

# ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

## *Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

22 - 23 May 2023 | Timisoara, Romania

[http://itu.int/go/RDF\\_EUR\\_23](http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23)

### MEETING REPORT

Version 1.1 | 23 May 2023

Any comments should be directed to [eurregion@itu.int](mailto:eurregion@itu.int), no later than 30 May 2023

## 1. Introduction

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR) was 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 was 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.

RDF-EUR reported on the outcomes and implementation of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-22) held in Kigali, Rwanda in June 2022. Emphasis was be given to the five Regional Initiatives for Europe approved by the WTDC-22, providing all the stakeholders with 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 launched 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. The responses to the consultation were aggregated and consolidated into an Operationalization Plan of the RDF Outcomes and were shared with the Membership and presented for discussion at the RDF Regional Partner to Connect Roundtables, where challenges meet solutions to translate commitments into tangible actions to advance meaningful connectivity and advance sustainable digital transformation in the region.



All submissions will be used as the basis for further coordination with all stakeholders once progressing with the implementation. Submissions have been also reflected on the pledging platform of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Coalition.

RDF also addressed, 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.

## 2. Contributions and Documentation

The meeting resulted in the 2023-2024 Implementation Plan for Regional Initiatives for Europe. This outcome was built upon 120 presentations and 109 written contributions. They are available on the [RDF website](#) along with the presentations, video materials and photographs.

## 3. Participation

RDF-EUR was attended by over 200 participants (including 95 onsite), representing 40 Members States, 5 regional organizations, 7 UN specialized agencies. RDF-EUR was joined by 7 Minister-Level representatives, 4 Presidents of National Regulatory Authorities and Agencies, Chairs of BEREC, EMERG, EaPeReg. The list of participants is available on the [RDF website](#).

## 4. Appointment of the Chair of the Regional Development Forum for Europe

**H.E. Bogdan Dumea**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of Romania was appointed as the Chair of the Regional Development Forum for Europe. **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of the ITU Office for Europe was appointed as the RDF Secretary.

## 5. Opening Segment

The opening segment consisted of the opening ceremony and high-level dialogue on digital development in Europe.





- **Ms. Ekaterine Imedadze**, Commissioner COMCOM, Georgia, and Chair 2023 of EaPeReg
- **Mr. Andrei Dodea**, Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy, Romania

Special Message from Sweden as the Presidency of the EU Council was delivered by **Ms. Susanna Mattsson**, Sweden's Councillor and Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, Sweden.

Caption of all interventions will be made available on the [RDF website](#).

## 6. Panel Discussions

RDF-EUR built upon three Panels. **Panel One** focused on 'Building upon the outcomes of the ITU Conferences and UN processes towards the results and impact oriented regional actions in Europe'. It provided an opportunity to update all participants on the ITU outcomes of all ITU conferences, including PP-22, WTDC-22, WTS-22, WRC-19 and their strategic importance for the actions carried out at the regional and national level, requiring the ITU Office for Europe to follow one ITU approach. Particular attention was drawn to the strategic goals of the Union, ITU-D priorities and regional priorities for Europe. Discussions included the 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, [GovStack](#), 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. Setting the context presentation was delivered by **Ms Valentina Stadnic**, ITU Digital Services Expert, and was followed by panel discussions composed by the European representatives to the ITU structures as well as staff of BDT, TSB, BR:

- **Ms. Inga Rimkeviciene**, Advisor on International Cooperation, Chair of the Project Team on Strategic ITU-D Issues, Com-ITU, CEPT and Vice Chair of TDAG
- **Ms. Blanca Gonzalez**, Head of Unit at the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructures, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and Vice Chair of TDAG
- **Dr. Fabio Bigi**, Expert, Ministry for Business and Made in Italy, Chair of the Inter-sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest
- **Dr. Toni Janevski**, European Vice Chair of the ITU Group on Capacity Building Initiative, Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT), North Macedonia
- **Ms. Mindel Van de Laar**, Head Capacity Development Office, United Nations University, The Netherlands



- **Ms. Amela Odobasic**, Director, Spectrum Department, RAK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Bilel Jamoussi**, Chief of the Study Groups Department at Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mr. Nick Sinanis**, Study Group Advisor, Radiocommunication Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**Panel Two** focused on ‘One UN for digital development with ITU as the UN agency for digital’ provided an opportunity to discuss delivery on digital by the UN system as One. In Europe 9 countries benefit from the UN onsite presence and operations. ITU supports operations of all UN Country Teams remotely while leading two coordination mechanisms, i.e. UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia and UN Brussels Team Taskforce for Digitalization for Sustainable Development. Several products and services such as Digital Development Country Profiles or UN Digital Development Toolbox provide an opportunity for strengthening cooperation between UN agencies with the aim of supporting the countries on digital. The session was moderated by **Ms Sarah Delporte**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe, who provided the setting the context presentation, followed by the panel discussion:

- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasyn**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
- **Mr. Nabil Gangi**, Deputy Regional Representative, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
- **Ms. Daniela Di Gianantonio**, Digital Agriculture Team Leader, FAO Regional Office of Europe and Central Asia, FAO
- **Mr. Simon Springett**, Resident Coordinator, UN Moldova
- **Ms. Rossana Dudziak**, Resident Coordinator, UN North Macedonia
- **Ms. Ingrid MacDonald**, Resident Coordinator, UN Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Ana Nedeljkovic Belja**, Programme Manager PRO, UNOPS Serbia / **Mr. Dragan Mladenovic**, Good Governance Advisor, UNOPS Serbia
- **Mr. Sameer Sharma**, Head of Special Initiatives, ITU Development Bureau

**Panel Three** focused on ‘Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development’. This Panel provided an opportunity to present a series of activities carried out at the national level in Europe. It also offered to present the recently launched Alliance and discuss a new approaches towards bridging the Digital Innovation Divide and empowering ITU-D membership to overcome challenges on their path through digital transformation – unlock their digital potential, build local capabilities in



innovation and entrepreneurship, and accelerate their ecosystems' impact on cross-cutting sectors for an inclusive and sustainable society. The Alliance aims at enabling transformational projects fostering digital innovation and entrepreneurship for national, regional and global impact.

This session was moderated by **Mr. Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe and benefited from the introductory remarks by

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau
- **H.E. Valeriu Zgonea**, President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications, Romania.

The following speakers contributed to the session:

- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Mr. Nicos Ioannou**, Electronic Communications Officer, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus
- **Ms. Sophia Papathanasopoulou**, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece
- **Ms. Marinela Lazarevic**, Head of Department for Electronic Communications and Radio Spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro
- **Mr. Nikola Nikolov**, ICT State Advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia
- **Mr. Neils Kalnins**, 5G Techritory Program Director, Electronic Communications Office, Latvia
- **Mr. Uwe Beader**, Director International Relations ITU/UN, Rohde & Schwarz

The main points raised during the panel discussions included the following:

- The application of one ITU and One UN approach for all regional activities as well as activities carried out at the national level was identified as critical for generating impact on the ground.
- Importance of sharing best practices using all mechanisms available at the ITU level, e.g. Study Groups, Workshops, Seminars, Twinning projects.



- ITU Study Groups and their products and services were highlighted as an important offering to the countries and mechanism for building human capacities and fostering innovation. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide inputs, as well as engage in the process of drafting.
- ICT sector experiences rapid evolution due to emerging technologies, that needs to be timely captured in the work of ITU, therefore input from private sector and research institutions are of high value.
- Multi-stakeholder character of ITU was highlighted as important value for implementation of regional initiatives and the work of ITU in general.
- Feedback on all ITU capacity building activities is of high value to further enhance quality of ITU offering, in order to remain relevant and competitive.
- Discussions at ITU need to be further enriched with good practices, use cases and projects, in particular to be provided by those who are working on the ground. Existing collection mechanisms should be used to the extent possible.
- European membership is encouraged to advocate for the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives that are seen as a set of regional priorities, contributing to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.
- Special efforts should be dedicated to avoid duplication of actions undertaken in Europe by diverse organizations, making sure that the ITU Regional Initiatives provide additional value and are seen as an effective and neutral platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration.
- All stakeholders were encouraged to be in direct contact with European country focal points in the ITU structures to ensure that their points of view are addressed at the global level.

## 7. Partner 2 Connect Round Tables

The six Partner2Connect Roundtables focused on fostering partnership building to accelerate digital development in Europe and beyond. This series of roundtables offered a comprehensive understanding of the effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Europe and beyond, while the specific five roundtables on each ITU Europe Regional initiatives for Europe unfolded a more coherent and concrete strategy and actions to implement and advance the digital development at the regional level, from Digital Infrastructure Development, Digital Transformation for Resilience, Digital



Inclusion and Skills Development, Trust and Confidence in the use of ICTs, and Digital Innovation Ecosystems.

Ahead of the Forum, ITU Member States, Sector Members and other stakeholders were invited to reflect on the strategic needs of the region for 2023 – 2024 and share their commitments towards concrete actions to advance meaningful connectivity. Over 100 written contributions were submitted by the time of the RDF-EUR proving the basis for forging several multi-stakeholders' partnerships (See Annex Two). All submissions were presented at the Regional Partner to Connect Roundtables where challenges met solutions to translate commitments into tangible actions to advance meaningful connectivity and advance sustainable digital transformation in the region.

The meeting considered 109 written contributions and 120 presentations provided by European stakeholders. An open discussion with additional proposals and commitments led towards the development of the Operationalization Plan of the RDF Outcomes 2023 as presented in Annex 3. The Operationalization Plan is a living document that will serve as guiding tool for implementation.

## 8. Declaration and Special Announcements

The Regional Development Forum provided an opportunity for special announcements:

- A declaration on cybersecurity capacity building and gender inclusion in cybersecurity in the Western Balkans - Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Campus – was signed with the Government of Slovenia, also representing the Governments of France and Montenegro;
- A new partnership with 5G Techritory was announced to strengthen joint work on 5G technologies, further advancement of 5G implementation in Europe, and sharing good practices on 5G implementation across the world;
- The regional implementation of the new EU funded project on Universal Meaningful Connectivity was officially kicked-off for Europe.

## 9. Final conclusions

RDF-EUR participants thanked the ITU for organization of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe. Special thanks were expressed to Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, and the whole team of the ITU Office for Europe led by Mr Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe. Participants expressed their appreciation to H.E. Bogdan Dumea, Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization of





Romania, the Chair of RDF-EUR, for efficient conducting of the event, as well as Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, who acted as the RDF Secretary. Appreciations were also directed towards the CEPT, its Members and Management, including Ms. Cristiana Flutur, Co-President of the CEPT and Ms. Inga Rimkeviciene, Chair of the Project Team on ITU-D Strategic Issues who facilitated preparations of the meeting. The National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) of Romania was thanked for hosting the meeting. Special thanks were also expressed for organization of a side even on ‘Towards Strengthening the Intergenerational Dialogue for Digital Future’, facilitated by Israel.

## Annexes

**Annex 1:** Final Agenda of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe

**Annex 2:** List of Contributions Submitted to the ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe

**Annex 3:** Operationalization Plan of the RDF Outcomes



## Annex One

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

### Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals

22 - 23 May 2023 | Timisoara, Romania

[http://itu.int/go/RDF\\_EUR\\_23](http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23)

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

#### Monday, 22 May 2023

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

**13:00 - 14:00** Welcome Lunch, Courtesy of Romania

#### 14:00 - 14:30 OPENING SEGMENT CEREMONY

(13:00-13:30 CEST)

**Welcome and moderation: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- **Ms. Cristiana Flutur**, Director of ANCOM, Co-President of CEPT and Chair of Com-ITU
- **Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son**, Regional Director of UN Development Cooperation Office for Europe and Central Asia
- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
- **Ms. Athena Vassilopoulos**, Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy, Greece/Luxemburg

**Appointment of the Chair of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe**

**14:30 - 15:20**  
(13:30-14:20 CEST)

#### OPENING SEGMENT PANEL: Digital development in Europe: Trends, opportunities, challenges

**Setting the context: Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe

- **H.E. Bogdan Dumea**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania
- **H.E. Azir Aliu**, Minister, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia
- **H.E. Enkelejda Muçaj**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **H.E. Maris Sprindzuks**, Minister for Environmental Protection and Regional Development, Latvia
- **H.E. Valeriya Ionan**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Ukraine
- **H.E. Nele Leosk**, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
- **H.E. Tadej Rupel**, Ambassador - National Coordinator for External Aspects of Digitalization, AI & Cyber Security, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Republic of Slovenia



- **Ms. Olga Tumuruc**, Head of Moldova E-Governance Agency, Moldova
- **Mr. Goran Djurdjevic**, Assistant Minister, Sector for EU integration and Project Management, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia
- **Dr. Kostas Masselos**, President of the Hellenic Telecommunications and Post Commission (EETT), Greece and 2023 Chair of BEREC
- **Ms. Naama Henig**, Head of International Affairs Department. Ministry of Communications, Israel and 2023 Chair of EMERG
- **Ms. Ekaterine Imedadze**, Commissioner COMCOM, Georgia, and Chair 2023 of EaPeReg
- **Mr. Andrei Dodea**, Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy, Romania

### Special Message from Sweden as the Presidency of the EU Council

- **Ms. Susanna Mattsson**, Sweden's Councillor and Deputy Director, Ministry of Finance, Sweden

**15:20 - 15:35**  
(14:20-14:35 CEST)

### Special Announcement

**15:35 - 16:00**

### Coffee Break and Group Photo

**16:00 - 16:50**  
(15:00-15:50 CEST)

### PANEL ONE: Building upon the outcomes of the ITU Conferences and UN processes towards the results and impact oriented regional actions in Europe

**Moderation: Valentina Stadnic**, Digital Services Officer, ITU Office for Europe

- **Ms. Inga Rimkeviciene**, Advisor on International Cooperation, Chair of the Project Team on Strategic ITU-D Issues, Com-ITU, CEPT and Vice Chair of TDAG
- **Ms. Blanca Gonzalez**, Head of Unit at the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructures, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation and Vice Chair of TDAG
- **Dr. Fabio Bigi**, Expert, Ministry for Business and Made in Italy, Chair of the Inter-sector Coordination Group (ISCG) on issues of mutual interest
- **Dr. Toni Janevski**, European Vice Chair of the ITU Group on Capacity Building Initiative, Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT), North Macedonia
- **Dr. Mindel Van de Laar**, Head Capacity Development Office, United Nations University, The Netherlands
- **Ms. Amela Odobasic**, Director, Spectrum Department, RAK, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Bilel Jamoussi**, Chief of the Study Groups Department at Standardization Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **Mr. Nick Sinanis**, Study Group Advisor, Radiocommunication Bureau, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

**16:50 - 17:45**  
(15:50-16:45 CEST)

### PANEL TWO: One UN for digital development in Europe with ITU as the UN agency for digital



**Moderation: Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe and  
**Ms. Sarah Delporte**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

- **Mr. Dmitry Mariyasin**, Deputy Executive Secretary, UNECE
- **Mr. Nabil Gangi**, Deputy Regional Representative, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia, FAO
- **Ms. Daniela Di Gianantonio**, Digital Agriculture Team Leader, FAO Regional Office of Europe and Central Asia, FAO
- **Mr. Simon Springett**, Resident Coordinator, UN Moldova
- **Ms. Rossana Dudziak**, Resident Coordinator, UN North Macedonia
- **Ms. Ingrid MacDonald**, Resident Coordinator, UN Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Ana Nedeljkovic Belja**, Programme Manager PRO, UNOPS Serbia / **Mr. Dragan Mladenovic**, Good Governance Advisor, UNOPS Serbia
- **Mr. Sameer Sharma**, Head of Special Initiatives, ITU Development Bureau

**17:45 - 17:55**

(16:45-16:55 CEST)

**Special Announcement**

**17:55 - 18:10**

(16:55-17:10 CEST)

**Summary of the day**

- ITU Office for Europe

**18:30 - 22:00**

(17:30-21:00 CEST)

**Social event outside Timisoara**

Meeting point: Hotel Timisoara at 18:30

## Tuesday, 23 May 2023

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

**8:30 - 9:00**

**Networking coffee**

**9:00 - 9:50**

(8:00-8:50 CEST)

**PANEL THREE: Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development**

**Moderation: Mr. Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

**Introductory Remarks: Dr. Cosmas Zavazava**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

- **H.E. Valeriu Zgonea**, President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications, Romania
- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Mr. Nicos Ioannou**, Electronic Communications Officer, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus
- **Ms. Sophia Papathanasopoulou**, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece
- **Ms. Marinela Lazarevic**, Head of Department for Electronic Communications and Radio Spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro
- **Mr. Nikola Nikolov**, ICT State Advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia
- **Mr. Neils Kalnins**, 5G Techritory Program Director, Electronic Communications Office, Latvia



- **Mr. Uwe Beader**, Director International Relations ITU/UN, Rohde & Schwarz

**9:50 - 17:15**  
(8:50-16:15 CEST)

**PARTNER 2 CONNECT (P2C) ROUNDTABLES: Fostering partnership building to accelerate digital development in Europe and beyond**

**9:50 - 10:35**  
(8:50-9:35 CEST)

**P2C ROUNDTABLE ONE: Effective mechanisms for transforming commitments into the scaled-up impact of digital for sustainable development in Europe and beyond**

**Setting Context and Moderation: Mr Sameer Sharma**, Head, Special Initiatives, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

- **Ms. Radka Sibille**, Digital Affairs Officer, European Union Delegation
- **Mr. David Roos**, Deputy Head of the GIZ Sector Programme Digital Development, Germany
- **Mr. Dirk-Olivier von der Emden**, Specialist in International Relations, Federal Office of Communications, Switzerland
- **Ms. Blanca Gonzalez**, Head of Unit, Cabinet of the Secretary of State Head of Unit, Ministry of Industry Energy and Tourism, Spain
- **Mr. Teddy Woodhouse**, International Policy Manager, OFCOM, United Kingdom
- **Ms. Julia Jasinska**, Head of International Relations and Strategic Advocacy, Nokia
- **Mr. Tomas Marques**, Regional Sub-programme Coordinator, Science-Policy and Air Quality Europe Office, UNEP / **Ms. Giulia Iattoni**, Assistant Programme Officer, UNITAR

**10:35 - 10:45**  
(9:35-9:45 CEST)

**Special Projects**

- **Mr. Thierry Geiger**, Senior Economist & Head, Data and Analytics Division at International Telecommunication Union
- **Valentina Stadnic**, Digital Services Officer, ITU Office for Europe

**10:45 - 11:00**  
(9:45-10:00 CEST)

**Coffee break**

**11:00 - 12:30**  
(10:00-11:30 CEST)

**P2C ROUNDTABLE TWO: Digital infrastructure development**

*EUR1: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe*

**Moderation: Mr. Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

*Broadband Development*

- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Mr. Nicos Ioannou**, Electronic Communications Officer, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus
- **Ms. Gulnaz Bokuchava**, Chief Specialist of Electronic Communications and Information Technologies Development Division Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
- **Dr. Szabolcs Szentlélek**, Expert on international affairs, National Media and Info communications Authority (NMHH), Hungary
- **Ms. Naama Henig**, Head of International Affairs Department. Ministry



of Communications, Israel and 2023 Chair of EMERG

- **Ms. Marinela Lazarevic**, Head of Department for Electronic Communications and Radio Spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro
- **Ms. Handan Cantekinler**, Chief ICT Expert, Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Türkiye (BTK), Türkiye

#### *Broadband Mapping*

- **Mr. Marko Simončič**, Head of Telecommunications Regulation Sector Networks and Services Department, The Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS) / **Mr. Primož Uršič**, Head of Sector for monitoring infrastructure investments, The Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS)
- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Ms. Adelina Ognjanska**, Chief Expert in European Coordination and International Cooperation Directorate, Bulgaria
- **Mr. Davide Gallino**, Head of Unit, Statistics and research directorate, Authority for Communications Guarantees (AGCOM), Italy
- **Ms Aleksandra Pecysz-Okońska**, Head of International Organizations Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland / **Mr Michał Chojnowski**, Expert, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland
- **Mr. Georgian Grigore**, Delegate, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania
- **Mr. Marko Simončič**, Head of Telecommunications Regulation Sector Networks and Services Department, The Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS) / **Mr. Primož Uršič**, Head of Sector for monitoring infrastructure investments, The Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia (AKOS)
- **Mr. Henri Haxhiraj**, Head of International Subsidiaries, atene KOM

#### *Human capacity development*

- **Ms. Meliha Kovacevic**, Head of Telecommunication Licensing Department, Communications Regulatory Agency (CRA), Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Ms. Kerstin Borglin**, Executive Advisor in Digital Transformation, Swedish Program in Development Regions (SPIDER), Sweden

#### **Interventions related to ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Ukraine)**

- **Mr. Yurii Shchyhol**, Chairman, State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection, Ukraine
- **H.E. Julius Skačkauskas**, Vice-Minister of Transport and Communications, Lithuania
- **Ms. Inga Rimkeviciene**, Advisor on international cooperation, Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT), Lithuania
- **Mr. Rafal Bartoszewski**, Chief Expert in International



Telecommunication Policy Unit, Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Rep. of Poland

- **Ms. Blanca Gonzales**, Head of Unit at the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Digital Infrastructures, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Digital Transformation, Spain
- **Ms. Karolina Sölsnaes**, Legal Adviser, Swedish Post and Telecom Authority (PTS), Sweden
- **Mr. Oli Bird**, Head of International Internet & Technology Policy, OFCOM, United Kingdom
- **Ms. Ksenja Podpečan**, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia

**12:30 - 13:20**  
(11:30-12:20 CEST)

### **P2C ROUNDTABLE THREE: Digital transformation for resilience**

EUR2: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe

**Moderation: Valentina Stadnic**, Digital Services Officer, ITU Office for Europe

#### *Digitalization*

- **Mr. Rafał Bartoszewski**, Chief Expert in International Telecommunication Policy Unit, Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Rep. of Poland
- **Mr. Dragan Mladenovic**, Good Governance Advisor, UNOPS Serbia / **Ms. Ana Nedeljkovic Belja**, Programme Manager PRO, UNOPS Serbia
- **Mr. David Roos**, Deputy Head of the GIZ Sector Programme Digital Development, Germany
- **Mr. Maksym Shkilov**, Adviser to the Vice-prime-minister - Minister of Digital Transformation of Ukraine
- **H.E. Nele Leosk**, Ambassador-at-Large for Digital Affairs, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Estonia
- **Ms. Olga Tumuruc**, Head of Moldova E-Governance Agency, Moldova
- **Mr. Nikola Nikolov**, ICT State Advisor, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, North Macedonia
- **Dr. Toni Janevski**, Group on Capacity Building Initiative, Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies (FEEIT), North Macedonia
- **Mr. Dejan Buha**, Project Manager, UNDP, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr. Sherman Kong**, Senior Advisor, Digital Impact Alliance
- **Ms. Doris Pöld**, CEO, Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications

#### *Emergency response*

- **Mr. Alexandr Tatarov**, Deputy Head of General Inspectorate for Emergency Situation, Moldova
- **Mr. Vilem Vesely**, Deputy Director, Electronic Communications Department at Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic
- **Ms. Gulnaz Bokuchava**, Chief Specialist of Electronic Communications and Information Technologies Development Division Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Georgia
- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania

#### *Enabling environment*

- **Ms. Marinela Lazarević**, Head of Department for Electronic Communications and Radio Spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Government of Montenegro



- **Ms. Nabil Gangi**, Deputy Regional Representative, FAO

**13:20 - 14:20****Lunch break****14:20 - 15:15**

(13:20-14:15 CEST)

**P2C ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Digital inclusion and skills development***EUR3: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe***Moderation: Sarah Delporte**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe*Digital skills*

- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Ms. Adelina Ognjanska**, Chief Expert in European Coordination and International Cooperation Directorate, Bulgaria
- **Ms. Naama Henig**, Head of International Affairs Department. Ministry of Communications, Israel and 2023 Chair of EMERG
- **Mr. Nicos Ioannou**, Electronic Communications Officer, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digital Policy, Cyprus
- **Ms. Ksenja Podpečan**, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia
- **Ms. Handan Cantekinler**, Chief ICT Expert, Information and Communication Technologies Authority of Türkiye (BTK), Türkiye
- **Ms. Engel-Mari Mölder**, Cooperation Projects Coordinator, Tallin University of Technology
- **Ms. Izabela Iglewska**, Chief Specialist, International Telecommunication Policy Unit, Ministry of Digital Affairs of the Rep. of Poland
- **Ms. Marinela Lazarević**, Head of Department for Electronic Communications and Radio Spectrum, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Government of Montenegro
- **Mr. Teddy Woodhouse**, International Policy Manager, OFCOM, United Kingdom
- **Mr. Paulius Vaina**, Adviser, Communication Regulatory Authority (RRT), Lithuania

*Digital inclusion*

- **Ms. Viktoriia Omelianenko**, Co-Founder, NGO MinzMin Ukraine
- **Ms. Inga Rimkeviciene**, Advisor on international cooperation, Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT), Lithuania
- **Dr. Caroline Wamala Larsson**, Director, SPIDER / **Ms. Kerstin Borglin** - Executive Advisor in Digital Transformation, Swedish Program in Development Regions (SPIDER), Sweden
- **Mr. Boris Radanovic**, Online Safety Expert, SWGfL, UK
- **Ms. Sabine Lobnig**, Director Communications, Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF)

**15:15 - 16:05**

(14:15 -15:05 CEST)

**P2C ROUNDTABLE FIVE: Trust and confidence in the use of ICTs***EUR4: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe***Moderation: Sarah Delporte**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe



### Child Online Protection

- **H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, Former President of Malta and Chair of the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society, Malta
- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Ms. Viktoriia Omelianenko**, Co-Founder, NGO MinzMin Ukraine
- **Mr. Peter Joziase**, Founder, Digital Child Rights Foundation, The Netherlands
- **Ms. Aleksandra Pecysz-Okońska**, Head of Unit, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland
- **Mr. Boris Radanovic**, Online Safety Expert, SWGfL, UK
- **Mr. Goran Djurdjevic**, Assistant Minister, Sector for EU integration and Project Management, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia

### Cybersecurity

- **Mr. Rexhion Qafa**, Head of Cyber Security Incident Management Unit, National Authority for Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECCS), Albania
- **Ms. Ksenja Podpečan**, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Slovenia
- **Ms. Handan Cantekinler**, Chief ICT Expert, Information and Communication Technologies Authority (BTK), Türkiye

**16:05 - 16:20**      **Coffee break**

**16:20 - 17:05**      **P2C ROUNDTABLE SIX: Digital innovation ecosystems**  
(15:20-16:05 CEST)      *EUR5: ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe*

**Moderation: Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe

- **Dr. Irena Malolli**, Director of Telecommunications and Post Strategy Development, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania
- **Ms. Sophia Papathanasopoulou**, Ministry of Digital Governance, Greece
- **Mr. Neils Kalnins**, 5G Techritory Program Director, Electronic Communications Office, Latvia
- **Ms. Marinela Lazarevic**, Ministry of Economic Development and Tourism, Montenegro
- **Dr. Mindel Van de Laar**, Head Capacity Development Office, United Nations University

**17:05-17:15**      **FINAL ROUNDTABLE**  
(16:05-16:15 CEST)      *ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe: Rolling Implementation Plan for 2023 -2024*

**17:15 - 17:30**      **Closing ceremony**  
(16:15-16:30 CEST)

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- **H.E. Bogdan Dumea**, Secretary of State, Ministry of Research, Innovation and Digitalization, Romania and RDF Chair
- **Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe





**17:30 - 18:30**  
(16:30-17:30 CEST)

**Social Event Courtesy of Israel**  
**Towards Strengthening the Intergenerational Dialogue for Digital Future**



## Annex Two

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

### *Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

22 - 23 May 2023 | Timisoara, Romania

[http://itu.int/go/RDF\\_EUR\\_23](http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23)

