

Project Final Report

Taking into account the successful implementation of the five Centres of Excellence in other regions (Africa, Asia & Pacific, Americas, and Arab region), the decision to implement a sixth Centre of Excellence, called Centre of Excellence for Europe and CIS , was taken by Steering Committee of the ITU Telecom Surplus Fund early 2002, with an allocation of US\$335'570 for each of CIS and EUR branches.

First Coordination meeting of the CIS countries participating in the Centre of Excellence (CoE) Project (Russian-speaking branch) was organized by the ITU/BDT in Moscow, Russian Federation in September 2002.

As a requisite for setting up the CoE operations, following documents were approved:

- Terms of reference
- Governing structure
- Composition of the Steering Committee and its members
- Set of training programmes
- Coordination scheme

First Steering Committee meeting of the EUR & CIS Centre of Excellence took place in Thessaloniki, Greece, in February 2003. An allocated budget was approved and divided to each branch.

Internal regulation for the CoE, terms of reference and final composition of the Steering Committee, venue for the Coordination Offices and the appointment of a Coordinator for each branch were approved, for a term of two years. Each branch operates its own action plans, defines and validates it on a yearly basis with the Steering Committee.

Steering Committee was split into two independent Committees, for Europe and CIS, in November 2004. Each branch set up its own Steering Committee, though relevant project strategy, while development of objective defined in 2002 remained unchanged.

Development objective

The Project CoE for CIS strategy was as following:

- To establish a regional mechanism for strengthening the region's capacity to generate knowledge and experience in telecommunication policy, regulatory issues, telecommunication management and new technologies and services
- To implement the priority of the CIS regional initiative on Future Development and Establishment of Centres of Excellence and Creation of a Learning Space, which was adopted by WTDC-06 through Resolution 17 (Rev. Doha, 2006).

Project strategy

The Centre of Excellence (CoE) plays a unique role in the development of telecommunications/ICT in the CIS countries through contributing to keeping the sector at the cutting-edge and enabling the countries to offer services, which are best-suited to the development of the information society.

Accordingly, the CoE strengthens and improved the means necessary to develop and consolidate competencies related to telecommunication policy development, regulatory issues, telecommunication management, the new technologies and services in accordance with requirements and expectations of the region.

The CoE focused on organization and presentation of excellent training programmes designed for government authorities, senior managers, operators and service providers, to facilitate the development of telecommunications in the region. The CoE seeks to bring into operation a network of excellence among potential content providers (universities, technological institutions and training centres etc.) and to service providers and technology providers already established in the region, with the expertise to give practical advice and award sponsorship for programmes on an annual basis.

The Centre of Excellence project for the CIS Countries focused on four aspects:

- Analysis and knowledge of the market with regard to excellence training requirements and expectations of the different players in the sectors;
- Establishment of major contact-points for the creation of the network of excellence nodes ;
- Enrolment and involvement in plans and programmes of various public and private entities e.g. methods of work of other associations compatible with the approach of the project and the ITUs.
- Increase efficiency, e.g. e-learning practices and modern communication tools.

The remaining list of actions approved and not implemented during year 2005, nor in the framework of the small action plan for 2006 has been considered as first series of actions to be funded within the framework of the new project , from 2007 to 2009.

Each host country of a Node provided the required office facilities for a Leading Expert who was responsible for organizing the cooperation among all Subject matter Expert required for the design and delivery of the programme lead by the host country.

The CoE for CIS worked on cost-recovery basis.

The CoE activities in the CIS Region were realized through 4 Nodes:

- Republic of Belarus, Higher State Communications College
- Republic of Kazakhstan, Kazakh Academy of Infocommunication
- Russian Federation, Moscow Technical University for Communications and Informatics (MTUCI)
- Ukraine, Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (ONAT) n.a. A.S. Popov.

The CoE activities in the CIS Region covered relevantly 4 programmes:

1. Internet Technologies, (Active Node in Republic of Belarus)

2. Policies and Regulatory Issues (Active Node in Republic of Kazakhstan)
3. Corporate Management, Technology and ICT Awareness, (Active Node in the Russian Federation)
4. Spectrum Management and Supervision, Digital Television and Sound Broadcasting (Active Node in Ukraine)

The Steering Committee of the CIS Centre of Excellence, which coordinates the CoE activities, meets at least once a year. Membership applications for the Steering Committee were accepted from all interested parties. New membership was approved by the members of the Steering Committee.

The responsibility of the Steering Committee was to:

- approve the annual action plan;
- decide on issues relating to the breakdown of project funds;
- approve all material changes to the annual action plan;
- evaluate the actions of the different nodes and collaborators, if necessary, in their respective projects;
- approve progress reports submitted by the programme contact persons;
- lay down the guidelines it considers necessary for the gradual self-sustainability of the Centre of Excellence Network for the region.



Latest videoconference workshop within the framework of CoE for CIS