ITU EUROPE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE NETWORK

REPORT OF THE
3RD VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

9 APRIL 2020
VIRTUAL MEETING

1. Introduction and Opening

The virtual Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Europe Centres of Excellence (EUR CoE) was held on 9 April 2020. The objective of the meeting was to discuss the COVID-19 situation and its impact on the implementation of the trainings planned by the Centres of Excellence for 2020. The meeting was organized by ITU and chaired by the Steering Committee Chair, Ms. Inga RIMKEVIČIENĖ, Head of International and Public Relations Division, Strategy Department, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania.

The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the meeting. Setting the context was provided by Mr. Jaroslaw PONDER, Head of the ITU Office for Europe and Susan TELTSCHER, Head of Capacity and Digital Skills Development Division. Participants were also greeted by Ms. Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK, Chair of GCBI and Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Department, Office of Electronic Communications of the Republic of Poland.

Following a round of introductions, ITU explained the objective of the meeting and the procedures to be followed in conducting the meeting. It was highlighted that the objective of the meeting was primarily to assess the status of implementation of CoE training activities for 2020 and the potential impact COVID-19 could have especially on the 15 face-to-face courses to be implemented in 2020. The aim was to improve on the performance of CoEs in the implementation of agreed training activities. The meeting was part of the monitoring process of the CoE network, which is detailed in the document "Operational Processes and Procedures for the CoE Network 2018."

2. Agenda of the meeting:

The agenda was adopted by the participants and included the following items:

1. Welcome and setting the context

2. Agenda of the meeting

3. Implementation of courses from January to April 2020

4. Review of plans of the ITU Centres of Excellence, taking into account impact of the COVID-19

   o ITU Academy presentation of the online platform: Technical solutions for possible transit from face-to-face to online

   o CoE interventions

5. Revision of the 2020 training catalogue (dates, format, pricing, other)

6. Sharing of CoE training materials with ITU

7. Other business

8. Closing

3. Implementation of courses from January to April 2020

ITU presented the implementation status of training courses in the region during the first four months of 2020. Out of the 4 courses that were planned, 2 courses were implemented, 2 are ongoing, and none have been postponed. For those implemented courses, end-of-training reports have been submitted to ITU and a total of 92 participants were registered. All of the implemented courses were online.

Implementation status of training courses during first four months 2020

Training course topic	Coe	Starting date	End date	Training type	Status	Enrolled	Completed
Cybersecurity technique	**ISS**	01.01.2020	12.31.2020	Self-paced	Ongoing	0	X
Cyber incident response	**ISS**	01.01.2020	12.31.2020	Self-paced	Ongoing	0	X
Strategic aspects for internet governance and innovations	**NIT**	02.03.2020	02.10.2020	Online	Implemented	54	45
Wireless access technologies to internet network	**NIT**	03.09.2020	03.16.2020	Online	Implemented	38	29

ISS representative indicated that ISS had planned to implement two self-paced courses [Cybersecurity Techniques and Cyber incident response] that started in January 2020 and will run until end of the year.

NIT representatives highlighted that the two e-learning courses planned in the first four months of 2020 were held with a high rate of participation for two courses (92 participants).

In line with the training catalogue 2020 there were no trainings planned by **FEEIT, ICTP, NRD, ONAT** for period January – April 2020.

4. Review of plans of ITU Centres of Excellence, taking into account impact of the COVID-19

ITU Academy presentation of the online platform

ITU Academy team presented the ITU Academy platform, in particular focusing on capabilities of the platform for delivering online courses, and the technical solutions for possible transition from face-to-face to online.

Centres of Excellence interventions

ITU presented the status of implementation of training courses in the region for the rest of 2020. Each CoE presented their plans for delivering trainings until the end of the year taking into account different scenarios related to COVID-19. The table of all training courses from April to December is attached to the report as **Annex 1**.

FEEIT

In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE will not be impacted on the format of its courses. The trainings will still be maintained as online courses.

