

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

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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

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TITLE: Broadband mapping

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Broadband mapping is an essential tool for governments and policymakers to identify areas that lack access to high-speed internet services. In the Western Balkans countries, which include Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Kosovo, Bosnia & Herzegovina, broadband mapping can bring many benefits to the region.

Firstly, broadband mapping can help identify the areas in the region that have limited or no access to high-speed internet services. This information can be used to plan and implement strategies to improve broadband connectivity and bridge the digital divide between urban and rural areas. By doing so, residents in remote or rural areas can have equal access to online resources, services, and opportunities, which is crucial in today's digital economy.

Secondly, broadband mapping can facilitate investment in the telecom sector. Telecom companies rely on accurate data to make investment decisions, and having comprehensive and up-to-date information on broadband infrastructure can help them to identify potential areas for investment. The availability of broadband mapping data can also reduce investment risks by providing an



accurate picture of the market, enabling them to make informed decisions on where and how to invest.

Thirdly, broadband mapping can help improve public services delivery in the Western Balkans countries. With accurate broadband data, policymakers can develop and implement e-government services that can make public services more accessible and efficient. This can include online services for health, education, social welfare, and other public services, which can help reduce administrative burdens on public institutions and improve access to services for citizens.

Fourthly, broadband mapping can help foster innovation and entrepreneurship in the Western Balkans. Access to high-speed internet services is a critical factor for the growth of the digital economy, and broadband mapping can help identify areas with the potential for innovation and entrepreneurship. With accurate data on broadband infrastructure, policymakers can develop policies and programs to promote entrepreneurship and innovation, attract foreign investment, and create new job opportunities for the region's residents.

Finally, broadband mapping can contribute to the overall economic development of the Western Balkans countries. With the implementation of broadband mapping, these countries can attract more foreign investment, improve productivity, and create new job opportunities in the tech sector. Improved broadband connectivity can also facilitate international trade and improve regional competitiveness in the global economy.

In conclusion, the implementation of broadband mapping in the Western Balkans countries can bring many benefits to the region, including improved broadband connectivity, better public services delivery, increased investment in the telecom sector, and enhanced economic development. By providing accurate and up-to-date data on broadband infrastructure, governments and policymakers in the region can take steps to bridge the digital divide, promote innovation and entrepreneurship, and foster economic growth.

atene KOM has a profound expertise on this matter, as we manage different broadband mapping systems in Germany and on an international level while using only Open Source Software (OSS) which is aligned with the EU directives. Thus, we can contribute by highlighting the added value of broadband mapping systems.

atene KOM recognizes the importance of partnerships and collaborations to achieve its goal of promoting the implementation of broadband mapping systems in the Western Balkans and beyond. By working with ITU, atene KOM can leverage the ITU's global network and expertise in promoting the adoption of broadband mapping systems. atene KOM is committed to working closely with the ITU to advance the adoption of broadband mapping systems and promote digital inclusion for all.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Albania, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, Bosnia & Hercegovina

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
- x Digital Transformation
- x 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
- 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:

- ☒ C2: Information and communication infrastructure

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

☒ SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

☒ SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities