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

## STAKEHOLDERS CONTRIBUTIONS SUBMITTED TO RDF-EUR

### EUR 1 Digital infrastructure development

#### Broadband Development

1. Albania: Regional Conference ALB
2. Bulgaria: Very High Capacity Networks VHCN
3. Czech Republic: Spectrum Monitoring
4. Cyprus: Expansion of Very High Capacity Networks in underserved areas
5. Cyprus: Enhance building cabling to be "Gigabit-ready" and promote connectivity take-up
6. Georgia: Broadband Infrastructure Development Measures in Georgia
7. Georgia: Creation of Digital Hub in Georgia\_MoESD
8. Hungary: Multi-faceted umbrella programme regarding 3G switch off
9. Israel: Deployment of Advanced Networks
10. Latvia (VASES): 5G Techritory
11. Montenegro: Development of infrastructure for broadband internet access
12. Montenegro (EKIP): Contribution REGFEST
13. Türkiye (BTK): Universal Service Mechanism in Türkiye
14. Germany (ateneKOM) : DigitalTwins

#### Broadband Mapping

15. Albania (ASIG): National Spatial Data Infrastructure
16. Bulgaria: SIP
17. EaPeReg: Contribution to the ITU RDF-EUR
18. Georgia (ComCom): Contribution to the ITU RDF-EUR
19. Italy (AGCOM): Broadband mapping for public funds (state aid) allocation and digital infrastructure development
20. Poland (UKE): Mapping
21. Romania (ANCOM): AISEMNAL



22. Slovenia (AKOS): [Broadband mapping in Slovenia](#)
23. Germany (ateneKOM): [Mapping](#)

### Human capacity development and broadcasting related matters

24. Bosnia and Herzegovina (CRA): [G5 regulation](#)
25. Lithuania (RRT): [RSV program](#)
26. Montenegro (EKIP): [Digital Audio Broadcasting](#)
27. Montenegro (University of Montenegro): [IPv6Lab](#)
28. North Macedonia (Prof.Dr.Toni, Janevski): [Capacity Building \\_ Training courses under ITU ATC](#)
29. Poland: [Capacity Building](#)
30. Sweden (SPIDER): [Peer to Peer capacity building](#)
31. ITU Academy Training Centres: [Training Course under ITU ATC](#)

### Interventions related to ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Ukraine)

32. Lithuania: [Radio programme retransmission to Ukraine](#)
33. Lithuania (RRT): [On Continuation of assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector](#)
34. Poland: [Ukraine support Supporting competitiveness and resilience](#)
35. Slovenia: [Support to Ukraine](#)
36. Spain: [Update on P2C Pledge 358 EU4DigitalUA capacity building communication and data protection](#)

### EUR 2 Digital transformation for resilience

#### Digitalization

37. Moldova: [Scaling FOD \(Front-office Digitalization\) Framework](#)
38. Moldova: [Scaling FOD \(Front-office Digitalization\) Framework\\_Offer](#)
39. North Macedonia: [National e-communication system](#)
40. North Macedonia (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies -FEEIT): [Digital Transformation Support North Macedonia](#)
41. Poland and Czech Republic: [A human centric approach to digital transformation](#)
42. Ukraine: [Platform of Registries as a tool for acceleration of governments transformation](#)
43. Digital Impact Alliance at the United Nations Foundation: [DIAL's support to ITU-D Europe regional initiatives and priorities within the context of digital public infrastructure and data governance](#)
44. UNDP BiH: [GovStack](#)
45. UNOPS Serbia: [Support to local governments \(LGs\) in Serbia and in non-EU members Western Balkans countries in introducing eGovernance and eGovernment, and provision of eServices](#)
46. Estonia (Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications): [Digital transformation for resilience - Estonian approach](#)ITL form to ITU
47. Estonia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs): [GovStack - Women in GovTech](#)
48. Germany (GIZ): [GovStack – Digital Public Infrastructure for Resilience](#)



## Emergency response

- 49. Albania: [Development of resilience digital infrastructure in critical situations](#)
- 49. Czech Republic: [Supporting digital resilience of Eastern Europe Partnership](#)
- 50. Georgia: [Emergency Management and Response National plan\\_MoESD](#)
- 51. Moldova (IGSU): [Feasibility study, technical requirements and estimated costs for National Early Warning System](#)

## Enabling environment

- 53. EaPeReg: [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
- 54. Georgia (ComCom): [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
- 55. Montenegro: [Smart Specialization Strategy of Montenegro \(S3\) 2019 – 2024](#)
- 56. FAO-ITU: [Digital Excellence in Agriculture in Europe and Central Asia](#)
- 57. ITU-FAO-EU-ACS: [Meeting the European Union's digital agriculture requirements. A guide for pre-accession countries](#)
- 58. ITU-UNEP-UNITAR: [E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans Assessments](#)
- 59. ITU-UNOPS : [ITU-UNOPS Smart Cities Initiative in Serbia](#)

## EUR 3 Digital inclusion and skills development

### Inclusion

- 60. EaPeReg: [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
- 61. Inclusive Creation: [Universal Design Day of awareness](#)

### Inclusion Women

- 62. Sweden (SPIDER): [EQUALS EU](#)
- 63. Network of Women in ITU-D (ITU-D NoW): [Promoting the activities of Network of Women for ITU-D in Europe](#)
- 64. Ukraine (MINZMIN): [Digital skills and Cyber Skills for women](#)
- 65. United Kingdom (SWGfL): [Protecting Everyone Online - Responding to Tech Facilitated Gender-Based Violence](#)

### Inclusion - ICT Accessibility

- 66. Bosnia and Herzegovina: [Fostering the regional implementation of accessible digital information, services, and products for all groups of society](#)
- 67. Georgia (ComCom): [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
- 68. Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF) and Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI): [National partnerships for promoting mobile accessibility](#)



## Digital Skills

69. Albania: [Digital Skills](#)
70. Bulgaria: [STEM](#)
71. Cyprus: [Digital Skills Action Plan 2021-2025](#)
72. Georgia: [GITA](#)
73. Israel: [Developing digital skills among young people in Israel](#)
74. Montenegro: [Digital Academy](#)
75. Poland: [Digital Inclusion](#)
76. Slovenia: [Stimulating Digital Inclusion to Bridge the Gap](#)
77. Türkiye (BTK): [Digital Inclusion and Skills Development with BTK Academy](#)
78. United Kingdom (Ofcom): [Digital Skills](#)
79. ITU Academy Training Centres Tallinn University of Technology: [Next Generation Digital Skills in Higher Education](#)

## EUR 4 Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies

### Child Online Protection

80. Albania: [Media Online Child Protection](#)
81. Albania (NAECCS) and ITU: [Roll Out of the Global Child Online Protection Project in Albania](#)
82. Georgia (ComCom): [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
83. North Macedonia: [Digital Defenders Empowering Kids to Combat Cyberbullying / Cyberharassment](#)
84. Poland (UKE): [Child online protection – projects created and implemented by NRA](#)
85. United Kingdom (SWFGL): [National Child Online Protection Landscape Report](#)
86. United Kingdom (SWGfL) : [Child Online Protection – North Macedonia](#)
87. Malta (Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society): [ITU Child Online Protection Train the Trainers Module for Educators in Malta](#)
88. Netherlands (Digital Child Rights Foundation): [Digital Child Rights Desk](#)
89. Ukraine (MINZMIN): [Child Online Protection](#)

