

# ***Setting the Regional Context on ITU Regional Initiatives Implementation***

***ITU Regional Engagement Roundtable for Europe  
13 September 2021, 9:00 – 13:00***

*ITU Office for Europe Team  
International Telecommunication Union*



EUROPE

# REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BUENOS AIRES ACTION PLAN

**2018-2021**

**EUR1:** Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

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

**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:** Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

## Our thematic priorities

 **Networks & digital infrastructure**

 **Capacity development**

 **Cybersecurity**

 **Statistics**

 **Emergency telecommunications**

 **Digital services & applications**

 **Digital policy & regulation**

 **Digital inclusion**

 **Digital innovation ecosystems**

 **Environment**

## BDT Thematic Priorities

- Network infrastructure & management  
- Policy and regulation

- Digital Services

- Capacity building and skills development  
- Digital inclusion

- Cybersecurity

- Digital ecosystem

## Regional Initiatives

- **EUR1:** Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- **EUR2:** A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- **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:** Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

## EUROPE - REGIONAL INITIATIVE 1

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

Regional initiative

1

Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting  
and spectrum management

## EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

### Regional Activities

- ITU Regional Forum for Meaningful Connectivity
  - 8-9 March 2021, online
- ITU GSR-21 Regional Regulatory Roundtable for Europe and Africa
  - 14 April 2021, online
- Outcomes of the ITU Regional Assessment for Europe on EMF Exposure Limits and Risk Communication Challenges
  - 27 April 2021, online
- Special Training for Europe on “ICT Infrastructure Business Planning”
  - 15 March – 14 May 2021, online

### Reports

- 5G country profiles in non-EU countries
- Implementing 5G for Good: does EMF matter?
- ITU-UNICEF report on Connectivity in Education

### Country engagement

- Technical Assistance on Spectrum and Frequency Planning
  - Albania (twinning with Hungary)
- Technical Assistance on IPv6
  - Montenegro (ongoing)
- Technical Assistance on broadband mapping
  - Bosnia and Herzegovina (starting, twinning with Slovenia)
- Collaborative Regulation Case Studies
  - Moldova
  - Romania

### Projects

- Project on EMF limit levels and communication challenges
- Project on ITU Guidelines to Establish/strengthen broadband mapping systems (twinning with Poland)

## EUROPE - REGIONAL INITIATIVE 2

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

### Regional initiative

# 2

A citizen-centric approach  
to building services  
for national administrations



## EUR 2: Digital services and Applications

### **Digital Agriculture**

#### **Regional Activities**

- Digital Excellence in Agriculture: ITU-FAO Regional Contest in Europe and Central Asia
  - Call for Good Practices in the field of Digital Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia (4 November - 11 January 2021);
  - Launching event of the Stocktaking Report (9 July 2021);
  - Awards Ceremony (23 September 2021).

#### **Reports**

- ITU-FAO Digital Excellence in Agriculture Stocktaking Report: Good practices in the field of digital agriculture
- ITU-FAO Digital Excellence in Agriculture Report (upcoming, 23 September)
- ITU-FAO Getting Prepared to meet the EU Expectations on Digitalization in Agriculture: A Guide for Pre-accession Countries (upcoming)

#### **Country engagement**

- Support to FAO on development of Digital Agriculture Strategy
  - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey

### **Mobile Health**

#### **Project**

- M-health knowledge and innovation hub for Europe (ITU-WHO-Andalusian Public health Service – Funded by the European Union)
  - European Innovation and Knowledge mHealth Hub: Hub Talks 2021 (launched 28 January 2021)

### **E-governance**

#### **Project**

- GovStack: Digital Transformation and digitalization of government services for the achievement of the SDGs (ITU, Estonia, Germany and DIAL)
  - Special sessions on “GOVSTACK: Scalable e-Government Solutions for Developing countries”
    - WSIS Forum 2021 (19 May)
    - ITU Emerging Technologies Week (5 July).

### **E-waste**

#### **Project**

- ITU-UNEP-UNITAR “Regional e-waste monitor for the Western Balkans”



## EUROPE - REGIONAL INITIATIVE 3

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

### Regional initiative

# 3

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

## EUR 3: Digital inclusion

### Regional Activities

#### Accessibility

- Launched series of self paced trainings on accessibility (topics include crises, emergency, web access, inclusive communications)
- Special online session “Fostering Digital Innovation Ecosystem for Accessible Europe” – part of Zero Project Conference 10 Feb 21
- Accessible Europe 2021, 23-25 March 2021, virtual
- The Regional Competition for Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe (*97 submissions, 29 countries*)
- Curation Programme for Accessible Europe Innovators (open consultation webinar, SME masterclass on accessibility as part of Digital World 2021)
- Side event of 14th Conference of States Parties to the CRPD on Home office and Flexible work environment with an accessibility focus, 18 June 2021
- Side event on Accessibility during the Regional Innovation Forum 23 Sept 2021