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19
Future broadband internet, cloud computing and IoT	**FEEIT**	05.26.2020	06.22.2020	Online	No changes
Mobile broadband internet, 5G and future services	**FEEIT**	11.17.2020	12.14.2020	Online	No changes

ICTP

In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE is considering using ITU Academy as the online platform. Issues raised on formatting online were:
- Online payment feasibility for the courses that were planned in AFR region
- Format to be determined

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19	New price
Data Science: technical & business aspects for open innovation	**ICTP**	08.10.2020	08.12.2020	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised
Trends and advances in Data Science, Machine Learning and Artificial Neural Networks	**ICTP**	08.13.2020	08.14.2020	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised
5G technologies for IoT	**ICTP**	09.28.2020	09.29.2020	F-T-F	Online	To be revised
Applications of satellite based IoT networks	**ICTP**	11.16.2020	11.17.2020	F-T-F	No changes TBC	No changes

ISS

In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE will not be able to provide the material to migrate this course online as it is a technical course that requires physical present. In this case, the course will be postponed. ISS is also planning a new self-paced course to be included in their program.

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19
Information security management system	ISS	06.01.2020	12.31.2020	Self-paced	No changes
Industrial cybersecurity and incident response	ISS	09.09.2020	09.11.2020	F-T-F	Postponed for mid-nov

NIT

In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE is considering using ITU Academy as the online platform. NIT will let trainers decide on postponing courses or migrating to an online format. Issues raised on formatting online were:
- The CoE would need real time possibility (livestream) as they will not be able to record the courses before they take place.

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19
Security and QoS in internet network	**NIT**	04.13.2020	04.20.2020	Online	No changes
Legal, regulatory and technical aspects of cloud computing in international data transfers	**NIT**	06.15.2020	06.22.2020	Online	No changes
Technical, business and regulatory aspects of 5G networks	**NIT**	08.24.2020	08.31.2020	Online	No changes
QoS technologies and regulation for fixed and mobile	**NIT**	09.28.2020	10.05.2020	Online	No changes
Key aspects and Governance of Internet of Things, Big Data, and Artificial Intelligence	**NIT**	10.22.2020	23.10.2020	F-T-F	Postponed
Legal aspects of artificial intelligence in business, household and public sector	**NIT**	12.08.2020	12.09.2020	F-T-F	Postponed

NRD-CS

In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE is considering using ITU Academy as the online platform. For now, already one of their courses "Building an effective cybersecurity team" has been postponed to October. As the second course will take place in September, no commitments on whether or not it will be online or physical has been done. NRD will come back in July to decide if and what changes must be made to their program.
- Format to be determined

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19	New price
Incident response practice hands-on scenario-based training	**NRD-CS**	09.07.2020	09.10.2020	F-T-F	Cancelled/replaced by another course	TBC
Building an effective cybersecurity team	**NRD-CS**	10.05.2020	10.08.2020	F-T-F	Postponed TBC in July	To be revised

ONAT

For now, all courses have been postponed until autumn (dates TBC). In case the COVID-19 situation lasts, the CoE is considering using their own online platform as a first step. However, if time permits, the CoE stands ready to be trained to use the ITU Academy as the online platform. It was raised that the format of the courses will be determined later.

Training course topic	CoE	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19	New price
The use of adaptive technologies to transmit video over radio channels	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised
Building broadband telemedicine networks and providing e-health services at the local, regional and national levels	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised
Technical operation of information networks	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible	To be revised
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible	To be revised
Automation of broadband networks designing. Selecting the most appropriate solutions to build network	**ONAT**	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F	Online feasible	To be revised

5. Revision of the 2020 catalogue (dates, format, pricing, other)

Participants took note on the changes introduced in the 2020 catalogue, including dates and pricing, among other changes. It was also noted that further changes within the catalogue can be introduced in line with the decision to switch from face-to-face to online training delivery, to be taken by CoEs in close coordination with the ITU Secretariat.

6. Sharing of CoE training materials with ITU

All Centres of Excellence took note of the need for giving access to the training materials to the relevant ITU Focal Points. It will offer an opportunity for improving the quality of the training materials and ensuring coherence between the work of the ITU and the CoEs' capacity development activities. Access to the training materials will give ITU focal points the opportunity to provide comments or/and additional guidance on relevant ITU materials, if necessary.

CoEs confirmed that they have been put in contact with the ITU Focal Points relevant to CoEs' fields of specialisation. It was concluded that the starting point will be providing ITU focal points with the training outlines as soon as they are available, based on which they could request more information

7. Other business

Taking into account the increasing number of the training opportunities in the virtual space during the period of COVID-19 and potential competition from other training providers, it was proposed to strengthen the efforts in digital marketing by increasing the outreach through social medias. While ITU Office for Europe will continue advertising the training opportunities through its established channels, CoEs were encouraged to develop for each of the training opportunities, digital flyers that might be used for promotion in the digital space.

