



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/DDR/EUR/DM/369

Geneva, 14 October 2013

To Administrations of ITU Member States,
Broadcasting Authorities and Enterprises of the
Europe Region

**Subject: ITU-EBU Meeting for Central and Eastern Europe on eAccessibility in Television
Broadcasting, 3-4 December 2013, Zagreb, Republic of Croatia**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I have pleasure to inform you of the forthcoming ITU-EBU Meeting for Central and Eastern Europe on eAccessibility in Television Broadcasting, to be held in Zagreb, Republic of Croatia, on 3 and 4 December 2013 at the kind invitation of the HRT Academy.

The meeting will be held within the framework of the ITU European Regional Initiative on "E-accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe (Internet and digital television) for blind people and people with visual impairment problems", adopted by ITU Resolution 17 (WTDC-10, Hyderabad).

Ensuring that the entire European population has access to television services is one of the targets set by world leaders in the World Summit on the Information Society. Television is important for enhancing national identity, providing an outlet for domestic media content and getting news and information to the public, which is especially critical in times of emergencies. Television programs are also a principal source of news and information for illiterate segments of the population, some of whom are persons with disabilities. Migration from analogue to digital TV represents an ideal opportunity for ITU members to take the necessary steps to ensure TV is accessible.

The meeting intends to provide a basis for the exchange of best practices in the field of accessibility services for digital TV. It will also aim to identify gaps in the region that might be addressed in the future when ITU accompanies the Member States of Central and Eastern Europe in facilitating the implementation of the e-accessibility solutions proposed by their national broadcasters. In particular it will address essential access services, such as captioning, audio description and audio (spoken) captions, which benefit the elderly, deaf and those with hearing impairments, and explain how accessible television can support other goals such as social integration of immigrants and marginalized populations. It will provide a knowledge sharing platform for practitioners in national broadcasters, who shall be enabled to promote and foster widespread adoption of access services via digital television.

We kindly request to communicate directly to the organizers details of nominated staff, completing the nomination form (available on the event's webpage), and sending it by e-mail to eurregion@itu.int before 20 November 2013.

As the number of places is limited to 15, the first come first served rule will apply. In this context we request that the number of nominations is restricted to a maximum of two per organization.

This workshop will be conducted in English only and the meeting will be paperless. The Preliminary Agenda is attached for ease of reference. Documents related to the event, including Agenda, Nomination Form, and Practical Information for participants will be posted on the ITU website at: <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/e-Accessibility.aspx>

Although there is no participation fee for this meeting, please note that all expenses concerning travel, accommodation and insurance of your experts should be covered by your Administration / Organization / Company.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Coordinator for Europe Region, ITU is at your disposal should you have any questions or need clarifications concerning the workshop (email: eurregion@itu.int, phone: +41 22 730 6253).

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex 1: Preliminary Draft Agenda



**Regional Meeting for Central and Eastern Europe organized by International
Telecommunication Union and European Broadcasting Union at the
Kind Invitation of the HRT Academy**

eAccessibility in Television Broadcasting in Central and Eastern Europe

3-4 October 2013

HRT Academy, Zagreb, Croatia

Preliminary Draft Agenda

First Day

[9:00 – 9:30]	Registration
[9:30 – 11:30]	Welcome Addresses <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Nela Gudelj, Head of HRT Academy- Ms Susan Schorr, Head of Special Initiatives Division, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU- EBU (TBC)
[11:30 – 12:00]	Case Studies from CEE and Open Discussion
[12:00 – 14:00]	Group Photo and Coffee Break
[12:00 – 14:00]	Session 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms Alexandra Gaspari, ITU-T FG AVA Coordinator, Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, ITU <i>Report on the ITU-T Focus Group on Audiovisual Media Accessibility (FG AVA)</i>- Mr Peter Olaf Looms, ITU Consultant <i>Introducing Captioning for Deaf and Hard of Hearing</i>
[14:00 – 15:00]	Open Discussion
[14:00 – 15:00]	Lunch Break
[15:00 – 17:00]	Session 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ms. Pilar Orero, UAB <i>Introducing the Delivery of Audio Description</i>

| Open Discussion

Second Day

[9:30 – 11:30]

| Session 3

- Mr Gion Linder, Swiss TXT
Introducing the Broadcasting of Audio (Spoken) Captions

| Open Discussion

[11:30 – 11:45]

| Coffee Break

[11:45 – 13:00]

| Closing Remarks and Ways Forward

- Ms Susan Schorr, Head of Special Initiatives Division,
Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
- EBU (TBC)