### Reports

- Regional Assessment of Enabling Environments Ensuring Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region
- ITU study on the assessment of digital accessibility policies in Serbia

### Country engagement

- Technical Assistance on ICT Accessibility Policy Review of the Republic of Serbia

## EUR 3: Digital inclusion

### Regional Activities

#### Gender

- Gendered Digital Divide "Digitally Empowered Generation Equality in the wake of COVID-19", 9 March 2021
- Launched Network of Women – Europe, January 2021, virtual
- ITU & CEPT Girls in ICT 10-year anniversary celebration, 22 April 2021
- Network of Women (NoW) Europe virtual Get Together at the CEPT COM-ITU meeting, 5 May 2021
- Network of Women (NoW) for Europe virtual leadership training for all NoW Europe members, 4 June and 9 September 2021.

#### Digital Skills

- ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Digital Skills Development, 16 March 2021
- Regional Assessment of the National Approaches towards Digital Skills Development

#### Youth

- Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group established in January 2021 and Youth Declaration launched
- GC Europe Girls in ICT 10-year anniversary celebration , 22 April 2021
- Youth Roundtable event 20 May 2021
- Youth Innovation Session 23 September 2021
- Digital Youth Jam, 3 December 2021

#### Reports

- Digitally empowered Generation equality: Women, girls and ICT in the context of COVID-19 in selected Western Balkan and Eastern Partnership countries (ITU and UN Women)

#### Country engagement

- Technical Assistance on Development of the National Strategy on Digital Skills Development in Albania and Ukraine

## EUROPE - REGIONAL INITIATIVE 4

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

Regional initiative

4

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

## EUR 4: Cybersecurity and COP

### Regional Activities

- Roll-out of the COP Guidelines at the National level in Europe Region
- ITU co-organized “15th International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online” – Special ITU workshop on "Fostering a culture of child online protection: Roll-out of the Child Online Protection Guidelines in Europe"
  - 24 September 2021

### Country engagement

- Moldova: Strategic review of Child Online Protection National Assessment
- North Macedonia: Child Online Protection National Assessment and Operational Roadmap

### Projects

- Albania: Roll-out of the ITU COP Global Project “Creating a safe and prosperous cyberspace for children”

## EUROPE - REGIONAL INITIATIVE 5

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

Regional initiative

5

Information and communication  
technology-centric innovation  
ecosystems

## EUR 5: Innovation ecosystems

### Regional Activities

- Co-creation workshops, 18-19 May and 3 June 2021 with Georgian stakeholders on Digital Innovation Profile Georgia
- Towards the ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe: “Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation — Europe”, 1 July 2021
- ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe, 22-23 September 2021, virtual

### Reports

- Regional good practices: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Europe

### Country engagement

- Digital Innovation Profile Georgia
- Digital Innovation Profile Serbia

### Centres of Excellence (CoE)

- ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme 2021 catalogue launched with 21 trainings
- 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU CoE Steering Committee for Europe, 8 July 2021, virtual
- 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the ITU CoE Steering Committee for Europe, 5 November 2021, virtual



# UN Affairs



**Objective:** To strengthen the cooperation of ITU with the UN Sustainable Development System, cooperation with the EU structures and collaboration on the ICT projects advancing achievement of SDG leading to foster digital transformation and ICT development through enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation and inter-agency coordination.

## UN Affairs

### Regional Activities

- **UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia**
  - March 2021: Special event at the UN Forum on Sustainable Development for Europe and Central Asia;
  - April 2021: Western Balkans Digital Summit (11-13 October): Special sessions and contributions of the UN-DTG4ECA to the Summit. Including coordination with Resident Coordinator (RC) Office and UN Country Team (UNCT) members in Montenegro (hosting country of the 2021 edition);
  - May 2021: Special event at the World Summit on the Information Society Forum 2021;
  - November 2021: Data Protection Executive Trainings for RCs and UNCTs in Europe and Central Asia.
- **UN Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs**
  - Special executive brief on EU programming for RCs and UNCTs;
  - January – October 2021: series of coordination meeting with DG INTPA, DG CONNECT, EEAS, DG NEAR, the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub Secretariat, and the UN Tech Envoy;
  - “UN Brussels Team Paper on Digitalization for the SDGs” with Annex 1 “UN Agencies’ Flagship initiatives and projects “ and Annex2 “United Nations Global Processes & Fora related to Digitalization”.
- **UN Sustainable Development System in the Europe Region:**
  - Working together with Regional Coordination Office and UN Country Teams (UNCT) of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova, North Macedonia, Georgia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine;
  - Participation in Common Country Analysis (CCA);
  - Special UNCT Digital Transformation Session in North Macedonia and Georgia;
  - Digital Development Country Profiles - Finalized: Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia. Coming Soon: Albania



# ***Thank You***

***For more information please contact***  
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