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: International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Regional Office for Europe and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

FOCAL POINT:

International Telecommunication Union Regional Offices for Europe (ITU) EURregion@itu.int and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia REU-Digital-Agriculture@fao.org

TITLE: *Meeting the European Union's digital agriculture requirements. A guide for pre-accession countries*

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

ITU Europe Office and FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia have joined forces to develop joint guidelines entitled *"Meeting the European Union's digital agriculture requirements: A guide for pre-accession countries"*. This collaboration is based on the recognized need to support Europe Region countries in advancing meaningful rural connectivity and creating an enabling environment for the uptake of digital agriculture. In particular, to guide the European Union's pre-accession countries to meet the EU Digital Agriculture requirements, to support them in their journey to become equal members of the single EU market and implement their agricultural policies under the umbrella of European Common agricultural policy, as well as any other countries that have the ambition to align or enhance their policy actions with EU approaches.

, including developing a national self-assessment checklist. and coordinating with the European Commission, particularly the Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DG Agri), the Directorate-General for Communications Network, Content, and Technology (DG CNECT), and relevant EU Delegations

The Guide seeks to provide the necessary basis to design digital strategies and programs in agriculture and rural areas in line with EU Requirements. To do so, it presents the EU policy context

and provides guidance on the approach to be taken during the EU accession process in the area of the use of digital technologies in agriculture. The Guide sheds light on the mandatory CAP information systems to have in place, proposes opportunities for the digital transformation of pre-accession agricultural support programs (IPARD and ENPARD) for their better implementation, and presents the opportunities for digitalization in agriculture and rural areas (apart from e-government) enhancing the production of food and improvement of life in rural areas (E-agriculture). The guide also describes the available funding mechanisms for the necessary actions. The guide is divided into three sections; firstly, it provides EU policy context: Green Agenda & Digital transformation Farm to Fork, EU Rural Vision and EU Common agriculture policy EU enlargement; secondly, it gives the EU accession process in the area use of digital technologies in agriculture and the rural regions, Mandatory digital systems and digital Strategy in Agriculture and Rural areas Reshaping of pre-accession for post-accession programs Smart Villages. Lastly, the guide describes the available funding mechanisms for the necessary actions.

This guide also contains a national self-assessment checklist, which provides a solid foundation for the provision of on-the-ground support based on the scoping of needs and priorities.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS:

Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine, and Kosovo[1].

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

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[1] *All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

☐ 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