

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining SDGs

Monday 11 June 2018 | Prague, Czech Republic

www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/RDF/

CONTRIBUTION BY COMMUNICATIONS REGULATORY AGENCY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

TITLE: Statement of the situation and proposal of activities to enable ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

CONTACT: Amela Odobasic (ITU DFP), aodobasic@rak.ba, +38761134394

Europe Regional Initiative: EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

Year(s) of implementation: X 2018 X 2019 X 2020 X 2021

Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina believes that fast technology transfer from the developed countries to the developing could be a catalyzer for the entrepreneurship community (e.g., 5G as an enabler for IoT services, Big Data, Smart Cities). Now, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, entrepreneurship is not thriving and contributing as they could to the health of the ecosystem. A variety of factors contribute to this situation: the lack of a state-level strategy for innovation an underdeveloped entrepreneurial culture and a scarcity of financial instruments designed to support innovation among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Proposal

To move forward, three areas require scrutiny and improvement:

- (i) harnessing enhanced public procurement measures or open government mechanisms to facilitate the development of ICT and highly innovative solutions to address the country's key social challenges;
- (ii) customs and tax legislation that incentivizes and strengthens the ICT industry;



- (iii) exploring opportunities for e-government services – for example in the areas of e-health, the creative industries and the energy sector (deployment of smart grids, etc.)

To achieve these in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is necessary to:

- Create a legal and regulatory framework to encourage start-up community;
- Carry out market analysis and predictions, with predefined real potential and real needs for some services;
- Support education system in cooperation with universities, ICT hubs/clusters, and other common workspaces;
- Share national/regional best practices and case studies on all aspects of ICT as a driver for innovation, with the support of ITU-D.

Policymakers should recognize that ICT is a major engine for growth and development for a country's economy, society, and its human capital. Strengthening the innovation ecosystem and building innovation capacity are utmost priorities – and will lead to increased SME competitiveness and higher levels of sustainable growth for the country.

