ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for
Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Monday 6 May 2019 | Rome, Italy

https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2019/RDF/Regional-Development-Forum.aspx

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 Economic Development of Italy. The Forum took place in **Rome, Italy, on 6 May 2019** and was held back to back with the meeting of the Com-ITU of CEPT (7-9 May 2019).

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 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.

The meeting resulted in an updated Implementation Plan for Regional Initiatives 2018-2019. This outcome was built upon 33 written contributions and 14 presentations, all available on the RDF-EUR website (Online Agenda with Contributions).

Participation

RDF-EUR was attended by 65 participants representing 23 Members States, 7 Sector Members, 3 Academia Members, 3 regional organisations, 2 UN specialized agencies. The list of participants is available on the RDF website.

Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony was moderated by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe and the opening remarks were provided by the following high-level speakers:

- Ms Doreen Bogdan, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, International Telecommunication Union

- Ms Eva Spina, Director General for Planning and Management of Spectrum at the Ministry of Economic Development, Italy

- Ms Cristiana Flutur, Co-President, Conference of European Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)

Discussions

RDF-EUR built upon two segments, namelya panel on Implementation beyond WTDC-17 and five interactive sessions discussing draft implementation plan 2018-2021 for Regional Initiatives.

The panel provided an opportunity to update all participants on the outcomes of WTDC-17 in particular drawing attention to ITU-D Objectives, Outputs, Buenos Aires Plan of Action, Regional Initiatives, Resolutions, ITU-D Study Groups, WSIS Action Lines and SDGs, Partnerships, Membership, Academia. Exhaustive overview of actions implemented since last RDF-EUR was provided by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe, and was followed by panel discussions by the European representatives in the ITU-D, as follows:

- Ms Blanca Gonzales, European Vice-Chair of the ITU-D Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, and Head of Unit at the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society, Spain

- Mr Vadim Kaptur, European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 1, and Vice Rector of ONAT Academy, Ukraine

- Ms Amela Odobasic, European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 1, and Head of Public Affairs, Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Mr Dominique Wurges, European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 2, Director for International Relations, Orange

- Dr Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak, Chairman of the Steering Committee ITU Centres of Excellence Chairman of the ITU-D Global Capacity Buildng Group and Head of Social and Corporate Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communications, Poland

A special presentation on the WSIS and SDG implementation was delivered by Vladimir Stankovic, ITU Policy Analyst.

The main points raised during the discussions included the following:

- Importance of sharing best practices using all mechanisms available at the ITU level, e.g. Study Groups, Workshops, Seminars, Twining projects.

- BDT Study Groups and their reports were highlighted as an important product of ITU-D. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide inputs, as well as engage in the process of drafting.

- ICT sector experiences rapid evolution due to emerging technologies, that needs to be timely captured in the work of ITU, therefore input from private sector and research institutions are of high value.

- Multi-stakeholder character of ITU was highlighted as important value for implementation of regional initiatives and the work of ITU in general.

- Feedback on all ITU capacity building activities is of high value to further enhance quality of ITU offering, in order to remain relevant and competitive.

- Discussions at ITU need to be further enriched with good practices, use cases and projects, in particular to be provided by those who are working on the ground. Existing collection mechanisms should be used to the extent possible.

- European membership is encouraged to advocate for the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives that are seen as a set of regional priorities, contributing to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

- Special efforts should be dedicated to avoid duplication of actions undertaken in Europe by diverse organizations, making sure that the ITU Regional Initiatives provide additional value and are seen as an effective and neutral platform for multi-stakeholder collaboration.

- All stakeholders were encouraged to be in direct contact with European representatives in the ITU-D structure to ensure that their points of view are addressed at the global level.

The five interactive sessions focused on discussing Implementation Plan 2018-2021 for Regional Initiatives, consisting of a set of Regular Actions, Project Proposals, and Additional Actions. The meeting considered 33 written contributions and 14 presentations provided by European stakeholders. An open discussion with additional proposals and commitments led towards the update of the Implementation Plan 2018-2021 as presented in Annex 2. The Implementation Plan is a live document that will serve as guiding tool for implementation.

