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| Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau |
| Report on the Regional Initiatives: Implementation and Mapping of Projects with RI |
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| **Summary:**This document provides a report on the implementation of WTDC-22 regional initiatives, highlighting BDT’s contribution to address the telecommunication/ICT priority areas in each region, through implementation of OP and ITU projects.**Action required:**TDAG is invited to note this document and provide guidance as deemed appropriate.**References:*** WTDC-22 Report – Regional Initiatives
* Document TDAG-32/5 – ITU-D Projects
* Document TDAG-31/2 – Kigali Action Plan Implementation
* Document TDAG-25/INF/4 - Mapping of Projects with RI
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# INTRODUCTION

The Regional Initiatives, adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22), held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 6 to 16 June 2022, aim to address specific telecommunication/ICT priorities through partnerships and resource mobilization for project implementation[[1]](#footnote-2).

Following WTDC-22, the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), in collaboration with relevant partners has developed and implemented a wide range of projects that have made contributions to the implementation of WTDC-22 Regional Initiatives. These projects have contributed to the development of a variety of products and services in alignment with the ITU-D priorities and enablers defined by the Kigali Action Plan, as well as by the ITU strategic plan in each of the ITU’s six regions.

The activities undertaken as well as the respective products and services delivered in each region through OP and projects are covered in the following sections. The projects implemented and/or ongoing under each Regional Initiative adopted at WTDC-22 for the period 2023-2025 are mapped in Document [TDAG-25/INF/4](https://www.itu.int/md/D22-TDAG32-INF-0004/).

# AFRICA

**The ITU Regional Office for Africa implemented various initiatives and projects across the region mainly by providing support to Member States to foster digital transformation and accelerating transition to digital economy, improving response to cybersecurity incidents, promoting digital inclusion and meaningful connectivity. These efforts align with the four regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP). The following are key outputs and achievements under each regional initiative:**

* **Partnerships:** In support of the African Union Commission, ITU has been participating in the African Committee of Experts on Digital ID (ACED) aimed at providing each African citizen with a digital ID to facilitate e-Governance and access to public services and ensuring citizens' well-being in general. In the same area of work, ITU has been collaborating with ICANN, AfriNIC, AfTLD and other regional stakeholders in the framework of a coalition for digital Africa (CDA) aiming at speeding up Africa's digital transformation for populations to reap the full benefits of digital economy. BDT continues to work closely with regional organizations, including the African Telecommunications Union (ATU), African Union Commission (AUC), Smart Africa Secretariat (SAS), Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Regulatory Associations (RAs), across various initiatives. These initiatives include the development of the Action Plan for Africa for the Early Warning for All (EW4ALL) initiative or the development of the National Emergency Telecommunication Plan model for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region to establish effective telecommunication links for disaster.
* **Strengthening of the collaboration with UN agencies**: BDT continues to actively participate and contribute to the national UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) within the region. Among others, BDT has contributed to the assessment of the 2020-25 Ethiopia UNSDCF and the development of the 2025-30 UNSDCF, with due consideration to digital connectivity as one of the six transitions which can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs[[2]](#footnote-3). BDT has also participated in United Nations Country Team System Wide Action Plan Gender Equality Scorecard (UNCT SWAP) review for Ethiopia and contributed to the new targets for 2024 – 2025. BDTIT has been co-leading the Digital Transformation Pathway with UNDP for the SDG Fund application on behalf of the UNCT in Senegal. In the same wave, ITU, with other sister UN agencies (UNDP, UNOPS, UNWOMEN) has drafted the digital transformation strategic note for the UNCT in Senegal, aiming to mobilizing resources to help the country speed up its digital transformation agenda, to meet the 2030 UN SDGs deadline.
* **Addressing regional priorities**: BDT has continued to provide technical assistance and strengthened capacity to support meaningful connectivity and the digital transformation process both at national and regional level in line with the Africa regional initiatives.

**AFR1: Supporting digital transformation to usher in a rapid transition to a digital economy while accelerating innovation in Africa**

* BDT in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the United Kingdom, conducted through the project “Promoting enabling policy and regulation (LDCs)” a study in Nigeria on the operational costs of the telecommunication infrastructure and connectivity. Under the series of ITU collaborative regulation case studies, the report ‘Collaborative Regulation Study - Accelerating Nigeria's Digital Transformation’ was developed and launched during a national event dedicated to Driving Nigeria’s Digital Transformation through Collaborative Regulation: A Pathway to 5th Generation Regulation.
* In South Africa the ITU-FCDO project “Promoting enabling policy and regulation (LDCs)” also supported the development of South Africa’s digital transformation and collaborative regulation, comprehensive country review on digital regulation. The project supported a study examining sustainable connectivity and digital skills models for youth not in education, employment or training (YNEET) in rural and township across the country.
* In collaboration with the Ministry of Justice in Ethiopia, BDT organized capacity building for the judicial sector in Ethiopia. The training enhanced capacity to foster the use and integration of emerging technologies in the judicial sector and advance digital transformation in Ethiopia.
* BDT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Economy in Cape Verde, provided technical assistance through an initial assessment on the Smart Island initiative. The assessment empowered Cape Verde to identify the priority digital services to advance digital transformation in rural communities and scale up the initiative.
* Under the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development initiative, BDT, in collaboration with the Malawi Communications Regulatory Authority (MACRA) organized a workshop titled “Acceleration Centre Design Validation and Ecosystem Initiatives Development Service for Cross-cutting Digital Transformation.” The blueprint for the Centre has been developed and discussed with stakeholders involved in the ecosystem to establish a strategic framework, including the vision, mission, service delivery model, business strategy, human resources, partnerships, resource mobilization, and governance frameworks for the Centre.
* BDT, in collaboration with the National Communications Authority of South Sudan, has provided technical assistance to develop a national digital transformation strategy, while support towards a nationwide digital skills assessment is ongoing.
* The multi-year joint digital transformation project by the Government of Uganda and ITU, with financial support by the Global Development and South-South Cooperation Fund from China, has supported the implementation of the Digital Uganda Vision through future-ready policy interventions and capacity development. Through the project BDT delivered targeted digital transformation actions across seven digital development priorities (including, last mile connectivity, green data centre guidelines, big data, 5G and emerging technologies such as AI, local ICT equipment manufacturing, among others). Through certified training course delivery and training of trainers, the project has increased technical digital skills and trained and empowered over 5,000 people across the Government to support digital transformation and to support increased uptake of e-Government services and ICT usage. Practical pilot projects have served to implement recommendations that can be presented for investment and scaling.
* **Digital Regulation Training for Africa Region:** BDT, in collaboration with Saudi Arabia, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the United Kingdom's Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), organized a Digital Regulation Training for Africa. The training session sponsored by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) enhanced participants' understanding of the evolution of digital regulation, the importance of collaborative governance, agile regulatory approaches, universal service financing mechanisms, and strategies for ensuring inclusive access. The training equipped 44 participants from 15 countries (Cameroun, Comoros, Gabon, Sudan, Kingdom of Lesotho, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Senegal, Togo) with advanced knowledge and skills in digital policy and regulation.
* **Mainstreaming gender in digital policies:** a two-day workshop was organized focusing on the intersection of digital policies and gender among respective line ministries and agencies. It explored ways to mainstream gender in digital policies, with a focus on access to digital technology, digital skills, infrastructure and digital services that can contribute to youth employment promotion. The workshop targeted policymakers (mid-level management), especially representatives from the Ministry in charge of ICTs, the ICT regulator, and other related institutions such as the Ministries in charge of Trade, Education, Finance, Youth and Gender), the Central Bank, and the National Statistics Office.
* The digital skills for digital inclusion of Africa’s girls and youth project, supported by Qualcomm, has worked on developing new technical content that feeds into various training platforms, including the section of the ITU Academy dedicated to youth and Africa region Girls Can Code interventions.
* The UN Opportunity and Issue-Based Coalition (OIBC 3) on the continent dedicated to Innovation, Digitalization, Youth, and Transforming Education was re-energized in 2024 to better meet the needs of Member States with joint actions that bring the expertise of the agencies together in a coordinated manner.
* Contributing to this Regional Initiative, BDT organized celebrations of the Girls in ICT Day across the region, with national celebrations in Ethiopia, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Uganda, Tanzania and other countries. The celebrations involved the exchange of experiences, sharing opportunities about leadership roles in the ICT sector and beyond, and training activities to develop and strengthen digital skills among the girls.

**AFR2: Implementation and expansion of broadband infrastructures, connectivity and emerging technologies**

* During the period of reporting, BDT implemented the project “Benchmarking of ICTs in Central Africa”. Funded by the European Commission and by the ITU ICT Development Fund, the project covered Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo (Rep. of the), Dem. Rep. of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe. The data gathered will contribute to recommendations and capacity building programmes tailored to the countries’ needs and priorities.
* In collaboration with the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau, in 2024 BDT delivered a workshop on National Table of Frequency Allocation (NTFA) for the Africa region in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in which the NTFA were updated and aligned with the outcomes of WRC-23.
* In the context of ITU-UN collaboration on Digital Public Infrastructure in support of the African Union, BDT led and contributed to the development of the African Digital Public Infrastructure Blueprint, an initiative spearheaded by ITU, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, UN Economic Commission for Africa, and the African Union Commission, in support of the African Union and its member states.
* BDT in collaboration with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) delivered a webinar on the Early Warning for All initiative (EW4ALL), which raised Member States’ awareness of the EW4All initiative, and strengthened their understanding of Pillar 3. The webinar also equipped participants with the knowledge and capacity to effective implement early warning systems.
* Gap Analysis on Pillar 3 has been conducted in collaboration with national focal points to support the development of national roadmaps during the national workshops held in Liberia, Seychelles, Mozambique, South Africa in July and August. BDT, in collaboration with SADC, held a workshop on SADC NETP Model: Implementation and EW4ALL awareness. National Emergency Telecommunications Plans (NETP) were developed for Zambia, Malawi, Botswana, Seychelles, Cabo Verde, the Gambia, and Guinea Bissau to strengthen the Member States capacity for emergency telecommunication preparedness.
* In November 2024, BDT organized an online capacity building workshop on national emergency telecommunications plans (NETPs) situational analysis for West African countries. The training empowered participants to deal with emergency telecommunications and enhanced the understanding of their NETPs. The targeted stakeholders for the workshop were representatives from Ministries of Telecom/ICT, Regulatory Authorities, Ministries of Home Affairs, Fire Brigades, Red Cross Society, etc.
* BDT in partnership with ATU organized a workshop on satellite resources for ATU member states in Nairobi, Kenya.
* ITU launched the Africa Broadband Mapping Systems project, supported by the European Commission, which aims to assist countries in establishing and enhancing their infrastructure mapping systems to encourage investment and digital transformation across Africa. With a budget of €15 million over four years, the project will initially benefit 11 countries: Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. The project was launched during the Global Regulatory Symposium which was held in Uganda from 1 – 4 July 2024. The 11 beneficiary countries had the first virtual meeting on the 30 January 2025 where the major objectives of the project were discussed. A Kick off meeting for the implementation of the project activities was held on the 26-27 March 2025, where the infrastructure mapping posture of each beneficiary country was presented and next steps for each country determined.
* Under Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project, ITU conducted extensive technical studies, provided capacity-building workshops, and offered technical assistance to member states. Some of the major achievements during the period under review include Harmonized Calculation Method for Africa (HCM4A) agreement – signed by 46 countries and HCM4A Software Development and training has been completed.

**AFR3: Building trust, safety and security in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies and protection of personal data**

* BDT conducted a national readiness assessment for the Seychelles' Computer Incident Response Team (CIRT).
* BDT facilitated a tabletop exercise for Lesotho's cybersecurity ecosystem. This session enhanced strategic thinking on cybersecurity governance among key national stakeholders, and advanced objectives of Lesotho's National Cybersecurity Strategy.
* BDT in collaboration with Ghana Cyber Security Authority organised a regional Cyberdrill for Africa in Accra. The event focused on improving communication and incident response capabilities among participating teams, fostering collaboration to tackle cyber threats. Over 150 attendees from 29 African countries engaged in a one-day session focusing on sharing best practices and experiences.
* In 2024, ITU’s Digital Financial Services (DFS) Security Lab, in collaboration with key stakeholders, organized DFS Security Clinics in Ethiopia, Lesotho, and Malawi to provide guidance to regulators and DFS providers on managing the security of digital financial systems. The clinics equipped participants with the knowledge necessary to adopt the DFS security recommendations developed by the ITU under the Financial Inclusion Global Initiative (FIGI). Additionally, the DFS Security Lab organized a knowledge transfer program to assist in conducting security audits on DFS applications, along with training on consumer awareness competency frameworks to build confidence and trust in digital financial services.
* In December 2024, BDT organized an online ICT judiciary capacity building workshop for West African Parliamentarians. The session raised awareness on the challenges and opportunities linked to the development of ICT and addressed, among other things, cyber legislation, cyber resilience, digital inclusion, digital sovereignty, electronic services, emerging technologies and strengthened the role and contribution of Parliamentarians from West Africa not only in the development and adoption of national and sub-regional policies related to ICT, but also in the adoption of law bills and their application on the ground to create an enabling environment for the uptake of ICTs in West African countries.

