



IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE REPORT

*ITU Actions in Europe and
Implementation of the
ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe
(January-May 2022)*

ITU Office for Europe

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1 Introduction

This document outlines all activities undertaken or to be undertaken by ITU between January and December 2022, as a direct response to the expected results of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Region, consisting of 46 countries. Activities presented in this document depict expected outcomes and generated impact per Regional Initiative as well as per activity. They are grouped in chronological order per Regional Initiative. All activities carried out under the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe are directly linked to the corresponding BDT Thematic Priorities, strengthening their delivery and impact at the regional and national level. Simultaneously, the outcomes of all activities contribute to the work of the ITU Study Groups, as well as ITUs contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals.

Regional Initiatives are the five priority areas, that were elaborated and agreed by the Members of the Europe region and approved by the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), held in 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and featured in the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas that require special action of the ITU at the regional level. Under each regional initiative, a set of activities, initiatives, partnerships, and projects have been developed to meet the region's needs. The ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe include the following:

- EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- EUR5: Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems



2 Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-22 for Europe (RPM-EUR), 19-21 January 2021, Virtual



The Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-22 for Europe (RPM-EUR) took place virtually from 18 to 19 January 2021. RPM-EUR was organized at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic. The meeting was attended by 114 participants including 59 delegates representing 27 Member States from Europe region, 12 participants from Sector Members, 14 participants representing 11 Observer Member States, 2 United Nations and its specialized agencies, and 30 guests. There were, 64 female and 50 male participants. The list of participants can be found [here](#).



After considering all input documents and discussions RPM-EUR came to the following conclusions and outcomes of the meeting:

- RPM-EUR considered the final Report of **TDAG Working Group on WTDC Preparations (TDAG-WG-Prep)** welcoming all innovations proposed so far and reiterating the importance of involvement of youth and equal participation of women in WTDC.
- RPM-EUR considered the final Report of **TDAG Working Group on Resolutions, Declaration and Thematic Priorities (TDAG-WG-RDTP)** underlining the importance of the outcomes and proposals therein, considering strengthened involvement of Europe facilitated by CEPT.
- RPM-EUR considered the final Report of **TDAG Working Group on Strategic and Operational Plans (TDAG-WG-SOP)** drawing the attention to the importance of aligning BDT activities with the goals of the Union.
- RPM-EUR recognized that the ITU-D regional priorities constitute an effective mechanism for fostering implementation of the WSIS outcomes and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- RPM-EUR approved five regional priorities for Europe for the period 2022-2025, for submission to WTDC-21 as follows:
 - RP-EUR 1: Digital infrastructure development
 - RP-EUR 2: Digital transformation for resilience
 - RP-EUR-3: Digital inclusion and skills development
 - RP-EUR-4: Trust and confidence in the use of digital technologies
 - RP-EUR-5: Digital innovation ecosystems
- RPM-EUR welcomed the “Digital trends” report as the new series of BDT, highlighting of developments at the regional level in field of ICTs.



- RPM-EUR launched the [Network of Women \(NoW\)](#) for the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, paving the way for involvement in WTDC-22.
- RPM-EUR recognized that RPM-EUR was the first meeting to have a majority of women participating.
- RPM-EUR welcomed the Youth Declaration developed by the [Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group](#) as the meaningful engagement, empowerment and participation of youth in the work of the ITU.
- RPM-EUR recognized the important work of the ITU Centres of Excellence in capacity building in Europe region and noted the launch of the [2021 CoE training catalogue](#) providing over 20 training opportunities in the field of broadband, cybersecurity and digital services.



3 ITU Office for Europe and the United Nations

ITU Office for Europe plays an essential role at the regional level advocating for strategic role ICTs play in accelerating the achievement of SDGs. Europe Office proactively contributes to regional and national coordination mechanisms while strengthening strategic partnerships with a series of UN Agencies, including FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNECE, UN Women, UNESCO, UNIDO, others. Also, Europe Office leads two special task forces aiming to strengthen the UN contribution and support to the digital transformation in Europe.

3.1 UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia

Digital transformation and ICT development can be achieved through fostered multi-stakeholder cooperation and inter-agency coordination. This will occur through the engagement of multiple stakeholders in the digital sector and the exchange of best practices within the UN system. Joint actions related to information and communication technologies for achieving the SDGs should be targeted to regional needs and priorities, in the view of strengthening the implementation of cross-cutting interventions by diverse agencies operating within the UN system. The ongoing reform of the regional UN Development System offers a unique opportunity for the UN System in Europe and Central Asia to achieve the objective of improved cooperation in the digital sector.

This ambitious purpose set the foundations for the creation of the United



Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UN-DTG4ECA). The Group's mandate aims at facilitating cooperation between different UN agencies in the field of digital transformation. It further promotes coordinated UN support to the Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda through ICTs and provide support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on digital transformation issues. It strengthens information sharing on activities of the UN System in Europe and Central Asia while providing support to the work of the Issues Based Coalitions and the Regional Knowledge Hub covering both the Europe and Central Asia regions. The Group is co-chaired by ITU and UNECE and is composed of representatives of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNWTO, UN Women, WHO, WIPO, WMO, IFAD.

3.1.1 Contribution to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2022 for the UNECE Region

The group recently held two sessions in the [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development \(RFSD\) for the UNECE Region](#). Such sessions also contributed to the [World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) Forum 2022](#):



Organization of [a side event](#) **'Cross-cutting session: digital transformation beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic'** (1 April), coordinated by ITU and UNECE and with the facilitation of FAO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA.

This event was aiming to:

- Address the digital component of each SDGs of focus during this year RFSD (SDG 4,5,14,15 and 17);
- Discuss challenges, opportunities and policy actions required to grasp the potential of digital development recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic, including lessons learned from it, and adaption to a new normal.
- This side event also laid the basis for the high-level peer-learning roundtable.



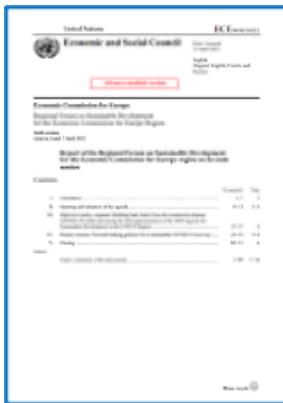
The key policy recommendations put forward during the session are available in the executive slide deck [here](#).



Organization of [high-level peer-learning roundtable ‘Accelerating digital development through multistakeholder partnerships’](#) (6 April) coordinated by ITU and UNECE and facilitated by UNDP, UNIDO and WMO.

This roundtable aimed to:

- Identify challenges, opportunities and required policy actions related to the four pillars of the [Partner2Connect \(P2C\) Digital Coalition](#), which are the also pillars intrinsic to SDG 17 ‘Partnerships for the goals’: connecting people everywhere, empowering communities, building digital ecosystems, and incentivizing investments;
- Review the achievement of the SDG17 targets related to Internet connectivity and technology;
- Strengthen and promote the development of digital society and economy through multistakeholder partnerships.



Policy actions were presented by: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, European Commission, European Disability Forum, Generation Connect Europe and CIS Youth Groups, International Disability Forum, Union of Operators of Armenia. Such policy actions can be found in the outcome report of the roundtable. The outcomes of both sessions were picked up by the chair, including reference to the P2C initiative. Outcomes are also integrated into the [Forum’s report](#) for consideration during ECOSOC HLPF. [here](#).





The key outcomes of both sessions were presented by the Forum’s chair during his closing statement, including a reference to the P2C initiative. The outcomes of the two sessions are also integrated into the [Forum’s report](#) for consideration during the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

3.1.2 Support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on digital transformation issues

The group is coordinating efforts provided by UN Agencies on activities on (or with a component related to) digital and ICT development in the recovery from the impact of the War in Ukraine.

With the intention to provide a ‘One-UN’ coordinated approach, the Group will also elaborate a document presenting the digital development and ICTs-related UN System response providing support during the war and/or the recovery of the impact of the war. This document will aim to be circulated to UNCTs and relevant partners, in order to invite stakeholders to scale up some activities. Inter alia, supporting the leverage of necessary funds and strengthening the pledging process of support to Ukraine on addressing digital development recovery and/or sustainable recovery (including humanitarian response) using ICT and digital tools, services, and infrastructures. Based on this document, a meeting will also be organized with the regional DCO/ RCO to identify the priorities of the UNCT.

3.1.3 Connectivity in Education, Status and recent developments in nine non-European Union countries



[ITU-UNICEF Joint initiative on ‘Connectivity in Education’](#) seeks to provide support to governments of the 9 non-EU countries of the Europe Region in identifying persistent gaps in high-quality Internet connectivity for schools and promote a favorable environment for investments in school connectivity and the infrastructure underpinning it by engaging with relevant stakeholders at the local, regional, and international levels. In particular, through the organization of national workshops upon the request of the Member States in close cooperation with UNICEF Country Offices and UN Country Teams. The preparation for such workshops has started in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova. Learn more about this initiative at the [dedicated webpage](#).



3.1.4 ITU-FAO collaboration on “Digital Agriculture”

With the aim of accelerating the implementation of digital agriculture and providing support to the EU Accession Countries, a special guide is being developed in partnership with FAO and upon consultation with the European Commission (DG AGRI). The “ITU-FAO Guidelines for pre-accession countries: Meeting the expectations of the EU in terms of digital agriculture” is currently being updated, in accordance with the latest CAP and other relevant EU documentation.

3.2 UN Brussels Team and TaskForce on Digitalization for the Sustainable Development Goals

With the objective to strengthen its cooperation with the EU structures and collaboration on the ICT projects advancing the achievement of the SDGs, ITU has joined the UN Brussels Team (UNBT). The UNBT includes 27 expressions of the UN across the development, humanitarian and political mandate, and is composed of agencies, regional offices, and departments of the Secretariat.

Considering the overarching priorities of the European Commission, the UNBT created various task forces, allowing the agencies to have an informed and coherent engagement. Among the different task forces, the “UN Brussels Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs” (September 2020), hereafter ‘T’, is co-facilitated by ITU Office for Europe together with UNIDO and UNESCO Offices in Brussels. The TF includes representatives of FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNLOPS, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRIC, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, UNU Merit, UN Women, IOM, WFP, WHO, World Bank. The UN Brussels Office also supports UN-EU high-level engagement and RCs/HCs missions to Brussels.



In 2022, the TF continued its ongoing coordination with EU Partners (in particular DG INTPA, DGCNECT and EEAS) to align EU and UN approaches to digital development and identify synergies for collaborations. This coordination and all efforts undertaken within the framework of the TF led to strengthening collaboration with the EU on:

- o Digital skills capacity building;
- o Open source ecosystem;



- o Measurement of meaningful connectivity;
- o Mapping of broadband system in Africa.

With the aim to deepen the discussion and identify strategic areas of collaboration and building upon the different papers elaborated by the TF¹ and meetings held with EU Partners in 2021, in particular on the 4th of October 2021, and 2022, the TF together with the EU is:

- o In the process of organizing a series of EU-UN *'Digital Thematic dialogues'*, in particular on gender, education, health, and green. The objective of these series of dialogues will be to express views on how to concretely collaborate in these areas, support each other in enabling inclusive, resilient and sustainable digital societies, as well as brief the EU on the ongoing work of the UN, and vice versa, in order to keep a cohesive approach towards alignment of strategies. The dialogues will also provide an opportunity to showcase ongoing work and best practices from both the UN and the EU sides in specific areas of interest.
- o Currently in the process of organizing a series of EU-UN *'Regional executive briefings on strengthened action on digital for development'*. These briefings will build upon the NDICI Multiannual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) for 2021-2027 for the INTPA Regions and NEAR countries. It will aim to engage representatives of the UN at large and especially the regional groups active on the digital under the UN RCPs, the UN Regional Offices as well as the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and their respective Resident Coordinators (RCs). It will also aim to engage the EU Delegations, in addition to units relevant to the geographical discussion and theme tackled. It will seek to anchor the prioritization of the digital agenda in the UN System for smoother multilateral cooperation and implementation of joint projects and/or projects aligning with EU and UN Strategies on digital development.
- o Elaboration of a document providing an overview of the opportunity to finance digital for development through the MIPs: Global Thematic Programme for 2021-2027 (finalized), for Sub-Saharan Africa (ongoing), Asia and the Pacific (ongoing), America and the Caribbean (ongoing), EU Neighbours South and East (ongoing).



¹ The UN Brussels Team Paper on Digitalization for the SDGs; the Annex 1. UN Agencies' Flagship initiatives and projects corresponding to the four cardinal points of the EU Digital Compass; the Annex 2. United Nations Global Processes & Fora related to Digitalization taking place in 2021 and 2022, also linking each forum/ process with the EU Digital Compass.



3.3 Cooperation with the UN Regional Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia and UN Resident Coordinators / UN Country Teams

Pursuing the decision on strengthening the cooperation of ITU with the UN Sustainable Development System, ITU Office for Europe regularly coordinates its operations with the UN Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia.

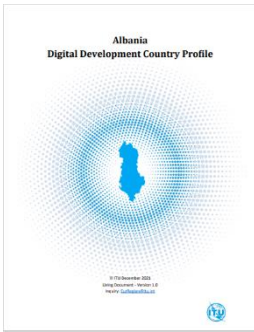
In addition, several steps were undertaken in order to join, as non-resident agency, the workflow of the UN Country Teams, strengthening their capacities on digital. As of today, UN operates in nine non-EU countries, as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine. Considering the capacity of the Europe Office, three countries, namely Albania, Montenegro, and Moldova, have been identified as the priority countries, and Georgia was added as a focus country. Support to other UN Country Teams depends on the necessity.

Within this context, ITU is developing a series of "Digital Development Country Profile", which seeks to equip the UNCT, other decision-makers at the national level and international stakeholders with an overview of the various components of digital development at the country level. The Digital Development Country Profiles seeks to be a crowdsourced document with UNCTs and thus will benefit from inputs of the UN system, becoming the guiding tool for future collaborative work on digital transformation issues. Such country profiles have already been developed for Albania, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine. A country profile for Albania is currently under elaboration and will be finalized by December 2021. After which, a country profile will be elaborated for Ukraine.

3.3.1 Albania

ITU joined and signed the 2021-2025 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and 2022-2026 UNSDCF, and engaged itself to provide support in a range of areas, upon the need of the UNCT in order to achieve defined priorities. Potential areas include: ICT infrastructure leading towards universal access to internet and ICT services, digital skills assessment and national strategy, digital accessibility, e-agriculture, e-health, circular economy and implementation of smart cities, ICT centric innovation ecosystem development, CSIRT, child online protection, digitization of governmental services, capacity and fostering equal opportunities for girls and women in STEM sector. ITU Office for Europe follows regular meetings of the UN Country Teams. ITU Office for Europe also took part of the 2021 EU Annual Report.





The Digital Development Country Profile for Albania has been finalized in February 2022 and a special dedicated session will be held in Q2 or Q3 2022, with a special focus on providing guidance to the UN Agencies members of the innovation output of the UNSDCF. The Digital Development Country Profile will also lay the basis for the position paper on Outcome 2 of the UNSDCF “Economic Growth, Innovation and Climate Change”.

3.3.2

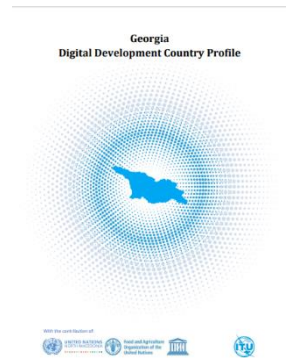
Bosnia

and Herzegovina

In the follow up to the coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, ITU will be joining the UNCT meeting to provide an overview of its work and intended support at the country level. ITU cannot join the UNSDCF formally until its next update. However, ITU will join the joint work plan for the period 2020-2025.

