening ITU-EMERG Collaboration | [Israel](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Israel) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 24 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0024) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Driving Digital Innovation Ecosystems: Insights from Israel's 5G Application Pilot Program | [Israel](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Israel) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 23 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0023) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Enhancing Digital Transformation for Resilience: Israel's Experience in Telecommunications for Emergency Situations | [Israel](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Israel) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 22 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0022) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Promoting Gender Initiatives in Telecommunications and Technology | [Israel](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Israel) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 21 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0021) | Prioritization of rebuilding/rehabilitation of the ICT infrastructure and building digital resilience for all | [Ukraine](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Ukraine) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 20 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0020) | Proposal for assessment of the economic and social impact of ICT accessibility requirements implementation | [Moldova](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Moldova) | 2025-02-13 |
| [**[ 19 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0019) | Regional Initiative on Early Warning Systems for Western Balkans | [Albania](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Albania) , [Bosnia and Herzegovina](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Bosnia%20and%20Herzegovina) , [Montenegro](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Montenegro) , [North Macedonia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=North%20Macedonia) , [Serbia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Serbia) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 18 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0018) | ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe | [Montenegro](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Montenegro) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 17 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0017) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities in ITU Development Sector | [Poland](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Poland) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 16 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0016) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Declaration of the ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoys as a strategic reference document for the organization's future policy | [Poland](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Poland) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 15 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0015) | Techritory Forum | [Latvia](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Latvia) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 14 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0014) | Proposal for presenting the views of the European Youth Envoys during the WTDC-25 | [Bulgaria](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Bulgaria) | 2025-02-12 |
| [**[ 13 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0013) | A Draft Declaration on behalf of the Network of Women (NoW) for the European Region | [Lithuania on behalf of NoW for Europe](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Lithuania%20on%20behalf%20of%20NoW%20for%20Europe) | 2025-02-11 |
| [**[ 12 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0012) | Advancing innovative services for enhanced localization of 112 calls in Romania | [Romania](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Romania) | 2025-02-10 |
| [**[ 11 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0011) | Proposal for European Regional Priorities: Promoting Youth Inclusion and Engagement in ITU-D Study Groups' activities | [Romania](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Romania) | 2025-02-07 |
| [**[ 10 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0010) | Proposal to further strengthen women's meaningful engagement in ITU-D Study Groups activities | [Romania](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Romania) | 2025-02-07 |
| [**[ 9 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-C-0009) | Proposal for topics of cybersecurity trainings, exercises and capacity building for the European Region, for the next four-year period 2026-2030 | [Bulgaria](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-C&source=Bulgaria) | 2025-01-19 |

**Annex Two: Information Documents**

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| **Number** | **Title** | **Source** |
| [**[ 8 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-INF-0008) | Draft Report of ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe Region (RDF-EUR) | [Chair, RDF-EUR](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-INF&source=Chair%2C%20RDF-EUR) |
| [**[ 2 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-INF-0002) | Update on WSIS+20, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN Pact of the Future, including Global Digital Compact | [Director, BDT](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-INF&source=Director%2C%20BDT) |
| [**[ 1 ]**](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-INF-0001) | Regional Initiatives for the 2023-2025 Cycle and Vision for WTDC-25 | [Director, BDT](https://www.itu.int/md/meetingdoc.asp?lang=en&parent=D22-RPMEUR-250225-INF&source=Director%2C%20BDT) |