

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: Electronics Communication Office of Latvia

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TITLE: MetaCity Riga

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

Last year, in 2022, have been signed 3 Memorandums of Understanding, including Metacity Riga project – which foresees Metacity ecosystem development and test bed creation in Riga – later to be transferred to partnership countries – all the Baltic Sea region countries.

Latvia aims to be a front runner of Metaverse ecosystem development. With a strong base of technical expertise (strong technical university with increasing number of international students), well established 5G network and infrastructure, with one of the fastest internet speeds in EU and being a well-connected within the Baltics (airport, trains, cross-border 5G corridor etc.) Latvia has already an appropriate infrastructure to create a Metaverse testbed for fast technology deployment and testing to receive early adopter feedback. Latvia can provide easy nation-wide testing and implementation of technology due to centralized and relatively small population (~1.7M); ~1/3rd living in Riga. Availability and open accessibility of data facilitates new application development. With limited bureaucratic layers Latvia becomes attractive to start-ups and enterprises to launch the product on the market particularly from the Metacity Riga test bed. Being a small country Latvia is very agile and ready to create an enabling environment for Metaverse solution development and uptake with related policy and regulatory framework behind it.

Metacity Riga project foresees several milestones to be achieved by 2026. Metacity test bed initially will include 3 main verticals – Healthcare, Urban Environment and Education/Training. The main stakeholders here are – government, Ministry of Economics and Ministry of Education and



Science, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Regional Development, enterprises, communication and network providers, hospitals, universities and schools, publishers and developers.

For the year 2023 to launch the Metacity Riga ecosystem development it is planned to organize international Hackathon to work on several challenges coming from the industry across the first 3 above mentioned verticals - Healthcare, Urban Environment and Education/Training. Hackathon will gather international teams to develop innovative solutions to be further uptaken in hospitals, construction supervision process, universities and schools. The winning teams will be further assisted and will receive a support to lead the product to the market.

For the year 2024 is planned to enrich the Metaverse ecosystem with several educational, healthcare and urban applications to encourage users to test and uptake the new technology and overturn an opinion that Metaverse is only about gaming and entertainment. To accelerate the new solution emergence a clear definition of policy and regulatory framework will be developed. The focus will be put on digital twin development for real-world objects, places, people and situations. By merging digital twins with their real-world counterparts, in education it will help to follow the educational development, monitor the progress, give access to information and knowledge, interact with data and make a data-driven decisions. In healthcare a digital patient will improve health monitoring, provide simulation possibilities and risk analysis. In urban applications it will allow to build more efficient and sustainable buildings, and cities. This convergence of digital and real worlds will change the way we work and collaborate, enabling real-time interaction with other people and machines, just like in the real world

For the year 2025 it is planned to continue Metaverse ecosystem extension by industrial applications to mobilize resources, develop sustainable products and foster international cooperation. A clear regulatory framework and connected digital twin backbone has to be developed in a way government, industry and educational sector can interact with each other.

The Electronics Communication Office of Latvia appreciates the invitation to participate at the Regional Development Forum for Europe and looks forward to continuing its collaboration with ITU to promote digital development, 5G, and the Metaverse, as well as to sharing its best practices and experience with the ITU community at the Regional Development Forum for Europe.

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

5G Techritory gathers all the Baltic Sea region countries. – Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and Denmark.

The gained experience will be further transferred to partnership countries. The Metacity Riga ecosystem will be developed with an international cooperation and further extended on a global scale.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 4: Quality Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 13: Climate Action |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 5: Gender Equality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 14: Life Below Water |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 15: Life on Land |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | <input type="checkbox"/> SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions |
| <input checked="" 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 | |