**AFR4: Fostering emerging technologies and innovation ecosystems**

* **In the context of the Laying the foundation for VaMoz Digital! project in Mozambique, in** 2025, a national Digital Innovation Profile was prepared for Mozambique. Within the broader work of the project, a National digital transformation landscape assessment was also conducted to inform subsequent interventions in line with the project workplan.

# AMERICAS

**The Regional Office for the Americas continues to support Member States by implementing various initiatives and projects across the region aimed at deploying ICT infrastructure, enhancing digital inclusion and innovation, accelerating digital transformation, and formulating digital regulations. These efforts align with the four regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP). The following are key activities and achievements under each regional initiative.**

**AMS1: Deployment of modern, resilient, secure, and sustainable telecommunication/information and communication technology infrastructure**

* In partnership with Huawei, a study on Fixed Broadband for ICT Development for Latin America was conducted in 2024 and will be published in 2025, under the cooperation framework signed in 2023 to support the implementation of the Regional Initiatives.
* In Uruguay, the first practical workshop on ICT infrastructure mapping, analysis, and planning took place. A broadband mapping system has been developed and implemented to enhance the country's digital infrastructure and connectivity.
* In March 2025, the Digital/ICT infrastructure mapping, analysis and planning workshop was held in Santo Domingo. This workshop strengthened participants' theoretical and practical skills in collecting and analysing telecommunications infrastructure data, identifying underserved areas, and applying Geographic Information Systems (GIS) tools. This workshop strengthened country capacity to establish an infrastructure mapping system at the national level.
* A new project in the field of Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) and universal service was signed in July 2024 between ITU and MINTIC of Colombia. The project contributes to achieve the following: (1) Minimize the impact on vulnerable populations in Colombia during the digital blackout. (2) Strengthened access and universal service related to television service. The main objective of this project is to support the country with the update of the General Plan for the Cessation of Analog Television Broadcasts and promote universal access to Digital Television. Guyana hosted its National Consultation on EW4ALL in November 2024. Gap Analyses and Implementation Plans for Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) were developed or implemented for the beneficiary countries.
* In March 2025, Ecuador and Guatemala approved the implementation plan of Pillar 3 (Telecommunication) of the EW4ALL initiative
* ITU and the Emergency Telecommunication Cluster (ETC) hosted the Caribbean Emergency Telecommunications Preparedness Workshop in October 2024. The workshop raised awareness of EW4ALL, identified and addressed gaps and strengthened regional coordination and knowledge exchange.
* A regional workshop for Latin America on promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC), was held in April 2025, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The workshop enhanced knowledge data-driven decision making and tracking universal and meaningful connectivity.

**AMS2: Enhancement and expansion of digital-literacy, digital-skills and digital-inclusion programmes, especially among vulnerable populations**

* In partnership with Huawei and in close collaboration with the administrations of Cuba, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, over 200 small businesses entrepreneurs benefited from the ITU Workshop on Digital Transformation within the framework of Digital KIT Initiative for Entrepreneurs, Micro and Small business. Through this activity, BDT support participants to enhance knowledge in digitals services and security aspects that could strength local businesses.
* In the Americas a "Regional Workshop on Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity (UMC)" was held in Nassau, Bahamas, from June 11 to June 13, 2024, which brought together 33 participants, representing Caribbean telecommunications authorities, policymakers, national statistical offices, and regional telecommunications entities, highlighting the collaborative effort toward enhancing digital inclusivity in the Caribbean region. The workshop was structured to build digital capacity to address the imperatives of UMC as a policy priority, introduce the project “Promoting and Measuring Universal and Meaningful Connectivity”, implemented by ITU and financed by the European Union, and delve into the nuances of compiling ICT statistics.
* In 2024, the International Girls in ICT Day in the Americas saw significant expansion, with 60 events organized across the region, reflecting increased interest in ICT careers among young women. Key activities included mentorship opportunities, workshops on coding, robotics, and digital entrepreneurship, and inspirational talks by successful women professionals. These events empowered participants with digital skills, inspired them through mentorship, and advocated for gender equality and diversity in ICT.
* In partnership with ILO, UNDP and UNESCO, the World Bank and Fundación Descúbreme, the subregional seminar “Priorities for Youth in the Digital World: Jobs and Education” was undertaken in Santiago, Chile, in May 2024, bringing together young speakers, of ICT industry leaders and high-level government representatives and showcasing the “Women in STEM” expo in celebration of the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day.
* In partnership with the regulator, TATT, and the Ministry of Digital Transformation in Trinidad and Tobago, a digital skills project has been launched with the aim to support the country to strengthen the capacity for both the horizontal and vertical impact of digital transformation and equip individuals with the basic, intermediate and advanced digital skills necessary to fulfil the current and future trends in the digital economy. The project is expected to train 40 mentors and benefit 10,000 individuals (50% male and 50% female).

**AMS3: Effective support for digital transformation and innovation ecosystems through scalable, funded, and sustainable connectivity projects**

* Under the UN Joint Programme – Innovative Finance for Unserved Groups, ITU in collaboration with the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia developed a digital financial services (DFS) ecosystem through a comprehensive approach encompassing policy, regulatory, and cybersecurity frameworks. Over 65 people from the DFS community in these countries learned about the DFS mobile security toolkit and recommendations and strengthened their capacity to conduct audits for mobile payments security infrastructure.
* The Smart Seas Project that provides digital tools, and connectivity has improved maritime communications and helped small-scale fishers stay safe at sea in Barbados, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. The project has also helped communities use ICTs for social and economic development.

**AMS4: Development of enabling policy and regulatory environments to connect the unconnected through accessible and affordable telecommunications/information and communication technologies that support achievement of the sustainable development goals and progress towards the digital economy.**

* In St Kitts and Nevis and Dominica, a workshop on the development of the Electronic Identification (E-ID) Policy and Legislation Framework was conducted which strengthened skills on policy and regulation development. This has contributed to increased access and confidence in the use of online applications and digital services.
* Through the Regulatory Sandbox for Central America and the Dominican Republic Project, in partnership with the European Union, BDT continue to provide technical assistance on regulatory innovation in Panama, Honduras, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Belize and Guatemala.
* A new project was signed with CONATEL/Paraguay as to provide technical assistance to implement the Regulatory Impact Analysis in their regulatory framework.

