EUROPE

REGIONAL INITIATIVES

BUENOS AIRES ACTION PLAN | 2018-2021

Improvement of broadband infrastructure, citizen-centric digitization, digital inclusion and accessibility, cybersecurity, and innovation are the five priority areas agreed by the region and on which ITU will focus in 2018-2021.
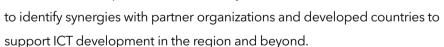
Foreword

By Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe

Each year, the Regional Development Forum gives the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) the opportunity to present its work and decide, with its members, on subsequent steps to take. I invite you to follow ITU's work in the region, provide constructive criticism, reach agreements, cooperate and approve the full range of activities that will support both your national and regional objectives.

The five Europe regional initiatives contained in the Buenos Aires Action Plan of the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17) set the road map that ITU will follow in the coming years. They provide all stakeholders with a path for the development of information and communication technologies (ICTs), in agreement with governments. Improvement of broadband infrastructure, citizen-centric digitization, digital inclusion and accessibility, cybersecurity, and innovation are the five priority areas agreed by the region and on which ITU will focus.

Currently, ICTs are recognized as having a central role in efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). That role, however, cannot be assumed by a single entity or economic or social sector. Therefore, through the ITU Office for Europe, BDT will work together with all interested parties to transform the intentions of the Europe regional initiatives into reality, finding reflection in inhabitants' socio-economic development.

The Europe region is a unique blend of developed and developing economies. The ITU Office for Europe works continuously to identify synergies with partner organizations and developed countries to support ICT development in the region and beyond.
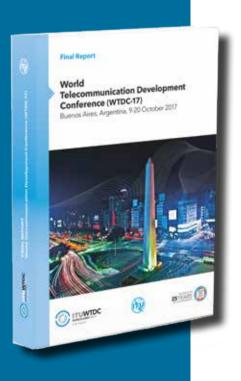
The ITU Office for Europe is deeply committed to implementing these objectives as a means of paving the way to sustainable development. We will work towards connecting the world through regional actions that have both a local and global impact.

The final report of WTDC-17 is available at: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Conferences/WTDC/WTDC17/Documents/WTDC17_FinalReport_en.pdf"

Introduction

The mission of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is not just about connectivity for connectivity's sake, but is more about promoting innovative uses of telecommunications/ICTs that fundamentally improve people's lives. This mission is reiterated in the final report of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-17), which took place from 9 to 20 October 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the theme of "ICT for Sustainable Development Goals" (ICT④SDGs).

In preparation for WTDC-17, ITU held six regional preparatory meetings (RPMs) around the world in 2016-2017: in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS); Kigali, Rwanda, for the Africa region; Khartoum, Sudan, for the Arab States; Asunción, Paraguay, for the Americas; Bali, Indonesia, for Asia and the Pacific; and Vilnius, Lithuania, for Europe. Each regional preparatory meeting was preceded by a one-day Regional Development Forum.

The regions articulated their specific priorities in 30 regional initiatives – five per region for each of the six regions (Africa, Americas, Arab States, Asia-Pacific, CIS and Europe). These regional initiatives were endorsed by WTDC-17 and are featured in the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas, through partnerships and resource mobilization to implement projects. Under each regional initiative, projects are developed and implemented to meet the region's needs.

Reflecting the outcomes of the six regional preparatory meetings, WTDC-17 endorsed the following four objectives for ITU-D as the main focus of its work for the years 2018-2021:

Objective	**Objective**	**Objective**	**Objective**
1	**2**	**3**	**4**
Coordination: Foster international cooperation and agreement on telecommunication/ICT development issues	Modern and secure telecommunication/ICT infrastructure: Foster the development of infrastructure and services, including building confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs	Enabling environment: Foster an enabling policy and regulatory environment conducive to sustainable telecommunication/ICT development	Inclusive digital society: Inclusive digital society: Foster the development and use of telecommunications/ICTs and applications to empower people and societies for sustainable development.

