



1ST MEETING OF
STEERING COMMITTEES FOR
ITU CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE FOR
EUROPE AND CIS REGIONS

FINAL REPORT

7-8 FEBRUARY 2019

Warsaw, Poland

1 INTRODUCTION AND OPENING

The 1st The 1st Centres of Excellence Steering Committees Meeting for Europe and CIS Regions of the 2019-2022 cycle was held in Warsaw, Poland, on 7-8 February 2019. The Meeting was organized by ITU and hosted by the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Republic of Poland. It was attended by 28 delegates including newly selected Centres of Excellence (CoEs), representatives from Governments hosting CoEs, GCBI Members from Europe, ITU Sector and Academia Members, ITU Secretariat and other international organizations (EUTELSAT igov, RIPE NCC, OSJD). The list of participants is attached to this report (Annex 1).



Mr. Karol KRZYWICKI, Deputy President of the Office of Electronic Communications (UKE), Republic of Poland welcomed all participants on behalf of the host of the meeting, drawing attention of participants to series of actions of UKE in field of capacity building and main achievements of the ICT sector in Poland. He also pointed to the continuous commitment of UKE to contribute to the regional and global activities of ITU.

Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER, Head of the ITU Office for Europe delivered the welcome remarks on behalf of ITU. Mr. Ponder expressed his gratitude to Poland for their continued excellent support to the ITU as well as to the Centres of Excellence program. He also thanked the CoEs, partners and participants for their support in the past cycle and welcomed the newly selected CoEs (Tables below) to the meeting of two Steering Committees, i.e. for Europe and CIS regions.

Mr. Kirill OPARIN, Head of the Regional Office for CIS welcomed all participants underlining importance of collaboration at the regional and international level, highlighting importance of CoE mechanism for building human capacities of professionals.

Table 1: List of ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe (2019-2022) and their priority areas

Name of institution	Country	Priority areas
A. S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (ONAT)	Ukraine	Wireless & Fixed Broadband Digital Broadcasting
Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje (FEEIT)	Macedonia	Wireless & Fixed Broadband
Institute for Security and Safety (ISS) at the Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences	Germany	Cybersecurity
National Institute of Telecommunications (NIT)	Poland	Internet Governance Wireless & Fixed Broadband
NRD Cyber Security (NRD CS)	Lithuania	Cybersecurity
The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)	Italy	Internet of Things Big Data & Statistics

Table 2: List of ITU Centres of Excellence for CIS (2019-2022) and their priority areas

Name of institution	Country	Priority areas
Belarusian State Academy of Communications (BSAC)	Belarus	Wireless and Fixed Broadband Cybersecurity
The Bonch-Bruевич Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (SPbSUT)	Russian Federation	Internet of Things Digital Broadcasting Cybersecurity
Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) at the Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU)	Kyrgyz Republic	Digital Inclusion

2 CONFIRMATION OF CO-CHAIRS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEES

Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER informed the meeting that based on informal consultations carried out amongst the Steering Committees Members the following representatives were proposed for confirmation as Chairs of the Steering Committees for Europe and CIS respectively:

- Dr. Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK, Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communications, Republic of Poland
- Ms. Irina KARIMOVA, Head of the International Cooperation Department, St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications, Russian Federation

The meeting confirmed the proposed candidates. The Chairs thanked the meeting for the nomination and co-chaired the 1st Meeting of Steering Committees of the ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe and CIS Regions (2019-2022 Cycle).

Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER confirmed the composition of the Steering Committees for Europe and CIS for the 2019-2022 cycle as presented respectively below.

- Composition of the Steering Committee for Europe
 - Centres of Excellence: ISS, ICTP, NRD Cybersecurity, NIT, FEEIT, ONAT
 - Member States: Poland, Lithuania
 - ITU
- Composition of the Steering Committee for CIS
 - Centres of Excellence: BSAC, IET, SPbSUT
 - ITU

Bulgaria participated in the 1st Meeting of Steering Committees as observer.