Final conclusions

RDF-EUR participants thanked Ministry of Economic Development of Italy for its hospitality, while recognizing value of holding RDF-EUR back to back with Com-ITU meeting. ITU secretariat was thanked for the efficient preparation and conducting the meeting. All stakeholders were called upon to continue engaging in the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives.

Annexes

Annex 1: Final RDF 2019 Agenda

Annex 2: Updated Implementation Plan 2018-2021

Annex 3: Activities Implemented in 2018

Annex One

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for attaining
Sustainable Development Goals

**organized by the International Telecommunication Union at the kind invitation of the
Ministry of Economic Development of Italy**

Ministero dello Sviluppo Economico

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(Meeting held back-to-back with Com-ITU of CEPT – 7-9 May 2019, Rome, Italy)

AGENDA

[8:30 – 9:00]	**Registration**
[9:00– 9:15]	**Opening Ceremony**
	- **Ms Doreen Bogdan,** Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU
	- **Ms Eva Spina,** Director General for Planning and Management of Spectrum at the Ministry of Economic Development, Italy
	- **Ms Cristiana Flutur,** Co-President, Conference of European Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT)
[9:15 – 9:30]	Group Photo
[9:30 – 11:00]	**Regional Actions Beyond the WTDC-17 and PP-18** *ITU Actions at the Regional Level	Regional Initiatives	Study Groups	Partnerships	Membership	SMEs	Academia	WSIS Action Lines and SDGs*
	Setting the Context and Moderation
	- **Mr Jaroslaw Ponder,** Head of the ITU Office for Europe
	Panelists
	- **Ms Blanca Gonzales,** European Vice-Chair of the ITU-D Telecommunication Development Advisory Group, and Head of Unit at the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Telecommunications and Information Society, Spain
	- **Mr Vadim Kaptur**, European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 1, and Vice Rector of ONAT Academy, Ukraine

	- **Ms Amela Odobasic,** European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 1, and Head of Public Affairs, Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina - **Mr Dominique Wurges,** European Vice Chair of the ITU-D Study Group 2, Director for International Relations, Orange - **Dr Lidia Stepinska-Ustasiak,** Chairman of the Steering Committee ITU Centres of Excelence Chairman of the ITU-D Global Capacity Builidng Group and Head of Social and Corporate Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communciations, Poland **WSIS and SDGs Implementation** - **Mr. Vladimir Stankovic,** ICT Policy Analyst, ITU
[11:00 – 11:30]	Coffee Break
[11:30 – 13:00]	**Review of Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe** *EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management* - Albania - Czech Republic - Latvia - Montenegro - North Macedonia - Poland - ONAT Academy (Ukraine) *EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations* - Czech Republic - Georgia - FAO - WHO - ONAT Academy (Ukraine) - Olso Metropolitan University (Norway)
[13:00 – 14:00]	Lunch Break
[14:00 – 16:00]	**Review of Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe** *EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development* - Bosnia and Herzegovina - Malta - Poland - MWF (Austria) - ONAT Academy (Ukraine) - Olso Metropolitan University (Norway) - ESSL Foundation (Austria) - ILO

	EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
	- Albania
	- Bosnia and Herzegovina
	- Bulgaria
	- Georgia
	- North Macedonia
	- Romania
	- San Marino
	- DCAF (Switzerland)
	- Empowering Children Foundation (Poland)
	- Energy Pact Foundation (Austria)
	- Institute for Accountability in the Digital Age (Netherland)
	- ONAT Academy (Ukraine)
	- Safer Internet Centre (UK)
[16:00 – 16:30]	Coffee Break
[16:30 – 17:45]	**Review of Implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe**
	EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems
	- Cyprus
	- Greece
	- Hungary
	- Latvia
	- Montenegro
	- Olso Metropolitan University (Norway)
	2019-2020 Action Plan for Implementing ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe
	- ITU Office for Europe
[17:45 – 17:50]	Technical Break
[17:50 – 18:00]	**Conclusions and Way Forward**
	- **Mr Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head of the ITU Office for Europe
	- **Mr Fabio Bigi,** Ministry of Economic Development, Italy

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UPDATED 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, ONAT Academy, Others

