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

ORGANIZATION: Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Bulgaria

FOCAL POINT:

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TITLE: Project "Building a School STEM Environment"

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION:

Establishment of STEM centers in all public schools and centres for special educational support in Bulgaria, by 2026.

The project aims to create new school centers - an integrated set of specially created and equipped learning spaces with a focus on the study and application of competencies in the field of natural sciences and mathematics in state and municipal schools in the country. Each school center will include the following elements:

- physical environment (improvement of the interior architecture and furnishing of existing spaces)
- technology (equipment)
- learning content,
- teaching methods
- management of the educational process.

The project aims to build an educational STEM environment, develop students' STEM skills and increase skills for professional realisation on the labour market. The main objective is to create an integrated learning environment for a new generation in Bulgarian schools, which

will encourage and support educational innovations in teaching and learning in the field of STEM, creativity and research.

For its final result, the project aims to create innovative training centres with focus on STEM, which includes objectives/indicators specifically related to STEM goals: increasing the motivation of students to study science and mathematics; creating opportunities for project-based training, integrative knowledge, training on scientific topics and changing educational paradigms; increasing the engagement, skills and achievements of students (digital literacy; digital arts and creativity; skills related to the requirements of the industry; skills to solve real problems of life and business; mathematical thinking; skills to create technological solutions; work in team, critical thinking, etc.); encouraging students to create and improve technological solutions in the field of mechanics, programming and artificial intelligence; skills development for the creation of new technologies and automation; increasing the number of students interested in university specialties and jobs in the technology industries; contribute to the growth of technology industries and their share of GDP.

The implementation of the project is on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria and covers all state and municipal schools. The total financial support foreseen for all educational institutions is approximately EUR 280 million.

Presenting the Project "Building a School STEM Environment" the Republic of Bulgaria aims to share experience through ITU and the Regional Office for Europe with all stakeholders in the Europe region, given the good level of the technology sector development in the country, the successes of the Bulgarian students in technical specialties and the large number of girls and women in ICT, all as a result of the consistent public policy to stimulate the STEM environment.

COUNTRIES in FOCUS: Republic of Bulgaria

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