### Cybersecurity

90. Albania (NAECCS): [NAECCS priorities mapped on the National Cyber Security Strategy](#)
91. EaPeReg: [ITU RDF-EUR](#)
92. Slovenia: [Establishment of the Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Center \(WB3C\)](#)
93. Türkiye (BTK): [Cyber Star Hackathon](#)
94. ITU Academy Training Centres NRD Cyber Security: [ITU Academy Training Centre courses on cybersecurity](#)
95. Germany (GIZ): [Her CyberTracks](#)



## EUR 5 Digital innovation ecosystems

96. Albania: [Digital Innovation](#)
97. Greece: [Global Innovation Symposium](#)
98. Greece: [Innovation Alliance](#)
99. Greece: [Innovation Center - Greece](#)
100. Latvia (VASES): [Metacity](#)
101. Montenegro: [Programme for fostering innovation to support energy efficiency in industry](#)
102. Montenegro: [Programme for supporting tech start-ups and scale-ups](#)
103. North Macedonia: [Establishment of an Innovation Center with a Focus on Cybersecurity in North Macedonia](#)
104. Moldova (MicroLab): [Innovation Alliance](#)
105. The Netherlands (UNU-MERIT): [ITU Academy Training Center – Data Management and Data Analysis](#)
106. The Netherlands (UNU-MERIT): [ITU Academy Training Center – Policy to Research](#)
107. The Netherlands (UNU-MERIT): [Contribution - ITU Academy Training Center – Tailor-Made Training](#)

## UN Affairs

108. UNESCO and ITU: [United Nations Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs \(UNBT Digital TF\)](#)
109. UN Digital Transformation Group: [Europe and Central Asia Establishment of the UN Digital Transformation group for Europe and Central Asia](#)





Annex Three

# ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

## *Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

**22 - 23 May 2023 | Timisoara, Romania**

Eastern European Summer Time (GMT+3)

Remote participation at [http://itu.int/go/RDF\\_EUR\\_23](http://itu.int/go/RDF_EUR_23)  
(Meeting held back-to-back with Com-ITU of CEPT, 24-26 May 2023)

## **2023 - 2024 OPERATIONALIZATION PLAN OF THE RDF OUTCOMES**





## EUR1: Digital infrastructure development

**Objective:** To facilitate the attainment of Gigabit connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development and an enabling environment, ensuring ubiquitous coverage.

### Focus Areas:

- Broadband Development
- Broadband Mapping
- Human capacity development and broadcasting related matters
- Implementation of the ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Ukraine)

### Implementing Partners:

- **Broadband Development:** Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Latvia, Montenegro, Türkiye (BTK), Germany (ateneKOM)
- **Broadband Mapping:** Albania (ASIG), Bulgaria, EaPeReg, Georgia (ComCom), Italy (AGCOM), Poland (UKE), Romania (ANCOM), Slovenia (AKOS), Germany (ateneKOM)
- **Human capacity development and broadcasting related matters:** Bosnia and Herzegovina (CRA), Lithuania (RRT), Montenegro (EKIP), Montenegro (University of Montenegro), North Macedonia (University), Poland, Sweden (SPIDER), ITU Academy Training Centres (UNU)
- **Actions related to the ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Ukraine):** Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, UK

**Beneficiary:** All 46 ITU Europe region countries

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2023-2024	<p><b>Based on all the contributions, the following actions have been proposed for the immediate implementation while the others would require further discussions and would be determined directly after the forum.</b></p> <p><b>Broadband Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ITU - EaPeReg Workshop on EMF Issues:</b> ITU will continue close collaboration with EaPeReg in terms of ITU Study Groups, Memberships, Partnerships, and other special initiatives, through the SEWG working group. Here is a partial list of our areas of interest: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ EMF Electromagnetic Fields - measurements and standards.</li> <li>○ 5G Toolbox, 5G Pioneer Bands and License Shared Access</li> <li>○ Deployment of IMT (International Mobile Telecommunications) for Local Area Networks, Technical Measurements in IMT networks, utilization &amp; best practices</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>ITU Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe</b>, jointly organized by ITU and EKIP, is an annual regional meeting held each year in Budva, Montenegro. On an annual basis more than 150 stakeholders from all over Europe are attending this meeting. This forum provides the opportunity for high-level dialogue between stakeholders on strategies and policies directed towards broadband development in the region, while discussing the challenges and opportunities offered by resilient high-speed networks couple with</li> </ul>



regulatory actions that are flexible and collaborative.

- **Cooperation with BEREC, EaPeReg, EMREG** (implementation of concrete projects based on DIP recommendations of each respective country (Serbia, Georgia and North Macedonia)
- **ITU will continue cooperating with 5G Techritory**, Europe's leading 5G forum, where brings together 5G industry participants in one place for cross-border, cross-sectoral and cross-level collaboration with special focus on scaling up cooperation for the Europe Region, but also beyond.
- **Broadband Mapping**  
"Workshop on harmonization processes in the field of broadband mapping systems for the EMEREG Region and beyond
- ITU would like to kick-off the **Broadband Mapping Systems in Georgia - Technical Assistance Phase 1** by delivering an accurate policy analysis defining the enabling environment to develop a broadband mapping systems in Georgia.
- ITU is in partnership with **Italian Regulatory Authority AGCOM** and **Israeli Ministry** to deliver support to countries in need within the European region, in the Balkans, EMERG area, Eastern Partnership countries, and beyond, to significantly contribute to the growth and development of information and communication technologies infrastructure, enabling a more connected society in Europe and beyond.

Following ITU technical specifications paper Technical Specifications for the Implementation of Broadband Mapping Systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina, ITU plans to provide training to the regulators in utilizing the broadband mapping systems in place and reach satisfactory level of autonomy thus allowing for sustainability of this initiative **Implementation of Broadband Mapping Systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina - Technical Assistance Phase 3**

- ITU Office for Europe will closely collaborate with European NRAs and BEREC to bring the European experience and best practice of Broadband mapping and its related activities related to the fundraising - European Commission and European Stakeholders

#### Human Capacity Development

- **IPv6 Laboratory** in Montenegro – Opening of the Lab (ITU has coordinated with the Ministry of Economic Development, national regulator EKIP, and the University of Montenegro to set up the dedicated national IPv6 lab. The equipment has been successfully installed in the IPv6 Laboratory. The Capacity Building training programs will be planned at this newly established IPv6 Laboratory from June 2023 onwards.
- **Implementing G5 Regulation Framework** in Bosnia and Herzegovina – training and hands on follow up with Communications Regulatory Authority

#### Interventions related to ITU Council Resolution 1408 (Ukraine)

- ITU Technical Assistance to Ukraine on restoration/rebuilding of five selected broadcasting stations
- ITU regular reporting technical infrastructure sector for the Rapid Damage and Needs





	<p>Assessment (RDNA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ITU Office in Europe will continue the strengthened cooperation with actors and multi-stakeholders in the Europe region to advance digital infrastructure development</li></ul>
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## EUR2: Digital transformation for resilience

**Objective:** To facilitate the digitalization processes of services in different sectors (agriculture, health, government, education), including those of public administrations, in order to ensure greater resilience in responding to critical situations, including the challenges of pandemics