Beneficiary : All 46 ITU Europe region countries

REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	**Actions Implemented for EUR1 in 2018 are listed in Annex 3 and more information can be accessed in the ITU Europe Office Events 2018 webpage.**
2019	ITU Regional Radiocommunication Seminar 2019 for Europe (RRS-19-Europe), 24-27 June, Tirana ITU Workshop for Europe on Mapping of Terrestrial Broadband Infrastructure and Services, 2-3 July, Warsaw, Republic of Poland Update of the National Broadband Plan in Albania Special Paper on the ICT Infrastructure Development in North Macedonia

Year	Actions
	Report on National Strategies for 5G Implementation and Pilot Projects (implemented through partnership or if ressources allows) as well as EMF related issues ITU Workshop on the Future of Television in Europe (jointly organized with TSB in context of the Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT Infrastructure), 7 June 2019, ITU Headquarters ITU-EKIP Regional Regulatory Forum, 28-29 September, Budva, Montenegro ITU Regional Economic Dialogue for Europe and CIS, 30-31 October 2019, Odessa, Ukraine 5G Techritory, 24-27 Novemeber 2019, Riga, Latvia (event and collaboration platform) Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps, including collection of information from official sources - Twinning: Poland (broadband infrastructure and services map; one of the Western Balkans) - BroadbandCalculator.online Offered support through twinning program - Czech Technical University, Faculty of Electrical Engineering (spectrum management), Czech Republic - Hungary (Spectrum Management) - Italy (Broadband Infrastructure)
2020	Regional seminar on next generation access networks Report on next generation access networks Regional regulatory event, September/October, Budva Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond
2021	Regional seminar on connectivity with focus 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 Europe focused enhancement of ITU Interactive Transmission Maps including collection of information from official sources

Year	Actions
	Twinning programmes within the Europe region and beyond

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
[2018 Albania was requested but did not materialise. 2019 support for preparing a new broadband plan requested]

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

[In RDF 2019 : ONAT Academy offers to conduct an initiative to choose the most promising (from economic and technical point of view) solutions for building broadband access networks in human settlements in Europe using the Broadbandcalculator.online tool. This initiative is part of project above]

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

2018 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]

[Issue of Digital Radio to be addressed during the 2019 Regional Radiocommunication Seminar for Europe]

2018 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

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, WHO, FAO, ONAT Academy, OSLOMET, Ministries in charge of digitization processes, including Ministries of Culture regarding cultural heritage, Others

Beneficiary : All 46 ITU Europe region countries

REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	**Actions Implemented for EUR1 in 2018 are listed in Annex 3 and more information can be accessed in the ITU Europe Office Events 2018 webpage.**
2019	Promotion of the mHealth Hub operationalization ITU Workshop on Enhancing Human Life Using e-Services, (Jointly organized with TSB in Context of the Regional Initiatives for Europe on Digitization and Digital Inclusion), 25 March 2019, Geneva, Switzerland ITU Workshop for Europe and CIS on Using ICT for Saving Lives, 24-26 April 2019, Odessa, Ukraine National Strategy on Artifical Intelligence [Georgia- pending confirmation] Twinning programmes Support and development of technological start ups (Seminar/Workshop on Artificial Intelligence) [11 December 2019, Czech Republic] Mapping of e-Agriculture Implementation (strategies / policies / digital infrastructure / digital skills) National Strategies for Agriculture [FAO–ITU] Open call for financing the translation of series of specialized multimedia distance-learning courses on eHealth (eHealthcourses.online) into English and other European languages [ONAT, Ukraine]
2020	Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process Regional Workshop on emerging trends in digitization and applications in Europe

Year	Actions
2021	Twinning programme on identified areas such as electronic identification, digitization of cultural heritage, to optimally implement the digitization process

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 46 ITU Europe region countries [Serbia or in country specific assistance]

Budget: ~75,000 USD

Timeframe: 2018 – 2021

2018 ADDITIONAL PROJECT PROPOSAL: Regional Interoperability Center

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

2018 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(ESSL Foundation) , Apple, Microsoft, Google, ICT Industry, ONAT Academy, OSLOMET, MWF, Others

Beneficiary : All 46 ITU Europe region countries

REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	**Actions Implemented for EUR1 in 2018 are listed in Annex 3 and more information can be accessed in the [ITU Europe Office Events 2018 webpage](.).**
2019	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. Second Edition of Accessible Europe Forum, 4-6 December 2019, Valletta, Malta Regional Contest for Europe on Digital Innovative Solutions for Accessible Europe Promotion of GARI database across Europe to enhance knowledge on accessibility features of mobile devices [MWF] ITU Forum on ICT accessibility as part of every Zero Project Conference and mutual support for the work on ICT accessibilty [ESSL Foundation] National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries [depending on the funding availibility] Development of discussion papers on • Procurement of Accessible ICTs and Services • AI and ICT Accessibility • Accessible Television • Web Accessibility Twinning programme on ICT accessibility Digital Youth Forum, 17 May 2019, Warsaw, Republic of Poland

Year	Actions
	Regional Training for entrepreneurs and SMEs to set up coding bootcamps 2019 [ICPE, Slovenia] [pending synchronization with the project on Coding Bootcamps for Mediterranean Region] ITU – CEPT Girls in ICT Day Celebration 2019, Rome, Italy
2020	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. Third Edition of Accessible Europe Forum National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries Twinning programme on ICT accessibility Digital Youth Forum Regional Forum for Europe and CIS "Using e-education for training ICT professionals" [ONAT, Ukraine] Development of a complex of electronic tools, resources and technologies to motivate graduates to choose professions in the field of Telecommunication/ICT [ONAT, Ukraine] Support to the establishment of certified EU labeled ICT Training Center, including training programmes and workplacement [Georgia] Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for Digital Inclusion Regional Girls in ICT Day event
2021	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. National Workshops for Experts on ICT accessibility for 4 countries Fourth Edition of Accessible Europe Forum Twinning programme on ICT accessibility Digital Youth Forum Development of a multimedia distance-learning course on improving digital literacy for adults [ONAT, Ukraine] Regional Hackathon on Digital Skills for ICT accessibility Regional Girls in ICT Day event

PROJECT PROPOSALS

Project 1: Strengthening national and regional capacities on ICT accessibility through a National Program on web accessibility

Objective: To build capacity of national stakeholders on web accessibility digital content & remediation, and on technical development and design of accessible websites to help them in enhancing their knowledge and skills in building accessible website. A web accessibility evaluation of a specific governmental website will be done by certified local participants. An evaluation report will be prepared which will include remedial actions to make the website accessible.

Budget : ~250,000 USD

Beneficiary: Up to 5 countries

Timeframe: 2018-2021

2018 ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS: ICT Accessibility

Bosnia and Herzegovina: An action plan on how to implement accessibility services available to all, Revise and strengthen a regulatory framework to ensure the timely implementation of accessible TV/video and mobile accessibility (areas that fall under the direct competencies of NRA), as well as make its website accessible; Monitor the implementation of accessible ICTs and services that fall within the mandate of CRA.

Croatia**:** Cooperation in development "Accessibility Act"; National strategy of equalizing opportunities for persons with disabilities; Customize web pages in line with Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

Serbia**:** Promotion of the relevant EU documents in the field of accessibility of ICT products and services for PWDs, including European Accessibility Act; Awareness- raising and competence development on ICT accessibility through empowerment and skills development of persons with disabilities in this field; Exchange of information and sharing of examples of good practice on accessibility of ICT product and services for persons with disabilities through organisation of a regional conference; Development of online training on use of the new software; Advocacy for including development of digital skills of persons with disabilities and implementation of mandatory ICT accessibility in the Strategy of Digital Skills that is being drafted.

Project 2: Coding bootcamps centres in the Mediterranean region

Objective: Leveraging on the network of leading bootcamps around the world, identified in collaboration with ILO, this project is a three phase approach 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. In the initial phase, ITU and its partners will organize a Mediterranean regional symposium on coding bootcamps to introduce government, academia, ICT companies and tech entrepreneurs to the basic concepts of coding bootcamp operations and instruction methodologies. In the second phase, participating stakeholders will be evaluated on their

likelihood for success in launching a coding bootcamp. In the third phase, selected stakeholders will receive additional support in launching their bootcamps.