3.3.3 Georgia

ITU joined the Joint Work Plan of the UNCT and takes active participations in the regular UNCT meetings. ITU contributed to the 2021 Common Country Analysis (CCA) and 2022 CCA. The “Digital Development Country Profile” for Georgia, [available here](#), specifically focus on providing the knowledge basis to the UNCT in the context of rolling out the UN Roadmap for Digital Cooperation in Georgia. A special “Digital Transformation Session” has been held at the end of September with the UNCT Georgia to present the findings of the Digital Development Country Profile, with a special emphasis on remaining challenges to be addressed. The objective of this session was to pave the way for collaborative work advancing the national digital agenda. ITU, together with UNESCO Institute, finalized the Digital Innovation Profile for Georgia, with a focus on Artificial Intelligence, providing evidence-based country-specific recommendations. This profile will be published in Q4/2021. As a next step, the National Strategy for AI will be developed with engagement of the UNCT.



3.3.4 Moldova

ITU signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDCF) and takes active participations in the regular UNCT meeting. ITU is to support operations of the digital task force. ITU is currently in the process of conceptualizing intervention in the field of digital accessibility. To this end, ITU has joined the Interagency Disability Inclusion Task Force and RCO is currently identifying the possibilities for ITU to support agencies part of the UNPRPD trust fund. Other areas reported as of interest are the following: 5G implementation, regulatory field, cybersecurity.



Republic of Moldova Digital Development Country Profile



ITU is currently coordinating with UNDP Moldova to advance digital transformation at the national level.

ITU has finalized the elaboration of the Digital Development Country Profile for Moldova which is [available here](#). ITU and UNDP also join forces to elaborate the “Digital Transformation Compact” providing a condensed knowledge of the components and related recommendations leading to digitally transform the country. The Digital Transformation Compact is [available here](#).

3.3.5 Montenegro

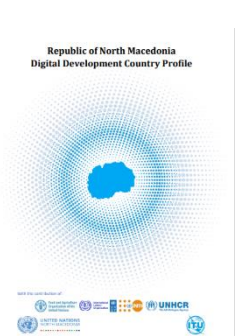
ITU joined the UN Country Team in February 2021. While operationally, ITU has already started to provide inputs to the work of the UNCT and to coordinate all operations in the country. Elaboration of a New Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework has been postponed upon the request of the Government. New timeline is still to be provided.

A series of actions are planned to be undertaken with the members of the UNCT, including those focusing on digital accessibility, child online protection, gender, connectivity.

ITU is planning to hold a special coordination session on “Digital Transformation in Montenegro” in 2022. This session will aim to identify the key priorities related to digitalization and digitization processes in the country and the potential for collaboration among UN agencies on the digital component. Based on the 2021 Common Country Analysis, the session will focus on: ensuring resilient ICT infrastructure, digital skills, ICT Accessibility for persons with disabilities, digital inclusion, and innovation.

3.3.6 North Macedonia

ITU joined the UN Country Team. Within the framework of the UNCT Retreat, ITU held a special session on Digital Transformation and Innovation, providing a platform for all UNCT members to jointly reflect and strengthen digital components in the UNCT strategy towards achieving defined 2021 priorities. Prospects for specific actions might consider eHealth, connectivity, digital accessibility, digital skills, digital inclusion (youth and gender), digitalization of all governmental services. Additionally, the office takes active participation in the regular UNCT meetings and took part of the Common Country Analysis for the period 2022.



3.3.7 Serbia

ITU joined the UNCT 2021 Cooperation Framework (CF) for 2021-2025 and engaged itself to provide support in a range of areas, upon the need of the UNCT in order to achieve defined 2021 priorities. ITU Office for Europe took part of the 2021 EU Annual Report for Serbia and 2022 Common Country



Analysis. ITU is currently coordinating with UNOPS in Serbia to collaborate on a new 3 years project on *Towards making cities smart and sustainable*.

Potential other areas of support include: digital agriculture transformation in the country, e-health, digital skills development for creating equal opportunities for girls and women in STEM sector, the national assessment on digital skills, capacity building to ensure access to internet for all, digital skills and digital literacy, child online protection, fostering the development of the digital innovation ecosystem, ICT infrastructure leading towards universal access to internet and ICT services, digital accessibility, and digitization of governmental services.

3.3.8 Ukraine

In the follow up to the coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, ITU will be part of the upcoming Cooperation Framework. A special taskforce on digital will be organized at the level of the UNCT. A UN position paper might be produced in the year 2022, following the series of UN Policy Papers initiative. Europe Office continues to contribute to the UNCT work and meetings and participated in the 2022 Common Country Analysis. In that sense, ITU contributed to the UN Environmental Forum in Ukraine through the participation of a Youth Representative of the ITU Generation Connect – Europe (CG-EUR) Youth Group, to convey, among others, the messages of the Youth Declaration chapter on Environment. The Office for Europe also took part of the UN Policy Paper on Climate Change (to be published) and is developing the Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine, which is expected to be finalized in January 2022.

ITU is also coordinating with UNDP Ukraine to advance digital transformation in the country.



Moreover, ITU finalized the elaboration of the Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine and is currently actively engaging with the UN Country Team to collect contributions for improving the Country Profile.

3.3.9

Turkey

In line with the coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, ITU Office for Europe will be providing support to the UN Country Team upon request and need.

Briefings for the UNCT on digital transformation are going to be held.

4.3 UN Regional Forum for Sustainable Development for Europe and Central Asia





The Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for UNECE Region is organized every year by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, in close cooperation with the regional UN agencies, including ITU. In 2021 the forum took place on 17 and 18 March 2020 in a hybrid format and was preceded by virtual peer learning round tables from 10 to 16 March 2021. This yearly forum was meant to follow up on and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs – in the UNECE Region. As the UN Agency for ICTs, ITU continues to advocate for the enabling role of ICTs in achieving SDGs. More information can be found at

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/RegionalPresence/Europe/Pages/Events/2021/RFS/Default.aspx>

Beside the contribution to the RFS as part of the UNDTG4ECA, ITU contributed to a series of side events and roundtables as follows:



Peer-learning roundtable on '[Enhancing ocean literacy and the sustainable development of regional seas](#)', 6 April 2022, 15:00-17:00 CEST, hybrid.

This roundtable will aim to stimulate exchanges between governments, scientists, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss policy actions, progress and challenges faced with regard to ocean literacy, the sustainable development of regional seas, and the related use of information and communication technologies.

Learn more about this session on the dedicated [webpage here](#).



Peer-learning roundtable on '[Quality education and life-long learning in the context of COVID-19](#)', 6 April 2022, 15:00-17:00 CEST, hybrid.

The roundtable will address the learning crisis, deepened by COVID-19 measures, throughout the learning cycle, and the role of education, including Education for Sustainable Development, to enhance inclusion, equality and social cohesion to achieve SDG 4. It will allow to discuss successful strategies and exchange policy actions and knowledge on inclusive education, digital skills and education for sustainable development.

Learn more about this session on the dedicated [webpage here](#).





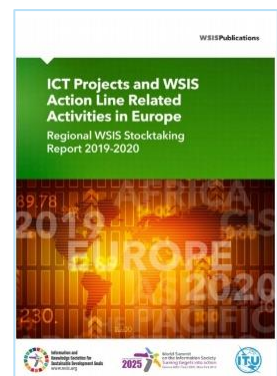
Business roundtable on 'Advancing gender equality and women's leadership in selected industries' - 7 April 2022, 13:00-14:30 CEST, hybrid.

Some of the fastest growing industries are also the most male-dominated ones. And even when gender equality is prioritized, progress often tends to not be evenly spread, with barriers for women persisting in certain corporate functions. During this session, leaders from various industries will address how they are advancing gender equality in the workplace and marketplace and share their solutions to questions like: How can you set realistic but ambitious targets for women's leadership when female workforce participation is low? How do you ensure flexibility and support working parents when simply working from home is not an option? How can you anticipate backlash, tackle stereotypes and engage male leadership and colleagues in meaningful ways?

Learn more about the session on the dedicated [concept note here](#) and dedicated [webpage here](#).

