## " ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe at ITU TELECOM WORLD”



**9 to 12 September 2019**

**Budapest, Hungary**

**ITU Telecom World is bringing together governments, corporates and tech SMEs to exhibit innovative solutions and networks, to share knowledge and debate with experts. ​**

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As part of the ITU TELECOM World 2019, the ITU Office for Europe holds series of sessions related to the implementation of the Regional Initiatives for Europe. Meetings will provide an opportunity for representatives of the public institutions, private sector, academia, telecom operators, ICT companies, UN agencies and other high-level stakeholders interested and involved in ICT4SDG, to share best practices, discuss challenges and identify some opportunities to be addressed. Various topics will be addressed, such as emerging innovative technologies, regional harmonization, facilitation of innovative ICT4SDG projects, ICT investment, digital infrastructure, e-agriculture, strategies and policies, enabling environment etc.

**AGENDA**

**European focus sessions**

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| **Monday 9th September 2019** | |
| **15:45 – 17:30** | **Accelerating Digital Transformation through ICT Centric Ecosystem (ITU Europe office / Innovation program)** |
| Room 4 | **Description of the session**  World leaders may have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since 2015, but technology is changing fast, and continuing to disrupt economies and lives everywhere. If we are to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship must converge through new thinking, and leverage an ecosystem approach to fostering digital development. As newer technologies appear, unexpected challenges in growth, inclusion and job creation arise for policymakers.  The capacity of entrepreneurs to take ideas to market is the biggest source of job creation. Through entrepreneurship, innovators create startups, which can grow to become small and medium businesses, some of which are ultimately able to sustain high growth. National programmes and policies need constant adaptation due to the constantly changing environment – but this is often happening too slowly, increasing the digital innovation divide. What has been the experience of different countries in terms of key actions taken to build competitive innovation ecosystems and close this innovation gap? How can ITU help countries to navigate the changing technology landscape through innovation?  Session supported within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystems. |

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| **Tuesday, 10th September 2019** | |
| **9:15 - 10:30** | **“Investing in the Digital Future: Towards Gigabit Infrastructure and Society”** |
| Room 1 | **Description of the session**  Investment in ICT infrastructure, such as broadband rollout, is a vital step to promote sustainable development, social integration and the development of gigabit society. An enabling environment is a key determinant of investment dynamics. This session will provide a unique opportunity for dialogue and discussion of high-level representatives from public and private sectors, development banks, regional and international organizations. This workshop will showcase case studies from Europe region. This session is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management, which aims to facilitate high-speed connectivity through resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing, whilst ensuring the quality of user experience.  What are the key measures that may help countries attract investment in the ICT sector, and what are the existing and emerging opportunities - as well as related challenges? How can mapping systems be used to foster investment and what are the financing opportunities from regional and international financial institutions? How can agile national policies and strategies for digital sustainable development be created? What can be learnt from European experiences, in particular those from South Eastern Europe, and what are the best practices, issues and opportunities commonly encountered? |

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| **Wednesday, 11th September 2019** | |
| **11:00 – 12:15**  Room 5 | **“Developing Digital Agriculture Strategy in Europe and Central Asia / Fostering Digital Agriculture” (ITU-FAO)**  **Description of the session**  Digital agriculture is the use of new and advanced technologies, integrated into one system, to enable farmers and other stakeholders within the agriculture value chain to improve food production. This session will provide an unique opportunity for dialogue and discussion of ministries/regulators and other relevant stakeholders active in the e-agriculture domain, focusing on sharing best practices and case studies, highlighting gaps and identifying sustainable funding models to support e-agriculture. It will create a platform to strengthen national, international and cross-sectoral cooperation in e-agriculture strategies and cross-border regulation systems.  This session is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations, that aims at facilitating the development of transformative and paperless citizen-centric services and building the capacities necessary for accelerating the process of national and regional digitization. Session is co-organized by ITU Office for Europe and FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia. |

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| **13:15 – 15:15** Room 5 | **“Ecosystem Matching”** **unlocking opportunity through good practice (ITU Europe office / Innovation program)**  **Description of the session**  Creating the next Silicon Valley has been elusive and difficult, especially in the context of developing countries where less than 1% of GDP may be dedicated to research and development. An exciting ecosystem alone is not enough: it must also be competitive, and include all the right ingredients. Programmes or policies need constant adaptation to meet the changing environment, and stakeholders must be able to update their processes based on good practices to achieve impact. Good practices are key to unlocking opportunities, maximizing limited resources, ensuring ICT innovation reaches markets and creating a high-growth, innovation-driven economy. What practical examples of good practices can be transferred or nurtured in order to develop an ecosystem with a strong fabric that can create the next tech unicorns? This interactive session will explore relevant case studies and facilitate networking opportunities between successful innovators and participants.  This session is supported within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystems. |
| **15:45 17:00**  Room 5 | **“Accelerating Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Europe: ICT4SDG Regional Initiatives” (ITU/ UN Partners (in focus: UNECE, UNDP, FAO, ILO, UNIDO)**  **Description of the session**  Cooperation and collaboration are crucial accelerators for ICT development and digital transformation. Given the lack of barriers characterizing the digital world, standardization, sharing experiences and harmonisation of practices are essential to build a better world. Understanding and exchanging common and best practices in the UN system is a key component to accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).  This session aims at enhancing knowledge on the issues and good practices faced by UN institutions in achieving and delivering the SDGs through ICTs. It provides an opportunity to address common issues and provides a space to strengthen further collaboration and create new partnerships within the system, especially, but not only, in the European Region.  Session organized within the framework of all ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe. |