3 ITU PRESENTATIONS ON THE COE PROGRAM

Introduction to new cycle 2019-2022

Dr. Susan TELTSCHER, Head, Human Capacity Building, ITU, presented the details of the ITU CoE program and its strategic positioning in the ITU's capacity building and skills development activities. She explained the core elements of self-sustainability, defined priority areas and the number of CoEs, which formed part of the new strategy introduced in 2015. Dr. Teltscher shared the performance assessment of the previous CoE Cycle and highlighted these key achievements:

- 26 operational CoEs across 6 regions
- Over 90% of CoEs viewed their experience as CoE «excellent» or «very good»
- Over 5'000 participants were trained by the network over the cycle period through almost 200 courses
 - Increasing trend over the 4-year cycle (number of courses)
 - Course participation varied significantly (from 4 to over 300)
- 55% face-to-face courses, 45% online courses
- Online courses attract a higher number of participants than face-to-face courses (with some exceptions)
- There were high performers and low performers

Going forward, she informed the meeting on the process followed in the selection of the CoEs for 2019-2022 for all regions and the results of the selection process. She also summarized the following new elements in the new Cycle

- Each CoE can have up to three priority areas
- Strengthened role of Steering Committees
- Steering Committee (SC) can decide on courses to be delivered on other emerging topics
- CoEs are full and active members of SC
- Regional online meetings are recommended in between face-to-face meetings (CoEs, SC as necessary)
- CoE commitment to allocate resources to CoE operations was part of application
- New ITU Academy platform to be launched (2nd quarter of 2019)

ITU priorities in Europe and CIS in the context of the ITU Centres of Excellence

Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER and Kirill OPARIN, presented the key strategic areas of focus for the ITU-D globally and the Europe and CIS regional initiatives. They shared the priority areas of work undertaken by the ITU in the Europe and CIS regions and highlighted the various means of potential cooperation and synergy between the ITU, its partners and the CoEs. They also highlighted the achievements of the CoEs (trainings, participants, quality) in the Europe and CIS regions for 2015-2018 cycle and shared key success factors and experiences.

4 PRESENTATIONS BY CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Dr. Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK, Chair of the ITU CoE Steering Committee for Europe invited all European ITU Centres of Excellence to present their institution and their detailed operational/business strategy for the upcoming CoE cycle, including their marketing strategy. The following presentations were made:

- A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (ONAT), Ukraine
- Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Information Technologies, Ss. Cyril and Methodius University, Skopje (FEEIT), Macedonia
- Institute for Security and Safety (ISS) at the Brandenburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany
- National Institute of Telecommunications (NIT), Poland
- NRD Cyber Security, Lithuania
- The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP), Italy

Ms. Irina KARIMOVA, Chair of Steering Committee for CIS invited all CIS ITU Centres of Excellence to present their institution and their detailed operational/business strategy

for the upcoming CoE cycle, including their marketing strategy. The following presentations were made:

- Belarusian State Academy of Communications (BSAC), Belarus
- The Bonch-Bruевич Saint-Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (SPbSUT), Russian Federation
- Institute of Electronics and Telecommunications (IET) at the Kyrgyz State Technical University (KSTU), Kyrgyz Republic

All presentations were made available on the website <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/1stSC/Presentations.aspx> .

In the follow up to the presentations and based on series of discussions, the meeting agreed on the need of strengthened promotion of courses. The ITU and CoEs shared their practices, ideas and experiences in promoting the training programs including

- Invitations to the ITU Members
- Promotion at ITU Academy and regional websites
- Promotion in events
- Promoting through partners and third parties
- Using government networks

With the aim of inspiring discussion on promotion and outreach to the new audiences a special presentation was provided by Mr Hubert KIFNER, Head of Financial Services / Employee Practice Leader, MSL, Poland, being a global public relations and integrated communications partner that provides strategic counsel and creative thinking to ICT stakeholder globally.

