

ITU REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

# ITURDF

EUROPE REGION  
BUDAPEST 2025

24 February  
Budapest, Hungary



#ITURDF

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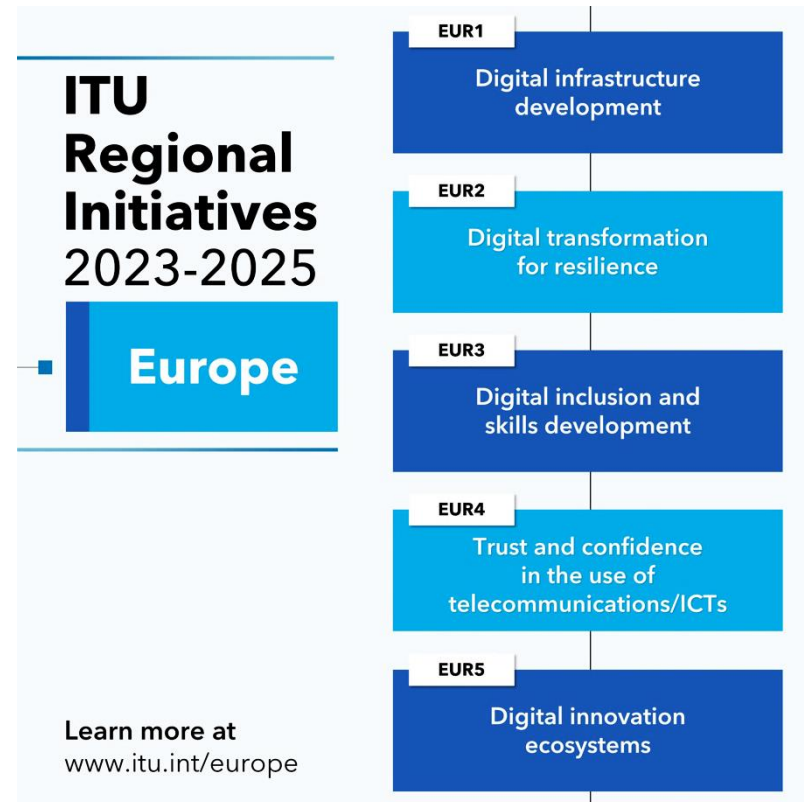
# State of Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe

24 February 2025

Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe



**46 Countries  
+750 Mio.  
Inhabitants**





# Digital infrastructure development

## Annual convening platforms

- ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum
- 5G Techritory

## Cooperation with BEREC, EaPeReg, EMERG

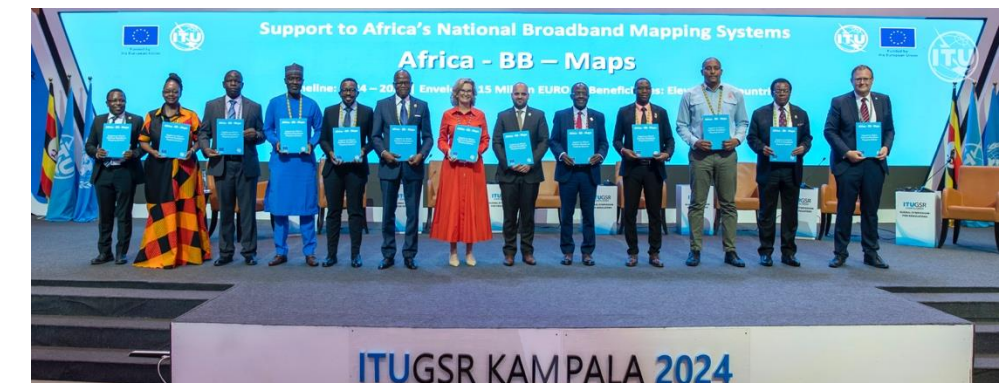
- **Memoranda of Understanding** with EaPeReg and EMERG
- Joint **Workshops** held in physical and online formats
- **Compendium** on Mapping Systems
- **Training** on Regulation for Accelerated Digital Transformation with over 180 participants (May/June 2024)

## Technical Assistances

- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova: technical assistance in the field of **broadband mapping systems**
- Albania: provide technical specifications allowing AKEP to upgrade and expand its **spectrum monitoring system**
- Montenegro: **Launch of the National Broadband Plan for Montenegro**
- Establishment of an **IPv6 Laboratory at the University of Montenegro**

## Projects

- The **3 EUR million project on promoting and measuring universal and meaningful connectivity** was launched with the EC to make universal and meaningful connectivity a top policy priority.
- [itu.int/go/RDF-EUR-25](https://itu.int/go/RDF-EUR-25) Africa's National Broadband Mapping Systems, funded by the EU's Sub-Saharan Africa Regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programme 2021-2027, with a total contribution of **EUR 15 million** for the total duration of 48 months



# ITU activities related to Ukraine

## Assessing

- **Development of Ukraine Digital Development Profile** 2024 which will inform the UN's Common Country Analysis for 2024 and will be the foundation of the ITU's input to the 2025 Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) 2025.

