



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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Geneva, 14 September 2018

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members,
- Academia
- Regional Organizations from Europe

Subject: Regional Innovation Forum for Europe on Bridging The Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems, 21-23 November 2018, Oslo, Norway

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to inform you that the **ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe on Bridging The Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems** will be held from **21-23 November 2018** in **Oslo, Norway**.

Within the framework of the **ITU European Regional Initiative on ICT –Centric innovation ecosystems**, adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017 (WTDC-17), Buenos Aires, the Conference is co-organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and the Oslo Metropolitan University, an ITU Academia Member.

The three day Regional Forum aims at building regional and national capacities and skills in developing digital ecosystems, including designing policies, implementation programmes and projects. This training targets all stakeholders involved in nurturing and building a digital innovation environment favourable to entrepreneurship and the creation/acceleration of startups and scale-ups. In particular, the agenda has been customized for the needs of the ICT policy makers, regulators, national innovation agencies, development agencies, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, academia as well as institutions, organisations and corporates willing to undertake national reviews on ICT centric innovation ecosystems and develop coherent approaches to move cities, countries and regions towards an innovation driven economy.

Please note that the event will be paperless. Documents related to the event, including the draft agenda and practical information for participants will be posted on the ITU website at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/IF/InnovationForum.aspx>

The event will be conducted in English.

Participants are requested to complete the online registration form available at https://www.itu.int/online/edrs/REGISTRATION/edrs.registration.form?_eventid=4000431

While there is no participation fee for this meeting, it is to be noted that all expenses concerning travel, accommodation and insurance of participants should be covered by your Administration / Organization / Company.

Participants requiring an entry visa to Norway should contact their nearest Norwegian Embassy or Consulate well in advance.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, (telephone: +41 22 730 60 65, e-mail: EURRegion@itu.int) and Mr George Anthony Giannoumis, Assistant Professor of Universal Design of Information and Communication Technology, Oslo Metropolitan University (telephone: +47 67 23 88 48, mail: gagian@oslomet.no) are at your full disposal for any questions you might have concerning this event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