# ARAB STATES

**The Regional Office for Arab States continued to spearhead various initiatives and projects across the region, aimed at accelerating digital transformation and fostering a sustainable digital economy. These efforts align with the five regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP), focusing on enhancing digital economies, ensuring cybersecurity, developing smart cities, nurturing innovation, and formulating digital regulations. The following are key activities and achievements under each regional initiative, demonstrating the commitment of ITU to advance telecommunications and technology in the Arab States region**.

**ARB1: Regional Initiative 1: Sustainable digital economy through digital transformation**

* Under the Generation Connect Youth Envoys Initiative, 36 young people between 18-24 years old, of whom 39 % are female, have been nominated by 10 Member States (Bahrain, Comoros, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE, Yemen, State of Palestine) to serve as the new cohort of Generation Connect Youth Envoys (GCYE) for 2024. This initiative aims to strengthen youth engagement in the ITU.
* The Arab Region Passing the Torch Event, held in July 2024, served as a key platform for discussions on Arab States’ regional initiatives and priorities, and underscored the importance of youth involvement in digital innovation. Key takeaways included the need for active participation in ITU events, the value of mentorship from GC Alumni, and the potential for strengthened partnerships to drive impactful ICT initiatives in the region. The insights gathered have contributed to the ongoing implementation of the ITU youth strategy.
* Through the Passing the Torch event, and the ICodi workshop, the Arab GCYEs were empowered which led to their active participation in the regional and global events including the Global Innovation Forum.
* BDT facilitated regional GCYE consultations and drafted an outcome report which highlights GCYE’s views, interests, concerns, and perspectives on ICT-related issues that are important for Arab youth’s educational and socio-economic development in the context of the regional and global digital transformation process
* In Jordan, an assessment study on the enabling environment for immersive technologies was conducted in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship and UNESCWA. The study analyzed the ecosystem’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the ecosystem aiming to foster job creation in this emerging sector and provide strategic recommendations for its development.
* As part of the Govstack initiative, assistance was provided to Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, which enhanced the Member States’ capacity to test use cases and implement digital government services.

**ARB2: Enhancing confidence, security, and privacy in telecommunications/ICTs**

* In collaboration with the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) of the Kingdom of Bahrain, a regional workshop on cybersecurity management was delivered. The workshop enhanced participants’ knowledge of the roles and responsibilities of cyber-attacks crisis management.
* A workshop on the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) was provided to National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC). This workshop targeted building the capacities of member states to enable them to contribute proactively to the GCI.
* In collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA), the [Arab Information and Communication Technologies Organization](http://www.aicto.org/), and the [Internet Society](https://www.internetsociety.org/regions/middle-east/), a workshop on building trust in digital government services was delivered to showcase practical strategies for enhancing cybersecurity.
* Cybersecurity drills and technical support training were carried out which enhanced the cybersecurity culture across the Arab states.
* In collaboration with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, BDT undertook various cybersecurity initiatives including workshops and training on digital regulation and cybersecurity, furthering cybersecurity preparedness and highlighting its importance in the global telecommunication landscape.
* In 2024, the first Global CyberDrill was successfully held in Dubai with a record participation of over 104 countries, including ministerial representation, executives of industry, regulators, and other stakeholders. A new world Guinness Book World record was established.
* In Lebanon, a child online protection (COP) national project, under the umbrella of the COP global project, was formulated for the development of COP strategy in 2025. This national strategy will help the government of Lebanon to identify key priority areas to improve the enabling environment for child online protection.

**ARB3: Developing digital infrastructure for smart sustainable cities and communities**

* Through the NETP global project, EW4ALL project and the C2R initiative, BDT led transformative efforts to strengthen emergency telecommunications in Comoros, Djibouti, Mauritania, Somalia, and Libya. In Comoros, workshops facilitated the rollout of the Early Warning for All (EW4All) initiative, producing a 2024-2027 roadmap, a customized NETP, and an assessment of early warning systems. Djibouti developed its NETP and coordination mechanisms, also adopting a 2024-2027 EW4All roadmap. In Somalia, workshops advanced emergency preparedness through NETP implementation, training on the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), and documentation for effective early warning solutions. In Libya and Mauritania, the NETP draft was developed. These projects have enhanced Members States capacity to implement resilient and responsive emergency telecommunication frameworks.
* The project signed between ITU and NTRA Egypt, in 2024 continues to be implemented, developing, among other, a Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities Evaluation Framework tailored for Egypt.

A national forum on 5G and Beyond: Enabling Smart Sustainable Cities and Communities for Egypt, was organized in December 2024 at Smart Village, Egypt. The forum brought together global experts, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders and delivered actionable outcomes with a focus on leveraging the transformative potential of 5G and emerging technologies to drive smart and sustainable urban development and fostering collaboration and innovation for a more connected future.

**ARB4: Building Capacities and Encouraging Digital Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Future Foresight**

* With a view to foster enhanced innovation ecosystems, BDT completed a digital innovation profile (DIP) for Bahrain and is currently developing DIPs for Qatar and Jordan. The DIPs identify challenges in the digital innovation ecosystems and provide key recommendations to enhance the digital ecosystem in line with national development goals.
* Through the ITU joint project with GiZ, around 200 public sector employees in Tunisia were trained on a range of digital skills through the ITU Academy.
* Through partnership with TDRA, UAE to foster ideation and innovation under the iCodi Initiative, a regional iCodi workshop was delivered in Dubai which facilitated the development of a regional strategic foresight analysis and identified regional priorities based on the analysis. Three of Arab GCYEs actively participated in the workshop, incorporating the voices and priorities of the next generation.

**ARB5: Developing means of digital regulation**

* In February and July 2024, the National Collaborative Digital Regulation workshops were held in Oman, and Qatar, respectively. These workshops focused on the evolution of ICT regulation and the application of ITU's Unified Framework and regulatory metrics, enhancing stakeholders' understanding of regulatory tools to support effective policy formulation and evaluation in both contexts.
* BDT has developed Collaborative Digital Regulation Country Review for Oman and is currently finalizing the Review for Qatar. The reviews examine the impact of collaborative governance and advance regulatory tools on ICT and digital market management, offering actionable insights which strengthen the regulatory ecosystems of the beneficiary countries.
* The second phase of the ICTs Market Review and Analysis and Pricing Regulatory Framework for the Syrian Telecommunications and Post Regulatory Authority (SyTPRA) was successfully completed, providing guidance to the ministry and regulator on finalizing the market review outcomes and developing recommendations for ICT service pricing regulation. In 2024, BDT hosted a virtual national multi-stakeholder workshop, bringing together all mobile network operators (MNOs), and internet service providers (ISPs) in Syria, along with other key representatives to discuss the framework and foster collaborative input.
* BDT conducted several sessions across various countries, with a particular focus on LDCs, to explain the ITU Regulatory Tracker and G5 Benchmark frameworks. These sessions enhanced participants' understanding of ITU’s tools and their application in advancing digital regulation.
* In November 2024, ITU initiated the signing of a project addendum with Saudi Arabia to expand its efforts in capacity development, reinforcing support for ITU member states. This addendum is strategically designed to enhance expertise in digital regulation and digital transformation, ensuring alignment with global best practices. Through this initiative, targeted training and knowledge-sharing opportunities, equipping policymakers and regulators with the necessary skills to navigate the evolving digital landscape are provided. By fostering collaboration and strengthening institutional capabilities, the project is expected to drive sustainable advancements in digital governance across multiple countries.

# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific continues to actively work in the implementation of several projects and activities across the region mainly by providing support to Member States through multi-stakeholder partnership to accelerate digital transformation and transition to digital economy, enhancing digital skills development and fostering cooperation towards the improvement of connectivity. These efforts align with the regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP). The following are key activities and achievements.

**ASP1: Addressing special needs of least developed countries, small island developing states, including Pacific Island countries, and landlocked developing countries**

* With support from DITRDCA Australia, a draft needs assessment and feasibility study report was prepared, shared and discussed with ITU Members in the Pacific. Additionally, “[Workshop on Digital Transformation for the Pacific](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2024/Workshop%20on%20Digital%20Transformation%20for%20the%20Pacific/Workshop-on-Digital-Transformation-for-the-Pacific-.aspx)” from 12-14 February 2025 in Suva, Fiji, built awareness on digital transformation in the Pacific and gathered further inputs on the feasibility study draft report.
* ITU has been leading a project on transformation to strengthen community resilience in Micronesia supported by Joint UN SDG Fund. Under the project, Nauru, Kiribati and Federated States of Micronesia were assisted to develop draft digital strategies. Smart Islands implementation continued in Kiribati, Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI), Palau, Nauru and F.S. Micronesia including launch of digital hub in RMI and digital skills in all five countries.
* Awareness and digital skills were enhanced for more than 2200 community members across the five Micronesian countries and capacity of the government officials and stakeholders was strengthened on digital transformation as well as cybersecurity topics.
* In Papua New Guinea E-agriculture strategy developed at provincial level and Agriculture MIS being developed with FAO. Additionally, Seven Resource Centres in East and West Sepik Province were established and the capacity of 1,264 entrepreneurs was enhanced through 10+ online trainings through LMS platform.
* Significantly strengthened partnership with UN agencies (UN Country Teams), Regional Organizations (ASEAN, PITA, ISOC), Academia facilitated funding from other entities subsequently such as Joint SDG fund and ADB and attracted national partners.
* Knowledge outputs were shared (and continue to be shared) in important platforms G20 (Indonesia-22), PITA Strategy Forum and AGM, ITU websites, RDF-ASP, national workshops amongst others.

**ASP2: Harnessing information and communication technologies to support the digital economy and inclusive digital societies**

* In Pakistan, Smart Villages (SV) have been established in Gokina and Sambriyal in partnership with Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. Alongside rural connectivity, the project enhanced digital skills and enabled access to a suite of services, such as digital education and digital health services, to support rural and remote community with a focus on vulnerable population. SV Pakistan plans to launch a third village in Swabi in 2025.
* Joint Programmes, under SDG funded project in the Pacific achieved significant milestones in advancing digital policies, infrastructure, and literacy across Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, in support of accelerating SDGs in Micronesia. Policy landscape was enhanced through direct country assistance on Infrastructure Sharing and Universal Access and Service Policies in Vanuatu and Tonga
* Through comprehensive local needs assessments in Ovaka and Hunga of Tonga, and Rotuma in Fiji gaps were identified in broadband connectivity, affordability, digital skills, and services, resulting in actionable reports to guide implementation.
* Digital literacy was enhanced for 1796 community members (982 female participants) in Rotuma (Fiji), Hunga (Tonga), South Malekula (Vanuatu), and digital skills trainings in Choiseul Bay Village and Auki (Solomon Islands) and Nukufetau (Tuvalu).
* Smart classrooms were established in South Malekula (Vanuatu), Hunga (Tonga), and Rotuma (Fiji) for transformative opportunities for e-learning, adoption of online payment systems, and opportunities for access to healthcare through teleconsultations.
* Digital services facilitated were through Smart Islands implementation in Papua New Guinea (Maprik), Vanuatu (South Malekula) and Fiji (Rotuma) including needs assessment of identified islands and digital skills.
* ITU Member states were assisted in better utilizing ICTs through digital whole-of-government dashboard development (Bhutan), adopting smart islands approach to digital development at community level (Samoa, Vanuatu), and enhancing digital inclusion for persons with disabilities and through girls in ICT Day programmes across Asia-Pacific.
* National digital transformation and digital government policies and strategies were developed for Samoa and Vanuatu.

**ASP3: Fostering development of infrastructure to enhance digital connectivity and connecting the unconnected**

* National Gaps assessment for infrastructure resilience, preparedness, service affordability and EW4ALL for Tonga and Solomon Islands were completed while similar assessments for Kiribati, Samoa and Maldives are in progress of validation by national stakeholders.
* Studies (G20, ITU-ISOC study, Smart Islands needs assessment, enhancing accessibility in digital infrastructure) facilitated and advocated development of digital infrastructure in rural and remote areas across through.
* 8 technical country assistances and assessments were conducted in Tonga (QoS/E in telecom infrastructure with special focus on KPIs to ensure the resilience of the infrastructure), Mongolia (National roaming readiness assessment for), Sri-Lanka (affordable access to ICTs through Infrastructure Sharing (IS)), Nepal, Bhutan, Lao Philippines (Gap Analysis and Policy recommendations to increase affordability of services, and resilience in telecom infrastructure), Fiji (Assessment of digital television transmission model for FIJI). A study on Resilient National ICT infrastructure: Considerations based on Gap assessments in Asia and the Pacific was also conducted. Based on the assessments key insights were shared in regional events like Asia Media Summit 2024.
* 6 Events:[RRS-22 ASP](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/seminars/rrs/RRS-22-Asia-Pacific/Pages/default.aspx), [LMC ASP](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2022/LMCASP22/main.aspx), [ITU-PITA Emergency Telecommunications Readiness, ICT Infrastructure Resilience Testing](https://events.pita.org.fj/PITAStrategyForum2023), [AMS Masterclass 2023](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2023/Asia-Media-Summit-%28AMS%29.aspx), [Masterclass on Broadcasting and MHEWS 2024](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2024/Masterclass_AMS/main.aspx)[ITU-ITTLLDC seminar Satellite Services, National Regulatory Frameworks, and partnership, 1 to 2 October 2024, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/AsiaPacific/Pages/Events/2024/ITU-ITTLLDC%202024/main.aspx)developed skills and technical capacity of over 226 participants.