Budget : ~1.200,000 USD

Beneficiary: up to 6 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,DCAF, RCC, IA4ADA, ONAT Academy , Others

Beneficiary: All 46 ITU Europe region countries

REGULAR ACTIONS

Year	Actions
2018	**Actions Implemented for EUR1 in 2018 are listed in Annex 3 and more information can be accessed in the ITU Europe Office Events 2018 webpage.**
2019	National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs] • Follow up to the assessments carried out in Albania and Bosnia and Herzegovina, including facilitating process of identification of the funding opportunities for implementaiton of recomendations • Assessment in San Marino Assistance in field of Child Online Protection • Follow up to the National Child Online Safety Assessment carried out in 2019 in Georgia • Response to the new requests [depending on funding availability] ITU Regional Cyberdrill, 24-31 May 2019, Bucharest, Romania ITU Workshop on National Cybersecurity Strategies for Western Balkans, 27-29 June 2019, Skopje, North Macedonia Support to the national activities with intention to become regional • Cybersecurity Conferenece, June, Ohrid, North Macedonia • National Cyber Security Competition in Macedonia, October, Skopije, North Macedonia with the veiw of trasnforiming it into the regional competition Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments [pending confirmation] National Event on Safer Internet Day 2019, 5-6 February 2019, Tirana, Albania

	International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, September Warsaw
	Vienna Cybersecurity Week Conference, 11-15 March 2019, Vienna, Austria [Energy Pact Foundation with support of ITU and other UN Agencies]
	Women in Cyber outreach campaign [ITU-OSCE / Energy Pact Foundation]
	The Hague Summit Accountability in the Digital Age, November Hague, The Netherlands
2020	National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs]
	ITU Regional Cyberdrill for Europe, Skopje, North Macedonia [May or October 2019]
	Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments
	Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS, Sofia, Bulgaria [Bulgaria]
	Vienna Cybersecurity Week, 23-27 March 2020, Vienna, Austria [Energypact Foundation with support of ITU and other UN Agencies]
	The Hague Summit Accountability in the Digital Age, November, Hague, The Netherlands
	Regional Forum for Europe and CIS on Child Online Protection, Odessa, Ukraine
	International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw
2021	National Assessment Reports for selected countries. These are roadmaps for establishing or enhancing National and Sectoral Computer Security Incident Response Teams [CSIRTs]
	Regional Cyberdrill
	Regional report on Cybersecurity commitments
	Regional Conference on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection
	Vienna Week Conference, Vienna, Austria [Energypact with support of ITU and other UN Agencies]
	The Hague Summit Accountability in the Digital Age, Hague, The Netherlands International Conference: Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online, Warsaw

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 [Completed for Georgia] and up to 1 country for implementation [North Macedonia showed interest at RDF2018]

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, OSLOMET, Others

Beneficiary: All 46 ITU Europe region countries

Year	Actions
2018	**Actions Implemented for EUR1 in 2018 are listed in Annex 3 and more information can be accessed in the ITU Europe Office Events 2018 webpage.**
2019	In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile
	Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU
	• Hungary INPUT – Georgia]
	Digital Innovation Profile for Norway [OSLOMET]
	Digital Innovation Profile for Hungary
	Digital Innovation Profile for Greece
	Digital Innovation Profile for Montenegro
	Innovation Track at WSIS Forum 2019, 8 April 2019, ITU Headquarters
	Innovation Programme at the ITU TELECOM WORLD, Budapest, Hungary, 9-12 September 2019
2020	In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile
	Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU
	Conduct an assessment of ICT Innovation in National Policies in Europe and publish a report.
	Innovation Track at WSIS Forum 2020, ITU Headquarters
	ITU Regional ICT Innovation Ecosystem for Smart Cities, Athens, Greece
	Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation, Cyprus

2021	In country support to train at least 30 national experts trained and develop the country's digital innovation profile
	Twinning programme on identified areas facilitated by ITU
	Regional Innovation Forum for training experts on new ITU toolkits for future national implementation.

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, North Macedonia]

Timeframe: 2018-2021

[At RDF2018 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

Annex Three

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ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED IN 2018

The information below is an extract from the TDAG 2019 Performance report. The activities have been re-grouped by WTDC-17 agreed Europe Regional Initiatives.

For the implementation of the Europe regional initiatives, a bottom-up approach has been used, with the engagement of ITU membership and relevant stakeholders who used the Regional Development Forum for Europe as the mechanism to coordinate and provide strategic guidance. RDF-EUR 2018 was held on 11 June 2018 in Prague, Czech Republic.

