

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

### *Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

Monday 6 May 2019 | Rome, Italy

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx>

### CONTRIBUTION BY [ORGANISATION / COUNTRY]

#### TITLE: Universal Design and Social Innovation for Sustainable Development

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#### Europe Regional Initiative:

- X EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- X EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- X EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

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

#### Background

As an academic member of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) in 2018 and 2019, Oslo Metropolitan University (OsloMet) has collaborated extensively with the ITU. OsloMet is an active contributor to the ITU-T SG26/16 in standardization activities related to universal design and was the principal contributor to “FSTP.ANS-Checklist: Updated contribution "Compliance Protocol and Indicators for Audio-Based Network Navigation System for Persons with Vision Impairment” adopted in 2018. In addition, OsloMet is an active contributor to the ITU EQUALS “Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age” and is currently leading a large-scale EU grant proposal on digital gender equality in collaboration with the EQUALS research coalition. OsloMet additionally acts as Vice Rapporteur for ITU-D Q7/1. In November 2018, OsloMet sponsored a three day workshop titled “Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems”, and in December, OsloMet sponsored a three day event “Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL”. In 2019, OsloMet made a substantial contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society as a participant on two workshop panels and host of a workshop on “Universal Design for Sustainable Development”. VUME, a social startup based at OsloMet, was also an active participant at WSIS and made a substantive contribution to several sessions. In addition, three students from OsloMet participated in and won top prize and best pitch at the WSIS Hack for Hacking Solutions for lifelong learnings and Livelihoods. The students



will be returning to Geneva in July 2019 to attend the SDG Summer School 2019 at the University of Geneva as part of the Geneva Tsinghua Initiative. OsloMet is additionally collaborating with the ITU on a workshop for the 2019 Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

## Proposal

OsloMet proposes the following two opportunities for further collaboration:

1. In collaboration with BTD Innovation, OsloMet will lead the development of an EU Horizon 2020 grant proposal focused on adopting the ITU's Digital Innovation Framework as a means for creating inclusive innovation ecosystems in Europe, and recommends the proposal actively involve contributions from BDT Innovation, the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe, and ITU academic members.
2. In collaboration with EQUALS, OsloMet will lead the development of an EU Horizon 2020 grant proposal focused on universal design as a mechanism for bridging the digital gender gap, and recommends that the proposal actively involve contributions from similarly positioned ITU initiatives and ITU academic members including the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe.
3. OsloMet supports the opportunity to sponsor a second Accessible Europe event for 2018, recommends that the event focus on accessibility as a mechanism for responsible research and innovation, and will provide active contribution to and support for 2020 and beyond.
4. Oslomet will further develop the Norway Digital Innovation Profile work initiated at the workshop titled "Bridging the Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems, towards EIK. To date the EIK has highlighted transformations that have occurred in higher education and the need for increased coordination among the ITU, academic institutions, industry and government in promoting robust and socially responsible innovation ecosystems.