5 PRESENTATION ON OPERATIONAL PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE ITU CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE NETWORK

Dr. Susan TELTSCHER, Head, Human Capacity Building, ITU, presented the “Operational processes and procedures for the ITU CoE network 2018” document and advised all Steering Committee Members to use it as the key reference. She explained in details the key elements relating to

- Delivery of trainings (Number of trainings, schedule, advertisement of courses, use of ITU Academy platform, training material development, evaluation and training report submission);
- Templates for use by the CoEs (Information note, Course outline for face-to-face courses, Course outline for online courses, Training course feedback form,

Evaluation matrix for face-to-face courses, Evaluation matrix for online courses, User guide for evaluation matrix, Training report)

- Funding of CoE operations
- Training fees and revenue share
- Certificates
- Performance evaluation (Assessment report, KPI)
- Steering Committee (Role, Composition, Chair)

Dr. Susan TELTSCHER presented the ITU Academy platform and informed the meeting of the features in the platform. She also briefly introduced the new platforms being developed by the ITU.

6 TRAINING PLAN 2019

The ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe and CIS presented their training programs for 2019 and the Steering Committees agreed on the following trainings for Europe and CIS respectively.

CoE Trainings for Europe

Face-to-face courses

No	Training course topic	CoE	Dates	Venue	Training fee
1	Governing Cyber Security at the National Level: Best practices and lessons learned	NRD CS	7-10 May	Vilnius, Lithuania	800 USD
2	Organizational and technological aspects of providing e-Health services	ONAT	16-17 May	Odessa, Ukraine	150 USD
3	Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	ONAT	16-17 May	Odessa, Ukraine	150 USD
4	CODATA/RDA Research Data Science Summer School	ICTP	12-16 August	Trieste, Italy	500 USD
5	CODATA/RDA Advanced Workshop on IoT and Big-Data Analytics	ICTP	19-23 August	Trieste Italy	500 USD
6	Technical Aspects of Wireless Solutions for the Internet of Things (IoT)	ICTP	2-4 September	Trieste, Italy	500 USD
7	Incident Response Practice: Hands-on scenario-based training	NRD CS	17-20 September	Vilnius, Lithuania	800 USD
8	Automation of broadband networks designing. Selecting the most appropriate solutions to build network	ONAT	October	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Free (in Russian)
9	QoS Technologies and Regulation for Fixed and Mobile	NIT	24-25 October	Warsaw, Poland	500 USD

10	IoT Entrepreneurship	ICTP	6-8 November	Trieste, Italy	500 USD
11	The use of adaptive technologies to transmit video over radio channels	ONAT	7-8 November	Odessa, Ukraine	Free (in Russian)
12	CODATA/RDA/ICTP/TWAS Research Data Science Summer School in West Africa	ICTP	18-22 November	Nigeria	300 USD

Online courses

No	Training course topic	CoE	Dates	Venue	Training fee
1	Strategic Aspects for Internet Governance and Innovations	NIT	4-11 March	Online	150 USD
2	Wireless Access Technologies to Internet Network	NIT	8-15 April	Online	150 USD
3	Cybersecurity Techniques	ISS	April	Online: Self-paced	280 USD
4	Legal and regulatory barriers to the introduction of cloud services in the EU	NIT	20-27 May	Online	150 USD
5	NGN Evolution, Future Networks and Ultra-broadband Internet	FEEIT	28 May – 24 June	Online	150 USD
6	Cyber Incident Response (Self-Paced Course)	ISS	June	Online: Self-paced	280 USD
7	Security and QoS in Internet Network	NIT	26 August - 2 September	Online	150 USD
8	Technical, business and regulatory aspects of 5G Networks	NIT	30 September - 7 October	Online	150 USD
9	Wireless and Mobile Ultra-broadband: LTE-A PRO, WLAN, AND 5G NR	FEEIT	19 November - 16 December	Online	150 USD

CoE Trainings for CIS

Face-to-face courses

No	Training course topic	CoE	Dates	Venue	Training fee
1	Fiber-Optic Communication Lines (FOCAL). Modern Instruments and Tools	KSTU	March 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
2	Fixed Broadband Access using GPON and GEAPON Technologies	BSAC	April, 2019	Minsk, Belarus	120-150 USD
3	Information Technology Basics	KSTU	April, 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
4	Cybersecurity Issues and IT Solutions	BSAC	May, 2019	Minsk, Belarus	120-150 USD
5	Information Security. Protection of Information and Communication Channels	KSTU	May 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
6	Computer Literacy	KSTU	May, 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
7	Internet of Things and the Digital Economy	SPbSUT	June, 2019	St. Petersburg, Russia	200 USD