## Assisting

- **Towards rebuilding and rehabilitation of the Broadcasting Stations**  
As of August 2024, 10 stations have been already assessed, and 10 initial bankable project proposals are currently seeking financial support to kick off the rehabilitation.

## Human capacity development action

- **Executive Training Program for Ukrainian Officials** working in the digital sector on the 5G roll-out.
- Organisation in cooperation with the European Commission organizes the **TAIEX training on implementation for** Ukrainian policymakers and regulatory and technical experts to be hosted by the Office of Electronic Communication of Poland.

## Mobilizing commitments

- **Special Fund:** Thank You to Japan, Czech Rep., Bulgaria, Lithuania!
- **ITU** actively engaged in the **Ukraine Recovery Conference in UK and Berlin** and continues to develop the network of the partners.

## Call for financial contributions

- Special Fund in Trust
- Rehabilitation of broadcasting infrastructure





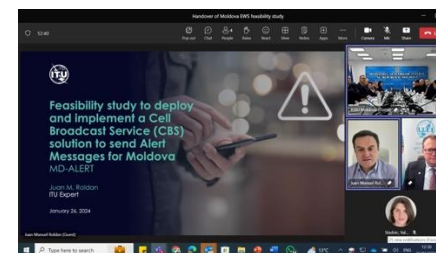
# Digital transformation for resilience

## Digital Transformation:

- **Human-Centric Approach to digital** with Spotlight Series to enhance the understanding of human-by-design digital features.
- **Digitalization of public services across Western Balkan economies**
- **GovStack rollout across Europe**
- **ITU-FAO Compendium for pre-accession countries** on EU's digital agriculture requirements
- Support to North Macedonia and Moldova in formulating their **digital transformation strategies**
- **Digital Agriculture and Rural Transformation in Albania** led by FAO, ILO, and ITU
- **Digital Transformation of Local Self-Governments in Montenegro** led by UNOPS and ITU
- ITU is the knowledge partner at the **Joint Program implemented in Serbia on "Digital Service Design Hub Clicking Together with Citizens"**

## Resilience:

- E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans
- **Strengthening the emergency preparedness** of Moldova and Georgia through support in establishing the EWS
- **Regional Initiative Accelerator Workshop** for the Western Balkan countries



# Digital inclusion and skills development

## Accessibility

- **Accessible Europe:** ICTs for All celebrated in 2022 and 2023
- **Regional Assessment** of Enabling Environments Ensuring Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region

## Digital skills

- **Digital Skills Assessment for the Elderly in Albania**
- Kicked off work on the **Assessment of Digital Literacy in Moldova**

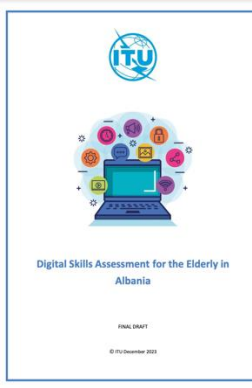
## Generation Connect Europe

- **18** Youth Envoys from **8** Countries represented: Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal.
- **GC Youth Event at CEPT** (September)

## Network of Women

- **Girls in ICT** yearly celebration
- NoW ITU-T session at CEPT (May)
- NoW ITU-D session at CEPT (September)
- ITU-D NoW Mentorship Program

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# Trust and confidence in the use of ICTs

## Cybersecurity

- **2023 Interregional CyberDrill for Europe and Asia-Pacific**, held in Cyprus and bringing together 200 participants from 40 countries
- **2024 ITU Cybersecurity Forum and CyberDrill for Europe and the Mediterranean**, held in Bulgaria
- **CSIRT Readiness Assessment in Moldova**
- **Her CyberTracks** - joint ITU-GIZ Initiative that aims to promote the equal, full, and meaningful representation of women in cybersecurity, with a regional forum held in 2024 in Tirana

## Child Online Protection

- **CWG COP** (10th of October 2023 and 22d-23d January 2024)
- In **Andorra**, a national assessment of child online protection was launched.
- In **Malta**, the rollout of child online protection guidelines and a training-of-trainers event helped raise awareness about the protection and rights of children online.
- In **Serbia**, support was given to the rollout of child online protection guidelines by the National Contact Centre for Children's Safety.



