

# ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR) 2025

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

organized by the International Telecommunication Union, Telecommunication Development Bureau with the support of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary and cooperation with the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)

**24 February 2025**  
**Budapest, Hungary**

Public Webcast accessible via the [RDF-EUR 2025 website](#)

RDF-EUR 2025 is held back-to-back with the ITU Regional Preparatory Meeting for Europe (25-26 February 2025) and Com-ITU of CEPT (27-28 February 2025)

## PROGRAMME

### Monday, 24 February 2025

8:30 – 9:00 Networking Coffee

**9:00 – 9:30**

#### **OPENING CEREMONY**

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- **Dr. Péter Vári**, Deputy Director-General, the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary
- **Mr. Oli Bird**, Co-President of CEPT - European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations
- **Ms. Gwi-Yeop Son**, Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia, UN Development Cooperation Office

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

**9:30 – 10:40**

#### **ROUNDTABLE ONE: State of Digital Development and Trends - Challenges and Opportunities**

This is a high-level roundtable, with the objective to discuss regional and country specific challenges and opportunities arising from digital development and transformation. The focus will be on Europe and how the region could accelerate the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals through digital.

Moderation: **Head of the ITU Office for Europe, ITU**

Setting the Stage: **Presentation by BDT, ITU**

- **H.E. Stefan Andonovski**, Minister of Digital Transformation, North Macedonia



- **H.E. Milan Dobrijevic**, State Secretary, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications Government, Republic of Serbia
- **H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, Former President of Malta, Founder & Chair of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
- **Mr. Tonko Obuljen**, President of the Council, HAKOM, Croatia, and BEREC Vice Chair 2025, Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC)
- **Dr. Milan Radulović**, PhD EE, President of the Council, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP), Montenegro
- **Mr. Zoltán Nagy**, Deputy CEO of Digital Hungary Agency, Hungary
- **Mr. David Vicente**, Director, Andorra Digital

Announcement of the Support to the Western Balkans on Early Warning Systems:

- **Albania / Bosnia and Herzegovina / Serbia / Montenegro / North Macedonia**

10:40 – 11:00

Coffee Break and the Official Photograph

**11:00 – 12:30**

### **ROUNDTABLE TWO: Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships on Infrastructure Development for Universal Connectivity**

This roundtable will explore strategies to accelerate digital infrastructure development, leveraging the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition (P2C) to advance universal and meaningful connectivity. Speakers will share insights on innovative solutions, financing models, and policy frameworks, highlighting progress on P2C pledges and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through inclusive digital transformation.

Moderation and setting the context: **Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe**

- **Mr. Armer Juka**, Member of the Steering Council, Electronic and Postal Communications Authority (AKEP), Albania
- **Ms Naama Henig**, Director, International Affairs Department, Ministry of Communications, Israel
- **Ms. Mzia Gogilashvili**, Chief Expert on International Relations, National Communications Commission, Georgia, and the representative of the Eastern Partnership Electronic Communications Regulators Network (EaPeReg)
- **Ms. Cristina Aguiar**, Head of Unit, Regulation for Citizens and Consumers, ANACOM, Portugal
- **Mr. Yuriy Matsyk**, Director of the Broadband Infrastructure Department, Ministry of Digital Transformation, Ukraine
- **Dr. Per Fröjd**, Vice President of International Standards, Ericsson, Sweden
- **Ms. Kerstin Juettner**, Public Affairs Officer - International Government Relations UN/ITU, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG, Germany



**12:30 - 13:00****NoW EVENT: Network of Women for Europe: Building connections, empowering futures**

The Network of Women will delve into the profound impact of fostering strong professional networks among women in the telecommunications and information technology sectors. Discussions will focus on strategies to create inclusive environments that support women's growth and leadership, the significance of mentorship and sponsorship in empowering female professionals, and the ways in which collaborative efforts can drive innovation and transform the industry. Attendees will share experiences, best practices, and actionable insights to build connections that not only empower individual careers but also shape a more equitable future for all.