8	Internet of Things and Networks Solutions	SPbSUT	September, 2019	St. Petersburg, Russia	200 USD
9	Broadband Technology	KSTU	September, 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
10	Digital Literacy	KSTU	October, 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
11	Wireless Broadband Systems Quality Metrics	BSAC	October, 2019	Minsk, Belarus	120-150 USD
12	Digital Literacy	KSTU	November, 2019	Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic	90 USD
13	Cybersecurity of Web-sites and Web applications	BSAC	November, 2019	Minsk, Belarus	120-150 USD

Information on 4 additional courses to be delivered by SPbSUT will be communicated by 15 February and the table above will be updated accordingly.

Exact dates of trainings will be fixed by Centers of Excellence by 15 February 2019 (where not yet specified).

7 ISSUES DISCUSSED AND DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE

The meeting discussed a number of issues and provided suggestions.

- a) The steering committee agrees to keep interacting during the year including the possibility of holding an online SC meeting during the year.
- b) Cooperation among CoEs in the region and with CoEs from other regions is encouraged including organization of joint training activities. ITU will share the contact details of all CoEs in the global network. It was also encouraged to improve collaboration between ITU Members and CoEs across the network.
- c) It is proposed to examine whether the solution for authentication of certificates issued by the CoEs is possible to be provided. This will increase prestige of the Centres of Excellence. One of suggested options was to reflect reference number on the certificate. Another option might be that ITU provides confirmation upon request.
- d) Need for CoEs to actively promote their activities (in addition to ITU's promotion) is very important. Use of social media is key in this regard.

- e) Flexibility in vocational training is key and needs to be embedded in the approach towards to the trainees (who normally are active professionals and expect flexibility).
- f) Partnership building with diverse stakeholders is important and possible, however requires close coordination with ITU in order to ensure neutrality.
- g) CoEs are highly encouraged to use ITU content and while developing the content take into account the work of the ITU on the issue. Secretariat will provide to all Centres of Excellence syllabus developed for the purposes of CoE trainings (use of material is for free).
- h) CoE Trainings organized in the country other than the country of CoE's region requires consultation with ITU, Chairman of Steering Committee of the other region and at least one CoE from the region where the workshop will take place.
- i) In the context of the implementation of GDPR framework in Europe, CoEs need to be equipped with clear understanding if ITU Academy is compliant with the regulations.
- j) A revenue share of 20% (ITU) and 80% (CoE) was agreed upon with the CoEs for Europe and CIS.
- k) CoEs can also introduce new courses in between steering committee meetings by writing to the ITU regional coordinator, who would then circulate to the steering committee. The courses will be approved if there is no objection from any Member of the Steering Committee within 7 days.
- l) For those CoEs that have not specified exact dates of trainings, they are requested to do so by 15 February 2019.
- m) Training catalogue plays an important role in reaching out to the audience. For those CoEs that have not provided full information on their courses to the ITU secretariat, they are requested to do so not later than 15 February 2019.
- n) In principle courses free of charge should be avoided but in special cases they can be considered as an option, subject to approval by the Steering Committee of the respective region. Centers of Excellence recommend that, courses free of charge could be considered to be held only in languages other than English.
- o) Next meeting of Steering Committees will be held in November/December 2019. Continuation of a joint meeting of Steering Committees for Europe and CIS regions might be considered taking into account synergies, if feasible.

8 CLOSING SESSION

The meeting ended with closing remarks from Mr Jaroslaw PONDER and Mr Kirill OPARIN on behalf of ITU and Ms. Irina KARIMOVA as the Chair of Steering Committee for CIS and Ms Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK as the Chair of Steering Committee for Europe and on behalf of the host of the meeting, UKE.

