



## **IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE REPORT**

***ITU Actions in Europe and  
Implementation of the  
ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe  
(January-December 2022)***

***ITU Office for Europe***

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## 1. Introduction

This document outlines all activities undertaken or to be undertaken by ITU between January and December 2022, as a direct response to the expected results of the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe Region, consisting of 46 countries. Activities presented in this document depict expected outcomes and generated impact per Regional Initiative as well as per activity. They are grouped in chronological order per Regional Initiative. All activities carried out under the ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe are directly linked to the corresponding BDT Thematic Priorities, strengthening their delivery and impact at the regional and national level. Simultaneously, the outcomes of all activities contribute to the work of the ITU Study Groups, as well as ITUs contribution to the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals.

Regional Initiatives are the five priority areas, that were elaborated and agreed by the Members of the Europe region and approved by the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC), held in 2017 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and featured in the Buenos Aires Action Plan.

Regional initiatives are intended to address specific telecommunication/ICT priority areas that require special action of the ITU at the regional level. Under each regional initiative, a set of activities, initiatives, partnerships, and projects have been developed to meet the region's needs. The ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe include the following:

- EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations
- EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- EUR5: Information and communication technology-centric innovation ecosystems

This Report also covers other actions the ITU Office for Europe carried out to support the activities of TSB, BR and General Secretariat.

## 2. Support to the preparations of the ITU Conferences, including WTSA, WTDC, PP-22

ITU Office for Europe has been providing support to the preparations of the global ITU conferences, including the following:

- World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (March 2022)
- World Telecommunication Development Conference (June 2022)
- Plenipotentiary Conference (September-October 2022)



ITU Office for Europe continued working closely with CEPT (European Conference of Postal and Telecommunication Administrations), supporting regional preparations and facilitated engagement of the European membership in the conferences and related processes.

### 3. ITU Office for Europe and the United Nations

ITU Office for Europe plays an essential role at the regional level advocating for strategic role ICTs play in accelerating the achievement of SDGs. Europe Office proactively contributes to regional and national coordination mechanisms while strengthening strategic partnerships with a series of UN Agencies, including FAO, WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNECE, UN Women, UNESCO, UNIDO, others. Also, Europe Office leads two special task forces aiming to strengthen the UN contribution and support to the digital transformation in Europe.

#### 3.1 UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia

Digital transformation and ICT development can be achieved through fostered multi-stakeholder cooperation and inter-agency coordination. This will occur through the engagement of multiple stakeholders in the digital sector and the exchange of best practices within the UN system. Joint actions related to information and communication technologies for achieving the SDGs should be targeted to regional needs and priorities, in the view of strengthening the implementation of cross-cutting interventions by diverse agencies operating within the UN system. The ongoing reform of the regional UN Development System offers a unique opportunity for the UN System in Europe and Central Asia to achieve the objective of improved cooperation in the digital sector.

This ambitious purpose set the foundations for the creation of the United Nations Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia (UN-DTG4ECA). The Group's mandate aims at:

1. Facilitating cooperation between different UN agencies in the field of digital transformation;
2. Promoting coordinated UN support to the Member States in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda through ICTs and provides support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on digital transformation issues.
3. Strengthening information sharing on activities of the UN System in Europe and Central Asia; and
3. Providing support to the work of the Issues Based Coalitions and the Regional Knowledge Hub covering both the Europe and Central Asia regions.

The Group is co-chaired by ITU and UNECE, with ITU also being the secretariat of the group, and is composed of representatives of FAO, ILO, IOM, UNDP, UNEP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Habitat, UNICEF,



UNIDO, UNWTO, UN Women, WHO, WIPO, WMO, and IFAD. All information on the Group can be found at the [dedicated webpage](#).

### 3.1.1 Contribution to the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) 2022 for the UNECE Region

In April 2022, the group held two sessions in the [Regional Forum on Sustainable Development \(RFSD\) for the UNECE Region](#). Such sessions also contributed to the [World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\) Forum 2022](#):



Organization of [a side event 'Cross-cutting session: digital transformation beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic'](#) (1 April), coordinated by ITU and UNECE and with the facilitation of FAO, UNIDO, UNICEF, UN Women and UNFPA.

This event was aiming to:

- Address the digital component of each SDGs of focus during this year RFSD (SDG 4,5,14,15 and 17);
- Discuss challenges, opportunities and policy actions required to grasp the potential of digital development recovering from the COVID-19 Pandemic, including lessons learned from it, and adaption to a new normal.
- This side event also laid the basis for the high-level peer-learning roundtable.



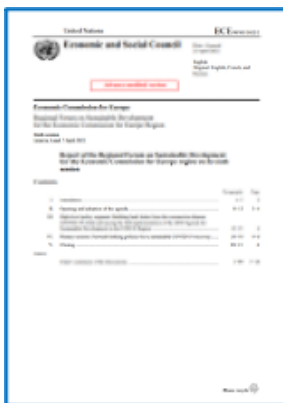
The key policy recommendations put forward during the session are available in the executive slide deck [here](#).



Organization of high-level peer-learning roundtable ‘Accelerating digital development through multistakeholder partnerships’ (6 April) coordinated by ITU and UNECE and facilitated by UNDP, UNIDO and WMO.

This roundtable aimed at:

- Identifying challenges, opportunities and required policy actions related to the four pillars of the Partner2Connect (P2C) Digital Coalition, which are also the pillars intrinsic to SDG 17 ‘Partnerships for the goals’: connecting people everywhere, empowering communities, building digital ecosystems, and incentivizing investments;
- Reviewing the achievement of the SDG17 targets related to Internet connectivity and technology;
- Strengthening and promoting the development of digital society and economy through multistakeholder partnerships.



Policy actions were presented by: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Italy, Kazakhstan, Slovenia, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, European Commission, European Disability Forum, Generation Connect Europe and CIS Youth Groups, International Disability Forum, Union of Operators of Armenia. Such policy actions can be found in the outcome report of the roundtable. The outcomes of both sessions were picked up by the chair, including reference to the P2C

initiative. Outcomes are also integrated into the [Forum’s report](#) for consideration during ECOSOC HLPF.

The key outcomes of both sessions were presented by the Forum’s chair during his closing statement, including a reference to the P2C initiative. The outcomes of the two sessions are also integrated into the [Forum’s report](#) for consideration during the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).





### 3.1.2 Support to the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) on digital transformation issues

The Group is coordinating efforts provided by UN Agencies on activities on (or with a component related to) digital and ICT development in the recovery from the impact of the War in Ukraine.

UN Agencies member of the Group contributed to the update of the *Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine* (e). to provide additional insights and a comparative analysis of the pre-war digital development level with the impact of the war<sup>1</sup> on such development. It also showcases UN initiatives in relation to ICTs. This endeavor also contributes to supporting the effort in collecting analytical work on the impact of the war in Ukraine and give insights on the main ICT/Digital related challenges that should be addressed during the roll-out of the UN Transitional Framework and beyond. Based on this document, a meeting may be organized with the regional DCO/ RCO to identify the priorities of the UNCT.



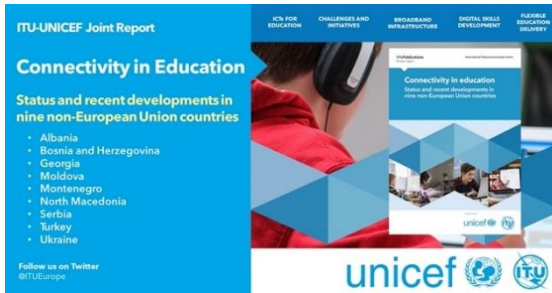
In December 2022, the Group developed a document mapping the main UN frameworks, guidelines, capacity-building tools, toolkits and other measurements tools related to Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and digital development. The purpose of this document is to provide a reference to UN Country Teams and Resident Coordinators in Europe and Central Asia of available UN Sytem's policy tools and guidance that may be utilized in initiatives related to ICT and digital development. This way, supporting the development efforts happening at the country level within the context of the UNSDCF. It further aims at raise awareness of existing materials in an effort to undertake a concerted approach to inclusive and sustainable digital development. The publication of this document is expected in January 2023.

