



**ITU Office for Europe**

Ref.: BDT/DDR/EUR

Geneva, 13 July 2021

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU Sector Members,
- Academia
- Regional and International Organizations
- Regional Offices for Europe of UN System Organizations
- Regional Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Advisory Groups (TSAG, TDAG, RAG) and Study Groups

Cc: Permanent Missions

**Subject: ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe (13 September 2021) and Regional consultation on the national and/or regional challenges related to digital development in Europe region**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the [Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe](#) (RER-EUR) to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and virtually hosted by the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia. The event will be held remotely on **13 September 2021** back-to-back with the CEPT Committee for ITU Policies (Com-ITU) meeting, also planned to be held remotely from 13 to 15 September 2021.

This event will provide an opportunity for dialogue between the ITU Office for Europe, decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members and other relevant stakeholders. The event will provide a platform for assessing stakeholders' challenges related to digital development and strategic orientations that may be taken into consideration in the planning process for the work plan of the ITU Office for Europe.

The roundtable will discuss the implementation of the activities of the Buenos Aires Action Plan, approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), with particular emphasis on the five Regional Initiatives for Europe. The roundtable will afford stakeholders an opportunity to outline challenges, priorities, and commitments, as well as exchange experiences and good practices.

Due to the postponement of WTDC-21 to June 2022, the implementation period for the Buenos Aires Action Plan Regional Initiatives will continue for an additional year. To better inform the work planning process of ITU, the collection of additional operational feedback and consideration of the priorities of ITU Member States and Sector Members at the regional level is needed.

In this context, the ITU Office for Europe is launching a Regional Consultation that offers the possibility for ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders to highlight the concrete challenges related to digital

development at the regional and/or national levels, to better reflect the strategic needs of the region for the implementation period January – December 2022.

Thus, stakeholders interested in ITU's work in the Europe region are kindly invited to provide inputs by **1 September 2021** to [eurregion@itu.int](mailto:eurregion@itu.int), using the Contributions Template available at the event website <http://www.itu.int/go/403C> and as **Annex 2** to this circular letter.

The responses to the consultation will be shared with the Membership and presented at the ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe on 13th September 2021. All submitted contributions will be used as the basis for further coordination and planning at the BDT level .

The draft agenda of the roundtable is attached as **Annex 1** and the regional consultation submission form is attached as **Annex 2**.

The Regional Engagement Roundtable is open to all stakeholders interested in strengthened cooperation and partnership among telecommunication/ICT policy-makers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies and organizations on specific regional telecommunication/ICT and digital development matters.

Please note that the event will be paperless. Documents related to this event, including agenda, presentations and practical information with guidance on how to connect to the online platform, will be available on the ITU website at <http://www.itu.int/go/403C>.

The Roundtable will be conducted in English only. To participate, please register online using the link available at <http://www.itu.int/go/GPZF> no later than **8 September 2021**.

Should you have any questions or need clarifications please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

[originally signed]

Jaroslav Ponder  
Head of the ITU Office for Europe

## ANNEX 1

International Telecommunication Union



International Telecommunication Union

## ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe

### *Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals*

Organised by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the  
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia

საქართველოს ეკონომიკისა და მდგრადი  
განვითარების სამინისტრო



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021 | 09:00 – 13:00 CEST | Virtual Meeting

<http://www.itu.int/go/403C>

## DRAFT AGENDA

Monday | 13 September 2021

[08:45 – 9:00]	Virtual Networking
[09:00– 09:15]	Opening Ceremony
[09:15 – 10:00]	Roundtable discussion on implementation of ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe and BDT Thematic Priorities
[10:00 – 10:45]	Review of regional and country challenges to be addressed in 2022 (part 1)
[10:45 – 11:00]	Coffee Break
[11:00 – 11:45]	Review of regional and country challenges to be addressed in 2022 (part 2)
[11:45 – 12:30]	Discussion on 2021/2022 implementation
[12:30 – 12:45]	Closing

## ANNEX 2

International Telecommunication Union



International Telecommunication Union

## ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe

### *Digital Transformation for Sustainable Development Goals*

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### REGIONAL CONSULTATION: SUBMISSION FORM

Regional consultation on the national and/or regional challenges related  
to digital development in Europe region

[ORGANISATION], [COUNTRY]

[TITLE of the Contribution]

CONTACT: [Name] [Surname] [email] [phone]

Tick the box to the relevant ITU Regional Initiative for Europe and/or BDT Thematic Priority

#### ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe

- ☐ EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- ☐ EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

#### BDT Thematic Priorities

- ☐ Capacity development
- ☐ Cybersecurity
- ☐ Digital inclusion
- ☐ Digital innovation ecosystems
- ☐ Digital services and applications

- ☐ 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
- ☐ EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

- ☐ Emergency telecommunications
- ☐ Environment
- ☐ Network and digital infrastructure
- ☐ Policy and Regulation
- ☐ Statistics
- ☐ Capacity development

**What are your *concrete challenges* related to the digital development that might be addressed at the national or/and regional level in 2022 within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe and BDT Thematic Priorities?** [max 400 words]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.