ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining SDGs

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

CONTRIBUTION BY [Oslo Metropolitan University / Norway]

TITLE: Universal Design and Social Innovation for Sustainable Development

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Europe Regional Initiative:

 EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

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

Background

Since becoming an academic member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in 2017, Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) has collaborated extensively with the ITU in the following areas. OsloMet is an active contributor to the ITU-T SG26/16 "Accessibility to multimedia systems and services" in standardization activities related to universal design and was the principal contributor to "F.921 Audio-based network navigation system for persons with vision impairment". In addition, OsloMet has participated in an innovation training in Slovenia and the ITU-academia partnership seminar in Budapest in 2017, and in a Child online protection and Cybersecurity Workshop in Odessa in 2018. OsloMet is also

an active contributor and acts as the Access Coalition Liaison to the ITU EQUALS "Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age" and is currently acting as Vice Rapporteur in ITU-D Q7/1 "Access to telecommunication/ICT services by persons with disabilities and with specific needs". OsloMet made a substantial contribution to the 2018 World Summit on the Information Society as High-Level Track Facilitator, participant on two workshop panels and host of a workshop on "Universal Design for Sustainable Development". OsloMet previously participated in the 2017 ITU/IEEE/WHO Hack for Health where a team of students from OsloMet won the prize for innovation and in 2018 where OsloMet sponsored eight students from Norway and Mozambique to compete at the ITU/IEEE/WHO Hack Against Hunger. OsloMet is additionally collaborating with the ITU to propose the workshop "1.3 Billion Reasons for Making Technology Accessible" for the 2019 Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

Proposal

OsloMet proposes the following two opportunities for further collaboration:

1. On November 21 to 23, in collaboration with ITU, OsloMet will host a **Regional Innovation Forum** on Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Social Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems
2. OsloMet will provide support for the first edition of the **Accessible Europe Forum** held in Austria in December 2018, and provide active contribution to and support for future editions of the Accessible Europe Forum for 2019 to 2021.