ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

ITURDF

EUROPE REGION
BUDAPEST 2025

24 February
Budapest, Hungary

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Bridging Our Emerging Digital Innovation Gap

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance for Digital Development

https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/innovation-alliance/

Three Main Vehicles

|	
Digital Innovation Board	Guide the Alliance's work to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and strategic progress on the Kigali Action Plan, while facilitating high-level advocacy and reporting on key workstreams to achieve the goals.
Network of Acceleration Centres	Enhance global, regional, and national innovation capabilities for leveraging technology, policy, and flagship initiatives development, while boosting local innovation and entrepreneurship to accelerate digital transformation.
Digital Transformation Lab	Builds innovation knowledge programmes to capacitate the Network of Acceleration Centres and supports Centres in getting policy and ecosystem initiatives off the ground.

Connectivity & Development Goals

Missing Link Report

Time

THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development
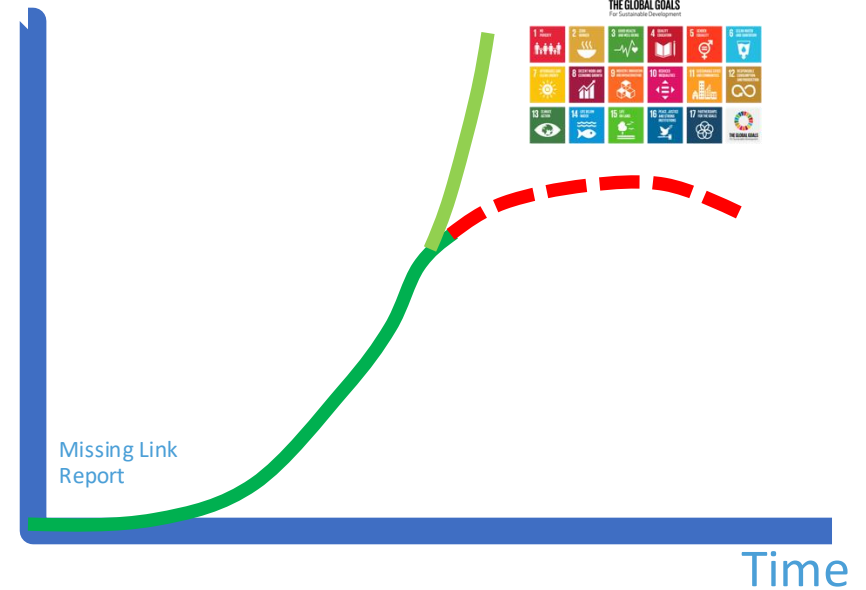
WTDC Resolutions 90, 89 and 85 (Kigali, 2022)
ITU Regional Initiatives
PP Resolution 205

Innovation is both a process and an outcome
- Alliance 10 playbooks (e.g. foresight playbook)
- Regional Initiative Accelerator
- Innovation Café

ITU Regional Initiatives 2023-2025

World Telecommunication Development Conference 2022 (WTDC-22)

Resolution 17: Implementation of and cooperation on approved regional initiatives at the national, regional, interregional and global levels.

