Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)

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Geneva, 26 March 2018

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- Academia
- Regional Organizations from Europe

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe, Prague, Czech Republic, 11 June 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic. The Forum will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, on 11 June 2018 and will be held back to back with the meeting of the CEPT Committee for ITU Policies (Com-ITU), held in the same premises from 12 to 15 June 2018.

Regional Development Forums provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members as well as other stakeholders. They serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between World Telecommunication Development Conferences (WTDCs).

In this context, RDF-EUR will report on the implementation of the activities of the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Particular emphasis will be given to the Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss implementation plans, to announce commitments and to exchange experiences and best practices. RDF will also address, from a regional perspective, the activities related to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), ITU-D Study Groups, Membership, Partnerships, ITU Centres of Excellence, as well as regional contributions to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals. The draft agenda of the Forum is attached as Annex 1.

RDFs are open to all stakeholders willing to strengthen cooperation and partnerships among telecommunication/ICT policy-makers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional telecommunication and ICT matters.

Please note that the Forum will be paperless. Documents related to this event, including the venue of the meeting, practical information, agenda and presentations, will be available on the ITU website at http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx .The Forum will be conducted in English only.

To participate, please register online using the link available at http://www.itu.int/go/regitud no later than **1 June 2018**.

There is no participation fee for this event, however, please note that all expenses concerning travel, accommodation and insurance of experts should be covered by your Administration / Organization / Company.

Those participants requiring an entry visa to Czech Republic are requested to contact their local Embassy of Czech Republic for information well in advance.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (tel: +41 22 730 6065, e-mail: eurregion@itu.int) and Ms Annelies Kavi, Focal point from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic (tel: +42 22 485 2241, email: kavi@mpo.cz) are at your full disposal for any questions you might have concerning this event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annexes:

- Draft Agenda
- Europe Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17

Annex 1

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

organized by the
International Telecommunication Union

at the kind invitation of the
Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic

Monday 11 June 2018 | Prague, Czech Republic

www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe

AGENDA

[8:30 – 9:00]	**Registration**
[9:00– 9:15]	**Welcome Addresses**
[9:15 – 9:30]	Group Photo
[9:30 – 11:00]	**Beyond the WTDC-17 Outcomes** - ITU-D Objectives, Outputs - Buenos Aires Plan of Action - ITU-D Study Groups - Regional Initiatives - Resolutions **Partnerships, Membership and Academia** **ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe** **Contribution to WSIS Action Lines and SDGs** **ITU Regional Initiatives** - Lessons Learned from 2014-2017 Implementation Cycle - Towards Implementation Plans for 2018-2022
[11:00 – 11:30]	Coffee Break
[11:30 – 13:00]	**Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe** - EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management - EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
[13:00 – 14:00]	Lunch Break
[14:00 – 16:00]	**Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe** - EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development - EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
[16:00 – 16:30]	Coffee Break
[16:30 – 17:45]	**Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives forEurope** - EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems **2018-2019 Action Plan for Implementing ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**
[17:45 – 17:50]	Technical Break
[17:50 – 18:00]	**Conclusions and Way Forward**

Annex 2

Europe Regional Initiatives approved by WTDC-17

EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

Objective: To facilitate high-speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing, whilst ensuring a trusted and quality user experience.

Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following:

1) Development of plans (national and regional) and feasibility studies for deployment of ubiquitous resilient high-speed connectivity, including 5G/IMT2020 and digital broadcasting deployment, with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed
2) Sharing of guidelines on collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation
3) Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities in respect of the roll-out of diverse broadband technologies across Europe in the context of the creation of ubiquitous resilient high-speed broadband infrastructure
4) Sharing of best practices and case studies in cable TV, digital broadcasting, 5G experience, early use cases and trends in next-generation access network roll-out
5) Mapping of the ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries
6) Establishment of quality-of-service systems and consumer-protection frameworks
7) Development of plans for ICT for sustainable energy covering different types of ICT applications and innovations.

EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

Objective: To facilitate the development of transformative and paperless citizen-centric services that could be accessible and available to all members of society.

Expected results: Assistance to the countries in the following:

1) Creation of an experience and knowledge exchange platform between countries
2) Development of 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) Fostering the development and increase of types of online transactional services, including applications for administration-to-administration (A2A) and administration-to-customer (A2C) services
4) Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the process of national and regional digitization
5) Raising public trust through security enhancements in e-government services, digitization processes and awareness-raising campaigns, including promotion of such application-based solutions for e-government by national administrations and other institutions
6) Identification of key horizontal factors for successful implementation of e-government services and digitization, such as secure and accessible digital identification, tools for data analysis, integrating workflow solutions, approach to re-use of data, and fostering their development.

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

Objective: To bridge the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of ICT, by enabling capacity building in digital skills.

Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following:

1) Strengthening and support regional cooperation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, in line with the European Accessibility Act, in the development and implementation of ICT accessibility policies and solutions in the European region
2) Raising awareness and promoting relevant guidelines on public policies, including exchanging knowledge and sharing good practices on ICT accessibility products and services for persons with disabilities and specific needs, through meetings and workshops, including a regional conference which could be called "Accessible Europe - Information and communication for all"
3) Developing regional and in-country capacity through relevant web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs
4) Developing regional and in-country capacity to promote and deliver to relevant stakeholders training courses in ICT accessibility, including training on public procurement, as a tool to improve inclusion of persons with disabilities and specific needs in education, employment, and economic and social life
5) Encouraging regional cooperation between research centres and academia in speech technologies, in order to improve these technologies to overcome disabilities
6) Raising awareness about accessibility possibilities of TV and video programming on digital platforms, and implementing appropriate solutions
7) Encouraging the implementation and related measurement of progress in regional and national ICT activities and projects aiming to eliminate disparities in the use of and access to ICTs for websites of public institutions and government education programmes, services and information
8) Encouraging the implementation of digital content in education
9) Developing regional and in-country capacity building on coding and computer programming tools that will be available to all, including persons with disabilities and specific needs
10) Promoting digital literacy, digital skills and e-education, and implementing accessible ICTs in e-education.

EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

Objective: To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use ICTs in their daily lives with confidence.

Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following:

1) Providing regional platforms and tools for building human capacities (awareness and expert training) to enhance trust and confidence in the use of ICTs
2) Sharing country and regional best practices and case studies and conducting surveys on enhancing confidence and trust in the use of ICTs
3) Elaborating or review national cybersecurity strategies

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 exercises such as cyberdrills at national and regional level in cooperation with international and regional organizations and assisting countries in developing tools through synergies and resource optimization.

EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

Objective: To enhance entrepreneurship and establish a sustainable culture of innovation through concrete strategic actions using ICT as an enabler, building on the existing regional initiative in Europe on entrepreneurship, innovation and youth.

Expected results: Assistance to the countries in need in the following:

1) Initiating a review of the data collected, analysing the current situation and proposing effective recommendations to use ICT as an innovation enabler
2) Undertaking ecosystem mapping exercises to coordinate efforts and to create new projects and activities, by facilitating cooperation between existing actors and by highlighting gaps in the ecosystem which have a high impact on stakeholders
3) Developing human capacity through the identification and provision of practical skills needed in order to support innovative industries
4) Identifying sustainable funding models to support the innovation ecosystems.
5) Sharing country and regional best practices and case studies on all aspects of ICT as a driver for innovation
6) Providing a regional platform for strengthening regional cooperation between ICT-centric innovation ecosystems, through the holding of regional innovation forums.