Activities of the ITU Office for Europe are also part of the regional coordination and reporting at the UN level in the context of the SDG process. The ITU Office for Europe has been contributing to periodical meetings of the UN Regional Coordination Mechanisms for Europe and Central Asia as well as contributed to the UN Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in UNECE Region on 1-2 March 2018, Geneva, Switzerland.

EUR RI 1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

Spectrum management component

A twinning programme between Hungary and Albania led to an exchange of best practices in the field of spectrum management, in addition to development of the new spectrum strategy and policy in Albania.

A series of seminars and workshops built the capacity of more than 1 100 stakeholders in the field of spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting. This includes the following meetings (please note that some of them also contributed to the achievement of expected results of RI-2):

− Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS on Digital Future Powered by 4G/5G, Kiev, Ukraine (14-16 May 2018)
− Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS on 5G Implementation in Europe and CIS: Strategies and Policies Enabling New Growth Opportunities, Budapest, Hungary (3-5 July 2018)
− Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS on "Broadband Development based on 4G and 5G Technologies", Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan (17-18 September 2018)
− Baltic Sea Region 5G Ecosystem Forum "5G Technology", Riga, Latvia (27-28 September 2018)
− Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on "Evolving Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Future", Budva, Montenegro (1-2 October 2018)
− Forum on "Towards 5G Enabled Gigabit Society", Athens, Greece (11-12 October 2018)

Broadband access and adoption of broadband component

The following publications were made available in 2018:

− The Future of Cable TV in Europe
− ICT for Sustainable Energy
− Workshop reports

The Europe region part of the ITU Broadband Map was updated by reflecting the networks of several European operators.

A series of seminars and workshops built the human capacity of more than 1 300 stakeholders in field of development of broadband access and adoption of broadband, including:

− Workshop on The Future of Cable TV, Geneva, Switzerland (25-26 January 2018)
− Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS on Digital Future Powered by 4G/5G, Kiev, Ukraine (14-16 May 2018)
− Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS on 5G Implementation in Europe and CIS: Strategies and Policies Enabling New Growth Opportunities, Budapest, Hungary (3-5 July 2018)
− Regional Workshop "Broadband Development based on 4G and 5G Technologies", Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan (17-18 September 2018)
− Baltic Sea Region 5G Ecosystem Forum "5G Technology", Riga, Latvia (27-28 September 2018)
− Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on "Evolving Regulatory Frameworks for Digital Future", Budva, Montenegro (1-2 October 2018)
− Forum on "Towards 5G Enabled Gigabit Society", Athens, Greece (11-12 October 2018)

The above mentioned activities have been supplemented by a series of trainings delivered by the Europe region network of ITU centres of excellence that built capacity of more than 600 participants in field of broadband, Internet governance, cybersecurity and next generation networks.

EUR RI 2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations

The following series of events provided unique platforms for more than 600 stakeholders to exchange best practices, build capacities and partner in the field of the adoption of broadband:

− ITU Co-organized Hague Summit for Accountability & Internet Democracy, The Hague, Netherlands (31 May 2018)
− ITU Workshop on "Multimedia applications and the future of digital society", Ljubljana, Slovenia (9 July 2018)
− ITU Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS «Complex Aspects of eHealth Development», Odessa, Ukraine (17-19 October 2018)

EUR RI 3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development

A self-paced online course on "ICT Accessibility: The Key to Inclusive Communication" has been developed and made available to all stakeholders. Thanks to this course, more than 200 stakeholders have built their

capacity in fields of ICT accessibility policy, web accessibility and procurement. 30 stakeholders successfully completed all modules offered.

A platform for countries in the Europe region involved in ICT accessibility has been established in partnership with the European Commission, and, as a result, the first ever ITU-EC Forum for Europe "Accessible Europe: ICT for ALL" was held in Vienna, Austria (12-14 December 2018), attracting more than 150 stakeholders and resulting in the report identifying the challenges at the European level and possible way forwards.

The regional competition on Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe was held, attracting more than 50 stakeholders who submitted their achievements in the field of ICT accessibility. The collected information constitutes the basis for a new repository of digital solutions enhancing accessibility.