Regional Initiatives are expected to be delivered through projects. The opportunity is to catalyze project activation through a systemic approach.
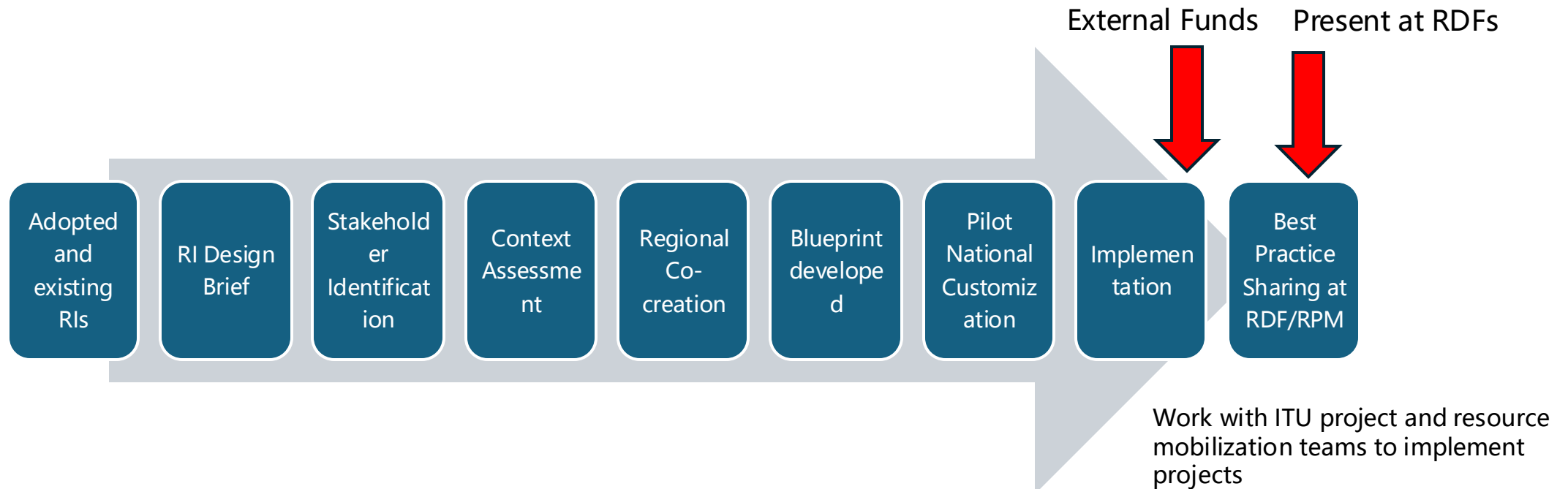
What is the RI Accelerator?

- A mechanism using innovative processes, tools, and frameworks established as a product of the Digital Transformation Lab (one of the Vehicles of the Alliance) to pave the way for a new way the BDT can support delivery of regional initiatives

