

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

### *Information and Communication Technologies for attaining Sustainable Development Goals*

Monday 11 June 2018 | Prague, Czech Republic

[www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/RDF/](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2018/RDF/)

## MEETING REPORT

### Introduction

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR) was organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) at the kind invitation of the Ministry of Industry and Trade of Czech Republic. The Forum took place in **Prague, Czech Republic, on 11 June 2018** and was held back to back with the meeting of the Com ITU of CEPT (12-15 June 2018).

RDF-EUR reported on the implementation of the activities of the Buenos Aires Action Plan. Particular emphasis was given to the [Regional Initiatives](#) approved by WTDC-17, providing all stakeholders with an opportunity to discuss implementation plans, to announce commitments and to exchange experiences and best practices. RDF-EUR also addressed, from a regional perspective, the activities related to the Telecommunication Development Advisory Group (TDAG), ITU-D Study Groups, Membership, Partnerships, ITU Centres of Excellence, as well as regional contributions to the implementation of WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals.

### Participation

RDF-EUR was attended by 67 participants representing 19 Members States, 2 Sector Members, 2 Academia Members, 2 regional organisations, 1 UN specialized agency and 6 other institutions. The list of participants is available at the [RDF website](#).

### Opening Ceremony

The opening remarks were provided by the following high-level speakers:

- Mr. Brahima Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union





addition, updates on the recent developments were provided by European Commission and Regional Cooperation Council, including information on recent Western Balkans Digital Summit.

Following five interactive sessions focused on discussing Implementation Plan 2018-2021 for Regional Initiatives, consisting of a set Regular Actions, Project Proposals, and Ad-hoc assistance. Participants at the meeting considered draft proposals by Secretariat and 27 submissions from European stakeholders. An open discussion with additional proposals and commitments led to the elaboration of the Implementation Plan 2018-2021 as presented in Annex 2. This implementation Plan is a live document that will serve as guiding tool for implementation.

In conclusion, participants and ITU thanked the Czech Republic for hosting the meeting. All stakeholders were thanked for their proactive approach towards the elaboration of the implementation plan and their contributions to the meeting.

#### **Annex 1:** Final Agenda

#### **Annex 2:** Implementation Plan 2018-2021



## Annex One: AGENDA

## ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

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## AGENDA

[8:30 – 9:00]	Registration
[9:00– 9:30]	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Brahima Sanou</b>, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jaromir Novak</b>, Chairman of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office, Czech Republic</li> </ul> <p>Special Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Dorina Cinari</b>, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy, Albania</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Irini Reljin</b>, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Republic of Serbia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Vilem Vesely</b>, Representative of the leadership of COM-ITU/CEPT</li> </ul>
[9:30 – 9:45]	Group Photo
[9:45 – 11:00]	<p>Beyond the WTDC-17 <i>ITU-D Objectives, Outputs   Buenos Aires Plan of Action   Regional Initiatives   Resolutions   ITU-D Study Groups   WSIS Action Lines and SDGs   Partnerships   Membership   Academia</i></p> <p>Setting the Context and Moderation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jaroslav Ponder</b>, Head of ITU Office for Europe</li> </ul> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mrs. Blanca Gonzalez</b>, TDAG Vice-Chair and Head of Unit, Ministry of Energy, Tourism and the Digital Agenda, Spain</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Wim Rullens</b>, TDAG Vice-Chair and Coordinator International Organisations Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Krisztián Stefanics</b>, National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Annelies Kavi</b>, Chair of Steering Committee, ITU Centre of Excellence Network for Europe, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Czech Republic</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jaroslav Burčík</b>, Head of ITU Centre of excellence for Cybersecurity, Czech Technical University</li> </ul> <p>Updates on regional sub-regional developments</p>



- **Mr. David Ringrose**, Head of Unit, DG-CONNECT, European Commission
- **Ms. Maja Handjiska-Trendafilova**, SEE2020 Coordinator, Regional Cooperation Council
- **Mr. Nikola Nikolov**, ICT Adviser, Ministry of Information Society and Administration, The FYR Macedonia

[11:00 – 11:30] Coffee Break

[11:30 – 13:00] **Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**

**EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management**

Setting the Context by **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of ITU Office for Europe

ITU Membership Contributions and Open Discussions

- Albania
- Georgia
- Greece
- Hungary
- Italy
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Serbia

**EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations**

Setting the Context by **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of ITU Office for Europe

ITU Membership Contributions and Open Discussions

- Albania
- Poland
- Serbia

[13:00 – 14:00] Lunch Break

[14:00 – 16:00] **Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**

**EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development**

Setting the Context by **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of ITU Office for Europe

ITU Membership Contributions and Open Discussions

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Georgia
- Serbia
- International Center for Promotion of Enterprises [Slovenia]
- Oslo Metropolitan University [Norway]



**EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies**

Setting the Context by **Ms. Rosheen Awotar-Mauree**, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe

ITU Membership Contributions and Open Discussions

- Albania
- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Georgia
- Energypact Foundation [Austria]
- Empowering Children Foundation [Poland]
- Safer Internet Centre [UK]

**[16:00 – 16:30]** Coffee Break

**[16:30 – 17:45]** **Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**

**EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems**

Setting the Context by **Ms. Rosheen Awotar-Mauree**, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe

ITU Membership Contributions and Open Discussions

- Bosnia & Herzegovina
- Hungary
- Georgia
- Montenegro
- Poland
- Oslo Metropolitan University [Norway]

**2018-2019 Action Plan for Implementing ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**

Final Discussions with participation of all present

**[17:45 – 17:50]** Technical Break

**[17:50 – 18:00]** **Conclusions and Way Forward**

- **Mr. Jaromir Novak**, Chairman of the Council of the Czech Telecommunication Office, Czech Republic
- **Mr. Jaroslav Ponder**, Head of ITU Office for Europe



## Annex Two: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

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## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2021 REGIONAL INITIATIVES FOR EUROPE

### EUR1: 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.

**Potential Partners :** EC, EBU, BEREC, National Regulatory Authorities, RCC, RIPE, Digital Europe

**Beneficiary :** All 44 ITU Europe region countries

### REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	<p>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</p> <p>An event for 5G, on 27-28 September 2018 in Athens, Greece [TBC]</p> <p>Regional Regulatory Event on Evolving Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Future, 1-2 October 2018, Budva, Montenegro</p> <p>Report on EMF Case Studies</p> <p>Discussion paper on the Future of Cable TV</p> <p>Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources</p> <p>Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond</p>





Year	Actions
2019	<p>Regional Seminar on Broadband Connectivity, [Q2, Albania]</p> <p>Regional Conference on 5G [Q2/Q3. Poland (1 Day)]</p> <p>Expert Meeting [Italy]</p> <p>Report on National Strategies for 5G Implementation and Pilot Projects</p> <p>Regional Regulatory Event, September/October, Budva</p> <p>Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources</p> <p>Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond [Italy, Hungary]</p>
2020	<p>Regional seminar on next generation access networks</p> <p>Report on next generation access networks</p> <p>Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva</p> <p>Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources</p> <p>Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond</p>
2021	<p>Regional seminar on connectivity with focus on topics to be agreed with countries and ITU experts</p> <p>Report on quality of services and consumer protection frameworks</p> <p>Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva</p> <p>Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources</p> <p>Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond</p>





## PROJECT PROPOSALS

### **PROJECT ONE: National broadband plans and feasibility studies for high speed full coverage connectivity.**

Objective: To support administrations in reviewing their national broadband plans and conducting feasibility studies for 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. Support to countries in establishment of national mapping systems.

**Beneficiaries:** Up to 6 countries

[Albania - support of ITU for a study on release of digital dividend 2 - currently used for digital transmission]

**Budget :** ~250,000 USD

**Timeframe:** 2018 - 2021

### **PROJECT TWO: Investment Opportunities Mapping System**

Objective: Building upon ITUs Interactive Transmission Map for Europe this project will develop additional features through the use of predictive algorithms to identify investment opportunities, taking into account existing broadband infrastructure and desired level of high speed connectivity depending on the technologies applied and return on investment predictions.

**Beneficiaries:** Up to 3 countries

**Budget :** ~150,000 USD

**Timeframe:** 2018 - 2021

### **PROJECT THREE: Deployment of IPv6 and national IXPs**

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

**Beneficiaries :** Up to 3 countries [incl. Montenegro]

**Budget :** ~150,000 USD

**Timeframe:** 2018 - 2021



## **ADDITIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL: Digital Radio Implementation**

ITU and Membership invited to consider initiating a regional project for capacity building relating digital radio implementation. Actions to be considering: training on technical aspects for this process, and necessary regulatory measures for appropriate implementation of digital radio [proposed by Serbia and Albania]

## **Additional Proposals: Collaboration possibility for all Membership to consider**

Georgia offers stakeholders to exchange the information flows between Europe and Asia through Georgia, via shortest transit route.

Explore areas for potential cooperation on the building of a submarine fiber-optic backbone under the Black sea or the Caspian Sea.

Georgia offers all interested parties to consider encouraging the multinational Tier 1 Internet Service Providers, to expand in Georgia and establish there PoPs and services. This will promote competition in the telecommunications wholesale market

FYR Macedonia interested in additional action. Proposal to be submitted in coming days.



## EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

**Objective:** To facilitate the development of transformative and paperless citizen-centric services that could be accessible and available to all members of society.

