



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 6 April 2023

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional and International Organizations
- Regulators
- Regional Offices for Europe of UN System Organizations
- European Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the Advisory Groups (TSAG, TDAG, RAG) and ITU-D Study Groups

Subject: ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (Timisoara, Romania, 22-23 May 2023) and Regional Consultation (deadline 1 May 2023)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the [Regional Development Forum for Europe](#) (RDF-EUR) to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in close collaboration with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT) and hosted by the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania. The Forum will be held in a hybrid format on **22-23 May 2023 in Timisoara, Romania**, back-to-back with the CEPT Committee for ITU Policies (Com-ITU) meeting, held also in hybrid format, from 24 to 26 May 2023.

The Annual Regional Development Forum for Europe provides an opportunity for exchange of views between ITU and decision-makers of ITU Member States and Sector Members as well as other stakeholders in the Europe region. It serves as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on ITU's regional work plan.

RDF-EUR will report on the outcomes and implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Emphasis will be given to the five Regional Initiatives for Europe approved by the WTDC-22. All the stakeholders will have an opportunity to discuss implementation plans, announce financial and in-kind commitments towards ongoing and future work, and exchange experiences and good practices.

In this context, the ITU Office for Europe is launching a [Regional Consultation](#) that presents an opportunity for ITU Member States, Sector Members, and other stakeholders to contribute to ITU's activities at the regional level while reflecting the strategic needs of the region during the implementation period, 2023 – 2024.

Stakeholders contributing to the implementation of the Kigali Action Plan at regional level, in particular to ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe, are kindly invited to provide their written input by **1 May 2022** to

eurregion@itu.int, using the RDF-EUR Contributions Template available at the RDF-EUR website http://www.itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23.

The responses to the consultation will be aggregated and consolidated into a revised Draft Implementation Plan for 2023-2024 and will be shared with the Membership and presented for discussion at RDF-EUR on 22 May 2023. All submitted proposals will be used as the basis for further coordination at the ITU level.

RDF-EUR will address, from a regional perspective, the results-based management approach applied for all actions carried out in the region as well as activities related to ITU Study Groups, Membership, Partnerships, and special initiatives such as Partner2Connect, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development, Connect2Recover, Generation Connect, ITU Academy Training Centers, as well as regional contributions to the implementation of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Action Lines and United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A special segment of the event will be dedicated to the [Partner2Connect Digital Coalition](#) match-making that provides an opportunity for stakeholders' to express their commitments which could be based on the pledges that they have already made or new pledges aimed at addressing country needs in Europe with the aim of advancing digital development in the region and implementation of the Regional Initiatives.

RDF-EUR will also offer an opportunity to discuss ITU's role in the UN system and its contribution at regional and country level to foster digital development. Finally, RDF-EUR will take into consideration the regional activities planned by Standardisation and Radiocommunication Bureaus as well as General Secretariat at the regional level.

The draft agenda of the Forum is attached as **Annex 1**.

RDFs are open to all stakeholders willing to strengthen cooperation and partnership among telecommunication/ICT policymakers, regulators, industry, academia, regional and international development agencies, and organizations on specific regional telecommunication and ICT matters.

Please note that RDF-EUR will be paperless. Documents related to this event, including agenda, presentations and practical information with guidance on how to connect to the online platform, will be available on the ITU website at http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23.

The Forum will be conducted in English only. To participate, please register online using the link available at <http://www.itu.int/go/regitud> no later than **10 May 2023**.

For any additional enquiry, Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (e-mail: eurregion@itu.int) remains at your disposal.

Yours faithfully,



Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1: Draft Agenda

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 in cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)

22-23 May 2023

Timisoara, Romania

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

Remote participation at http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23

(Meeting held back-to-back with Com-ITU of CEPT - 24-26 May 2023)

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, 22 May 2023

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

13:30 - 14:00	Networking Coffee
14:00 - 14:30	OPENING CEREMONY: Welcome remarks
14:30 - 15:30	PANEL ONE: Digital development in Europe: Trends, opportunities, challenges
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee Beak
15:45 - 16:45	PANEL TWO: Building upon the outcomes of the ITU Conferences and UN processes towards the results and impact oriented regional actions in Europe
16:45 - 17:45	PANEL THREE: One UN for digital development and ITU as the UN agency for digital in Europe
17:45 - 18:00	Summary of the day
18:00 - 19:30	Social event



Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

8:30 - 9:00	Networking coffee
9:00 - 10:00	ROUNDTABLE: Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development
10:00 - 16:30	PARTNER2CONNECT (P2C) PARTNERSHIP ROUNDTABLES Match-making: Fostering partnership building to accelerate digital development in Europe and beyond
10:00 - 11:00	P2C ROUNDTABLE ONE: Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Europe and beyond
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:00	P2C ROUNDTABLE TWO: Digital infrastructure development EUR1: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Announcement of Commitments and target countries within Europe
12:00 - 13:00	P2C ROUNDTABLE THREE: Digital transformation for resilience EUR2: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Announcement of Commitments and target countries within Europe
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 - 14:45	P2C ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Digital inclusion and skills development EUR3: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Announcement of Commitments and target countries within Europe
14:45 - 15:30	P2C ROUNDTABLE FIVE: Trust and confidence in the use of ICTs EUR4: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Announcement of Commitments and target countries within Europe
15:30 - 15:45	Coffee break
15:45 - 16:30	P2C ROUNDTABLE SIX: Digital innovation ecosystems EUR5: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Announcement of Commitments and target countries within Europe
16:30 - 17:15	FINAL ROUNDTABLE: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe: Rolling Implementation Plan for 2023-24
17:15 - 17:30	Closing ceremony