WTDC-17 also adopted the Buenos Aires Declaration reinforcing the political support for ITU's development mission and strategic objectives. As noted in this declaration, implementation of regional initiatives deserves high priority on the part of ITU-D. The declaration underlines how universally accessible, secure and affordable telecommunications/ICTs are a fundamental contribution towards the achievement of the action lines of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the development of the global information society and digital economy.

Through the four objectives above and the regional initiatives, ITU-D will adapt and reinforce the existing links between the WSIS action lines and the SDGs to continue to support global development.

2018-2021
Europe - Regional Initiatives

1

Regional initiative

Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate high-speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing, whilst ensuring a trusted and quality user experience.

EXPECTED RESULTS

.... 1 ....

Development of plans (national and regional) and feasibility studies for the deployment of ubiquitous resilient high-speed connectivity, including 5G/IMT-2020 and digital broadcasting deployment, with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms, as needed.

.... 2 ....

Sharing of guidelines on collaborative regulation between the telecommunication sector and other synergistic sectors such as energy, railway and transportation.

.... 3 ....

Assessment of dynamics, challenges and opportunities in respect of the roll-out of diverse broadband technologies across Europe in the context of the creation of ubiquitous resilient high-speed broadband infrastructure.

.... 4 ....

Sharing of best practices and case studies in cable TV, digital broadcasting, 5G experience, early-use cases and trends in next generation access network roll-out.

.... 5 ....

Mapping of ubiquitous infrastructure and services, fostering harmonization of approaches across the region and taking into account infrastructure-sharing approaches applied by countries.

.... 6 ....

Establishment of quality-of-service systems and consumer-protection frameworks.

.... 7 ....

Development of plans for information and communication technology (ICT) for sustainable energy covering different types of ICT applications and innovations.

2018
ACTIVITIES

- Regional seminar for Europe and CIS on "5G Implementation in Europe and CIS: Strategies and Policies Enabling New Growth Opportunities", 3–5 July 2018, Budapest, Hungary.
- Baltic Sea Region 5G Ecosystem Forum "5G Techritory", 27–28 September 2018, Riga, Latvia.
- Regulatory forum for Europe on "Evolving Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Future", 1–2 October 2018, Budva, Montenegro.
- ITU Forum: "Towards 5G Enabled Gigabit Society", 11–12 October 2018, Athens, Greece.
- Report on EMF case studies.
- Report on 5G implementation in Europe.
- Discussion paper on the future of cable TV.
- Europe-focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond, between Hungary and Albania with focus on spectrum management.

2019
ACTIVITIES

- Regional seminar on broadband connectivity [second quarter, Albania].
- Regional conference on 5G [second quarter/third quarter, Poland].
- Expert meeting [Italy].
- Report on national strategies for 5G implementation and pilot projects.
- Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva, Montenegro.
- Europe-focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources.
- Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond [offer from Hungary, Italy and Poland].

2020
ACTIVITIES

- Regional seminar on next-generation access networks.
- Report on next-generation access networks.
- Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva, Montenegro.
- Europe-focused enhancement of ITU Interactive. Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources.
- Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond.

2021
ACTIVITIES

- Regional seminar on connectivity focusing on topics. to be agreed with countries and ITU experts.
- Report on quality of services and consumer protection frameworks.
- Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva, Montenegro.
- Europe-focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources .
- Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond.

Potential partners:

European Commission, EBU, BEREC, RCC, RIPE NCC, DIGITALEUROPE, ETSI, ETNO, ECTA, GSMA, ministries in charge of ICTs, national regulatory authorities.

Beneficiaries:

All ITU Europe region countries.

PROPOSED PROJECT

1

National broadband plans and feasibility studies for high-speed full-coverage connectivity

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To support administrations in reviewing national broadband plans and conducting feasibility studies for the deployment of ubiquitous, resilient, high-speed connectivity, including 5G/IMT2020 and digital broadcasting deployment, with all relevant components including legislation, standards, organizational set-up, capacity building and cooperation mechanisms; and to support countries in the establishment of national mapping systems.