**Potential Partners :** UNESCO, EC, Digital Europe, Ministries in charge of digitization processes, including Ministries of Culture regarding cultural heritage

**Beneficiary :** All 44 ITU Europe region countries

### REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	<p>Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process [Albania, Poland]</p> <p>Workshop on Multimedia applications and the future of digital society on 9 July 2018, Slovenia</p> <p>Discussion paper on artificial intelligence in rolling out citizen-centric services</p> <p>ITU Regional Workshop on e-health for Europe and CIS, 17-19 October 2018</p>
2019	<p>Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process</p> <p>Promote the mHealth Hub operationalization</p> <p>Regional workshop on artificial intelligence in rolling out citizen-centric services</p> <p>Regional Workshop on Digitization of cultural heritage, presentation and management of digital assets and long-term preservation of digitized material</p>
2020	<p>Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process</p> <p>Regional Workshop on emerging trends in digitization and applications in Europe</p>
2021	<p>Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process</p>



## PROJECT PROPOSALS

### **PROJECT 1: Regional Platform to Accelerate the process of National and Regional Digitization of Citizen Centric Services, in particular digitization of cultural heritage**

Objective: To provide a regional platform for exchange of practices, while building human capacities and expert networks across the region. This will include the following 1) The development of best practices and implementation experiences of the countries currently going through the process of digitization; 2 ) Collection of citizen centric e-services case studies in Europe; 3) Stocktaking of existing technical solutions and emerging technologies for accelerating digitization and digital transformation.

**Beneficiary:** All 44 ITU Europe region countries [Serbia or in country specific assistance]

**Budget:** ~75,000 USD

**Timeframe:** 2018 – 2021

### **ADDITIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL: Regional Interoperability Center**

Albania: To consider is establishment of the Regional Interoperability Center as a technological opportunity that can be provided by platforms already built.

### **Additional Proposals: Collaboration possibility for all Membership to consider**

Albania: Offering to share its experience with countries willing to implement such a technical solution to their e-government approach.



## EUR3: 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 ICT, by enabling capacity building in digital skills.

**Potential Partners :** EC, ILO, UN-CRPD, G3ict, Zero Project , Apple, Microsoft, Google, ICT Industry,

**Beneficiary :** All 44 ITU Europe region countries

### REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	<p>Development and launching of self-paced online training on Procurement of accessible ICT products and services comprising of 3 modules with an expected participation of 100 certified professionals.</p> <p>First Edition of Accessible Europe Forum, 11-13 December, Austria [support of Bosnia &amp; Herzegovina, Croatia and Norway Oslomet, TFYR Macedonia, Serbia and Georgia, Romania, Bulgaria]</p> <p>National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries (including Serbia)</p> <p>Twinning programme on ICT accessibility</p> <p>ITU Europe regional celebration of the Girls in ICTs Day co-organised with European Commission, 28 April 2018, Sofia</p> <p>Digital Youth Forum, 17 May 2018, Warsaw</p> <p>ITU-EC EU Code Week, Brussels</p> <p>Develop tools for training entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps</p>
2019	<p>Promotion of self-paced online training on Procurement of accessible ICT products and services comprising of 3 modules with an expected participation of 100 certified professionals.</p> <p>Second Edition of Accessible Europe Forum</p> <p>National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries</p> <p>Twinning programme on ICT accessibility</p> <p>Digital Youth Forum, 17 May 2019, Warsaw</p>



Year	Actions
	<p>Regional Training for entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps in January-February 2019 [ICPE, Slovenia]</p> <p>Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Employability</p> <p>Regional Girls in ICT Day event</p> <p>Support to the establishment of certified EU labeled ICT Training Center, including training programmes and workplacement [Georgia]</p>
2020	<p>Promotion of self-paced online training on Procurement of accessible ICT products and services comprising of 3 modules with an expected participation of 100 certified professionals.</p> <p>Third Edition of Accessible Europe Forum</p> <p>National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries</p> <p>Twinning programme on ICT accessibility</p> <p>Digital Youth Forum</p> <p>Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Digital Inclusion</p> <p>Regional Girls in ICT Day event</p>
2021	<p>Promotion of self-paced online training on Procurement of accessible ICT products and services comprising of 3 modules with an expected participation of 100 certified professionals.</p> <p>National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries</p> <p>Fourth Edition of Accessible Europe Forum</p> <p>Twinning programme on ICT accessibility</p> <p>Digital Youth Forum</p> <p>Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for ICT accessibility</p> <p>Regional Girls in ICT Day event</p>

**PROJECT PROPOSALS**







**Beneficiary:** up to 5 countries for final phase

**Timeframe:** 2018-2021

## EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies

**Objective:** To support the deployment of resilient infrastructure and secure services allowing all citizens, especially children, to use ICTs in their daily lives with confidence.