4.5. ITU Office for Europe and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum

ITU Office for Europe continues to proactively contribute to the WSIS Process. Both regional contests (Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe and Digital Excellence in Agriculture) have been designed in the way to create synergies with the ongoing WSIS Stocktaking/Prizes. A special publication on ICT Projects and WSIS Action Line Related Activities in Europe was prepared and released at the Regional Preparatory Meeting. In addition Europe Office facilitated two special sessions within the framework of the WSIS Forum 2022, as follows:



4 ITU Office for Europe and European Union

Significant efforts have been dedicated with the aim of strengthening cooperation between ITU and the European Union and its institutions and platforms:

- Regular coordination with corresponding institutions
 - o Directorates General, incl. CONNECT, INTPA, NEAR, EEAS
 - o EU Delegation in Geneva
- Follow up activities to the Memoranda of Understanding
 - o BEREC and EaPeReg
 - o Discussions on possible MoU with EMREG
 - o Discussions on possible MoU with RCC (Western Balkans)



- Proactive membership in the UN Brussels Team
 - o Chairing of the TaskForce on Digitalization for Sustainable Development
- Support to the programming exercise of INTPA for the multiannual programming in the implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation, with the focus on Digital.

ITU Office for Europe facilitates organization of special events.

5 ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe 2021

The following presents all activities planned or carried out during the period of January to November 2021. Activities are presented per Regional Initiative and in a chronological order.

5.1 EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

5.1.1 Technical Assistance to Montenegro on IPv6

The technical assistance to Montenegro on IPv6 is focused on equipping the country with the necessary equipment, technical knowledge, and strategic approach to IPv6, thereby enabling the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

The Assistance is composed of 2 phases. The first phase, which has been completed, includes i) a national workshop for policymakers held on 20-21 April 2021, ii) a Training of national experts held from 10th to 14th of May 2021, and iii) the elaboration of the strategic plan to establish an IPv6 Laboratory at the country level.

i) National Workshop



This workshop was aimed at raising awareness at the national level with regards to the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. It showcased the work of the ITU undertaken over the past years and brief policymakers on the importance of this activity.

Beyond providing an overview of IPv6 and its relevance for the country, the workshop also addressed the main technical challenges foreseen for a successful implementation of IPv6 at the national level and elaborate on the strategic approach needed among key players to make this step forward.

The workshop also presented the steps ITU and EKIP are taking to initiate the transition to IPv6 and presented the forthcoming training of experts that will be held in the month of May. The workshop is targeted at all main policymakers at the country level, but also at representatives of industry, and academia, who will have dedicated space to intervene with questions and comments.



ii) Training of Experts

The training of experts successfully trained around 25 experts in the country with the in-country



support of EKIP. This entailed 5 days of training with 4 hours of practical training per day . The training was delivered with the support of MUST University of Malaysia, building upon previous technical assistances delivered by the ITU.

iii) Strategic plan for IPv6 Implementation in Montenegro

The strategic plan assesses the current situation with regards to the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 in Montenegro, by pinpointing key challenge areas and identifying possible solutions for triggering the much needed transition at the country level. The report identifies training of experts at the country level as of primary importance, and hence the establishment of a laboratory at the country level. Taking stock of currently available equipment, it identifies three possible solutions to establish such laboratory at the country level.

Based on the three experiences above, the second phase of the technical assistance is focusing on the establishment of the IPv6 Laboratory, responding to a direct request for assistance by the country. ITU is supporting the development of the laboratory with the purchase of the needed equipment, in line with the recommendations of the strategic plan. The laboratory will support the country in developing capacity and train experts at the national level, with particular focus on training IT professionals from public institutions across the country.

5.1.2 Regional Assessment on EMF and Risk Communication Challenges

During several initiatives organized in 2020 on the topics of 5G and spectrum management, the issue of EMF emerged of primary importance. In response to national and regional stakeholders’ concerns about the issue, and in response to the increasing attention attracted in Europe region, the ITU Office for Europe designed a Regional Assessment on “EMF limit levels and risk communication challenges in Europe” that prompted ICT Ministries or Regulatory Authorities in charge of EMF to respond to a [questionnaire](#).

The questionnaire included 14 questions distributed in 5 main areas including:

- 1) EMF national regulation
- 2) Approval procedures prior to building / planning permission
- 3) Measurement of EMF
- 4) Acceptability by the public
- 5) Risk Communication

31 institutions from 29 countries responded to the questionnaire and provided the basis for the elaboration of the [Executive Report – ITU Regional Assessment for Europe on EMF limit levels and risk communication challenges](#)“which contains

5 recommendations relating to the 5 areas of the questionnaire. The report also serves as a reference point for the wider stakeholder community in Europe during future capacity building initiatives undertaken by the ITU Office for Europe and beyond.

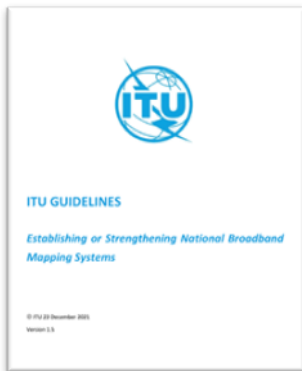


5.1.3 Elaboration of ITU Mapping Guidelines based on the European experience

In the context of the [ITU Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on Regulation Supporting Digital Transformation](#), held virtually on 30th November and 1st December 2020, two background papers were produced on the following topics:

1. [Broadband Mapping Systems in Europe and Regional Harmonization Initiatives](#)
2. [Infrastructure sharing and co-deployment in Europe: good practices based on collaborative regulation](#)

The first paper outlining the European Union’s regulatory framework on broadband mapping attracted stakeholders’ attention, particularly from those countries in South Eastern Europe which are seeking to frame regulations and technical systems for broadband mapping on those of the European Union.



For this reason, the ITU Office for Europe has developed the ITU Guidelines “Establishing or Strengthening National Broadband Mapping Systems” based on the European experience. The Guidelines does not only consolidate the strategic, institutional and policy requirements of efficient broadband mapping, but also guide on the design and implementation of projects aimed at constructing technical systems at the country level. In doing so, the Guidelines aim at setting clear steps required for a successful implementation of broadband mapping systems from all angles, to be used in non-EU countries and other countries seeking to mirror, to some degree, the European experience.

This exercise is carried out with the support of UKE (Office for Electronic Communications), Poland and in close coordination with European Commission, BEREC, EaPeReg, World Bank and benefits from other NRAs such as, AKOS (Slovenia), Arcep (France), BNetzA (Germany), ANACOM (Portugal), RTR (Austria).The report has received comments from AKOS (Slovenia), Arcep (France), RTR (Austria and BEREC, and is in the process of reviewing and finalising with the support of the UKE.

5.1.4 “New layer of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps on National Broadband Mapping Systems Initiatives”

The "New Graphical Interface of the Interactive Transmission Mapping Map" is a Global initiative of ITU that aims at building transmission maps about backbone networks. The new layer will display all 193 ITU member states practices and capacity in the field of broadband mapping systems, thus complementing the existing and on-going collecting effort on ICT Data that has enabled the establishment of ITU's data platform since 2012.



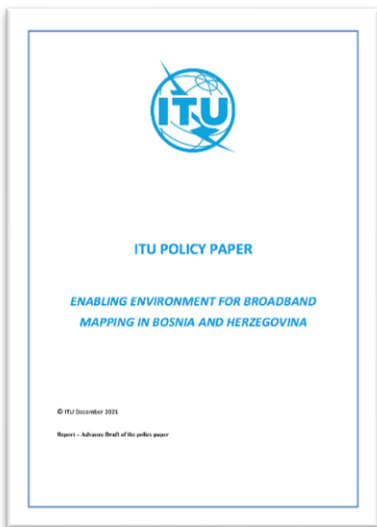
This exercise is based on the model of the European experience which entailed the engagement of 46 countries identifying relevant information about national broadband mapping systems and establishing the community of experts.

This global outreach on the subject of broadband mapping systems demonstrated how different parts of the world are equipping themselves for broadband mapping system activities, but it appears that this heterogeneity in this field is an extremely promising avenue for ITU to establish itself as the global actor on the broadband landscape, shaping its future development.



The ITU Guidelines “Establishing or Strengthening National Broadband Mapping Systems” and the New layer of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps on National Broadband Mapping Systems Initiatives” are expected to be presented by the ITU Office for Europe on 24 May 2022 during an online meeting.