- A process for accelerating regional initiatives by:
    - kick-starting ideation and definition of RIs and project concepts based on stakeholder engagement
    - supporting the definition and implementation critical milestones of ITU Regional Initiatives
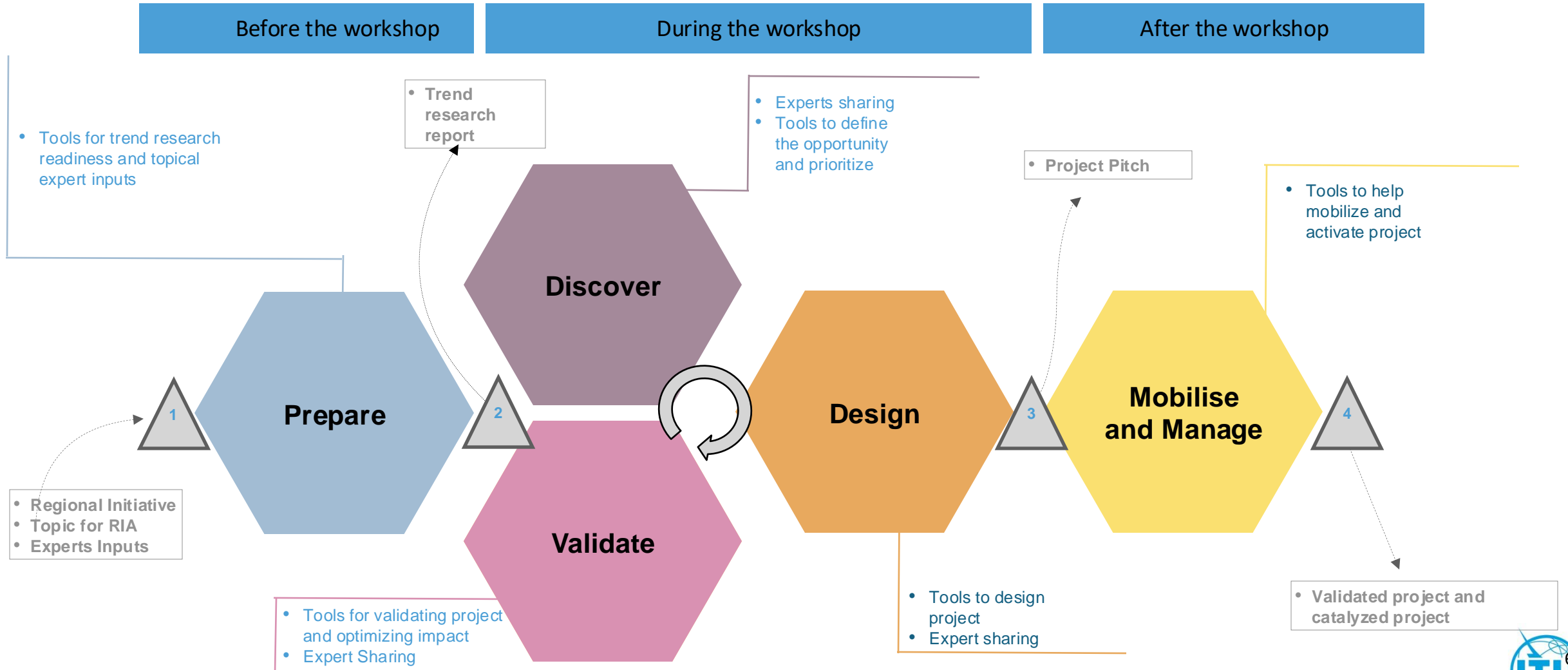
WTDC RIs → BDT → Projects
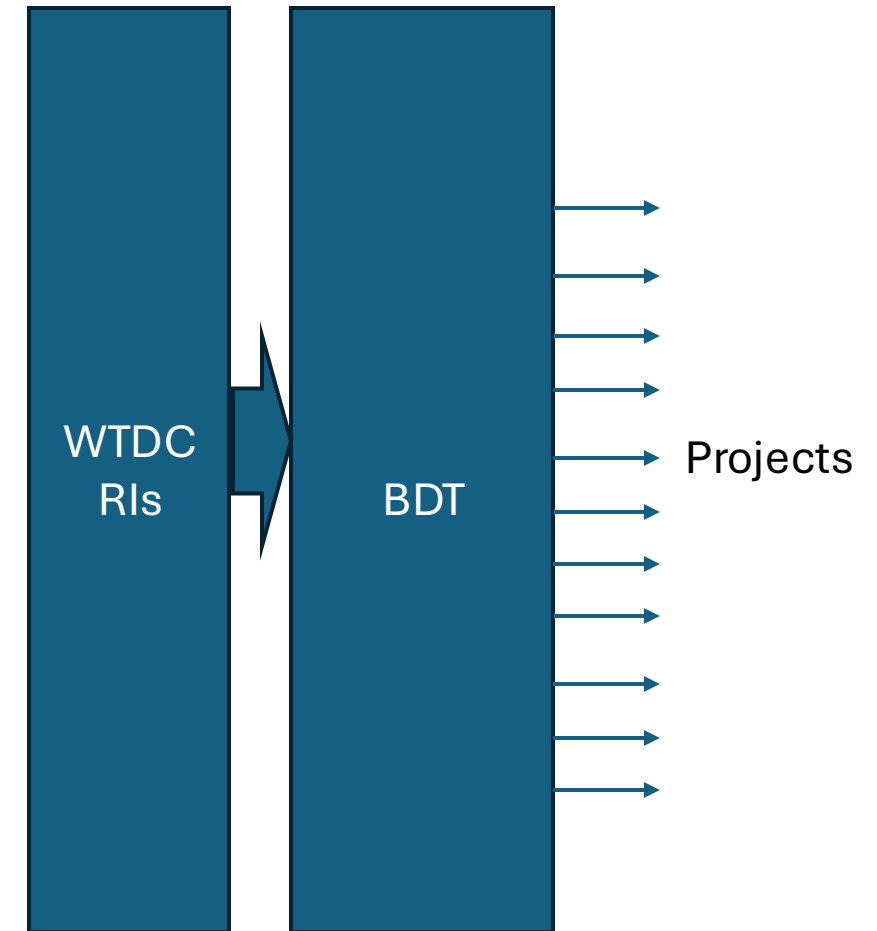
How does it work?

The RI Accelerator is an open platform curated by BDT for interested stakeholders to come together and co-create project concepts based on stakeholder engagement related to ITU Regional Initiatives they would like to accelerate using innovative capabilities and resources.