Estimated budget

USD 250 000

Beneficiaries

Up to six countries
[interest expressed by Albania]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

2

Investment opportunities mapping system

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Building on ITU's Interactive Transmission Map for Europe, to develop additional features through the use of predictive algorithms to identify investment opportunities, taking into account existing broadband infrastructure and the desired level of high-speed connectivity, depending on technologies used and return-on-investment predictions.

Estimated budget

USD 150 000

Beneficiaries

Up to three countries

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

3

Deployment of IPv6 and national IXPs

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To provide technical assistance in enhancing telecommunication infrastructure, including support for quality-of-service monitoring systems, national IXP deployment and transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

Estimated budget

USD 150 000

Beneficiaries

Up to three countries
[interest expressed by Montenegro]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

4

Digital radio implementation

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To build capacity relating to digital radio implementation in Europe; actions to be considered include training on pertinent technical aspects and necessary regulatory measures for the appropriate implementation of digital radio.

Estimated budget

USD 30 000

Beneficiaries

Up to three countries
[interest expressed by Serbia and Albania]

Timeframe

2018–2021

Regional initiative 2

A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

EXPECTED RESULTS

.... 1 ....

Creation of an experience- and knowledge-exchange platform between countries.

.... 2 ....

Development of technical and service infrastructure (data centres, networks, secure gateways, authentication, interoperability, standards and metadata) as well as capacity building within the national administrations and institutions.

.... 3 ....

Fostering the development of and increase in types of online transactional services, including applications for administration-to-administration (A2A) and administration-to-customer (A2C) services.

.... 4 ....

Building the capacities necessary for accelerating the process of national and regional digitization.

.... 5 ....

Raising public trust through security enhancements in e-government services, digitization processes and awareness-raising campaigns, including promotion of application-based solutions for e-government by national administrations and other institutions.

.... 6 ....

Identification of key horizontal factors for the successful implementation of e-government services and digitization, such as secure and accessible digital identification, tools for data analysis, integrating workflow solutions, approach to re-use of data, and fostering their development.

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate the development of transformative and paperless citizen-centric services that are accessible and available to all members of society.

2018
ACTIVITIES

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimize implementation of the digitization process [offer from Albania and Poland; twinning between Serbia and China on digitization of cultural heritage].
- Workshop on multimedia applications and the future of the digital society, 9 July 2018, Ljubljana, Slovenia.
- Discussion paper on artificial intelligence in the roll-out of citizen-centric services.
- Regional workshop for Europe and CIS on e-health development, 17–19 October 2018, Odessa, Ukraine.

2019
ACTIVITIES

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimize implementation of the digitization process.
- Promotion of the mHealth Hub operationalization.
- Regional workshop on artificial intelligence in the roll-out of citizen-centric services.
- Regional workshop on digitization of cultural heritage, presentation and management of digital assets and long-term preservation of digitized material.

2020
ACTIVITIES

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimize implementation of the digitization process.
- Regional workshop on emerging trends in digitization and applications in Europe.

2021
ACTIVITIES

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimize implementation of the digitization process.

Potential partners:

UNESCO, FAO, WHO, UN DESA, UNECE, EC, DIGITALEUROPE, ministries in charge of the digitization processes, including ministries of culture for matters relating to cultural heritage.

Beneficiaries:

All ITU Europe region countries.

PROPOSED PROJECT

1

Regional platform to accelerate the process of national and regional digitization of citizen-centric services, in particular the digitization of cultural heritage
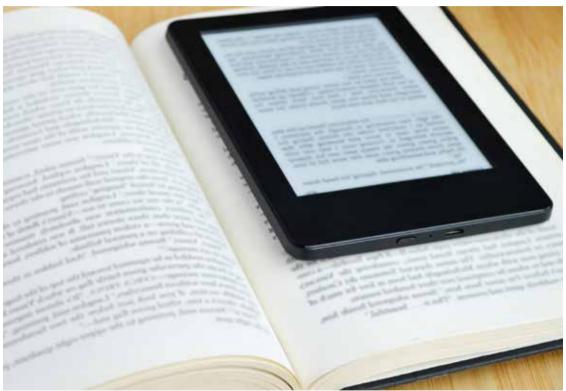
PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To provide a regional platform for the exchange of practices, while building human capacity and expert networks across the region, including through: 1) development of best practices and implementation experiences of countries currently undertaking the digitization process; 2) collection of case studies on citizen-centric e-services in Europe; 3) stocktaking of existing technical solutions and emerging technologies for the acceleration of digitization and digital transformation.

