ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

organized by the International Telecommunication Union with the support of the
National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) of Romania and
cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)

22-23 May 2023
Timisoara, Romania

Remote participation at http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23
(Meeting held back-to-back with Com-ITU of CEPT – 24-26 May 2023)

Please note that submitted information will be presented during the RDF-EUR P2C Roundtables and
it will also be reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

CONTRIBUTION FORM

ORGANIZATION: SPIDER, Stockholm University, Sweden

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TITLE: Peer-to-peer capacity building in ICT Regulation for Sub-Saharan Africa

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

The programme focuses on regulatory capacity building in sub-Saharan Africa, and is a joint initiative between Sida[1] and EU DG-INTPA[2] as part of a Team Europe Initiative.

The implementation will be led by PTS[3] and SPIDER[4] in full and equal collaboration with ILR[5] as a strategic implementing partner, and regional and national regulatory bodies in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The programme is based on a highly successful collaborative model, developed by PTS and SPIDER for the last 7 years. The model allows for a continuous addition of other actors from the EU or elsewhere, and so is flexible when the needs and situations change.

The implementation of the programme will have two strands of action working in parallel. The two workstreams are: Workstream (WS) 1) the national strategic priorities in SSA identified by NRAs as change initiatives; and WS 2) the regional priorities identified by the regional regulatory organisations (RRO) as regional projects within their respective strategic plans.

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[1] The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency https://www.sida.se/en

[2] Directorate-General for International Partnerships https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/index_en

[3] The Swedish Post and Telecom Authority https://pts.se/en/

[4] The Swedish Program for ICT in Developing Regions https://spidercenter.org

[5] Institut Luxembourgeois de Régulation https://web.ilr.lu/FR/ILR

WS 1 is the larger part of the programme, targeting NRAs in SSA and thus addressing the strand of national strategic priorities. During this workstream NRAs will be invited to send staff to participate in programme rounds with the focus to support the implementation of change initiatives. This will be done through training periods in Europe, recurring support during the implementation, a one week follow up phase in Africa, and monitoring and evaluation activities to channel results from the change initiatives.

WS 2 targets the RROs and the strand of regional strategic priorities. The support to RROs is intended is to strengthen their role as coordinating bodies for activities beneficial for the population in the region. This workstream is designed to strengthen regional harmonisation by strengthening the ability of RROs to act as a hub for regional ICT-regulation coordination. This workstream is underpinned by the understanding that ICT-regulation will be more effective if harmonised and coordinated between different jurisdictions. The modality of this support and allocation of resources will be developed in dialogue with each organisation individually, according to their needs and long-term strategies.

SPIDER looks forward to continuing cooperation with ITU and INTPA on this specific program in the SSA region, but also looks forward to participating at the Regional Development Forum for Europe, to share its best practices and experience on its program to the ITU community.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS:

NRAs of 41 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and four regional regulatory organisation in Southern Africa (CRASA), West Africa (WATRA), East Africa (EACO) and Central Africa (ARTAC).

CRASA (13 countries)
Angola
Botswana
DR Congo
Eswatini
Lesotho
Malawi
Mauritius
Mozambique
Namibia
South Africa
Tanzania
Zambia
Zimbabwe

WATRA (16 countries)
Benin
Burkina Faso
Cabo Verde
Cote d'Ivoire
The Gambia
Ghana
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Liberia
Mali
Mauritania
Niger
Nigeria
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Togo

EACO (6 countries)
Burundi
Kenya
Rwanda
South Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda

ARTAC (6 countries)
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Chad
Republic of Congo
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon

YEARS of IMPLEMENTATION: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ 2023

☒ 2024

☒ 2025

RELEVANT ITU REGIONAL INITIATIVE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☒ EUR1: Digital infrastructure development

☒ EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

☒ EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

☐ EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

☐ EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

Please find more information on the ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU-D PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY THE ITU WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2022

☒ Affordable connectivity

☐ Digital Transformation

☒ Enabling policy and regulatory environment

☐ Resource mobilization and international cooperation

☒ Inclusive and secure telecommunications/ICTs for sustainable development

Please find more information on the ITU-D Priorities, as defined by WTDC-22, here.

RELATED ITU PRIORITIES AS DEFINED BY ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE 2022

x Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

x International telecommunication numbering resources

x Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

x Digital applications

x Enabling environment

Please find more information on the ITU Priorities, as defined by PP-22, here

RELATED WSIS ACTION LINE: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐ C1: The role of governments and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

☐ C2: Information and communication infrastructure

☒ C3: Access to information and knowledge

☒ C4: Capacity building

☐ C5: Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

☐ C6: Enabling environment

☐ C7: ICT applications

☐ C8: Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content

☐ C9: Media

☐ C10: Ethical dimensions the Information Society

☒ C11: International and regional cooperation

RELATED SDG: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

☐ SDG 1: No Poverty

☐ SDG 2: Zero Hunger

☐ SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being

☐ SDG 4: Quality Education

☒ SDG 5: Gender Equality

☐ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation

☐ SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

☐ SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

☒ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☐ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities

☐ SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities☐ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

☐ SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

☐ SDG 13: Climate Action

☐ SDG 14: Life Below Water

☐ SDG 15: Life on Land

☐ SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

☐ SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs