



ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Meaningful Connectivity

This Regional Forum for Europe is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on “Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting, and spectrum management”, and is related to the work of [ITU-D Study Groups Question 1/1](#) on “Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries”, [Question 5/1](#) on “Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas”, [Question 1/2](#) on “Creating smart cities and society” as well as to the project on “[ITU Interactive Transmission Maps](#)” It is organized by the International Telecommunication Union and supported by the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

<https://itu.int/go/EUR-MC-2021>

8-9 March 2021 | Virtual



Ministry of Public Administration
Republic of Slovenia

Draft AGENDA

Monday | 8 March 2021

All times are expressed in CET

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| [9:45 – 10:00] | Virtual Networking |
| [10:00– 10:30] | <p>Opening Segment</p> <p>High-level Opening Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Stephen Bereaux, Deputy Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU • H.E. Mr. Boštjan Koritnik, Minister, Ministry of Public Administration, Republic of Slovenia <p>Remarks from the RCC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) <p>Setting the Regional Context</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, ITU |
| [10:30 – 11:30] | <p>Session 1: The Digital Divide in Europe: Ensuring meaningful and inclusive connectivity</p> <p>Focus: How connecting the unconnected is not only an infrastructure development question but also a socio-economic challenge.</p> <p>Moderation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, ITU |



Panellists

- **Mr. Dan Sjöblom**, EaPeReg Vice Chair 2021 and outgoing BEREC Chair 2020
- **Mr. Peter Grum**, Acting Director-General, Directorate for Information Society and Informatics, Ministry of Public Administration, Republic of Slovenia
- **Mr. Mehmet Özcan**, ICT Expert, Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA), Turkey
- **Mr. Christoph Steck**, Director of Public Policy and Internet, Telefonica SA
- **Ms. Eleanor Sarpong**, Deputy Director and Policy Lead, Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI), World Wide Web Foundation

[11:30 – 11:40]

Coffee break

[11:40 – 13:00]

Session 2: Connecting Rural Areas in Europe: regional and national approaches

Focus: Closing the service divide in rural areas in Europe through last mile connectivity and other projects.

Moderation

- **Mr Istvan Bozsoki**, Head of the Telecommunications Network & Spectrum Management Division (TNS), Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU

Setting the context

- **Ms. Aminata Amadou Garba**, Technology Coordinator, Telecommunications Network & Spectrum Management Division (TNS), Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU

Panellists

- **Ms. Sophie Treinen**, Information and Knowledge Management Officer, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
- **Mr. Dominic Hayes**, Spectrum Management and International Relations, Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space, European Commission
- **Ms. Eka Kubusidze**, Head of Telecommunications, Information and Modern Technologies Department, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia
- **Mr. Genaro Cruz**, Senior Market Engagement and Advocacy Manager, GSMA
- **Mr. Joe Barrett**, CEO, Global mobile Suppliers Association (GSA)

[13:00 – 13:30]

Lunch break

[13:30 – 14:45]

Session 3: Use of ICTs in Public institutions: a focus on connecting Schools

Focus: ensuring efficient use of ICTs in educational systems as a best practice for meaningfully connected societies

Moderation

- **Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, ITU

Setting the Context

- **Mr. Julian McNeill**, Consultant, ITU Office for Europe, ITU

Panellists

- **H.E. Milan Dobrijevic**, Acting Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism, and Telecommunications (MTT), Republic of Serbia
- **Ms. Aminata Amadou Garba**, Technology Coordinator, Telecommunications Network & Spectrum Management Division (TNS), Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), ITU, & **Mr. Ihar Shchetko**, Giga Project Coordinator in Central Asia, ITU
- **Mr. Marcin Łukasiewicz**, Senior Specialist, Telecommunications Investment Unit, Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Republic of Poland



- **Mr. Tomi Dolenc**, Head of User Communication, Academic and Research Network of Slovenia (ARNES), Republic of Slovenia
- **Mr. Jan Buis**, Vice President Business Development, LANCOM Systems (Rohde Schwarz)

[14:45 – 16:00]

Session 4: Fostering Digital Skills development: supporting demand creation for Connectivity
Focus: empowering individuals in leveraging connectivity and digital technologies supporting social and economic development

Moderation

- **Ms. AnaMaria Meshkurti**, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe, ITU

Panellists

- **Ms. Lidia Stępińska-Ustasiak**, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Republic of Poland
- **Ms. Gulsanna Mamedieva**, Director General of the Directorate for European Integration, Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDTU), Ukraine
- **(TBC)** Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- **Mr. Marcin Krasuski**, Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager, Google

[16:00 – 16:15]

Conclusions

Special Session on Digitally Empowered Generation Equality in the wake of COVID-19

Held within the framework of the 2021 UN Regional Forum for Sustainable Development for UNECE Region and the ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Meaningful Connectivity

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2021/MC/GenderedDigitalDivide.aspx>

Tuesday | 9 March 2021

All times are expressed in CET

[9:45 – 10:00]

Virtual Networking

[10:00 – 10:20]

Opening Segment

- **Video message: Ms Doreen Bogdan Martin**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Speakers:

- **Ms. Alia El-Yassir**, UN Women Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia
- **Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head of the ITU Office for Europe

Opening Keynote:

- **Ms. Ajda Cuderman**, State Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development and Technology, Slovenia

[10:20 – 10:45]

Setting the context: Digitally Empowered Generation Equality Report Launch

Focus: Short discussion of key findings and recommendations of the Digitally Empowered Generation Equality Report by Youth panellists.



Moderator: Ms. Belma Kucukalic, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Speakers:

- Ms. Eljona Avdo, European Youth Envoy, Generation Connect, Albania
- Ms. Andreea Barbu, European Youth Envoy, Generation Connect, Romania
- Ms. Zerina Mandžo, IT Girls Project Officer, UN Women

[10:45 – 11:55]

Panel discussion

Focus: An interactive panel discussion on concrete steps to deliver transformative change for women and girls using ICTs with particular focus on the Europe region.

Moderator: Mr. Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe

Speakers:

- Ms. Mariam Lashkhi, Member of the Parliament of Georgia
- Ms. Tamara Dancheva, International Relations Manager, GSMA
- Ms. Babou Olengha-Aaby, Founder & CEO of the Next Billion
- Ms. Priyanka Banerjee, CEO and Co-Founder, BusinessWiz
- Ms. Emilija Stojmenova Duh, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of electrical engineering, University of Ljubljana

[11:55 – 12:00]

Closing