8. Closing

Participants expressed sincere thanks to the Chair of the meeting for efficient conducting of the meeting. Chair thanked all Centres of Excellence and the Members of the Steering Committee for their productive discussions. Chair also reiterated the invitation to the Face-to-face Steering Committee, if feasible, to be hosted by Communication Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania (RRT). ITU Secretariat was thanked for the excellent preparation of the meeting, including its documentation.

Annex 1. Planned training activities for the period April to December 2020.

Training course topic	Coe	Starting date	End date	Training type	COVID-19
Information security management system	ISS	06.01.2020	12.31.2020	Self-paced	No changes
Industrial cybersecurity and incident response	ISS	09.09.2020	09.11.2020	F-T-F	Mid-november
Security and QoS in internet network	NIT	04.13.2020	04.20.2020	Online	No changes
Legal, regulatory and technical aspects of cloud computing in international data transfers	NIT	06.15.2020	06.22.2020	Online	No changes
Technical, business and regulatory aspects of 5G networks	NIT	08.24.2020	08.31.2020	Online	No changes
QoS technologies and regulation for fixed and mobile	NIT	09.28.2020	10.05.2020	Online	No changes
Internet of things, big data and artificial intelligence technical, business and regulatory aspects	NIT	10.22.2020	23.10.2020	F-T-F	Postponed
Legal aspects of artificial intelligence in business, household and public sector	NIT	12.08.2020	12.09.2020	F-T-F	Postponed
Incident response practice hands-on scenario-based training	NRD-CS	09.07.2020	09.10.2020	F-T-F	Cancelled/replaced by another course
Building an effective cybersecurity team	NRD-CS	10.05.2020	10.08.2020	F-T-F	Postponed – TBC in July
The use of adaptive technologies to transmit video over radio channels	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible
Building broadband telemedicine networks and providing e-health services at the local, regional and national levels	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible
Technical operation of information networks	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible
Automation of broadband networks designing. Selecting the most appropriate solutions to build network	ONAT	Postponed	Postponed	F-T-F remote	Online feasible

Data Science: technical & business aspects for open innovation	**ICTP**	08.10.2020	08.12.2020	F-T-F	Online feasible
Trends and advances in Data Science, Machine Learning and Artificial Neural Networks	**ICTP**	08.13.2020	08.14.2020	F-T-F	Online feasible
5G technologies for IoT	**ICTP**	09.28.2020	09.29.2020	F-T-F	Online
Applications of satellite based IoT networks	**ICTP**	11.16.2020	11.17.2020	F-T-F	Online feasible
Future broadband internet, cloud computing and IoT	**FEEIT**	05.26.2020	06.22.2020	Online	No changes
Mobile broadband internet, 5G and future services	**FEEIT**	11.17.2020	12.14.2020	Online	No changes

Annex 2: List of participants

The Member States hosting CoEs:

- Inga RIMKEVIČIENĖ, Steering Committee Chair, Head of International and Public Relations Division, Strategy Department, Communications Regulatory Authority of the Republic of Lithuania

- Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK, Chair of GCBI and Deputy Director of the Foreign Affairs Department, Office of Electronic Communications of the Republic of Poland

Centres of Excellence:

- Toni JANEVSKI, FEEIT, North Macedonia

- Clement ONIME, ICTP, Italy

- Marco ZENNARO, ICTP, Italy

- Dmytro CHARKASHYN, ISS, Germany

- Swantje WESTPFAHL, ISS, Germany

- Sylwester LASKOWSKI, NIT, Poland

- Ruta JASINSKIENE, NRD CS, Lithuania

- Vladislav KUMYSH, ONAT, Ukraine

- Vadym KAPTUR, ONAT, Ukraine

ITU Staff members:

- Jaroslaw PONDER (Head of ITU Office for Europe)

- Lena LATTION (Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe)

- Damian Kashfia (Junior Program Officer, ITU Office for Europe)

- Susan TELTSCHER (Head of Capacity and Digital Skills Development Division)

- Elena STANKOVSKA-CASTILLA, (Capacity and Digital Skills Development Officer)

- Mike NXELE (Senior Capacity and Digital Skills Development Officer)

- Halima LETAMO (Training and Development Officer)

- Sylvie RAPOSO (Administrative Assistant)