**Potential Partners:** FIRST, ENISA, ICT Industry, Empowering Children Foundation Poland, UK Safer Internet Centre, Energypact Foundation, GFCE

**Beneficiary:** All 44 ITU Europe region countries

### REGULAR ACTIONS



Year	Actions
2018	<p>National Assessment Reports for selected countries.</p> <p>Annual Conference on " The New Global Challenges in Cyber Security", co-organised with CERT-RO on 16-17 October, Bucharest, Romania</p> <p>Regional Cyberdrill, 28-29 November, Cyprus [Georgia exercises, Croatia, GFCE</p> <p>Regional report on cybersecurity commitments [issued end July ]</p> <p>Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection [Europe and CIS] held in April in Odessa</p> <p>Regional Forum: COP and Cybersecurity, September, Sibiu</p> <p>International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw, 18-20 September 2018 [Croatia willing to contribute]</p> <p>Twinning Project: Georgia, Romania</p>
2019	<p>National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs]</p> <p>Regional Cyberdrill, Date TBC, Romania</p> <p>Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments</p> <p>Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection [Albania]</p> <p>International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw</p> <p>Vienna Week Conference – Energypact with support of ITU</p>
2020	<p>National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs]</p> <p>Regional Cyberdrill</p> <p>Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments</p> <p>Regional Cybersecurity Conference: Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection [Bulgaria]</p> <p>International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw</p>



2021	<p>National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs]</p> <p>Regional Cyberdrill</p> <p>Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments</p> <p>Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection</p> <p>International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw</p>
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## PROJECT PROPOSALS

### Project 1: National Cybersecurity Capacity Enhancement

**Objective :** To develop roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs] and to implement the roadmaps through capacity building and infrastructure enhancement including the setting of national and sectoral CSIRTs.

**Budget:** ~500,000 USD

**Beneficiary:** Up to 2 countries for implementation [Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina]

**Timeframe:** 2018-2021

### Project 2: Strengthening Child Online Protection through Schools

**Objective:** To conduct national assessment and propose an action plan to enhance on Child Online Protection environment and infrastructure, with particular focus on online protection through schools where implementation of school online protection standards can be effected.

**Budget :** 200,000 USD

**Beneficiary:** Up to 3 countries for assessment and up to 1 country for implementation [TFYR Macedonia]

**Timeframe:** 2018-2021

## **EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems**

**Objective:** To enhance entrepreneurship and establish a sustainable culture of innovation through concrete strategic actions using ICT as an enabler, building on the existing regional initiative in Europe on entrepreneurship, innovation and youth.

**Potential Partners:** UNIDO, INPUT Hungary, Ericsson, INMARSAT

**Beneficiary:** All 44 ITU Europe region countries



Year	Actions
2018	<p>In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile</p> <p>Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU [Georgia and Hungary INPUT]</p> <p>Collect, analyse and publish a regional good practices report to accelerate and drive digital transformation.</p> <p>Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation, Oslo, Norway on 21-23 November 2018</p>
2019	<p>In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile</p> <p>Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU [ Hungary INPUT]</p> <p>Collect, analyse and publish a report on Good practices on Technology ecosystem development supporting key economic sectors.</p> <p>Regional Seminar on ICT Innovation Ecosystem [Poland, Q3]</p> <p>Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation</p>
2020	<p>In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile</p> <p>Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU</p> <p>Conduct an assessment of ICT Innovation in National Policies in Europe and publish a report.</p> <p>Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.</p>
2021	<p>In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile</p> <p>Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU</p> <p>Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.</p>



## PROJECT PROPOSALS

### **Project 1: Accelerating Digital Transformation through Digital Entrepreneurship and ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystems**

Objective: To provide in country support to develop a national roadmap with 3 priority flagship projects including identification of funding, while providing seed funding for implementing a flagship project.

**Budget:** ~300,000 USD

**Beneficiary:** Up to 3 countries [Bosnia and Herzegovina, TFYR of Macedonia]

**Timeframe:** 2018-2021

[Cyprus expressed interest in project and will submit its contribution in the future]

### **Project 2: Connecting ICT Centric Innovation ecosystems to the regional economic agenda to attain sustainable development goals**

Objective: To develop a platform for scaling up capacity building, assessments, funding and good practices / case studies sharing on Digital Transformation. Sustainable funding models to support the innovation ecosystems will be identified. A framework for sustainable funding models to support innovation ecosystems will be developed based on which funding of at least 2 regional projects will be undertaken.

**Budget:** ~300,000 USD

**Beneficiary:** Up to 6 countries

**Timeframe:** 2018-2021