In addition, the Group started in December 2022 the review of the ICTs Solutions Stocktaking Report. The publication of the updated version is expected in February 2023 and will reflect all ICT and Digital development related projects and activities undertaken by agencies members of the Group in 2022 in the Europe and CIS regions. The former version of the report can be found here.<sup>found here.</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N22/293/36/PDF/N2229336.pdf?OpenElement>



### 3.1.3 Connectivity in Education, Status and recent developments in nine non-European Union countries



ITU-UNICEF Joint initiative on *'Connectivity'* persistent gaps in high-quality Internet connectivity for schools and promote a favorable environment for investments in school connectivity and the infrastructure underpinning it by engaging with relevant stakeholders at the local, regional, and international levels. In particular, through the organization of national workshops upon the

request of the Member States in close cooperation with UNICEF Country Offices and UN Country Teams. The preparation for such workshops has started in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Moldova. Learn more about this initiative at the HYPERLINK "<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Activities/2021/ITU-UNICEF-Connectivity-in-Education-Status-and-recent-development-in-nine-non-European-Union-Countries.aspx>" [dedicated webpage...](#)

### 3.1.4 ITU-FAO collaboration on “Digital Agriculture”

With the aim of accelerating the implementation of digital agriculture and providing support to the EU Accession Countries, the “ITU-FAO Guidelines for pre-accession countries: Meeting the expectations of the EU in terms of digital agriculture” is currently being developed. The development of this special guide includes some consultations with the European Commission (DG AGRI) to ensure that it is reflecting the latest CAP and other relevant EU documentation. The Guidelines are expected to be released in the first semester of 2023.

## 3.2 UN Brussels Team and Task Force on Digitalization for the Sustainable Development Goals

With the objective to strengthen its cooperation with the EU structures and collaboration on ICT projects advancing the achievement of the SDGs, ITU has joined the UN Brussels Team (UNBT). The UNBT includes 27 expressions of the UN across the development, humanitarian and political mandate, and is composed of agencies, regional offices, and departments of the Secretariat. The UN Brussels Office also supports UN-EU high-level engagement and RCs/HCs missions to Brussels.

Considering the overarching priorities of the European Commission, the UNBT created various task forces, allowing the agencies to have an informed and coherent engagement. Among the different task forces, the “UN Brussels Task Force on Digitalization for the SDGs” (September 2020), hereafter ‘TF’, is co-facilitated by ITU Office for Europe together with UNESCO Office in Brussels. The TF includes



representatives of FAO, ILO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNDRR, UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNLOPS, UNODC, UNOPS, UNRIC, UN Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries, UNU Merit, UN Women, IOM, WFP, WHO, World Bank.



In 2022, the TF continued its ongoing coordination with EU Partners (in particular DG INTPA, DGCNECT and EEAS) to align EU and UN approaches to digital development and identify synergies for collaborations. This coordination and all efforts undertaken within the framework of the TF led to strengthening collaboration with

the EU on:

- o Digital skills capacity building;
- o Open-source ecosystem;
- o Measurement of meaningful connectivity;
- o Mapping of broadband system in Africa.

With the aim to deepen the discussion and identify strategic areas of collaboration, and building upon the different papers elaborated by the TF<sup>2</sup> and meetings held with EU Partners in 2021 and 2022, the TF together with the EU :

- o Is organizing a series of **EU-UN ‘Digital Thematic dialogues’**, to be held every quarter of the year, in particular on: ‘Human rights and gender’, ‘Education’, ‘AI’ and ‘Disinformation’. The objective of these series of dialogues will be to express views on how to concretely collaborate in these areas, support each other in enabling inclusive, resilient and sustainable digital societies, as well as brief the EU on the ongoing work of the UN, and vice versa, in order to keep a cohesive approach towards alignment of strategies. The dialogues will also provide an opportunity to showcase ongoing work and best practices from both the UN and the EU sides in specific areas of interest.



2 The UN Brussels Team Paper on Digitalization for the SDGs; the Annex 1. UN Agencies’ Flagship initiatives and projects corresponding to the four cardinal points of the EU Digital Compass; the Annex 2. United Nations Global Processes & Fora related to Digitalization taking place in 2021 and 2022, also linking each forum/ process with the EU Digital Compass.