**ASP4: Enabling policy and regulatory environments to accelerate digital transformation**

* Contributed to the ASEAN Guide to AI Governance and Ethics, which provides ethical AI guidelines for the sub-region. A total of 1,231 stakeholders (898 in-person and 337 online) stakeholders benefited from technical assistance, exchange programs, meetings, events, & consultative dialogues. The research report “Gender-Sensitive AI Policy in Southeast Asia” was developed with UNU Macau. As of December 2024, the LinkedIn group “Women AI Policy Network in Southeast Asia” has 238 members, of which 196 are women.
* ASEAN Digital Government Technical Framework was developed through a comprehensive consultation, which was endorsed by the ASEAN Digital Ministers in ADGMIN 2025 (January). Capacity building workshop was conducted for ASEAN Member States on Whole of Government approach to digital government transformation using GovStack and related topics such as Digital ID, Payments, and Information Mediator.
* Direct country assistance to PNG on GovStack continued, including Digital ID and related building blocks such as workflow and payments, among other. GovStack Building Blocks. Capacity building sessions are ongoing for the existing and new teams with approximately four hundred stakeholders across different departments.
* Assistance was provided to LAO PDR, to develop the PMO Dashboard (in progress) and capacity building workshops hosted to the DGC (Digital Government Centre) teams on GovStack.

**ASP5: Contributing to a secure and resilient ICT environment**

* Assisted countries in strengthening their emergency telecommunication (Fiji) and cybersecurity (e.g. Kiribati, Maldives, Bhutan, India, Pakistan, ASEAN).
* In 2024, NETP for Fiji was updated and presented to National Emergency Telecomm Cluster.
* In Jan 2025, NETP for Tuvalu developed in consultation with stakeholders.
* Facilitated the government sector and private sector stakeholder consultation workshops in Thailand.
* In March 2025, A study on feasibility of common Cell Broadcast (CB)solution for Pacific SIDs has been initiated. The study will explore the applicability of affordable CB implementation to support the Early warning information dissemination.

# COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)

**The Regional Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States continues to implement projects and initiatives across the region providing support to Member States to enhance knowledge on 5G technologies and deployment, improvement of digital regulation** and **ICT data, response to cybersecurity incidents and accelerating process for digital transformation, smart cities and communities. These efforts align with the regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP).**

**CIS1: Developing infrastructure to promote innovation and partnerships in the introduction of new technologies – the Internet of Things, including the industrial Internet, smart cities and communities, 5G/IMT-2020 and next-generation NET-2030 communication networks, quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, digital health, digital skills and environmental protection**

* Through the “Rural networks pilot project in Armenia” project, BDT continues to support rural connectivity in Armenia, improving connectivity and fostering innovation and sustainable development, and increasing opportunities for social participation. This is achieved through technical design, capacity development, network deployment, and community engagement. A comprehensive plan was developed in coordination with national stakeholders and local authorities focusing on connecting rural communities in seven villages in Ararat region. Through the project, 10,610 meters of broadband network using 24-wire optical cable and 3,860 meters using 8-wire optical cable were deployed. A series of trainings were held to introduce the benefits of the broadband network to members of the connected communities.
* Project on International Research and Development Testing Centre continues to ensure the fulfilment of all expected outcomes of the project by the end of 2025. The work focuses on IRDTC certification requirements, conducting testing samples and building a network of academia institutions to support partnership in research and adoption of new and emerging technologies.

**CIS2: Cybersecurity and personal data protection**

* A joint ITU – World Bank project on Strengthening Cybersecurity in Kyrgyzstan Through Innovation and Collaboration is under implementation. In the course of 2024, a comprehensive centralized monitoring system was defined and approved, leveraging the advanced capabilities of T-Pot, an open-source honeypot environment. This system empowers the detection and analysis of cyber threats across the network, empowering Kyrgyzstan with proactive cyber defence. Supporting this innovation, a detailed standard design for the monitoring site was created, encompassing equipment specifications, infrastructure layouts, and optimal room conditions for installation. These include stringent power supply, ventilation, and security requirements to ensure seamless operation. Human capital development is integral to this initiative. In collaboration with national stakeholders, technical specifications and documentation for deploying sensors in target organizations were developed, and a tender to install them was successfully completed. Currently this work is ongoing, the project to be finalized in 2025.
* The BDT and the Information Systems Agency of Armenia (ISAA), with support from the Central Bank of Armenia and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry, successfully organized the first national CyberDrill for Armenia. The event, held in Yerevan, brought together over 200 professionals from government, academia, and critical infrastructure sectors to strengthen the country's cybersecurity capabilities and foster cross-sectoral collaboration.

**CIS3: Creating an enabling legal and regulatory environment to accelerate digital transformation**

* A regional ITU Training on Monitoring universal and meaningful connectivity (UMC) with ICT statistics was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and provided an occasion to examine the concept of UMC and how to streamline it in national digital policies, how to improve the statistical capacity of countries in the region to produce and disseminate relevant statistical data, and how to use the data to identify good practices and policy recommendations. This training had more than 80 attendees - policymakers in charge of national policies and strategies for digital connectivity, executives and experts responsible for the measurement of telecom/ICT development from ministries, national statistics offices, regulators, telecom operators, research institutions, and other relevant organizations from the CIS countries. As a result, the participants were introduced to the concept of the UMC and the new policy imperative; trained on statistical standards for ICT statistic; and discussed the situation of ICT statistics in CIS countries at country and regional level.
* Tailored expert assistance was provided to some countries in the CIS Region. In April 2024 a national workshop "Data-driven digital development: exchange of experience on telecommunication/ICT data collection, analysis, and dissemination" was held in Kyrgyzstan, providing in-depth knowledge to over 30 representatives of the Ministry of Digital Development and the National Statistical Committee. In March 2025, a national workshop "Tools to support the formation of industry policy and regulation: ICT statistics and assessment of the quality-of-service provision" was held in Armenia for representatives from policy, regulatory and statistical authorities. During these trainings, national representatives, with the assistance of ITU experts discussed the country approaches to collection of data and existing methodologies, discussed gaps and challenges, and worked through recommendations on household and administrative data.
* Тo further support Member-States in the advancement of digital services, a Framework Cooperation Agreement and Project “Digital Government Cooperation in the Central Asia and Caucasus Countries” was signed between ITU and the National Information Technology JSC of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The project benefits from the support of Eurasian Development Bank.