# Digital innovation ecosystems

- **Digital Innovation Profiles** have been developed for
  - Georgia
  - North Macedonia
  - Serbia
  - Albania (2016 with the 2024 Revision)
  - Malta (2025)
- **ITU Report on Regional Good Practices:** Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Europe
- **Global Innovation Forum - GIF-24**, 28-30 October 2024



ITUEvents

## Global Innovation Forum

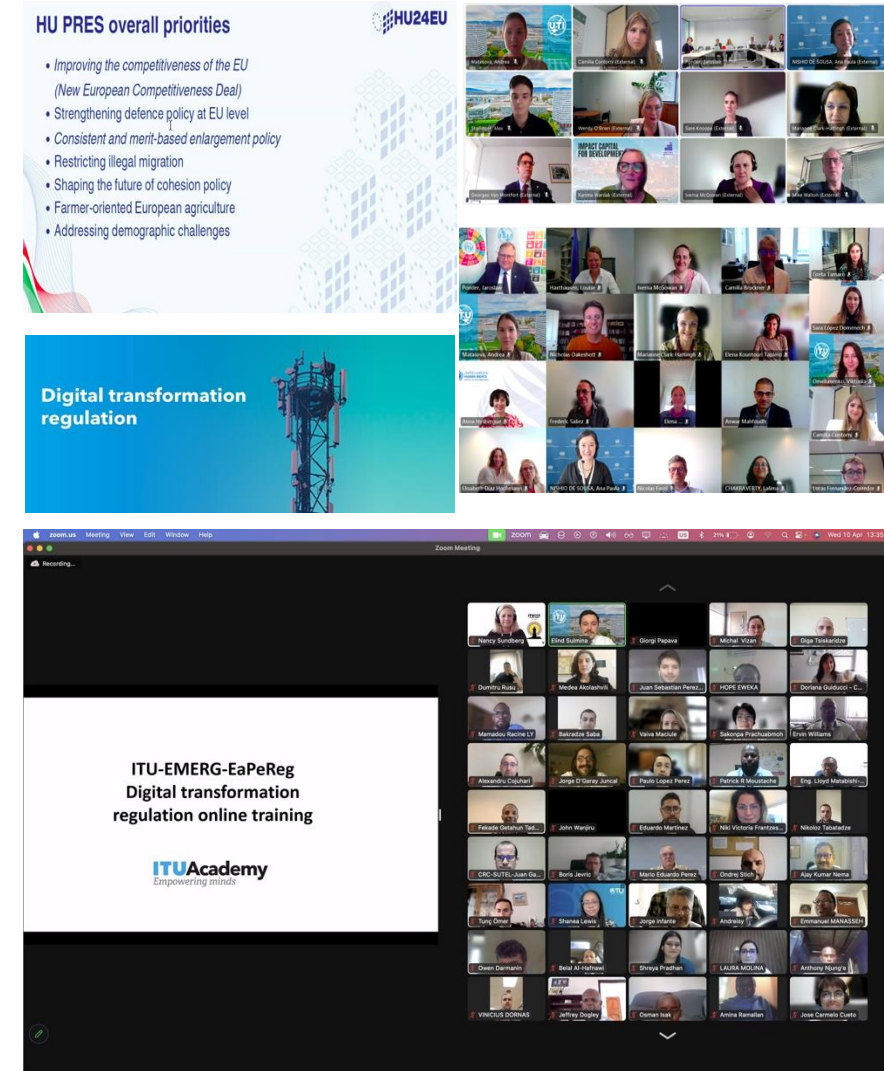
28-30 October 2024  
Valletta, Malta





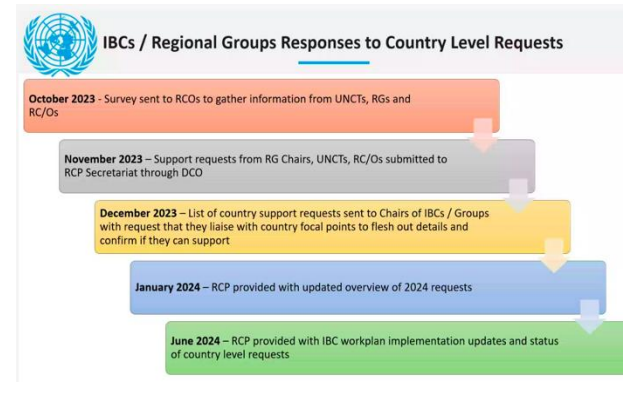
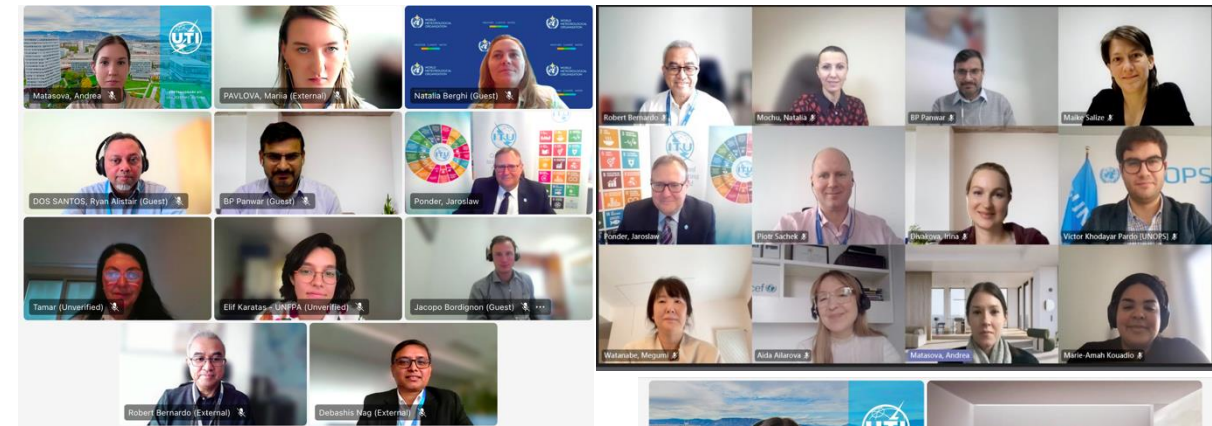
## Cooperation with European Institutions: EU, EC, EaPeReg, EMERG, IRG, BEREC, EIB, EBRD, OECD Council of Europe, EBU

- **UN Brussels Digital Taskforce co-chaired by ITU and UNESCO**
    - UN-EC Strategic Dialogues: AI, Human Rights, Gender, Digital Skills, Disinformation
    - Dialogues with EU Council Presidencies, Digital 4 Development Hub
    - Ongoing Actions: “Green and Digital”; Human Rights Due Diligence for Digital Technology Use presentation; Follow-up to the Summit of the Future and adoption of the Global Digital Compact; continuation of EU-UN Thematic Dialogues.
  - **European Commission**
    - DG CNECT, DG INTPA, DG EEAS, DG NEAR, DG Employment, DG Agri
    - Recent ITU-DG CNECT synchronization workshop
  - **EU Council**
    - Hungarian Presidency (Briefing to WP Telecom, WTSA one of the Priorities)
    - Polish Presidency (Monthly Briefings to WP Telecom, Knowledge partner for Retreat in Geneva)
  - **BEREC, EaPeReg, EMERG**
    - Proactive follow up to the MoUs
  - **Council of Europe**
    - Towards the MoU defining the focus of strengthened cooperation
  - Regular coordination with the **EIB, EBRD, OECD, EBU**
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# UN Processes: ITU as a member of the UN Development System

- **UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia**
  - Co-chaired by ITU and UNECE
  - Support to UNCTs / Inputs to CCAs / Co-creation and updates of Digital Development Country Profiles (Ukraine, Kosovo)
  - Digital Segment of the UN Regional Sustainable Development Forum for ECA
  - **Flagship initiatives** of the UN system related to digital transformation document
  - Updates to the **UN Digital Development Toolbox**
  - Future activities related to the **Digital Skills Compendium** (e.g. Webinar in Q4)
- Non-resident member of **8 UN Country Teams**
  - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Ukraine
- **Digital Development Country Profiles**
- Kicked off the work on **Digital Transition at the Country Level** (Bosnia and Herzegovina)
- Several **Multiagency Projects** launched  
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# Thank you

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More information:

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