5.1.5 Technical Assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina on enabling environment for broadband mapping

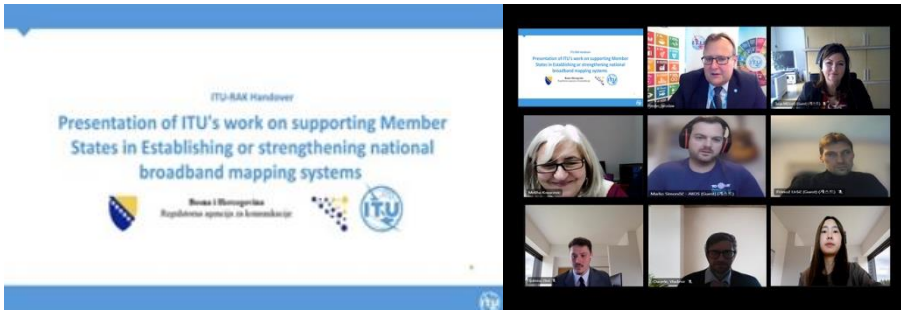


This project responds to a direct request for assistance from the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA). Leveraging expertise from AKOS, it will support the country in reviewing the enabling environment for broadband mapping in the country and provide recommendations on the key governance and regulatory steps to be taken as a basis for future successful implementation of broadband mapping systems in the country.

This ITU policy paper titled “Enabling environment for broadband mapping in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (unpublished) is the result of the collaboration between ITU and RAK with the joint support of Slovenian National Regulatory Agency AKOS.

Its objective was to assess the national broadband landscape environment of the country and the requirements for establishing broadband mapping systems capabilities.



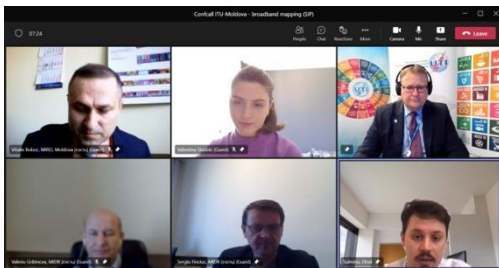


On February 4, 2022, together with the Communication Regulatory Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RAK) ITU presented the results of the first phase of the technical assistance and set up the preparatory work for the second phase consisting of:

- a concrete project roadmap and action plan in the form of a final report for a national broadband mapping system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including financial, human resources, organizational and sustainability indications.
- A brief tailored technical specification document according to the project roadmap to enable the implementation of a broadband mapping systems owned and operated by RAK.



The second phase of the technical assistance has started in May 2022 and is expected to be concluded by July 2022.

5.1.6 Technical Assistance to Moldova on Infrastructure Resilience



This action responds to the immediate need to strengthen the resilience of the ICT infrastructure at the country level. Within the framework of the Connect2Recover project assessment of the resilience of infrastructure is expected to be carried out this year to identify gaps and areas of action.

5.1.7 Technical Assistance to Moldova on Broadband Mapping Systems

Implementation of the Broadband Mapping Systems and SIP in Moldova based on the Registry of engineering infrastructure facilities

Video Tele Conference 28 March 2022

Introduction of the state of play and scope of the project

Mr. Vitalie BOBOC
Head of Communication Infrastructure Department
Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova



In addition to the technical assistance on the infrastructure resilience, direct assistance to the Regulator has been scheduled in order to build solid foundations for strengthening of capabilities of broadband mapping system at the country level. The technical assistance to Moldova in this field



would equip the country with technical recommendations that would enable the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology ANRCETI to establish both a broadband mapping system and a SIP that is interoperable with the Registry of engineering infrastructure facilities (REIF).

The technical assistance has expected to start in May 2022 and is expected to be concluded by end of August 2022.

5.1.8 Connectivity in Education, Status and recent developments in nine non-European Union countries



The ITU Office for Europe, in line with the engagement with UNICEF Europe and Central Asia, attended the presentation of the results of the UNICEF BiH school mapping initiative to the Ministry of Education and updated the UNICEF ECA, the Ministries of Education of the different districts in BiH and the rest of the relevant stakeholders on ITU’s technical assistance to establish a national broadband mapping systems owned and operated by the Communication Regulatory Authority (RAK).

5.1.9 Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Europe– RRS22

The ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Europe 2022 will be a two-week seminar held virtually tentatively from 30 August to 8 September 2022 – to be confirmed. The Seminar will cover different presentations pertaining the work of the ITU-R (Radio Regulations, Terrestrial Services, Space Services, ITU-R Study groups, WRC) and will also deliver on specific tutorials on the terrestrial and space services filing preparation and submission. On the last day, the forum on Spectrum Management focusing on the future of 5G and beyond in the Europe Region will take place.

5.1.10 Publications

5.2 EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

Digital agriculture



5.2.1 Digital Excellence in Agriculture: ITU-FAO Regional Contest in Europe and Central Asia

The ITU-FAO Study on the Status of Digital Agriculture in 18 countries of Europe and Central Asia highlighted the need for coordination among stakeholders, as the use of ICTs in agriculture has spawned a consistent wave of innovation. Following this observation and as an integral part of this cooperation, in November, ITU and FAO launched the “Digital Excellence in Agriculture: ITU-FAO Contest in Europe and Central Asia”, with the aim to overcome the various challenges of sustainable and resilient food systems. In accordance with the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this Contest aimed at working towards closing the digital, rural and gender divides, known as the triple divide, in order to include all members of society in this unprecedented transition. The webpage of the contest can be [accessed here](#).

5.2.2 Technical Assistance to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey in the development of the Digital Agriculture Strategies

Building upon the outcomes of the „ITU-FAO study on the Status of Digital Agriculture in 18 countries of Europe and Central Asia“ ITU continues supporting FAO in providing technical assistance to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Turkey.

5.2.3 Development of the Guide for EU Accession Countries on the Digital Agriculture Development

With the aim of accelerating the implementation of digital agriculture and providing support to the EU Accession Countries a special guide is being developed in partnership with FAO and upon consultation with the European Commission. Upon finalization, the Guide will be launched in Q1/2022 to provide necessary foundation for the technical assistance to be provided to the countries in need, facilitating their process of alignment of the national policies, strategies and regulations with the EU standards.

5.2.4 m-Health Knowledge and Innovation Hub for Europe (ITU-WHO- Andalusian Public Health Service (SSPA/FPS) – Project funded by European Union

mHealth Innovation and Knowledge Hub is a project funded by the European Union (“EU”) through the Horizon 2020 program, with a total funding of 3 million Euros. The European m-Health Hub is intended to serve as a mechanism to share success in mHealth across the European region and boost uptake of mHealth solutions amongst national governments. At a high level, the mHealth Hub will provide services in areas of operational research, training and education, identifying standards,



regulatory and policy goals, and implementation support. It will have a dual focus on knowledge management & innovation, and on practical implementation.

Andalusian Public Health Service (SSPA/FPS) has been identified as the stakeholder in charge of establishment and management of the Hub. The Consortium consists of 20 partners from 12 EU countries, representing both the public and private sector. Implementation of the European mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub began in February 2020.

A series of activities have been carried out since February 2020. The first face-to-face workshop to kick off Hub activities took place at the ITU HQ in Geneva between 17-19 February. The Hub's website and Social Media Channels were established and a series of outreach activities have been carried out and synergies with existing operations frameworks have been launched, including EC, eHealth Network, eHAction, CEN/ISO, Technical lab & others. Mechanisms for attracting additional funds have been defined. Special efforts were dedicated to engage countries.

In March 2020, a special call for the expression of interest was sent out to countries inviting Member States, regional authorities and public health organizations to take an active role in the operationalization of the Hub and become a catalyst for the deployment of mobile digital health innovations in European countries and beyond. Expressions of interest from 10 countries have been received, including the following: Iceland, Montenegro, Poland, North Macedonia, Czech Republic, Turkey, Croatia, Spain, Moldova, Norway. The implementation support work and collaboration with these countries is channelled to achieve the Hub objectives aligned to COVID-19 goals.

The Hub has received the expressions of commitment on engagement from the following countries: Hungary, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Austria and Turkey. Other countries that have shown an interest in engaging include Croatia and Poland. In the context of the integration of mHealth into health systems, a series of national or regional initiatives have been gathered from the Czech Republic, Croatia, Hungary, Italy, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden. In the context of COVID-19 a compilation of public and private initiatives in Europe using digital and mobile applications has been established.

Few Technical Papers providing an overview at country level on Policies related to mHealth have been produced as a result of fast tracking approach taken in response to COVID-19.

- [“Case Study: Overview of mHealth Policies in Portugal”](#)
- [“Case Study: Overview of Policies in Enabling Digital Health in Austria”](#)
- [“Case Study: Overview of mHealth Policies in Italy”](#)

The Hub Consortium invites Member States, regional authorities, institutions or public health organizations to:

- Take an active role in the operationalization of the Hub and become a catalyst for the deployment of mobile digital health innovations in European countries and beyond.



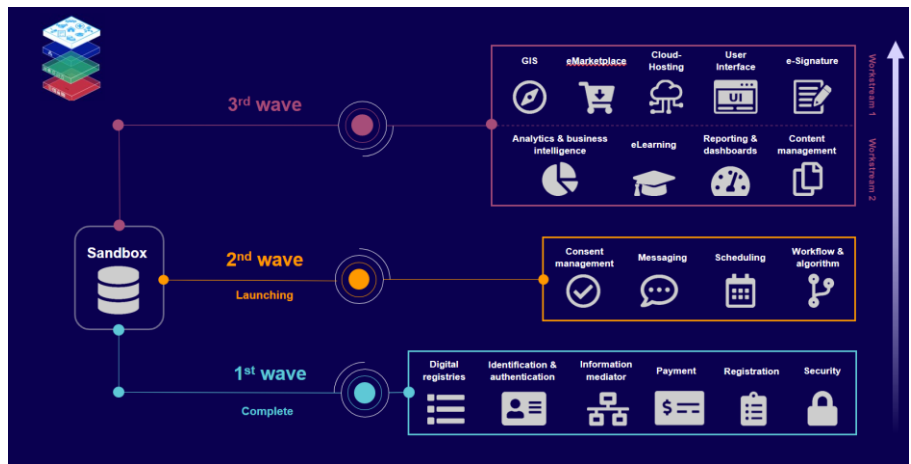
- Collaborate with the Hub to support countries and regions in setting up large-scale mHealth programs.
- Replicate these collaboration models to support other countries and regions in the future.
- Bring in interested parties who wish to contribute to the capacity building and the operationalization of the Hub.
- Share with us any experiences related to the development and adoption of large scale national mHealth programs.

More information is available on the project’s [webpage](#).

5.2.5 GovStack – Accelerating the digital transformation of government services

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (MFA Estonia), the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ), and the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) are collaborating to accelerate digital transformation and digitalization of government services for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in low-resource settings. The collaboration aims at establishing a global high-level framework for digital government cooperation to assist countries in learning and implementing scalable digital services and applications in a cost-efficient, accelerated and integrated manner that are built by applying the best software development principles and best countries’ experiences and practices.

In line with its first main activity area, the GovStack is developing a variety of building block technical specifications, which are being rolled out in waves. The 1st wave of specifications for foundational building blocks are soon to be launched. It



includes digital registries, identification and authentication, information mediator, payment, registration, and security building blocks. The consent management, messaging, scheduling, workflow and algorithm building blocks are part of the 2nd wave, and are currently under development.

The GovStack sandbox should provide a collaborative environment for all digital government ecosystem actors to discover, understand, engage, experiment, innovate, and build digital government solutions using the GovStack platform. The bidding process for the GovStack Sandbox development was closed on 2nd May, and an application program interface (API) environment is expected to be set up by the end of the year.



Moving towards the successful scale-up of the project at the European level and beyond, several activities focusing on global and subregional implementations were undertaken.



D4D Collaboration for the Horn of Africa Initiative on Digital Government and Cybersecurity was kicked off on March 15. It aims to enhance digital service delivery through implementing digital government services and strengthening national and regional cybersecurity in the region.

On March 16, the GovStack initiative was pledged by GIZ at the Launch of the Partner2Connect Focus Areas Action Framework, aiming to support the Digital Public Goods ecosystem by developing the specification of 12 ICT building blocks that will reach up to 2.000.000 citizens.



On May 12, the GovStack initiative was presented at the e-Governance Conference in Tallin, the largest e-governance event in the region hosted by one of the founding partners of the initiative. At the dedicated workshop held in a hybrid format, participants had a chance to get hands-on knowledge on building resilient e-governance architecture using reusable software components based on a real-life use case.

Besides, ITU has agreed to join forces with European Commission to streamline the Open-Source community development as part of the digitalization and multilateralism programme. Even though the activity implementation is expected to start in 2023, this commitment reinforces the previous efforts by meeting the urgent need to nurture, develop and sustain global and national ecosystems and open-source communities.

Meanwhile, to speed-up the GovStack initiative rollout and ensure its sustainability in the Europe region, the ITU Europe Office seeks to create deeper connections between member states on this topic. In this context, an information session with the authorities leading countries' digital transformation will be held at the end of May.



5.2.6 E-waste: Regional E-waste Monitor for the Western Balkans (ITU-UNEP-UNITAR)

E-waste constitutes one of the fastest growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment and a threat to sustainable development. Data and comparable overviews on e-waste are essential in all stages of the policy cycle, to evaluate developments over time, to elaborate national and international policies and to limit e-waste generation, to prevent illegal dumping, to promote recycling, and to create jobs in the recycling sectors.



However, only a very limited number of countries collect internationally comparable e-waste statistics and comparable overviews on e-waste management at the regional and national level. Within the framework of the Global E-waste Statistics Partnership, this project aims to make an assessment of e-waste statistics, e-waste management practices and the e-waste legislation landscape in the beneficiary countries to produce the Regional E-waste Monitor report for the Western Balkans.

The project will be jointly implemented by UNEP Europe Office, UNEP Vienna Office and ITU, in close cooperation with UNITAR-SCYCLE and with the respective governments and statistical offices of the participating countries, i.e. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

A special briefing on this initiative was provided on 15 December 2021 during the session on "ITU-UNEP-UNITAR E-Waste Monitoring for the Western Balkans", held within the framework of the ITU-State University of Telecommunication of Ukraine co-organized event "Digital transformation based on ICT innovations for the development of the digital economy". More information can be found at the [dedicated webpage here](#). The concept note of this initiative can be [accessed directly here](#).

5.2.7 ITU-UNEP-UNITAR project on "E-Waste Monitoring for the Western Balkans"



Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) offer great opportunities for sustainable development but also constitute one of the fastest-growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment and thus can cause considerable health and environmental risks. Data and comparable overviews on



e-waste are essential in all stages of the policy cycle, to evaluate developments over time, elaborate national and international policies and limit e-waste generation, prevent illegal dumping, promote recycling, and create jobs in the recycling sectors.

To counter the lack of internationally comparable e-waste statistics in the Western Balkans, ITU Office for Europe and the Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division, UNEP Regional Office for Europe and Vienna Programme Office, and UNITAR-SCYCLE Programme joined forces under the '*ITU-UNEP-UNITAR E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans*' project. This project is implemented within the framework of the [Global E-waste Statistics Partnership](#).

This project targets five countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, and seeks to be implemented in close cooperation with the respective governments and national statistical offices.

The project aims to:

- i) Train on how to make and collect e-waste statistics,
- ii) Make an assessment of e-waste statistics, e-waste management practice and e-waste legislation landscape in the Western Balkans;
- iii) Produce the Regional E-waste Monitor Report for the Western Balkans, in order to analyse trends in the transboundary movement of e-waste, inform policymakers, industries, and businesses about regional e-waste data, and support the development of national and regional counter-measures through policies, regulations, awareness-raising, and industrial response.

Overall, this project will build foundations for making digitization and digitalization processes green and sustainable.



Within the framework of the project, a [regional briefing](#) was held on 15 December intending to introduce the topic at the regional level laying the basis for engagement at the national level. This regional briefing was followed by a kick-off meeting of the project with designated national focal points on the 16 March.