Estimated budget

USD 75 000

Beneficiaries

All ITU Europe region countries
[interest expressed by Serbia]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

2

Regional interoperability centre

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To conduct a feasibility study to consider the establishment of a regional interoperability centre as a technological opportunity that can be provided by platforms already built.

Estimated budget

USD 25 000

Beneficiaries

All ITU Europe region countries
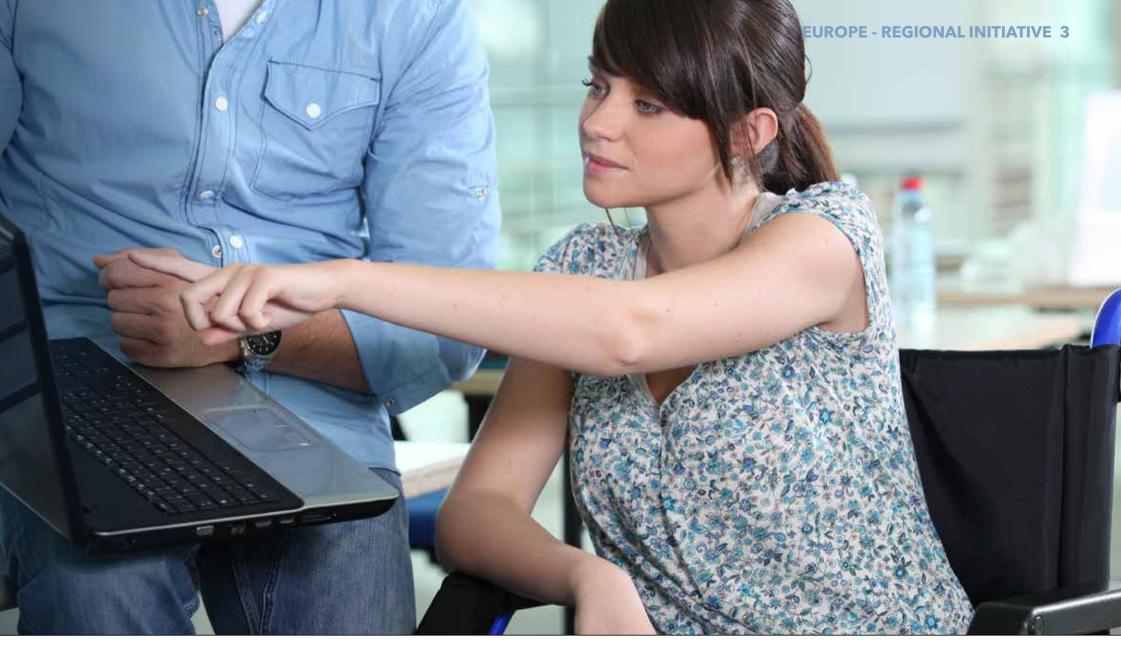[interest expressed by Albania]

Timeframe

2018–2021

Regional initiative 3

Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

OBJECTIVE

To bridge the digital divide and equip all groups of society, including persons with disabilities and specific needs, to take advantage of information and communication technology (ICT), by enabling capacity building in digital skills.

EXPECTED RESULTS

.... 1 ....

Strengthening and supporting regional cooperation and engagement of all relevant stakeholders, in line with the European Accessibility Act, in the development and implementation of ICT accessibility policies and solutions in the European region.

.... 2 ....

Raising awareness and promoting relevant guidelines on public policies, including exchanging knowledge and sharing good practices on ICT accessibility products and services for persons with disabilities and specific needs, through meetings and workshops, including a regional conference which could be called "Accessible Europe - Information and communication for all".

.... 3 ....

Developing regional and in-country capacity through relevant web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.

.... 4 ....

Developing regional and in-country capacity to promote and deliver to relevant stakeholders training courses in ICT accessibility, including training on public procurement, as a tool to improve the inclusion of persons with disabilities and specific needs in education, employment, and economic and social life.

.... 5 ....

Encouraging regional cooperation between research centres and academia in speech technologies, in order to improve these technologies to overcome disabilities.

.... 6 ....

Raising awareness about accessibility possibilities of TV and video programming on digital platforms, and implementing appropriate solutions.

.... 7 ....

Encouraging the implementation, and related measurement of progress, of regional and national ICT activities and projects aiming to eliminate disparities in the use of and access to ICTs for websites of public institutions and government education programmes, services and information.

.... 8 ....

Encouraging the implementation of digital content in education.

.... 9 ....

Developing regional and in-country capacity building on coding and computer programming tools that will be available to all, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.

.... 10 ....

Promoting digital literacy, digital skills and e-education, and implementing accessible ICTs in e-education.

2018
ACTIVITIES

- First edition of Accessible Europe Forum, 12–14 December, UNOV, Vienna, Austria [support expressed by Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Romania, Serbia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]
- Development and launch of a three-module self-paced online training. programme on ICT accessibility, with certification.
- National workshops for experts on ICT accessibility.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on ICT accessibility
- ITU Office for Europe's regional celebration of Girls in ICT Day, organized jointly with the European Commission, 28 April 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Digital Youth Forum, 17 May 2018, Warsaw, Poland.
- Development of tools for the training of entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps.

2019
ACTIVITIES

- Second edition of Accessible Europe Forum.
- Promotion of three-module self-paced online training programme on ICT accessibility, with certification.
- National workshops for experts on ICT accessibility.
- Web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on ICT accessibility.
- Digital Youth Forum, Warsaw, Poland.
- Regional training for entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps [hosting proposed by ICPE, Slovenia].
- Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Employability.
- Girls in ICT Day regional event.
- Support for the establishment of an EU-certified ICT training centre, including training programmes and work placements [interest expressed by Georgia].

2020
ACTIVITIES

- Third edition of Accessible Europe Forum.
- Promotion of three-module self-paced online training programme on ICT accessibility, with certification.
- National workshops for experts on ICT accessibility.
- Web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on ICT accessibility.
- Digital Youth Forum, Warsaw, Poland.
- Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Employability.
- Girls in ICT Day regional event.
- Training for entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps.

2021
ACTIVITIES

- Fourth edition of Accessible Europe Forum.
- Promotion of three-module self-paced online training programme on ICT accessibility, with certification.
- National workshops for experts on ICT accessibility.
- Web accessibility training to ensure that government websites and related services are available and accessible to all citizens, including persons with disabilities and specific needs.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on ICT accessibility.
- Digital Youth Forum, Warsaw, Poland.
- Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Employability.
- Girls in ICT Day regional event.
- Training for entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps.

Potential partners:

EC, ILO, UN CRPD, G3ict, Zero Project, Apple, Microsoft, Google, ICT Industry, United Nations Office at Vienna, Oslo Metropolitan University.

Beneficiaries:

All ITU Europe region countries.

PROPOSED PROJECT

1

Strengthening of national and regional capacity in ICT accessibility through a national web accessibility programme

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To build the capacity of national stakeholders in web accessibility, digital content and remediation and the technical development and design of accessible websites to help them enhance their knowledge and skills in building accessible websites; to have specific government websites evaluated for web accessibility by certified local participants; and to produce an evaluation report, including remedial actions to make websites accessible.

Estimated budget

USD 250 000

Beneficiaries

Up to ten countries

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

2

Coding bootcamp centres in the Mediterranean region

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

While leveraging the network of leading bootcamps around the world identified in collaboration with ILO, to provide training and strategic guidance to stakeholders interested in launching coding bootcamps in the Mediterranean region and in applying coding bootcamp strategies to improve educational and employment outcomes in universities. The project comprises three phases. In the initial phase, ITU and its partners will organize a Mediterranean regional symposium on coding bootcamps to introduce government, academia, ICT companies and technology entrepreneurs to the basic concepts of coding bootcamp operations and instruction methodologies. In the second phase, participating stakeholders will be evaluated on their likelihood of succeeding in launching a coding bootcamp. In the third phase, selected stakeholders will receive additional support in launching their bootcamps.

Estimated budget

USD 250 000

Beneficiaries

All ITU Europe region countries
[up to five countries in the third phase]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

3

Human capacity building in ICT accessibility

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To establish an action plan for the implementation of accessibility services that are available to all, including a review of the regulatory framework and alignment with the European Accessibility Act, as required, and ensuring the timely introduction of accessible TV/video services and mobile accessibility, areas that fall under the purview of the national regulatory authority (NRA), whose website should be made accessible; to monitor the implementation of accessible ICTs and services falling under the mandate of the NRA; to develop a national strategy to ensure equal opportunities for persons with disabilities; to promote relevant EU documents, including the European Accessibility Act, on the accessibility of ICT products and services for persons with disabilities; to raise awareness of and develop competences in ICT accessibility through the empowerment of and skill development for persons with disabilities in this field; to share information and best practices relating to ICT product and service accessibility for persons with disabilities through the organization of a regional conference; to develop online training in the use of new software; to advocate for including the development of digital skills for persons with disabilities and the implementation of mandatory ICT accessibility in the digital skills strategy that is being drafted.
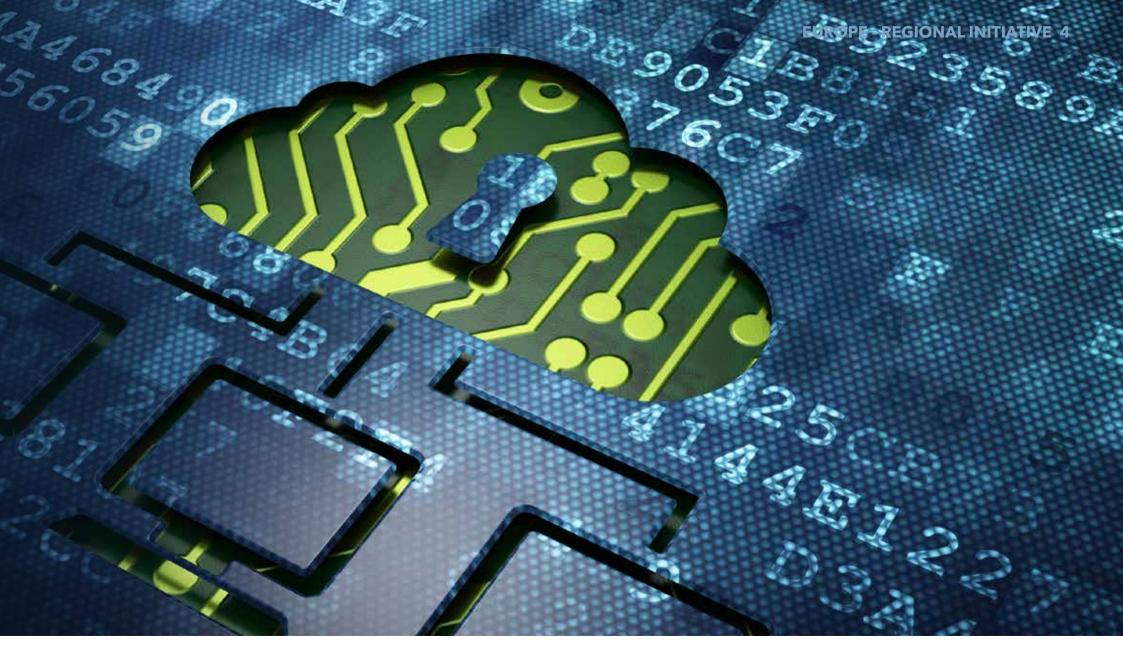
Estimated budget

USD 100 000

Beneficiaries

All ITU Europe region countries [interest expressed by Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia]

Timeframe

2018–2021

Regional initiative 4

Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

EXPECTED RESULTS

OBJECTIVE

To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) in their daily lives with confidence.

.... 1 ....

Providing regional platforms and tools for building human capacities (awareness and expert training) to enhance trust and confidence in the use of ICTs.

.... 2 ....

Sharing country and regional best practices and case studies and conducting surveys on enhancing confidence and trust in the use of ICTs.
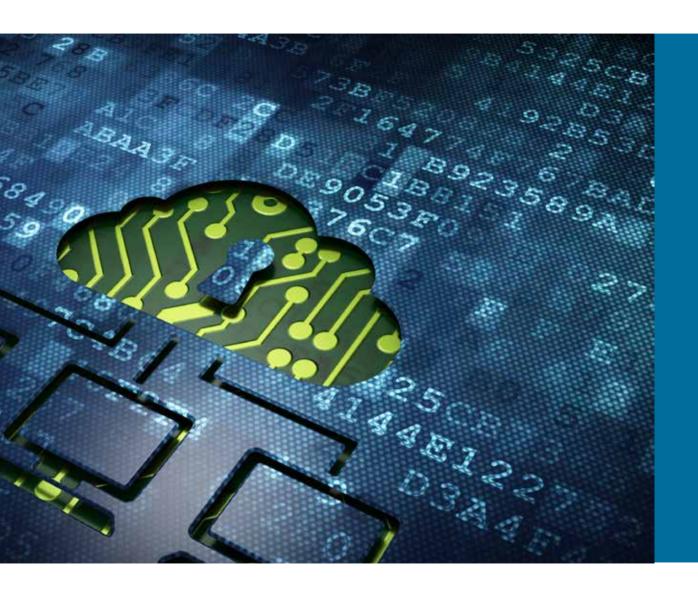
.... 3 ....

Elaboration or review of national cybersecurity strategies.

.... 4 ....

Setting up or improving the capabilities of national computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and the corresponding networks to support these CSIRTs in cooperating with each other.

.... 5 ....

Conducting simulation exercises such as cyberdrills at national and regional level in cooperation with international and regional organizations, and assisting countries in developing tools through synergies and resource optimization.

2018
ACTIVITIES

- National assessment reports for selected countries.

- Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection, 4–6 April 2018, Odessa, Ukraine.

- National Event on Child Online Protection: Awareness Day for Children and Teens, 5 May 2018, Noto, Italy.

- 6th Central European Cybersecurity Public-Private Dialogue Platform, 13–14 September 2018, Sibiu, Romania.

- International conference "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online", 18–19 September 2018, Warsaw, Poland [Croatia interested in contributing].

- Annual conference "The New Global Challenges in Cyber Security" organized jointly with CERT-RO, 16–17 October 2018, Bucharest, Romania.

- Cyberdrill for Europe region, 26–29 November 2018, Limassol, Cyprus [Georgia, Croatia and GFCE interested in contributing].

- Regional report on cybersecurity commitments.

- Twinning project within the Europe region and beyond [offer from Georgia and Romania].

2019
ACTIVITIES

- National assessment reports for selected countries.

- CSIRT implementation for selected countries.

- Regional cyberdrill [Romania].

- Regional report on cybersecurity commitments.

- Regional conference on cybersecurity and child online protection [hosting proposed by Albania].

- International conference "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online", Warsaw, Poland.

- Vienna Cybersecurity Week [Energypact with the support of ITU].

2020
ACTIVITIES

- National assessment reports for selected countries.
- Regional cyberdrill.
- Regional report on cybersecurity commitments.
- Regional conference on cybersecurity and child online protection [hosting proposed by Bulgaria].
- International conference "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online", Warsaw, Poland.

2021
ACTIVITIES

- National assessment reports for selected countries.
- Regional cyberdrill.
- Regional report on cybersecurity commitments.
- Regional conference on cybersecurity and child online protection.
- International conference "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online", Warsaw, Poland.

Potential partners:

FIRST, ENISA, ICT Industry, Empowering Children Foundation (Poland),

UK Safer Internet Centre, Energypact Foundation, GFCE.

Beneficiaries:

All ITU Europe region countries.

PROPOSED PROJECT
1

Enhancement of national cybersecurity capacity

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To develop road maps for the establishment or enhancement of national and sector-level computer security incident response teams (CSIRTs) and to implement the road maps through capacity building and infrastructure enhancement.

Estimated budget

USD 500 000

Beneficiaries

Implementation in up to two countries
[interest expressed by
Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

2

Strengthening of child online protection through schools

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To conduct national assessments and propose action plans to strengthen the child online protection environment and infrastructure, with particular focus on online protection through schools, where school online protection standards can be implemented.

Estimated budget

USD 200 000

Beneficiaries

Assessment in up to three countries and implementation in one country [interest expressed by Georgia and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]

Timeframe

2018–2021

Regional initiative 5

Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

OBJECTIVE

To enhance entrepreneurship and establish a sustainable culture of innovation through concrete strategic actions using information and communication technology (ICT) as an enabler, building on the existing regional initiative in Europe on entrepreneurship, innovation and youth.

EXPECTED RESULTS

……… 1 ………

Initiating a review of the data collected, analysing the current situation and proposing effective recommendations to use ICT as an innovation enabler.

……… 2 ………

Undertaking ecosystem mapping exercises to coordinate efforts and to create new projects and activities, by facilitating cooperation between existing actors and by highlighting gaps in the ecosystem which have a high impact on stakeholders.

……… 3 ………

Developing human capacity through the identification and provision of practical skills needed in order to support innovative industries.

……… 4 ………

Identifying sustainable funding models to support the innovation ecosystems.

……… 5 ………

Sharing country and regional best practices and case studies on all aspects of ICT as a driver of innovation.

……… 6 ………

Providing a regional platform for strengthening regional cooperation between ICT-centric innovation ecosystems, through the holding of regional innovation forums.

2018
ACTIVITIES

- In-country support for the training of at least thirty national experts and development of the country's digital innovation profile.

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, facilitated by ITU [Georgia and Hungary, INPUT Program].

- Collection, analysis and publication of a report on regional best practices to drive and accelerate digital transformation.

- Regional innovation forum on "Bridging the Digital Divide", 21–23 November 2018 Oslo, Norway.

2019
ACTIVITIES

- In-country support for the training of at least thirty national experts and development of the country's digital innovation profile.

- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, facilitated by ITU.

- Collection, analysis and publication of a report on regional best practices on technology ecosystem development supporting key economic sectors.

- Regional seminar on ICT innovation ecosystem [hosting offered by Poland in quarter 3].

- Regional innovation forum for the training of experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.

2020
ACTIVITIES

- In-country support for the training of at least thirty national experts and development of the country's digital innovation profile.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, facilitated by ITU.
- Assessment of ICT innovation in national policies in Europe and publication of a report.
- Regional innovation forum for the training of experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.

2021
ACTIVITIES

- In-country support for the training of at least thirty national experts and development of the country's digital innovation profile.
- Twinning programme within the Europe region and beyond on identified areas, facilitated by ITU.
- Regional innovation forum for the training of experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.

Potential partners:

UNIDO, INPUT Program (Hungary), Ericsson, Inmarsat.

Beneficiaries:

All ITU Europe region countries.

PROPOSED PROJECT

1

Acceleration of digital transformation through digital entrepreneurship and ICT-centric innovation ecosystems

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To provide in-country support to develop a national road map comprising three priority flagship projects that are fully developed, including the identification of funding, while providing seed funding for the implementation of one flagship project.

Estimated budget

USD 300 000

Beneficiaries

Up to three countries
[interest expressed by Bosnia and
Herzegovina, Cyprus, Montenegro and The
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia]

Timeframe

2018–2021

PROPOSED PROJECT

2

Connection of ICT-centric innovation ecosystems to the regional economic agenda for SDG attainment

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To develop a platform for the scaling-up of capacity building, assessments, funding and sharing of good practices/case studies on digital transformation; to identify sustainable funding models to support innovation ecosystems; and to develop a framework for sustainable funding models to support innovation ecosystems, based on which at least two regional projects will be funded.

Estimated budget

USD 300 000

Beneficiaries

Up to six countries

Timeframe

2018–2021

Regional Initiatives for Europe Contributing to Achievement of SDGs and WSIS Action Lines

International Telecommunication Union

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