

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: [Ministry of Digital Affairs, Rep. of Poland]

FOCAL POINT: [Izabela Iglewska, Chief Expert, tel. 0048 734 117 974]

TITLE: Inclusive and secure ICT infrastructure and services for children

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION: [Provide a brief description up to 500 words]

Nowadays many countries (not only EU) are still facing issues of local digital exclusion resulting from poor or missing ICT infrastructure. Poland recognizes it as an obstacle for full development of intellectual capital. This deficiency is especially unfavourable for children living in low population areas which are very likely to be digitally excluded because of limited access to relevant infrastructure. In most cases it is due to limits of financial resources to purchase good-quality equipment. This exclusion means inability to use digital meanings in curricula such as new technologies or competence of its users.

In order to address the challenges of digital exclusion in schools, the Republic of Poland decided on introducing **the project on supporting the development of digital competences of students and teachers**. The legislation process behind it has already started and the government aims to initiate the project in Autumn 2023.

The project assumes that this year over PLN 1 billion will be allocated for the purchase of nearly 400 000 laptops for all fourth-grade students in elementary school and the project shall be continued resulting in new purchases of IT equipment for every next generation of students each year.

By implementing it we are expecting:

- civilizational leap in teaching methods from “analog” to digital education;
- equalization of educational opportunities for all students, particularly those living in low population areas;
- modern technologies enable the transfer of knowledge and experience between educational units



Young IT specialists benefiting from the project could significantly influence the acceleration of economic development if their knowledge is properly used in practice. At the same time, where there are noticeable differences in technology usage and existing digital divide gaps, it is crucial to provide appropriate information about the benefits of using the ICT tools. We believe that such higher usage in schools will result in real digital transformation of the society.

Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Republic of Poland is willing to provide all support to initiatives that aim to equalize the chances and opportunities with access to the newest ICT solutions for all students and overcome digital exclusion. As for year 2023 we encourage ITU Offices for Europe on establishing Remote platform to share and exchange experiences in overcoming digital exclusion of children. All European States shall make use of opportunity to collect knowledge and best practises that will inspire others to face challenges that are to be addressed in national initiatives roll-outs.

Poland wishes to encourage ITU and all Member States to participate in discussion that will definitely contribute to the ongoing work by sharing relevant feedback on best initiatives and projects that are implemented in the region. This dialogue shall be promoted among all relevant stakeholders such as policymakers, business and academia representatives.

At the same time we are looking forward for further straitening relations on bilateral level with all interested partners.

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

- European Member States

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 2: Zero Hunger | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 4: Quality Education | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 13: Climate Action |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 17: Partnerships for the SDGs |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | |

