

# 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](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:** National Media and Infocommunications Authority Hungary

**FOCAL POINT:** dr. Szabolcs Szentlélek, Expert on International Affairs (NMHH),  
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**TITLE:** Multi-faceted umbrella programme regarding 3G switch off

### DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

From 2020 it was clear that operators are to gradually **switch off their 3G services** from the second half of 2022. Their aims are the more efficient use of spectrum allocated to them, the reduction of their operational costs, as well as speeding up their investments in 4G and 5G networks.

In line with European telecommunication policies **Hungarian NRA (NMHH) is backing the 3G switch-off** that

- improves the **efficiency of spectrum management**,
- supports the development of **Very High Capacity Networks (VHCN)** as suggested in the Connectivity Toolbox<sup>1</sup>,
- underlines the NRA's thrive to enhance consumer protection of users of telecommunication services.

NMHH prepared a **detailed analysis of the situation** and decided to **launch a programme consisting of communication, as well as direct and indirect support for users** that are affected by the 3G switch-off.

In an effort to minimize any possible adverse effects on residential users, individuals, businesses and m2m users, as well as to maximise the positive effects on the digital ecosystem, NMHH launched a multi-faceted umbrella programme called NetreFel ("Up to the Net") that

<sup>1</sup> <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/connectivity-toolbox>,



- provides **communication and professional advice** in order to encourage users to switch to 4G and 5G devices and subscriptions offering much higher quality services and better functionalities than their 3G devices;
- launched a **HUF 5 billion (appr. EUR 14 million) device exchange subsidy** programme for eligible residential 3G(2G) user could apply for a subsidy to the purchase of a new (VoLTE ready) 4G or 5G phone;
- initiated the **information of and preparation** for the 3G switch-off of **state, municipalities and private companies** (to encourage the possible examination of the regulation and procurement of identified, mostly critical 3G m2m use cases, like online cash registers, POS terminals, different sensors, etc.).

The primary target group of the communication element of NMHH's NetreFel programme consists of elderly citizens not using mobile internet. Adopting a wide **variety of communication tools** (landing page, Facebook-activities, display advertising, press, media and online PR-activities, conferences, podcast, influencers, public announcements, press releases, etc.) and a support scheme for 2G/3G mobiles. **The original web page was** <https://netrefel.hu/> which was replaced with a soft transition by the already available successor page, the <https://digipedia.hu/>.

**The device exchange subsidy element** of the NetreFel programme is based on the fact that **switching off the 3G networks will directly affect residential 3G mobile subscribers who actively use mobile internet**. While mobile voice calls will be taken over by 2G and 4G (in case of VoLTE devices) networks.

Experiences gathered throughout designing, implementing and closing this program could **offer useful orientations to regulators** investigating the rational and means of a more active involvement in the **3G switch off process** in terms of IT background, legal aspects (GDPR, competition policy, etc.), communication to end users and cooperation with telecom operators.

In line with the project, NMHH looks forward to sharing best practices on its experience among other stakeholders in the Europe region during the ITU Development Forum for Europe and cooperate with ITU and any potential Member State interested in implementing such activity at national level.

**COUNTRIES in FOCUS:** [Name countries to be impacted by this action]

**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]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 1: No Poverty  | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 2: Zero Hunger   | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 3: Good Health and Well- being                               | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 4: Quality Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 13: <u>Climate Action</u>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 5: Gender Equality   | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 14: Life Below Water   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation                                | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 15: Life on Land   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy                               | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth                           | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 9: <u>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</u> |   |

