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| **TelecommunicationDevelopment Sector****ITU-D Academia Network meeting** |  |
| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |
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| TITLE: | Research Funding Mechanisms and Platforms |
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| **Abstract:** Data sharing platforms, crowdfunding, crowdsourcing and scalable networks of engaged stakeholders are new forms of ICT collaboration. How actively engage and how to fund research and innovation in a fast changing world in ICT applications and the so called Digital Economy?This meeting provides a forum for discussing ways to improve the efficiency of funding mechanisms to the Research Community. |

**Background:**

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are key enablers for new business development, job creation and growth. Thanks to the ICT, science, technology and innovation, the world will be different in the future.

The impact of research and innovation on the social, economic, cultural and environmental sphere has increased greatly in recent years and will continue to change and evolve.

Research is a necessary investment for the future, securing competiveness for industry, and efficiency gains for governments. Ultimately, Academic research has an impact on our everyday life. It is critical for economic and social development to sustain Academic research.

Therefore, in a view to envisage and prepare our future, it is important that Academic research be supported by stakeholders (international and regional organization, governments and industry).

**Objective:**

Academia, the research community, ICT stakeholders and the ITU aim to explore potential funding mechanisms that provides the necessary support to Academia Members and to the worldwide research community that is connected through them.

**Suggestions:**

To develop better funding mechanisms, the following suggestions are made:

1. To analyze existing practices among various organizations supporting the same objective such as the European Community, the IMF, the OECD and other inter-governmental or innovation agencies.
2. To identify mechanisms to promote efficient funding mechanisms and invite all relevant stakeholders to develop the future ICT ecosystem.
3. To identify the main areas and research/innovation themes which should be addressed during the next period and those that would merit joint funding at global level.
4. To develop guidelines for presenting potential research proposals to be supported by the fund.
5. To understand better the selection criteria and evaluation requirements and decision making timeframe.

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