With the aim of building the community of implementers in field of ICT accessibility, the following events were held:

− ITU forum was held on ICT Accessibility a Requisite Towards an Inclusive Digital Society, Vienna, Austria (23 February 2018), which attracted more than 100 stakeholders.
− ITU contributed to the agenda of m-Enabling Summit for Europe, drawing attention of more than 100 stakeholders and engaging many of them in work with ITU.
− Project proposal on web accessibility of public sector websites has been developed. Pilot implementation is programmed for 2019.

EUR RI 4: Building confidence and security in the use of telecommunication/ICTs

A number of countries were supported in the process of strengthening of their cybersecurity capabilities:

− Cyprus: Implementation of project on establishment of the national CSIRT, officially opened in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 25 June 2018.
− Bosnia and Herzegovina: Cybersecurity readiness assessment was prepared.
− Albania: Cybersecurity readiness assessment was prepared.
− Georgia: National child online safety assessment was prepared.
− Poland: ITU expert contributed to the national process of review of the national cybersecurity strategy based on the ITU National Cybersecurity Strategy Guide.

A series of seminars and workshops built the human capacity of more than 1 250 stakeholders in field of cybersecurity. This includes the following:

− Regional Workshop for Europe and CIS on Cybersecurity and Child Online Protection, Odessa, Ukraine (4-6 April 2018).
− National Event on Child Online Protection: Awareness Day for Children and Teens, Noto, Italy (9 May 2018).
− 6th Central European Cybersecurity Public-Private Dialogue Platform, Sibiu, Romania (12-14 September 2018).
− Forum on "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online", Warsaw, Poland (18-19 September 2018).
− Forum on "The New Global Challenges in Cyber Security", Bucharest, Romania (16-17 October 2018).

− ITU Cyber Drill - ALERT (Applied Learning for Emergency Response Teams) for Europe Region, Cyprus (26-30 November 2018).
− Second Western European Cybersecurity Public-Private Dialogue Platform, Porrentruy, Switzerland (29-30 November 2018).

The above-mentioned activities have been supplemented by a series of trainings delivered by the Europe region network of ITU centres of excellence that built capacity of more than 600 participants in the field of broadband, Internet governance, cybersecurity and next generation networks.

EUR RI 5: Entrepreneurship, innovation and youth

The following publications were made available in 2018:

− Accelerating Digital Transformation. Good Practices for Developing, Driving and Accelerating ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystem in Europe.
− Digital Innovation Profile for Republic of Serbia.
− Digital innovation Profile for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Assistance in building an ICT-centric innovation ecosystem was provided to Montenegro, which included the organization of two national workshops (September and December 2018), engaging relevant stakeholders, processing a series of more than 120 interviews, building a Digital Innovation Profile, including a series of recommendations and projects.

A number of seminars and workshops built the human capacity of more than 1 000 stakeholders in field of ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and bridging digital innovation divide. This includes the following:

− ITU Innovation Track of the WSIS Forum 2019: Digital Transformation: Building Vibrant ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystems, Geneva, Switzerland (19 March 2018).
− ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe on Bridging The Digital Innovation Divide: Fostering Digital Entrepreneurship and Startup Ecosystems, Oslo, Norway (21-23 November 2018).

With the aim of strengthening digital inclusion across regions, the following actions attracting more than 700 stakeholders have been implemented:

− ITU and European Commission Girls in ICT Day celebration, Sofia, Bulgaria (28 April 2018).
− ITU and Com-ITU of CEPT Celebration of the Girls in ICT Day, Bucharest, Romania (8 August 2018).
− Digital Youth Forum, Warsaw, Poland (17 May 2018).
− Celebrations of Girls in ICT Day was facilitated and coordinated across the region. Stakeholders from more than 30 European countries reported on their celebrations. In total, over 40 000 girls and young women joined for around 2 000 activities in Europe.

Moreover, two project proposals were elaborated for consideration by relevant stakeholders:

− Strengthening of digital skills through coding bootcamps in the Mediterranean: Aiming at implementation in 2019, targeting countries from Europe and Arab States regions and assisting countries in the development of their national digital skills strategies and establishing coding boot camps in some of the countries.
− Building ICT-centric innovation ecosystem in south and eastern Europe: Aiming at assisting countries in building their strategies and institutional capacities fostering ICT-centric innovation.