### Focus Areas:

- Digitalization
- Emergency Response
- Enabling Environment

### Implementing Partners:

- **Digitalization:** Moldova, North Macedonia, North Macedonia (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies -FEEIT), Poland and Czech Republic, Ukraine, Digital Impact Alliance at the United Nations Foundation, UNDP BiH, UNOPS Serbia, Estonia (Estonian Association of Information Technology and Telecommunications), Estonia (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Germany (GIZ)
- **Emergency Response:** Albania, Czech Republic, Georgia, Moldova (IGSU)
- **Enabling Environment:** EaPeReg, Georgia (ComCom), Montenegro, FAO-ITU, ITU-FAO-EU-ACS, ITU-UNEP-UNITAR, ITU-UNOPS

**Beneficiary :** All 46 ITU Europe region countries

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2023-2024	<p><b>Based on all the contributions, the following actions have been proposed for the immediate implementation while the others would require further discussions and would be determined directly after the forum.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>GovStack roll out at the regional level</b> with particular focus on supporting two countries. Support to government digital transformation efforts in non-EU Member States building upon the GovStack value proposition.</li> <li>• Support to the countries in the <b>development of digital transformation strategies</b>, including in the North Macedonia</li> <li>• <b>Regional workshop on executive experience sharing</b> on digital public service development</li> <li>• <b>National Emergency Telecommunication Plan and Cell Broadcast</b> for Moldova and Georgia</li> <li>• <b>Joint ITU-UNOPS Support to Serbia on Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC KPIs)</b>- leverage the expertise of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the United</li> </ul>



	<p>Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) to deploy smart, sustainable cities in Serbia to promote the digitalization of public administration, service delivery, and society as a whole through citizen-centric governance. This project aims to implement ITU standards, including the U4SSC KPIs, for smart city performance measurement, monitoring, evaluation, and upscaling using standards. This project will also facilitate collaboration and knowledge with Serbia, ITU, UNOPS, and relevant stakeholders through on the best practices in the development of smart cities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans</b> - Assist beneficiary countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, in developing digitalization policies and strategies on e-waste management and to produce regional and nationally comparable e-waste statistics for the targeted countries. UNEP, UNITAR, and ITU are committed to collaborating and providing ongoing support to interested countries in the Western Balkans and other European regions to identify gaps and strengthen capacity building to develop e-waste-related statistics to foster sustainable e-waste management practices.         </li> <li> <b>ITU-FAO Digital Agriculture Guidelines and support to pre-accession countries</b> - Supporting countries in the Pre-Accession Europe countries in advancing meaningful connectivity and creating an enabling environment for adopting digital agriculture by guiding the European Union's pre-accession countries to meet the EU Digital Agriculture requirements, enabling them to become equal members of the single EU market and implement agricultural policies aligned with the CAP.         </li> <li> <b>Green digital transformation Center</b> </li> <li> <b>A human centric approach to digital transformation</b> -The Ministry of Digital Affairs, Republic of Poland &amp; Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic has developed a special initiative on human-centric digital transformation is proposed with the aim of enhancing understanding of human by design digital features. This will allow an enhanced understanding and awareness of human-centric digital transformation among European countries. It will enable countries to explore challenges and emerging trends related to human-centric digital transformation to create a Compendium of good practices and recommendations to guide countries in implementing human-centric digital transformation. It will also provide valuable input to ITU Study Groups focusing on digital transformation.         </li> </ul>
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## EUR3: Digital inclusion and skills development

**Objective:** To facilitate equitable access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) and necessary digital skills for all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and persons with specific needs, as well as women and youth, in order to take advantage of telecommunications/ICTs.

**Focus Areas:**

- Inclusion
- Gender
- ICT Accessibility
- Digital Skills

**Partners**

- **Inclusion:** EaPeReg, Inclusive Creation
- **Gender:** Sweden (SPIDER), Network of Women in ITU-D (ITU-D NoW), Ukraine (MINZMIN), United Kingdom (SWGfL)
- **ICT Accessibility:** Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia (ComCom), Mobile & Wireless Forum (MWF) and Global Accessibility Reporting Initiative (GARI)
- **Digital Skills:** Albania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Montenegro, Poland, Slovenia, Türkiye (BTK), United Kingdom (Ofcom), ITU Academy Training Centres Tallinn University of Technology,

**Beneficiary :** All 46 ITU Europe region countries

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2023-2025	<p><b>Based on all the contributions, the following actions have been proposed for the immediate implementation while the others would require further discussions and would be determined directly after the forum.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Fifth Edition of Accessible Europe – ICT Accessibility for all:</b> In 2023, ITU will continue its yearly initiative celebrating International Days of Persons with Disabilities. This Forum aims to gather European Stakeholders to discuss normative and policy frameworks required to advance ICT and digital accessibility in the Europe Region. It also aims to shed light on implementation challenges and opportunities and foster collaboration. Finally, it identifies good practices and celebrates solutions that help make progress and answer the needs of persons with disabilities online. In that regard, it will engage the tech entrepreneurship community of the Europe Region.</li> <li>• <b>European Network of Women:</b> Continue to provide visibility to women and empower them for larger responsibilities in their respective delegations. The network aims to build a community where female delegates support each other, expand their network, advocate, and share experience and knowledge. Through the network, women starting in the ICT profession will be mentored by more experienced professionals, in order to create a stronger base for women in the digital space;</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EQUALS-EU:</b> Continue the engagement within EQUALS-EU, in order to (i) map gender-inclusive innovation ecosystems in over 20 countries; (ii) Host innovation camps and hackathons in over 25 countries; (iii) Run a six-month incubator programme focused on gender-inclusive entrepreneurship; (iv) Hold a one-month boot camp for future leaders in gender-inclusive innovation;</li> <li>• <b>Generation Connect European Youth Group:</b> Continue year-long engagement with European Youth through the GC-EUR mechanism. Including, but not limited to: organization of convening platforms, including intergenerational dialogue, engagement of youth in decision and policy making processes, including intergovernmental processes, collaboration to produce knowledge and background documents showcasing the position of youth on digital development matters etc.;</li> <li>• <b>UN Compendium on Digital Skills</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Sixth Edition of Accessible Europe – ICT Accessibility for all:</b> In 2023, ITU will continue its yearly initiative celebrating International Days of Persons with Disabilities. This Forum aims to gather European Stakeholders to discuss normative and policy frameworks required to advance ICT and digital accessibility in the Europe Region. It also aims to shed light on implementation challenges and opportunities and foster collaboration. Finally, it identifies good practices and celebrates solutions that help make progress and answer the needs of persons with disabilities online. In that regard, it will engage the tech entrepreneurship community of the Europe Region.</p> <p><b>2024 Celebration of European Girls in ICT Day:</b> Continue the year-long celebration as well as Girls in ICT International Day Celebration in the Europe Region, to encourage and empower girls and young women to pursue education and career in STEM and ICT sectors, and make them equal shapers of the digital world, through, among others: providing role models, organizing awareness campaigns, organizing workshops , webinars and other convening platforms, organizing the yearly European Celebration on Girls in ICT Day;</p> <p><b>European Network of Women:</b> Continue to provide visibility to women and empower them for larger responsibilities in their respective delegations. The network aims to build a community where female delegates support each other, expand their network, advocate, and share experience and knowledge. Through the network, women starting in the ICT profession will be mentored by more experienced professionals, to create a stronger base for women in the digital space;</p> <p><b>Generation Connect European Youth Group:</b> Continue year-long engagement with European Youth through the GC-EUR mechanism. Including, but not limited to: organization of convening platforms, including intergenerational dialogue, engagement of youth in decision and policy making processes, including intergovernmental processes, collaboration to produce knowledge and background documents showcasing the position of youth on digital development matters etc.;</p>