In addition, a three days e-waste statistics online training was held on the 4-5-6 May with the relevant stakeholders of the respective countries. This training covered: i) e-waste and the general principles



of e-waste statistics; ii) E-waste Toolkit for calculating EEE put on the market and E-waste generated; iii) other e-waste related flows and an e-waste national roadmap.

Learn more about the project and its milestone at the [dedicated webpage](#).

5.3 EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

5.3.1 Regional Assessment of Enabling Environments Ensuring Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region



The ITU Office for Europe has been carrying out a regional assessment of enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region consisting of 46 countries. The assessment is designed to provide ITU members and stakeholders from the European region with a holistic vision regarding the current implementation status on ICT accessibility laws, regulations, policies and strategies. ITU also intends to provide advice to policy makers and stakeholders throughout the region through good practices and recommendations, and support ITU members’ efforts in ensuring that information and communications, as well as ICT products and services, are available and accessible to all citizens without any discriminations of gender age or abilities, so including to persons with disabilities.

The assessment is an important part of the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiative on “accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development”. In particular, it will contribute to the Accessible Europe initiative, Connect 2030 Agenda, and the ITU strategic goal number 2, target 2.9, calling on Member States to establish accessible ICT environments for persons with disabilities in all Member States by 2023.



Additionally, the assessment is fully in line with the requirements for the transposition of the European Union (EU) legislation regarding disability inclusion as indicated in the European Accessibility Act and other Directives that deal with ICT accessibility, and aims at facilitating ITU Members’ understanding of the related requirements and fulfilment with the deadlines.



5.3.2 ICT Accessibility Policy Review of the Republic of Lithuania (forthcoming)

The development of the National Assessment of the ICT Accessibility in Lithuania is planned for Q4 2021. Particular focus will be dedicated to the focus on the role of the National Regulatory Authority in creating enabling environment facilitating the development of digital accessibility.

Gender Equality

5.3.3 Network of Women – Europe

The Network of Women (NoW) was created to encourage gender balance in the activities leading up to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC-22, scheduled to take place from 6 to 16 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The first Network of Women (NoW) for Europe meeting was launched on 19 January 2021 at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-21 for Europe (RPM-EUR).



The Network's vision is to provide a neutral platform for exchange of information between new and experienced female delegates, as well as for advice and support from women who have successfully ascended to leadership positions in ITU-D. NoW Europe is own and led by ITU-D women delegates with the support of the ITU-D.

The Network's Objectives to:

- build, in the medium and long term, a community where female delegates support each other, expand their network, advocate and share experience and knowledge;
- promote the active participation of women in the activities of ITU-D and the development sector in general;
- give visibility to women and empower them for larger responsibilities in their respective delegations, at WTDC-21 and in future similar platforms;
- encourage experienced female delegates to mentor ICT professionals in order to create a stronger base for women in the digital space.

ITU Office for Europe continues to provide operational support to the activities carried out by the network of women in order to ensure vibrant implementation of this platform while seeking synergies with the actions carried out under the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe related to Gender Equality.



5.3.4 Girls in ICT Celebration



International Girls in ICT Day 2022 was observed on 28 April 2022.



The European Celebration of Girls in ICTs: Access and Safety, was held virtually on 28 April 2022, from 16:00 to 17:00 CEST. The event was organized by ITU, with the coordination of the Regional Network of Women (NoW). The event aimed at providing high representatives of the European Regional Network of Women with the opportunity to exchange on first-hand experiences and act as role models to encourage and inspire European girls and young women to pursue an education and career in the STEM field. The event provided a platform for discussions on the challenges and opportunities for girls and young women to take an active role in the ICT sectors.

Over the years, Girls in ICT Day was celebrated in more than 170 countries with over 11,000 events worldwide by engaging key stakeholders and partners to inspire girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers through trainings, information sharing, capacity building activities and role models. Adolescent girls with job-specific skills related to STEM – such as engineering, computer programming, cloud technology, robotics, health sciences and technologies – are better equipped to equally and actively participate in changing economies and evolving labour markets. Currently, traditional employment sectors are declining in response to automation, while innovation opens new ones demanding different skills. Without STEM skills – critical thinking, problem-solving and digital skills– girls and women will be further left behind from equal economic and social participation.

More information on the Girls in ICT initiative see here: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/GirlsInICTDay/2021/GICT-2021.aspx>

5.3.5 Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group

The ITU Youth Strategy aims to improve and have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world, and to ensure meaningful participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.





In line with the ITU Youth Strategy and within the framework of the “Generation Connect” global initiative, European Youth were called upon to contribute to the preparatory process for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), in particular the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for Europe, through the establishment of the **Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR)**.

Since December 2020, the Members of the Europe Youth Group, consisting of 24 young people aged between 18 and 24, coming from all around Europe, have been working towards the elaboration of a **Youth Declaration**, providing their views on the challenges and opportunities related to digital development and sharing the actions they would like to see happening in regards to the regional priorities of the Europe region, as an input to the RPM for Europe.

The Youth Declaration developed by the group identifies five thematic priorities as primary (capacity development, policy and regulation, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion) while recognizing the importance of several other thematic priorities. Declaration was presented by GC-EUR representatives at the RPM for Europe, held virtually on 18-19 January 2021.



GC-EUR continues its work, providing valuable contributions related to the organization of the WTDC-22 Generation Connect Global Youth Summit to be held on 6-7 November 2021, back-to-back with WTDC-212, on 6-16 June 2022, in Kigali, Ruanda.

ITU Generation Connect European Digital Youth Jam

ITUEvents
Generation Connect
European digital youth jam

Contributing to the European Year of Youth

Online meeting
4 April 2022
10:00 - 14:00 CET

Follow us on twitter: @ITUEurope
<http://itu.int/go/2JIC>



The ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR) organized the first ever Digital Youth Jam, held virtually on 3 December 2021. The event aimed at gathering European youth leaders and





organizations to discuss the GC-EUR Youth Declaration covering topics such as capacity development, policy regulation, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion. The event also provided a platform for European Youth to gather, discuss,

network and learn from each other.

5.4 EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

Child Online Protection

5.4.1 Roll-out of the ITU COP Guidelines at the National Level in Europe Region

ITU firstly developed the Guidelines for Child Online Protection (COP) in 2009. Upon request of the Member States, the COP Guidelines have been updated and launched officially in June 2020 in all six UN Official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian Spanish).

With the aim to facilitate the roll-out of the COP Guidelines at the national level, significant efforts have been dedicated in order to release the materials in languages other than the official UN ones. This translated into a series of trainings, workshops, webinars and communication campaigns supported by ITU. ITU Office for Europe thanks all administrations and stakeholders who made it possible and encourages others to engage in this process as well.

Albanian language:

[COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Albanian language](#)

Bosnian language:

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Bosnian language](#)

Croatian language:

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Croatian language](#)

Serbian language:

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Serbian language](#)

Hungarian language:

[COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Policymakers in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Industry in Hungarian language](#)

Romanian language:

[Storybook for children under 9 years old in Romanian language](#)



[Workbook for children aged 9 to 12 years old in Romanian language](#)

[Social media campaign in Romanian language](#)

Turkish language:

COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Turkish [language](#)

COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Turkish language

Ukrainian language:

[COP Guidelines and related materials in Ukrainian language](#)

The ITU COP Guidelines are currently being translated in Maltese and Macedonian languages.

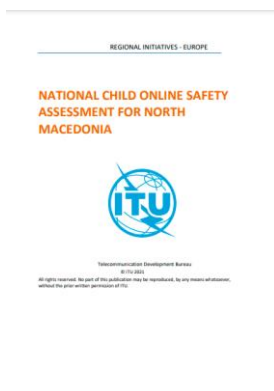
5.4.2 Roll out of the ITU global project “Creating a safe and prosperous Cyberspace for children” in Albania



The National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECCS) of Albania, raised the hand to become a pilot country for the ITU global project “Creating a safe and prosperous Cyberspace for children”. Within this context, ITU is supporting the NAECCS in rolling out the COP Guidelines at the national level, following the objective to foster a culture of child online protection with all relevant

stakeholders through knowledge sharing and digital skills development. The start of the implementation of the ITU Global Project in Albania was announced during the event “Promoting Implementation of COPs in Albania”, which was organized by NAECCS and held on 29 September 2021. The implementation of the Global Project in Albania is planned to take place until March 2023.