External Funds   Present at RDFs

| Adopted and existing RIs | RI Design Brief | Stakeholder Identification | Context Assessment | Regional Co-creation | Blueprint developed | Pilot National Customization | Implementation | Best Practice Sharing at RDF/RPM |

Work with ITU project and resource mobilization teams to implement projects

The Regional Initiative Acceleration Framework

Before the workshop	During the workshop	After the workshop

- **Trend research report**

- Tools for trend research readiness and topical expert inputs

- Experts sharing
- Tools to define the opportunity and prioritize

- **Project Pitch**

- Tools to help mobilize and activate project

Discover

Prepare

Validate

Design

Mobilise and Manage

1

2

3

4

- **Regional Initiative**
- **Topic for RIA**
- **Experts Inputs**

- Tools for validating project and optimizing impact
- Expert Sharing

- Tools to design project
- Expert sharing

- **Validated project and catalyzed project**

Our Assumptions for the RI Experimentation

☑ 1. **Navigating a changing environment –** Stakeholders can understand the changing context and design projects that are fit for the future.

☑ 2. **Projects as expected outcome –** The RIA can catalyze the development of projects from any regional initiative.

☑ 3. **Clarifying expected results** – The RIA can articulate clearer outcomes to achieve each RI.

☑ 4. **Defining measurable KPIs** – The RIA can help establish clear metrics to assess progress and impact.

☑ 5. **Case studies and knowledge sharing** – The RIA can foster best practice sharing to inform project development.

☑ 6. **Engaging stakeholders –** The RIA can identify and engage core stakeholders to drive, interest and ownership of projects.

☑ 7. **Capacity building** – The RIA can deliver useful innovation capacity building to stakeholders during the co-design workshops.

☐ 8. **Support of ITU acceleration centres**– BDT can drive interest of the Alliance Acceleration centres to support stakeholders develop projects within their agreed scope, amplifying impact through multi-regional projects.

☐ 9. **Networking and immersion:** Stakeholders can benefit from an ecosystem immersion and networking opportunities with key experts, partners and seeing specific example to inform their project design or gain access to resources.

☐ 10. **Project Activation** – The RIA can support stakeholders with their project activation. The RIA can kick start an interest group of like-minded stakeholders to advocate, provide support and deliver impact.

Key Milestones

Phase 1

8 November 2024
RI Accelerator Launch Chongqing

28 October 2024
RI Accelerator Endorsed by the Digital Innovation Board of the Alliance at GIF-24

November-December 2024
Engagement of ITU Acceleration Centres

Phase 2

February 3-5, 2025, Europe Pilot co-creation Development of RI projects

Phase 3

May 2025, onward More cohorts and testing, especially in developing countries and more RIs type

Phase 4

December 2025
RI Accelerator toolkit draft to scale-up model developed for use with Newly adopted RIs from Baku

December 2026
RI Accelerator to concludes with lessons learned and support provided to regions

January 2026
Toolkit ready for capacity building and use by BDT on the Baku RIs

1. Mapping and planning

2. Draft an Action Plan

3. Design the first pilot

4. Develop RI digital development projects

5. Support operationalization and acceleration of RI projects

Accelerating regional initiatives

Critical velocity to get projects bankable and sustainability going

Future fit
Right Design
Right Validation
Core Team Engaged
Key priority actions

EUR 2 Experimentation (Pilot)

ITU Europe Regional Initiative - EUR2: Digital Transformation for Resilience

Event: Strengthening the Emergency Preparedness Capabilities in the **Western Balkan Countries**, February 11 to February 13, 2025, in Podgorica, Montenegro.

Topic: Emergency Telecommunications

Objectives: Develop a sub-regional blueprint and develop customizable initiatives to achieve tangible outcomes of EUR2, expected Outcome 2

Stakeholders: Key relevant stakeholders

Lessons will be scaled in next phase

Our Workshop in Podgorica, Montenegro- 5 Western Balkan countries

EUR-2, expected outcome 1 and 25 projects, $20 million, 5 countries, 45 participants, 20 in core teams