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

Opening Remarks: **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

Special Message: **H.E. Marie-Louise Coleiro Preca**, Former President of Malta, Founder & Chair of The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society

- **H.E. Katarina Tomasevic**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Serbia
- **Ms. Inga Rimkevičienė**, Chair of the Com ITU CEPT Project Team for ITU-D
- **Mr. Vilem Vesely**, Deputy Director, Department of Electronic Communications, Czech Republic
- **Ms. Kerstin Juettnner**, Public Affairs Officer - International Government Relations UN/ITU, Rohde & Schwarz GmbH & Co. KG
- **Ms. Mathilde Maury**, Director, Policy and Government Affairs Global Policy and International Affairs, Nokia, Finland

**13:00 - 14:00**

Lunch Break

**14:00 - 15:30****ROUNDTABLE THREE: Partner 2 Connect Matchmaking Roundtable on Fostering Partnerships for Development**

This roundtable will serve as a dynamic platform to facilitate meaningful collaboration and strategic partnerships for development across the Europe region and beyond. By aligning resources with real-world needs, the session will highlight innovative approaches to building sustainable, high-value partnerships that unlock transformative opportunities. It will focus on catalyzing impactful initiatives to accelerate the region's digital agenda, driving inclusive and impactful capacity-development efforts to support digital transformation and regional growth.

Moderation and setting the context: **Project Officer**, ITU Office for Europe

- **H.E. Katarina Tomasevic**, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Information and Telecommunications, Serbia
- **Mr. George Michaelides**, Commissioner of Communications, Cyprus



- **Ms. Beatrice Covassi**, Senior Expert, Policy Outreach and International Affairs, DG Connect, European Commission
- **Ms. Fiona McCluney**, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Albania
- **Ms. Pranvera Kastrati**, i.a. Head of Programme Department, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)
- **Ms. Mathilde Maury**, Director, Policy and Government Affairs Global Policy and International Affairs, Nokia, Finland
- **Ms. Natalia Vicente**, Vice President for Public Affairs, Global Satellite Operator's Association (GSOA), Brussels
- **Ms. Maria Ylenia Farrugia**, Data Innovation and Governance Manager, Malta

15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break

**16:00 - 17:30**

### **ROUNDTABLE FOUR: Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**

In WTDC-22 held in Kigali Rwanda, five regional initiatives were adopted on themes relevant to connectivity, digital transformation, digital inclusion, cybersecurity, and innovation. Over the past three years the ITU Office for Europe collaborated with a spectrum of stakeholders on projects and activities across the region in implementation of these regional initiatives. This session will shed light on some of the key achievements in implementing these regional initiatives. Moreover, as we prepare for the upcoming WTDC-25 the Europe region has already started shaping the new Regional Initiatives. In this context, this session will also discuss the priorities that could contribute to the new Regional Initiatives for Europe.

Setting the stage: **Head of the ITU Office for Europe**

Moderation: **Programme Officer**, ITU Office for Europe

- **Ms. Inga Rimkevičienė**, Chair of the Com ITU CEPT Project Team for ITU-D
- **Mr. Nabil Gangi**, FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Europe and Central Asia
- **Ms. Alessandra Molz**, Skills and Employability Specialist, ILO
- **Mr. Boris Radanovic**, Head of Engagement and Partnerships, Safe Internet Center, UK
- **Ms. Madalina Clapon**, European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 2, Expert at ANCOM, Romania

Presentation on RI Acceleration Framework: **Head of Digital Innovation**, BDT, ITU

**17:30 - 18:00**

### **GENERATION CONNECT EVENT: Intergenerational dialogue on challenges and opportunities in the field of digital development in Europe**

This Event will serve as a pivotal event for the Europe youth in the lead-up to the Regional Preparatory Meetings (RPMs) for the Europe as part of the preparations for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-25). This event will focus on fostering dialogue



between youth, ministries, ITU leadership, and other key stakeholders to reflect on regional priorities and initiatives.

Moderation and setting the context: **Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe**

- **Mr. Filippo Di Crescenzo**, ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy
- **Ms. Selma Kaymakci**, ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy
- **Ms. Annamária Wettstein**, Youth Delegate of Hungary to UN

Closing Intervention and Group Photo

- **Dr Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU

**18:00 - 18:30**

### CLOSING CEREMONY

- **Dr. Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava**, Director of the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau
- **Dr. Péter Vári**, Deputy Director-General, the National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary

**END OF RDF**

**18:40 - 19:00**

### Regional Preparatory Meeting - Informal Heads of Delegation Meeting (by invitation only)

**19:30 - 21:30**

### Social Event

