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: Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro

FOCAL POINT: Boris Jevrić, Deputy Director, Head of Radiocommunications Department, +382 20 406 700

TITLE: ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Introduction

ITU Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe, jointly organized by ITU and EKIP, is an annual regional meeting held each year in Budva, Montenegro. On the annual basis more than 150 stakeholders from all over the Europe are joining this meeting. This forum provides the opportunity for high-level dialogue between stakeholders on strategies and policies directed towards broadband development in the region, while discussing the challenges and opportunities offered by resilient high-speed networks couple with regulatory actions that are flexible and collaborative.

Development policy makers and regulators of electronic communications market play a significant role in efficient implementation of digital transformation, which will have positive effects on the economic development and society development as a whole, which has proved to be crucial in the conditions and environment we live and work in recent years. In addition to digital skills, infrastructure is a key prerequisite for wide application of developed digital solutions. The attendees of the Forum will have an opportunity to exchange experiences on incentives and developed solutions for increasing the availability of broadband access, infrastructure development, identification of barriers and measures to remove them. A dynamic discussion is also expected with regard to the efficient implementation and sustainable development of 5G networks and services, with a special emphasis on the contribution and synergy of telecom, IT and other vertical industries, the public sector and academic communities.

A significant link for the realization of full potential of the electronic communications sector is its regulation, particularly in terms of implementation of the market analysis process, which identifies the operators with significant market power and defines regulatory requirements, in order to re-

establish distorted competition and protect the interests of end users and interests of other market players.

Special attention at the Forum will be given to the ever-present challenge – how to ensure an efficient protection of the rights of users of electronic communications services in the era of a continuous market development and the emergence of new services, where constant access to digital technologies is required. Nowadays, in a digital society, it is important to ensure universal access to services, information and content, while developing a framework for providing inclusiveness and better access for persons with disabilities.

Proposal

In this context, EKIP proposes to the following:

- To continue organizing ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe in the coming years 2023 and 2025;
- To hold 2023 edition of the Forum from 28 to 29 September 2023 in Budva, Montenegro;
- To encourage all European national regulatory authorities to contribute to the agenda of the forum;
- To encourage regional associations of NRAs to contribute to the agenda of the forum;
- To incorporate in the agenda of the meeting issues discussed at the ITU Global Symposium for Regulators (scheduled for 5-8 June 2023);
- To ensure regional follow up to the outcomes of the GSR.

Expected results:

- Assistance to the countries in need in the following:
- Providing regional platforms for building human and institutional capacities.
- Facilitating and fostering co-operation, exchange of information, ideas, case studies, lessons learned and best practices, among the regulatory bodies and other stakeholders at national and regional level.
- Contribution to solving the issue of digital divide and social inclusion, contribution to the creation of the region of equal opportunities.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Countries from the Central and South East Europe regions.

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

☒ Spectrum use for space and terrestrial services

☐ International telecommunication numbering resources

☒ Inclusive and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure and services

☐ Digital applications

☐ 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 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