Participants thanked the Chairs of the Steering Committees and Secretariat (ITU) for smooth running the meeting and UKE for hosting.

Dr. Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK

*Chair of the Steering Committee for
ITU Centres of Excellence for Europe (2019)
(Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit, Office of
Electronic Communications (UKE),
Republic of Poland)*

Ms. Irina KARIMOVA

*Chair of the Steering Committee for
ITU Centres of Excellence for CIS (2019)
(Head of the International Cooperation
Department, St. Petersburg State University of
Telecommunications, Russian Federation)*

8 February 2019, Warsaw, Poland

ANNEX 1: List of participants of the 1st CoE Steering Committees Meeting for Europe and CIS, 7-8 February 2018, Warsaw, Poland

Country	Name	Title	Organization
Belarus	Mr Khodasevitch Oleg	Dean	State Academy of Communications (Academia)
Belarus	Mr Dubrovski Vasil	Vice Rector	State Academy of Communications (Academia)
Bulgaria	Ms Razpopova Latinka	Chief Expert, Communications Directorate	Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (Administration)
Germany	Mr Gluschke Guido		Institute for Security and Safety (Academia)
France	Mr Dmochowski-Lipski Piotr	Executive Secretary	EUTELSAT IGO [ITU Sector Member (other)]
FYR of Macedonia	Mr Janevski Toni	Professor, Head of ITU Centre of Excellence at FEEIT, Skopje	SS. Cyril and Methodius University, faculty of electrical engineering and information technologies (FEEIT), Skopje (Academia)
Italy	Mr Onime Clement	Dr	The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) (Academia)
Italy	Mr Radicella Sandro	Professor	The Abdus Salam International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) (Academia)
Kyrgyzstan	Ms Abdyllaeva Gulnara	Director	Institute of Electronics and telecommunications (Academia)
Lithuania	Ms Jasinskiene Ruta	Training Coordinator	NRD Cyber Security (Other)
Lithuania	Mr Lecickis Romualdas	Business Development Director	NRD Cyber Security (Other)
Lithuania	Mr Skardinskas Jonas	Director of the Department of CyberSecurity and Information Technologies	Ministry of National Defense (Administration)
Lithuania	Ms Rimkevičienė Inga	Head of Division	Communications Regulatory Authority
Netherlands	Ms Petrova Gergana	External Relations Officer	RIPE NCC (Regional Organization)
Poland	Mr Laskowski Sylwester	Head of the Training Center	National Institute of Telecommunications (Academia)

Poland	Mr Berezowski Wojciech	Head of Unit (International Organizations)	Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) (Regulator)
Poland	Ms Ignatowicz Małgorzata	Expert	Office of Electronic Communications
Poland	Mr Krzywicki Karol	Deputy President	Office of Electronic Communications
Poland	Mr Piotrowski Maciej	Chief Specialist, Department of Foreign Affairs	Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) (Regulator)
Poland	Ms Stępińska-Ustasiak Lidia	Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit	Office of Electronic Communications (UKE) (Regulator)
Russia	Ms Karimova Irina	Head of the International cooperation department	St. Petersburg State University of Telecommunications (Academia)
Ukraine	Mr Kumysh Vladyslav	Head of Research & Development Department	A.S. Popov Odessa National Academy of Telecommunications (Academia)
OSJD	Mr Vsevolozhskiy Mikhail	Deputy Chairman of OSJD Committee	Organization for Cooperation on Railways (OSJD), Committee of the OSJD (Other)
OSJD	Ms Aspayeva Zubaida	Chairman of OSJD Commission on Freight Transportation	Organization for Cooperation on Railways (OSJD), Committee of the OSJD (Other)
OSJD	Mr Kozmava Zurab	Expert of OSJD Commission on Transport Policy and Development Center	Organization for Cooperation on Railways (OSJD), Committee of the OSJD (Other)
ITU	Mr Ponder Jaroslaw	Head of the ITU Office for EUR	ITU
ITU	Mr Oparin Kirill	Head, Regional Office for CIS	ITU
ITU	Ms Teltscher Susan	Head, Human Capacity Building Division	ITU