ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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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

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TITLE: REGIONAL INITIATIVE ON ENHANCING DAB IMPLEMENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Introduction

Use of ICT technologies and services has a major impact to the sustainable development of the society. Radio plays an important social, cultural and democratic role across Europe. The digitization of radio addressed the needs of listeners and provide an economic boost for EU industry in countries advanced in this process.

Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) is the most widespread terrestrial broadcast digital radio standard offering broadcasters to enhance their radio offerings in order to meet the higher quality expectations of listeners in terms of digital audio programs and data services for mobile, portable and fixed signal reception from terrestrial transmitters in the Very High Frequency (VHF) frequency bands, while reducing energy consumption.

Bearing in mind differences in terms of DAB implementation and development in European countries, there is a need for a regional initiative through which administrations in need can be assisted in the process of digital radio introduction, in order to ensure accelerated sustainable development in the field of audiovisual media services provided through terrestrial digital audio broadcasting systems in the medium and long term.

Regional initiative on enhancing DAB implementation and development (hereinafter: the DAB Initiative) will directly speed-up the digitalization of the audio broadcasting services in region and will trace the path for a wider deployment of ICT broadband services.

Proposal

It is proposed to establish Regional Initiative on enhancing DAB implementation and development (hereinafter: DAB Initiative) in order to accelerate the digitalization of the audio broadcasting services in region and trace the path for a wider deployment of ICT broadband services.

The overall objective of the DAB Initiative is harmonization of the activities in the target region related to the introduction of DAB services, which will: (a) speed-up the overall process of DAB implementation and further developments of advanced technologies, (b) contribute to maximum harmonization of the legislative and technical frameworks with the EU digitalization process, (c) prevent policy, technology and market fragmentation, (d) contribute to environmental sustainability as new digital broadcasting technology at both, transmitting and receiving side, lowers the power consumption significantly.

The inclusion of stakeholders, especially broadcasters and industry, is essential and will have positive influence on business development. On a long term, the DAB Initiative will contribute to solve issues of digital divide and social inclusion and thus will contribute to the creation of the region of equal opportunities.

Expected results:

- Assistance to the countries in need in the following:
- Providing regional platforms for building human and institutional capacities relating to DAB implementation, including training on pertinent technical aspects and necessary regulatory measures for the appropriate DAB implementation and development.
- 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: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Montenegro, Northern Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia (Western Balkan and neighbouring EU countries).

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 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