Regional Office
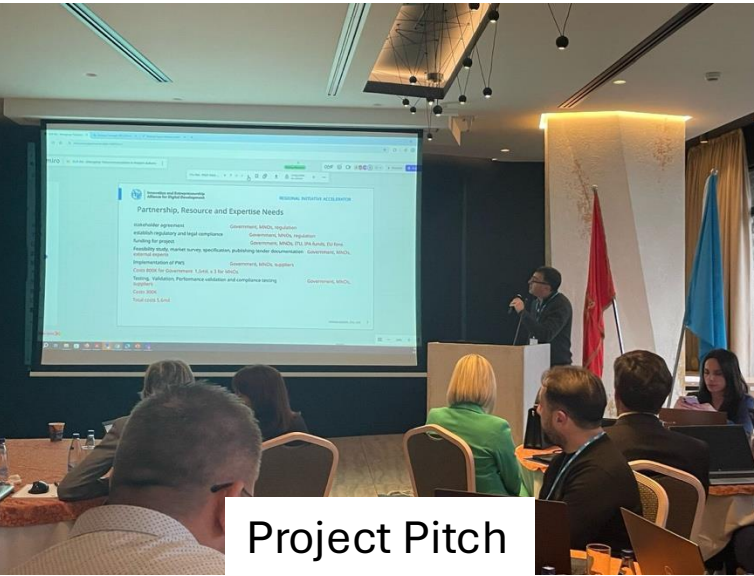

1st Cohort

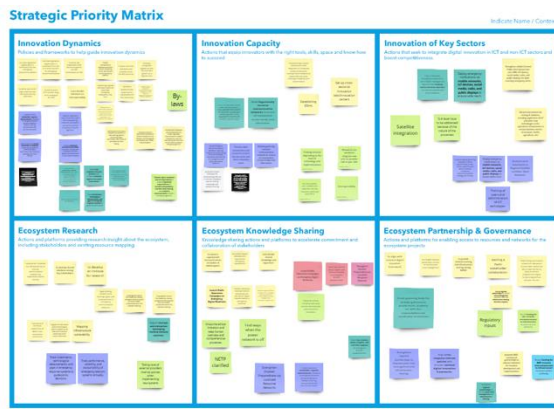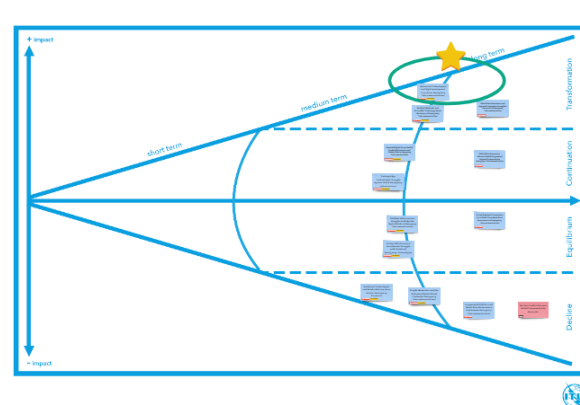Thematic view

Case Studies
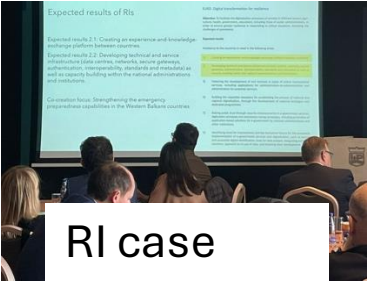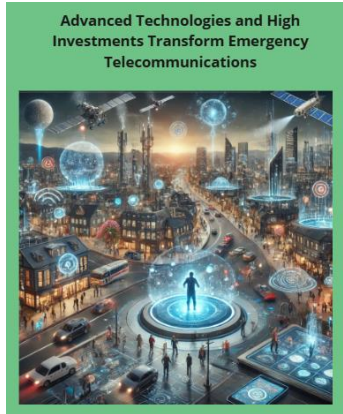

RI case

Experts

Methodology

Co-creation

Project Pitch

What did participants experience?

- ✓ Trends research on regional context
- ✓ Case studies from other countries who have successfully achieved similar projects
- ✓ Scenario Immersion to inform project design that are future ready
- ✓ Priority opportunity roadmap identification
- ✓ Co-creation: co-design and co-learning process
- ✓ Regional contextualization and national validation
- ✓ Priority actions to catalyze the projects for activation
- ✓ Hybrid capabilities
- ✓ And more

Thank You

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