## EUR4: Trust and confidence in the use of telecommunications/information and communication technologies

**Objective:** To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their daily lives with confidence

### Focus areas:

- Child Online Protection
- Cybersecurity
- Others

### Implementing Partners:

- **Child online protection:** Albania, Malta, Netherlands, North Macedonia, Serbia, Poland, Ukraine, United Kingdom
- **Cybersecurity:** Albania, Slovenia, Türkiye
- **Others:** Albania, Germany (German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)), Georgia, Lithuania (ITU Academy Training Centres NRD Cyber Security), Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Poland (National Institute of Telecommunications (NIT)) COMCOM Georgian National Communications Commission, - Her CyberTracks, EaPeReg (Eastern Partnership Regulators for Electronic Communication), United Nations Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs (UNBT Digital TF), UN Digital Transformation group for Europe and Central Asia

**Other Partners:** Empowering Children Foundation Poland, UK Safer Internet Centre, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy Albania, National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECCS) of Albania, ComCom – Georgian National Communications Commission, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, Republic of North Macedonia, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE)/Poland, SWGfL, UK, Digital Child Rights Foundation – The Netherlands, NGO MINZMIN Ukraine, National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cyber Security of Albania, EaPeReg - Eastern Partnership Regulators for Electronic Communications, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Republic of Slovenia, Information and Communication Technologies Authority – BTK, Türkiye, NRD Cyber Security, Lithuania, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

**Beneficiary:** All 46 ITU Europe region countries





2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the roll-out of ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines and related materials in the Europe Region; through, among others, translation of the Guidelines into national languages of the Europe Region, roll-out of training and awareness raising workshops/webinars/campaigns. All in collaboration with Member States and national partners;</li> <li>• Child Online Protection Training of Trainer with Eurochild Network</li> <li>• To support the works on safeguarding of child protection and online safety standards of ComCom – Georgian National Communications Commission, to leverage the expertise and knowledge sharing of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and transform it into practical knowledge</li> </ul>
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue the roll-out of ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines and related materials in the Europe Region; through, among others, translation of the Guidelines into national languages of the Europe Region, roll-out of training and awareness raising workshops/webinars/campaigns. All in collaboration with Member States and national partners;</li> </ul>



## EUR5: Digital innovation ecosystems

**Objective:** To foster environments that are conducive to innovation and entrepreneurship through systemic approaches based on digital telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs), aimed at closing the growing digital innovation divide in the region.

**Focus Areas:**

- Digital Innovation profiles (DIPs):
- ITU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development:
- ITU Innovation Center:

**Implementing Partners:** ITU

- **Digital Innovation profiles (DIPs):** ITU
- **ITU Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development:** ITU
- **ITU Innovation Center:** Albania, North Macedonia, Greece

**Beneficiary:** All 46 ITU Europe region countries

### PROPOSED ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2023-2025	<p><b>Based on all the contributions, the following actions have been proposed for the immediate implementation while the others would require further discussions and would be determined directly after the forum.</b></p> <p>In order to build a competitive, sustainable, ICT-enabled economy, assists in navigating a country's rapidly changing ICT and telecommunications landscape, as well as to unlock the potential to accelerate digital transformation at the regional level, ITU Office for Europe plans to roll out Innovation Alliance to further advance the innovation ecosystems in the Europe region and produce a regional West Balkans Digital Innovation Profile.</p> <p><b>Innovation Alliance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the innovation ecosystem in the Europe Region and reinforce the capacity of innovation as well as facilitate and advance digital agenda at country and Europe level via the mechanism of the ITU Innovation and entrepreneurship alliance for digital development. ITU will Identify the pilot countries interested in joining the ITU Alliance on Innovation and entrepreneurship for digital development, and establish Acceleration Centers within the country.</li> </ul> <p><b>Digital Innovation Profile (DIP)</b></p>



- 2023 Update of the Albania's DIP: Review and Update of the 2016 Digital Innovation Profile of Albania, based on the new ITU DIP Methodology. This project will also benefit from the particular focus on the Industrial Development Component with specific ad-hoc redesign of the DIP to comply with the request of the country
- Considering the significance of **Western Balkans** in the Europe Region and the driving impact of the **Western Balkans' innovation scene**, the ITU Office for Europe would like to continue the meaningful collaboration and launch the first Regional Digital Innovation Profile focusing on Western Balkans. ITU Office for Europe would like to communicate this objective and kindly have your administration respond regarding your participation in the **Western Balkans Digital Innovation Profile** to seek commonalities, strategies and possible areas of collaboration that will enable the Western Balkans to advance and thrive in the Europe region together.

### Metaverse

- Objective: ITU will continue supporting emerging technologies and innovation to promote meaningful connectivity and advance digital development in the Europe region and continue working closely with multi-stakeholders and actors in the region and beyond. ITU Office for Europe will support Member States to engage in the ITU-T Focus Group on metaverse and Metaverse relevant meetings and workshops.
- Latvia aims to be a front runner of Metaverse ecosystem development. Latvia has already an appropriate infrastructure to create a Metaverse testbed for fast technology deployment and testing to receive early adopter feedback. Latvia's 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.

**Beneficiary:** Up to 8 countries [Baltic Sea region countries. – Sweden, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and Denmark.]

**Timeframe:** 2023-2025





## UN Affairs and Partnerships

**Objective:** To ensure effective contribution of the ITU as UN Agency for Digital, across the UN system leading towards strengthening collaboration with UN Partners and beyond

**Focus Areas:**

- UN Development System at the Regional and National Level, including UN Country Teams
- UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia
- Un Brussels including Taskforce on Digitalization for Sustainable Development

**Implementing Partners:** 32 Agencies of the UN System

**Beneficiary:** All 46 ITU Europe region countries

### IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2023-2025	<p><b>Based on all the contributions, the following actions have been proposed for the immediate implementation while the others would require further discussions and would be determined directly after the forum.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU-UN Digital Thematic Dialogues by Brussels Task Force: To facilitate collaboration between the European Union (EU) and the United Nations (UN) in digital development, the UNBT has established the implementation of a series of EU-UN Digital Thematic Dialogues. These dialogues will serve as a platform for sharing views, exchanging best practices, and aligning strategies in areas of common interest.</li> <li>• UN Digital Transformation group for Europe and Central Asia: The group has collaboratively made a "UN Digital Development Toolbox" to provide a comprehensive set of guidelines, frameworks, and tools supporting the delivery of digital development initiatives in Europe and Central Asia. The Toolbox will serve as a resource for UNCT, offering UN frameworks, guidelines, capacity-building tools, and measurement tools related to ICTs and digital development. It will enable them to access and utilize existing policy tools in their regional/national initiatives.</li> <li>• ITU in collaboration with UN Country Teams in the Europe Region has developed country profiles for digital development which serves as a</li> </ul>