5.4.3 Assessment of the National Approach towards the Child Online Protection in North Macedonia



The ITU Office for Europe provided its assistance on the elaboration of a Child Online Protection National Assessment in North Macedonia in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. The Assessment includes qualitative and quantitative research, including interviews with relevant national stakeholders, and will lead to developing a strategy and operational roadmap based on identified challenges, opportunities, and recommendations. A launching event of the National Child Online Safety Assessment will take place on 27 June. The event will be open to all relevant stakeholders at the national level. The aim of the event is to present report details, conclusions and recommendations, as well as to inform, engage and mobilize all stakeholders.



Roll-out of the ITU COP Guidelines in Malta



The collaboration between the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (MFWS), the Ministry for Education of Malta and the ITU Office for Europe resulted in the elaboration of a situational assessment on child online protection at the national level in Malta. This situation assessment creates the basis for a statistical exercise aiming at mapping the current level of child online protection in the country and identifying gaps to be addressed. A launching event of the translated ITU COP Guidelines in Maltese language is foreseen to take place at the end of June. Upon request from the country, ITU Office for Europe will also provide a series of training of trainers to College mentors in Malta, who will then be able to train primary and secondary pupils from two public schools in the Northern and Southern part of the country.

5.5 CSIRT Readiness Assessment in Moldova

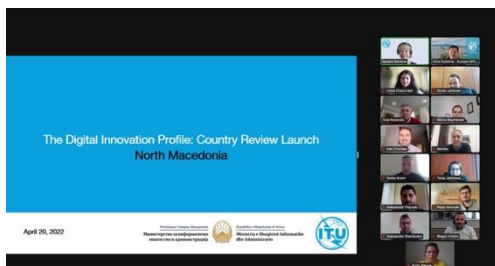
With the aim of strengthening resilience of infrastructure and confidence of use of ICTs in Moldova, CSIRT readiness assessment is currently carried out in the country, being done in line with a new country’s strategy on digital transformation. The first phase of the assessment was successfully completed the first stage of the country’s CIRT readiness assessment on December 2021.

5.6 EUR5: Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

5.6.1 Digital Innovation Profile for North Macedonia



Assistance in building an ICT-centric innovation ecosystem is currently provided to North Macedonia, which includes desktop research, the organization of national consultations, engagement of relevant stakeholders, processing a series of interviews, building a Digital Innovation Profile, including a series of recommendations and projects.



A series of co-creation workshops are expected to be held in April, May, June and August and with North Macedonian stakeholders, from the private sector, the public sector and academia, on recommendations and the assessment of the innovation ecosystem in the country.

The work for the Digital Innovation Profile for North Macedonia will be published in Q4/2022.



5.6.2 Regional Good Practices: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Europe

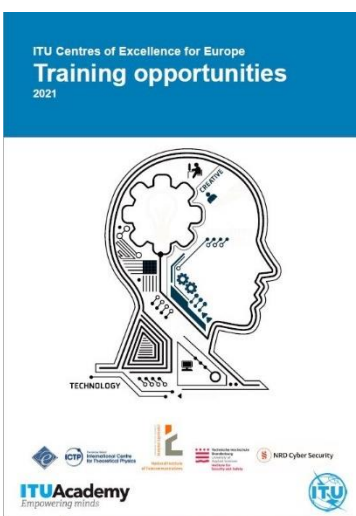


Report on ‘Regional Good Practices: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation’ has been completed and published. This report provides an overview of the comparative innovation capacity of the European region through ICT-centric innovation policy monitors and insight on how good practices can strengthen capacity to integrate ICT innovation into national development agendas. The full report can be accessed here: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Publications/GOOD_PRACT.03-2021-PDF-E.pdf

The report was launched on 1st July 2021 at the dedicated event. The main overview and key findings of the report were presented during the session. Four stakeholders from Albania, Georgia, Serbia, and Sweden presented their countries’ digital transformation journey based on the three engines of growth, as well as their innovative good practices highlighted in the report. This event was the first step towards the ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe. It was followed and viewed by over 300 individuals via Zoom platform, Twitter and YouTube live streams.



6 ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe



The ITU Centres of Excellence (CoE) programme offers continuous education to ICT professionals and executives in the public and private spheres through face-to-face or distance learning programmes. The Centres serve as regional focal points for professional development, research, and knowledge sharing, as well as provide specialist training services to external clients. With the support from multilateral and regional organizations, CoE networks have been established in all ITU regions. The current network is composed of 29 Centres across the globe, including 6 in Europe. In 2021 the ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe are offering 21 trainings. All trainings conclude with testing component. A certificate of achievement is awarded to candidates who successfully complete the end-of-course assessment(s). The following

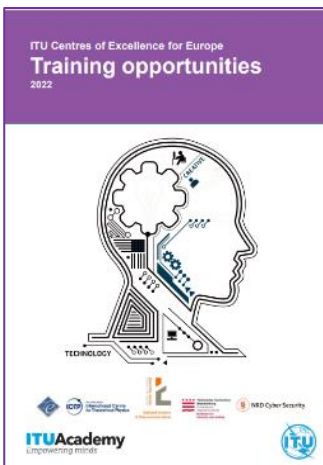
table presents all training opportunities offered in 2021 and displayed in chronological order.





The [5th Meeting of the ITU Centres of Excellence \(CoE\) Steering Committee for Europe](#) took place on 8 July 2021 and discussed and approved plans for the upcoming quarters. In 2021 the ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe are offering 21 trainings. All trainings conclude with a testing component. A

certificate of achievement is awarded to candidates who successfully complete the end-of-course assessment(s). All currently available training opportunities offered in 2021 are displayed in chronological order in the Europe Training Opportunities 2021 catalogue available [here](#).



The [6th Meeting of the ITU Centres of Excellence \(CoE\) Steering Committee for Europe](#) took place on 5 November 2021, which aimed to approve the workplan for 2022. This led to the approval of 21 training opportunities for the year 2022.



The training opportunities for the year 2022 are now available and displayed in chronological order in the "[Training Opportunities 2022 catalogue opportunity for the year 2022](#)" are now available and displayed in chronological order in the Europe Training Opportunities 2022 catalogue.

List of Courses:

Dates	Title of the Course
1-8 February	Strategic aspects for internet governance and innovations
1 March - 31 December	Cyber incident response
1 March - 31 December	Cybersecurity techniques
1 March - 31 December	Information security management system
8-15 March	Wireless access technologies to internet network
12-19 April	Security and OoS in internet network
25 May - 21 June	Future broadband: ultra-broadband Internet, clouds, IoT and artificial intelligence
1 June - 31 December	Cyber Risk Management
7-8 June	5G technologies for IoT



14-21 June	Legal, regulatory and technical aspects of cloud computing in international data transfers
23-30 August	Technical, business and regulatory aspects of 5G networks
27 September - 4 October	QoS technologies and regulation for fixed and mobile
15-16 November	Applications of satellite based IoT networks
16 November - 13 December	Future mobile and wireless broadband: LTE-A-Pro, WiFi, satellites, 5G NR and AI

7 Flagship reports launched in 2022

The following presents a series of publications that have been launched in 2021 and/or to be launched shortly. All reports and publications are an important milestone of the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives ensuring evidence based approach applied in the actions undertaken across the region. More information on publications and reports relevant to the Europe region can be [consulted here](#).

7.1 Other reports coming soon

The following presents a series of other publications to be released shortly

- Regional Assessment on EMF (ITU)
- Digital Development Profile Albania (ITU-UN CT – Partners)
- Digital Development Profile Ukraine (ITU-UN CT – Partners)
- Digital innovation Profile of Georgia (ITU)
- Digital Innovation Profile of Serbia (ITU)
- Digital Skills Assessment Albania (ITU)
- Digital Skills Assessment North Macedonia (ITU)
- Digital Skills Case Study for Ukraine (ITU)
- Digital Excellence in Agriculture (ITU-FAO)
- Getting prepared to meet EU expectation on digitalization in agriculture : A guidebook for pre-accession countries (ITU-FAO)