**CIS4: Digital skills and information and communication technology accessibility for the public, in particular for persons with disabilities**

* **Digital Skills Assessment in Azerbaijan.** The assessment was initiated by the Ministry of Digital Development and Transport of Azerbaijan in collaboration with BDT. It aims to assess digital skills and identify the country's current level of digital literacy and persisting digital skills gaps. Nearly 35000 individuals using a randomized sample of households in 13 economic regions of Azerbaijan were surveyed within the assessment. The survey's recommendations will serve the Government of Azerbaijan as the basis for designing and planning relevant future interventions, policies or strategies at the national and regional level on digital upskilling. The study on Azerbaijan is the first to apply the ITU’s Digital Skills Indicator at the individual level, marking the first step towards better comparable data at the international level. The recommendations contained in the [Digital Skills Assessment report](https://www.itu.int/pub/D-PHCB-CAP_BLD.05-2024), serve as a basis for designing and planning relevant future interventions, policies and strategies, including industry-specific activities, awareness-raising campaigns and advocacy. It is currently helping policymakers at national better monitor human capital focusing on developing a broad set of digital skills.
* **Digital Accessibility through advanced technologies.** A regional workshop titled "Advanced technologies to support sustainable, inclusive and accessible societies,”, held in Minsk, Belarus, was delivered in collaboration with BDT, the Belarusian State Academy of Communications, the UNESCO Institute for Information Technologies in Education with the support of the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of Republic of Belarus. The workshop served as regional platform dedicated to promoting ICT accessibility and digital skills, expanding digital inclusion and empowering all individuals, regardless of age, gender, ability, or location. The workshop, through shared best practices, enhanced stakeholders’ knowledge on digital inclusion policies and strategies as well as the capacity to implement educational programs for persons with disabilities and special needs.
* **Supporting youth through startups trainings**: in 2024, BDT organized two Ideathons for students and aspiring young entrepreneurs from Kyrgyz State Technical University. Over 70 students participated in the training where they presented startup projects in the areas such as agrotech, logistics, education, HRtech, and tourism, among others. The results of the training included generation of ideas conceived by the teams, simplified versions of startup business models, and completed pitch deck training slides. From February to April 2025 similar programs were deployed in Kazakhstan in partnership with Kostanay Engineering and Economic University and in Kyrgyzstan jointly with the Kyrgyz State Technical University, both ITU Academia members.

**CIS5: Development of smart cities and communities**

* BDT continued to work jointly with the Belarusian State Academy of Telecommunications, with the support of the Ministry of Communications and Informatization of the Republic of Belarus, on the joint programme: “Digital Development of Administrative-Territorial Units”. Two workshops were delivered, implementing a hackathon which strengthened the students and youth entrepreneurship’s capacity to generate new ideas, approaches and pilot projects to implement the smart city concept. The event was organized in two stages between October and November 2024: 1) online trainings and personal consultations with mentors, following which student teams generated startup ideas, built business models, made MVPs and pitch presentations of projects; 2) final presentation of projects. Startup projects participating in the hackathon elaborated solutions in the following areas: urban infrastructure, transport and logistics, big data and AI, green economy, inclusion and adaptive environment.
* Expert assistance to the Municipality of Bishkek city, the capital of the Kyrgyz Republic was provided to support in assessing and deploying relevant smart city solutions.

# EUROPE

**The Office for Europe Region has been involved in various regional coordination activities by providing support to Member States mainly to facilitate digital development, strengthening of cooperation opportunities in the field of cybersecurity, resilience, innovation, digital inclusion, regulation and digital skills development. These efforts align with the regional initiatives as set out in the Kigali Action Plan (KAP).**

**EUR1: Digital infrastructure development**

* Three regional platforms, i.e. ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum (Montenegro), International Regulatory Conference for Europe (North Macedonia) and 5G Techritory Forum (Latvia) served as the convening platforms, on the annual basis attracting over 800 stakeholders from Europe and beyond. These gatherings have contributed to a strengthened regulatory environment and a more connected community of regulators, equipped with up-to-date knowledge, best practices, and practical tools to navigate the evolving digital landscape.
* Cooperation with BEREC, EaPeReg, EMERG has been further strengthened. Memoranda of Understanding with EaPeReg and EMERG signed in 2023 provided robust framework for cooperation, triggering a series of actions advancing the implementation of the Regional Initiative. It included a series of Joint Workshops held in physical and online formats, development of a Compendium on Broadband Mapping Systems benefiting from diverse inputs of BEREC, EaPeReg, EMERG members, Training on Regulation for Accelerated Digital Transformation with over 180 participants. Building on this momentum, and with the support of Cyprus, a capacity building workshop on quality of service and resilience of mobile infrastructure for regulatory authorities is planned for October 2025, further reinforcing regional knowledge-sharing and cooperation.
* A series of technical assistances provided to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Moldova strengthened national capacities in the field of broadband mapping systems. In Albania, technical specifications allowed AKEP to kick-start the process of upgrading its spectrum monitoring system. Montenegro was equipped with the draft National Broadband Plan that was adopted in December 2024. An IPv6 Laboratory was established by BDT at the University of Montenegro and provided the necessary means for building national human capacities.
* In line with Resolution 1408, the BDT has undertaken a comprehensive range of activities to support the rebuilding and rehabilitation of Ukraine's infrastructure. These efforts include regular coordination with Ukrainian authorities and active engagement in the UN Country Team's initiatives, notably contributing to the Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment. To attract support from funding agencies, BDT has developed 10 initial project proposals tailored to Ukraine’s needs. Additionally, the Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine was developed, providing a strategic framework for advancing digital transformation. Capacity-building initiatives, such as a series of virtual workshops on 5G and the ITU-TAIEX Workshop on 5G implementation, have been instrumental in equipping stakeholders with critical knowledge. Through its coordination with international partners and donors, BDT continues to play a pivotal role in mobilizing resources and expertise to accelerate Ukraine's digital recovery and development. Financial and in-kind support of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Japan, Lithuania, Poland, European Commission helped to advance the work.
* Extending the partnership between ITU and European Commission within the framework of the Global Gateway, positioning ITU as the potential partner for middle and large-scale projects. Funding opportunities have been identified, facilitating the co-creation of new global and regional projects. This included the development of the project concept and documentation for the Africa broadband maps contract of the value of 15 million Euro, launched in September 2024. In addition, the 3 EUR million project on promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity was launched with the EC to make universal and meaningful connectivity a top policy priority.

**EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience**

* A special initiative co-implemented with Czech Republic and Poland on Human-Centric Approach to Digital, with a Spotlight Series and special report, helped to enhance the understanding of human-by-design digital features in Europe and beyond. ​
* With the aim of supporting the process of digitalization of public services across Western Balkan economies, a series of workshops were held to promote GovStack and facilitate its rollout across Europe.
* A new project by ITU and UNOPS on Digital Transformation of Local Self-Governments in Montenegro was launched in 2024. It facilitates the roll-out of the GovStack approach at the local administrations level, while aiming to implement a new approach to digital service development in general, which is a prerequisite for improving specific services, increasing their effectiveness, reducing exclusion, addressing discrimination, increasing the number of citizens served.
* In collaboration with FAO and close coordination with European Commission, a ‘Compendium for pre-accession countries on EU’s digital agriculture requirements’ has been developed with the aim of strengthening capacities, of Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan Countries in the field of digital agriculture. The compendium is being currently used by all accession countries as the reference point in designing / updating their digital agriculture strategies.
* Digital Excellence in Agriculture Report: FAO-ITU Regional contest on good practices advancing digital agriculture in Europe and Central Asia was developed. It provided the foundation for the promotion of effective digital solutions, accelerating digital transformation of traditional sectors such as agriculture.
* A new project by ITU, FAO, and ILO on Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation in Albania has been launched in 2024. It aims to leverage digitalization to advance sustainability goals through targeted interventions for public workers and small-scale farmers, particularly those in vulnerable situations, such as residents of underserved rural areas, young rural women and men, elderly farmers, and farmers with disabilities.
* Technical assistance was provided to North Macedonia and Moldova in formulating their digital transformation strategies.
* E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans has been elaborated in the partnership with UNEP, providing a series of recommendations for countries in the field of e-waste management.
* Technical assistance was provided to Moldova and Georgia, strengthening their emergency preparedness though support in establishing the early warning systems.
* A Regional Initiative Accelerator Workshop for the Western Balkan countries was delivered in February 2025 in Montenegro and resulted in crafting a special subregional initiative focusing on the roll out of the cell broadcast. In the follow up, targeted assistance to Montenegro and North Macedonia has been launched, while major fundraising activity kicked off.

**EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development**

* ITU-EU continued to organize the Accessible Europe: ICTs for All, providing the European stakeholders the platform for building their capacities in the field of digital accessibility. A special contest on innovative digital solutions for accessible Europe, provided the opportunity for displaying state of art technologies. The 2025 edition of Accessible Europe will be held in December 2025.
* Regional Assessment of Enabling Environments Ensuring Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region has been elaborated and served as the reference point for advancing the work on policy harmonization in the field of digital accessibility.
* Technical assistance on Digital Skills Assessment for the Elderly was provided to Albania.
* A new project of ITU-ILO focusing on Digital Literacy Assessment of Adult Population in Moldova has begun, unlocking new opportunities for expanding the technical assistance portfolio carried out in partnership with other UN agencies.
* Digital skills, education, and competencies: a compendium for Europe and Central Asia was developed incorporating inputs by UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia. To present its findings, a special session on Digital Skills was held with the UN Country Teams of the ECA Region in 2024, in collaboration with of the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia.
* Generation Connect European Youth initiative has been providing the opportunity for strengthening engagement of youth in the work of ITU. In 2024, a new cohort of 18 Youth Envoys from 8 Countries represented: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal, was formed.
* Network of Women for Europe has become a vibrant platform advocating for stronger engagement of Women in the ITU-D activities. Girls in ICT annual celebrations have been organized with the aim of promoting ICTs to young women and girls and encourages them to pursue careers in the field. These events highlighted the importance of empowering all girls and women through ICT for their educational and socio-economic development. They have also served as the platform for displaying diverse regional and national efforts undertaken to bridge digital gender divide. Towards WTDC-25 a special session of NoW ITU-D was held CEPT meetings in September 2024 and February 2025. ITU-D NoW Mentorship Program has been rolled out effectively engaging several European stakeholders.

**EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies**

* Annual Regional CyberDrills have been an important milestone of BDT’s work towards building regional capacities in the field of cybersecurity. The 2023 Interregional CyberDrill for Europe and Asia-Pacific was held in Cyprus and brought together 200 participants from 40 countries. The 2024 ITU Cybersecurity Forum and CyberDrill for Europe and the Mediterranean, was held in Bulgaria. The events improved incident response capabilities of Member States, while facilitating the regional resilience.
* Technical assistance was provided to Moldova equipping the country with the CSIRT Readiness Assessment and paving the way towards the establishment of the National CSIRT in 2024.
* Her CyberTracks - joint ITU-GIZ Initiative to promote the equal, full, and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity – was effectively rolled out with a regional forum held in 2024 in Tirana, providing an opportunity for over 50 women leaders to strengthen their capacities. The 2025 edition was announced at RDF 2025 and the regional forum will be held in July 2025, in Chisinau, Moldova.
* A series of technical assistances in the field of Child Online Protection have been provided to Andorra, Malta and Serbia. In Andorra, a national assessment of child online protection was concluded in 2025, paving the way towards the development of national policies. In Malta, the rollout of [child online protection guidelines](https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/) and a training-of-trainers event helped raise awareness about the protection and rights of children online. In Serbia, support was given to the rollout of [child online protection guidelines](https://www.itu-cop-guidelines.com/) by the National Contact Centre for Children’s Safety.
* Series of actions have been undertaken aiming at strengthened engagement of European stakeholders in the meetings of the ITU Council Working Group COP meetings resulting in increased number of contributions highlighting the national strategies, initiatives, and projects undertaken in Europe, thereby facilitating international cooperation and human capacity development.

**EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems**

* Digital Innovation Profiles, serving as the guiding tool in the process of building national innovation ecosystems and bridging digital innovation divide, have been developed for Georgia, North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania (revised), and Malta (2025).
* The ITU Global Innovation Forum held from 28-30 October 2024, provided a unique platform for stakeholders from all over the world to develop their capacities in the field of digital innovation. The event brought together nearly 500 participants, including 27 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, along with other high-level officials from government, the private sector and the United Nations system. Participants came from 64 countries.
* Technical assistance to Albania provided an opportunity for strengthening its capacities in the field of digital innovation.
* In February 2025, the successful pilot of the Regional Initiative Accelerator Framework led to the co-creation, with Western Balkan countries, of a subregional initiative on Early Warning Systems. It reconfirmed the effectiveness of the new framework for the development and contributed to the implementation of Regional Initiatives.

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1. *Further information is available at* [*https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-initiatives-2023-2025.aspx*](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/regional-initiatives-2023-2025.aspx) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *1: food systems, 2: energy access and affordability, 3: digital connectivity, 4: education, 5: jobs and social protection, and 6: climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)