Telecommunication Development Sector
INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Regional Development Forum for Europe Region (RDF-EUR)
Bucharest, Romania 20-22 April 2015

MAIN OUTCOMES

1   Introduction

The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Europe (RDF-EUR) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Bucharest, Romania, from 20 to 22 April 2015, at the kind invitation of the Ministry for Information Society of Romania and National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM). Its overall theme echoed the WTDC-14's focus on "Broadband for Sustainable Development".

The objective of the ITU Regional Development Forums is to provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the BDT and decision-makers, governments and regulators, of ITU Member States and Sector Members. RDFs serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between world telecommunication development conferences. In this context, these Forums aim at reporting on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on regional initiatives in order to get feedback from membership to adjust BDT's work in the regions.

A major aim of the RDF-EUR was to develop a three-year implementation plan (2015-2017) for the five European regional initiatives adopted by WTDC-14 in the areas of innovation, broadband, spectrum and broadcasting, and cybersecurity and accessibility. The implementation plan is based on a series of proposals and commitments from Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders. The forum also provided an opportunity for extensive dialogue on strengthening synergies between regional initiatives and the activities of ITU-D study groups, ITU Academy, ITU Centres of Excellence, Academia and membership.

2   Participation

The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants representing more than 20 Member States from the region, including 1 international financial development institution, 2 recognized operating agencies, 3 regional and international organizations, 5 scientific and industrial organizations, 1 academia, and 2 representatives from a Member State from outside the region. The list of participants can be found here.

3   Documentation

RDF-EUR was paperless. More than 40 presentations were delivered during the meeting. Relevant documentation, including Agenda and Presentations and Reference Materials were made available at the RDF-EUR website.

4   Opening ceremony

The following dignitaries addressed the opening ceremony: Mr Sorin Mihai Grindeanu, Minister, Ministry for Information Society, Romania (Address), Mr Marius-Catalin Marinescu, President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania (Address), Mr Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU (Address) Mr Marcin Krasuski, Chairman, Com-ITU, CEPT (Address). The speeches are available on the RPM-EUR website.

5   Roundtable on Fostering Enabling Environment for ICTs for Development

RDF-EUR benefited from the introductory roundtable discussion on Fostering Enabling Environment for ICTs for Development. The session was moderated by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU Europe Coordinator, and included the following representatives of the European national regulatory authorities: Mr Marius-Catalin

Marinescu, President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania, Mr Mario Weber, Executive Director, Croatian Regulatory Authority for Network Industries (HACOM), Croatia, Ms Malgorzata Olszewska, Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Poland, Ms Klarina Allushi, Member of the Board, Electronic and Postal Communications Authority (AKEP), Albania.

In line with the overall theme of the RDF-EUR discussions focused mainly on broadband uptake dynamics; middle term strategies, goals and targets for broadband; the role of the regulator in stimulating growth in broadband and innovation in the ICT ecosystem; and how to address the investment gap to sustain the broadband uptake. Several challenges were identified during discussions, including the following: quality of services, infrastructure mapping, low cost solutions for broadband access in rural and remote areas, return of investment, implications of progressing convergence, financing mechanisms of ICT ecosystem, digital dividend, importance of broadband plans/strategies and related policies.

All participants were encouraged to continue their engagement in discussions on enabling environment for broadband uptake at the regional and international level. Attention was drawn to the upcoming 15th Global Symposium for Regulators that will take place in Libreville, Gabon, from 9 to 11 June 2015.

6   Update on Implementation of the WTDC-10 Regional Initiatives for Europe and WTDC-14 Regional Initiatives across the World

Comprehensive update on implementation of the WTDC-10 Regional Initiatives for Europe was provided by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, ITU Europe Coordinator, ITU (see Presentation). Additional information was highlighted on implementation of actions carried out by BDT in the period of time from 2010 to 2014 and being related to the new set of WTDC-14 Regional Initiatives for Europe (EUR-RI). With the aim to foster cross regional cooperation, special attention of participants was drawn to the outcomes of WTDC-14 on Regional Initiatives of other regions. Bottom-up approach applied for elaboration of the implementation plan for EUR-RI was presented. This included review of expected results, call for commitments, building blocks of RIs, link and impact on other activities and proposed actions/commitments (see Annex Two).

Outcomes of the Regional Development Forum for CIS was presented by Mr Pavel Sincariuc, Head of Directorate for Policies in the Field of Information Technology, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, Republic of Moldova (Presentation).

7   Regional Initiatives for Europe

Five sessions of RDF-EUR served as a platform for presentation of proposals and commitments from all stakeholders willing to contribute to the implementation of the regional initiatives for Europe. Several proposals to host regional events dedicated to the relevant EUR-RIs were presented. All inputs formed the basis for establishing of a Three Year Implementation Plan for EUR-RI (2015-2017) that has been endorsed by all participants at the end of the Forum. (see Annex One)

Implementation plan has been designed with a scalable approach. At the level of each EUR-RI continuous efforts should be made in order to identify additional funding opportunities that would allow scale up the scope of actions and strengthen impact of activities. All stakeholders that were not part of programming phase should be encouraged to join the implementation phase of EUR-RI.

7.1   Regional Initiative EUR1 – Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting

The following contributions were presented at the session on EUR-RI1:

- Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Europe Coordinator, ITU, "Background Presentation"
- Mr Dino Shiatis, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - "Working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development"
- Mr Gyula Simon, National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH), Hungary, "National Situation in Field of Spectrum Management and Broadcasting"
- Mr Marcin Krasuski, Ministry of Administration and Digitization, Republic of Poland, "ITU cooperation platform for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and switch-off process"
- Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), Portugal,"Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting"

- Mr Marius-Catalin Marinescu, President, National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania, "A one-stop-shop for Telecom Regulatory Information in the CEE Region"

7.2 Regional Initiative EUR2 – Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

The following contributions were presented at the session on EUR-RI2:

- Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Europe Coordinator, ITU - "Background Presentation"; "ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Map, Quality of Service training Program"
- Mr Horia-Nicolae Ticau, European Commission, "Broadband for Sustainable Development"
- Mr Dino Shiatis, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) - "Working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development"
- Mr Luca Rea, Ugo Bordoni Foundation, Italy, "Italian QoS Monitoring Network: impact on User Protection"
- Ms Ionela Dobrica, Undersecretary of State, Ministry for Information Society, Romania, "
- Ms Julieta Tencheva, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Bulgaria - "Cross-Border Empowerment of Next generation access national networks. Trilateral Balkan partnership between Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia to interconnect their public networks"
- Mr Paulius Vaina, Communication Regulatory Authority, Lithuania, "Importance and Development of Broadband Access in Lithuania"
- Ms Dragana Kaluđerović, EKIP, Montenegro - "Broadband Market in Montenegro"
- Mr Victor Berishaj, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, Montenegro - "IXP (Internet Exchange Point) in Montenegro"
- Mr Wojcieh Berezowski, Office for Electronic Communication, Republic of Poland - "Information System on Broadband Infrastructure (SIIS) and other regulatory activities and tools enhancing infrastructure development"
- Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, Autoridade Nacional de Comunicações (ANACOM), Portugal,"Development of Broadband Access and Adoption of Broadband"
- Mr. Costin Masiliev, Head of the Electronic Communications Security Unit, ANCOM, Romania,"Internet QoS measurement tool for end-users"

7.3 Regional Initiative EUR3 – Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

The following contributions were presented at the session on EUR-RI3:

- Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Europe Coordinator, ITU, "Background Presentation"
- Ms Julieta Tencheva, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications, Bulgaria, "Pilot project: Set up of Internet access points and provision of ICT equipment to people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems) in remote/border areas"
- Mr Dejan Maslikovic, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Serbia, "Role of ICT in the development of an inclusive society. NGO Proforma"
- Ms Pilar Orero, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, "Accessibility in the Age of Convergence"
- Ms Amela Odobasic, Communications Regulatory Agecy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, "Ensuring access to ICT for persons with disabilities"

7.4 Regional Initiative EUR4 – Building Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

The following contributions were presented at the session on EUR-RI4:

- Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Europe Coordinator, ITU, "The Child Online Protection (COP) Initiative";"Background Presentation"
- Mr Gazali Çiçek, Head of International Relations Department, Information and Communication Technologies Authority,Turkey, "Child Online Protection and Safer Internet in Turkey"
- Mr Szymon Wójcik, Saferinternet.pl, Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland, "Child Safety Online. Contemporary Challenges and Actions"
- Ms Cristina Doris Banciu, Head International Relations, Sibiu County Council and Swiss Webacademy, "A Central-European Public-Private Dialogue Platform. Its aims, its achievments and its challenges."
- Mr Victor Berishaj, Ministry for Information Society and Telecommunications, Montenegro - "National CIRT - Montenegro"
- Mr Augustin Jianu, General Director, CERT-RO, Romania
- Mr Tymoteusz Kurpeta, ABI Research, "Building Confidence and Security in the use of Telecommunications/ICTs"

7.5   Regional Initiative EUR5 - Entrepreneurship, innovation and youth

The following contributions were presented at the session on EUR-RI5:

- Mr Mohamed Ba, Head of Innovation Division, ITU, "Background Presentation"; "Stocktaking of the ICT Incubation Centres in Europe"
- Ms Ioanna Samprakou, Ministry of Infrastructure, Transport and Networks, Greece,"Entrepreneurship + Innovation + Youth"
- Ms Małgorzata Olszewska, Office for Electronic Communication, Republic of Poland - "Girls in New Technologies Traineeship Contest"
- Mr Nemanja Vukotic, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia, "Proposal for the Implementation of Regional Initiative EUR5"

8   ITU-D Study Groups, ITU Centres of Excellence, Membership/Academia

With the aim of strengthening synergies between regional initiatives and the activities of ITU-D study groups, ITU Academy, ITU Centres of Excellence, Academia and membership, series of presentations were delivered by Mr Marsel Kuzyakov, Programme Officer and Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Coordinator for Europe, ITU. (ITU-D Study Groups, ITU Academy, ITU Centres of Excellence, ITU and Academia)

13   Other business

All stakeholders were thanked for their contributions to the process of establishing the implementation plan for the regional initiatives for Europe.

BDT and Participants thanked Ministry for Information Society as well as National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM), Romania for hosting the RDF for Europe and warm hospitality during stay in Romania.

Annex One: Implementation Plan for ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe

1   Regional Initiative EUR1 – Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting

2015

April:	Pan-European overview of transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting Digital Switchover Overview database completion.
May:	Regional Seminar on Spectrum Management and Digital Broadcasting (Hungary)
Sep-Dec:	ITU cooperation platform for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and switch-off process
Sep-Dec:	Experience sharing on innovative spectrum monitoring tools
May-Dec:	Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training

2016

Q1/Q2:	Regional Seminar on Outcomes of WRC-15
Sept:	Skills building events on Spectrum Management & Broadcasting
Jan-Dec:	ITU cooperation platform for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and switch-off process
Q4:	Meeting of Sub-regional Coordination Mechanisms
Q3:	Cross-regional consultation and training course – Hungary
Jan-Dec:	Twinnings and country assistance upon request
Jan-Dec:	Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training
Dec:	Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

Q1/Q2:	Regional Seminar on Spectrum and Broadcasting – Hungary
Sept:	Skills building events on Spectrum Management & Broadcasting
Jan-Dec:	Twinnings and country assistance upon request
Jan-Dec:	Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training
Dec:	Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2   Regional Initiative EUR2 – Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

2015

April:	Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
June :	Implementation of the National Broadband Plans across the region (Focus on non-EU countries)
August:	New Legislative Paradigms Fostering Broadband Development: Case Study on Portugal
Sept:	Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2015 - International Regulatory Conference on Broadband, Montenegro - Workshop on IXP, Montenegro
October:	Support to the development of ITU Quality of Service Training Programme
Nov/Dec:	Regional workshop on Quality of Services and Consumer Protection – Italy
May-Dec:	Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy

2016

Q1/2	Regional Conference on Mapping Broadband Infrastructure – Poland
April:	Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
May:	Paper on national strategies for bridging broadband gap in remote and rural areas: Cost-effective solutions for remote and rural areas
June:	Regional workshop on IXPs: Building Capacities –
Sept:	Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2016 - International Regulatory Conference, Montenegro
Jan-Dec:	Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy
Dec:	Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

March:	Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
April:	Regional Workshop on Broadband – Lithuania
May:	Monitoring of the implementation and elaboration of relevant cross-sectoral policies and strategies, including setting up national coordination mechanisms
Sept:	Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2017 - International Regulatory Conference, Montenegro
Jan-Dec:	Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy
Dec:	Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

3   Regional Initiative EUR3 – Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

2015

April:	Regional Workshop on Smart Accessibility on Connected TV (March, Barcelona) (AUB, EC, ITU)
June:	Experts Group Meeting on Accessibility (June, Italy) back to back with International Symposium on Respeaking-live-subtitling-and-accessibility
July:	Establishment of the list of European Member States with national ICT accessibility policies and analysis
August:	Finalization of curriculums of two online trainings on accessibility
September:	Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)
October:	Regional Conference for Europe on Accessibility, Serbia
October:	Online training for broadcasters on how to create audio description (AD) and closed caption (CC) files for television/video programming and how to transmit AD and CC.
November:	Online training for policy makers and regulators on Modules 1 and 4 of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy report; (Regulation, Policy, Strategies, Accessible TV)

2016

February:	Finalization of curriculum of an online course on Module 6: Accessible ICT public procurement policy framework based upon the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report. (M. 6)
April:	European benchmark with focus on non-EU countries based on the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report
May:	Online Training for procurers on Module 6: Accessible ICT public procurement policy framework

July: Finalization of curriculum of an online course on Modules 3: Mobile communications
                            accessibility policy framework based upon the Model ICT Accessibility Policy
          Report. (M. 6)
April: Regional Conference for Europe on Accessibility
October: Online training for on Module 3 of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report;
September: Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by
                    people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)
Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

April: Regional workshop for Europe and CIS on accessibility
May: Online training for on Module 5 (Module 5: Web accessibility policy framework) of the
                ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report
September: Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by
                    people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)
October: Online training for on Module 2 (Module 2: ICT accessibility framework on public access) of
                    the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report
Dec: Reporting to WTDC-17

4   Regional Initiative EUR4 – Building Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

2015

June: Curriculum for an online training for professionals and teachers
July: Study of the best practices on COP in Europe
August: Benchmark of national initiatives on COP in particular in non EU countries
Sept: - International Conference for Europe on "Keeping children and young people safe
                online",
                 Poland
                        - Conference in Sibiu, Romania
October: - October Awareness Month
                        - Training under ITU Academy
December: Elaboration of a model national strategy for COP at the national level

2016

February: Celebration of the Safer Internet Day
April: Workshop on Child Online Protection, Turkey
May: Benchmark of campaigns on COP across the Europe
June: Identification of the countries interested in piloting the transposition of the model
                national
                strategy for COP at the national level
Sept: Conference/Workshop for Europe on COP
October: October Awareness Month
October: Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS, Bulgaria
Nov.:   Training under ITU Academy
Nov./Dec. Development of a Regional Strategy Guide for Child Online Protection
Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

February: Celebration of the Safer Internet Day
March: - Update on best practices on COP in Europe and national initiatives
                    - Curriculum for an online training on COP
April: Workshop for Europe and CIS on COP
Sept.:   Showcase of countries with transposed model national strategy for COP
Sept: Conference/Workshop for Europe on COP
October: October Awareness Month
                    Training under ITU Academy
Dec: Reporting to WTDC-17

5   Regional Initiative EUR5 - Entrepreneurship, innovation and youth

2015

April: Stocktaking incubators
May: Innovation track at WSIS
June: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " kickoff - Athens
August: End of consultation on the Implementation Plan open to all stakeholders
                    looking for their engagement and financing of implementation plan
Sept: Benchmark of innovation capabilities in European ICT ecosystem
October: Launch of alpha version of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – Budapest
                    Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
Dec: Regional conference on ICT innovation ecosystem – Belgrade/Tirana

2016

March: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " meeting - TBD
                    Guidelines on ICT innovation ecosystem / self assessment toolkit
April: Girls in ICT Day: national winners announced
                    launch of the regional network (incubation opportunities or exchange or internship)
May: Innovation track at WSIS: global approach with regional seeds
June: Fostering knowledge triangle for unlocking entrepreneurship and innovation
(academia/community) - Prague
Sept: Development of curriculum for training based on guidelines under ITU academy
October: Launch of operational version of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – TBD (Telecom)
                    Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
Dec: Regional conference on financing mechanisms for ICT innovation ecosystem –
Tirana/Belgrade
Dec   Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 (date determined at the later
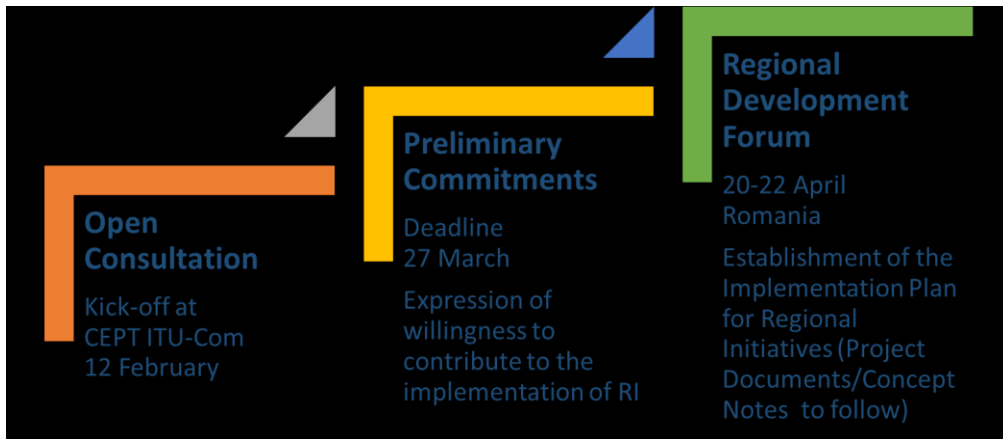stage)

2017

February: Training on ICT innovation ecosystem under ITU academy
March: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " meeting - TBD
April: Girls in ICT Day: national winners announced
            Upscaling of the regional network (incubation opportunities or exchange or internship)
May: Innovation track at WSIS: shared learning with all regions on ICT innovation ecosystem
June: Impact assessment of "ITU-ICT-Agora" platform
Sept: Upscaling of curriculum for training on ICT Innovation ecosystem under ITU academy
October: Review of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – TBD (Telecom)
                    Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
December: Reporting to the WTDC-17

Side events on ICT innovation ecosystem at WTDC-17

Annex Two: Bottom up approach applied for elaboration of three years Implementation Plan

Process of Elaboration of Three Years Implementation Plan

Building Blocks, Synergies and Impact of Regional Initiatives