- The first dialogue on ‘Human rights and gender’ was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September



and conveyed representatives from DG INTPA, DG CNECT, and EEAS on the EC side, and OHCHR, ITU, UNDP, UNESCO, and UN WOMEN on the UN side. It provided a platform to exchange on the topics of protecting rights of persons online, looking at the specific angle of women and girls, and address the widening digital divide. Preparation for the second EU-UN Digital Dialogue on ‘Artificial Intelligence’ has also started in 2022.

- Has elaborated a document, finalized in May 2022, providing an overview of the **opportunity to finance digital for development** through the Global Thematic Programme for 2021-2027, and regional Multi-Annual Indicative Programmes (MIPs) for Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, America and the Caribbean, and the EU South and East Neighbors. Inter alia, providing an overview of EU’s priorities regarding digital transformation to facilitate alignment of approaches.

○

- On the occasion of the EU-AU Summit, on the 17<sup>th</sup> February of 2022, an official Side Event has been organized jointly by AU-EU-UN on the “Open Internet for Inclusive and Resilient Human-Centered Digital Partnerships”.



### 3.3 Cooperation with the UN Regional Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia and UN Resident Coordinators / UN Country Teams

Pursuing the decision on strengthening the cooperation of ITU with the UN Sustainable Development System, ITU Office for Europe regularly coordinates its operations with the UN Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia.

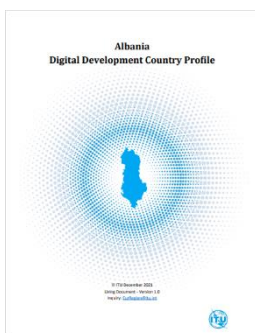


In addition, several steps were undertaken in order to join, as a non-resident agency, the workflow of the UN Country Teams, strengthening their capacities on digital. As of today, the UN operates in nine non-EU countries of the Europe Region, as follows: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine. Considering the capacity of the Europe Office, three countries, namely Albania, Montenegro, and Moldova, have been identified as the priority countries, and Georgia was added as a focus country. Support to other UN Country Teams depends on the necessity. More information on ITU's engagement with the UNCTs can be found at the [dedicated webpage here](#).

Within this context, ITU is developing a series of "Digital Development Country Profile", which seeks to equip the UNCT, other decision-makers at the national level and international stakeholders with an overview of the various components of digital development at the country level. The Digital Development Country Profiles seek to be crowdsourced with UNCTs and thus will benefit from inputs of the UN system, becoming the guiding tool for future collaborative work on digital transformation issues. Such country profiles have already been developed for Albania, Georgia, Moldova, North Macedonia and Ukraine. A country profile is currently being elaborated for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Türkiye. After which Serbia and Montenegro will follow. More information on the Digital Development Country Profiles can be found at the [dedicated webpage here](#).

### 3.3.1 Albania

ITU joined and signed the previous UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the 2022-2026 UNSDCF and engaged itself to provide support in a range of areas, upon the need of the UNCT in order to achieve defined priorities. Potential areas include ICT infrastructure leading towards universal access to internet and ICT services, digital skills assessment and national strategy, digital accessibility, e-agriculture, e-health, circular economy and implementation of smart cities, ICT centric innovation ecosystem development, CSIRT, child online protection, digitization of governmental services, capacity and fostering equal opportunities for girls and women in STEM sector. ITU Office for Europe follows the regular UNCT meetings. ITU Office for Europe also took part in the 2021 EU Annual Report.



The Digital Development Country Profile for Albania, available here, has been finalized in February 2022 and a special dedicated session will be held, with a special focus on providing guidance to the UN Agencies members of the innovation output of the UNSDCF. The Digital Development Country Profile also provided the basis for the position paper on Outcome 2 of the UNSDCF "Economic Growth, Innovation and Climate Change".

### 3.3.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina

ITU officially joined the UNCT in September 2022 following the approval of the Steering Committee. ITU cannot join the UNSDCF formally until its next update. However, ITU has joined the joint work



plan for the period 2020-2025, takes active participation in the PMT meetings, and engaged itself to provide support in a range of areas upon request of the UNCT. The first version of the Digital Development Country Profile for Bosnia and Herzegovina will be finalized in November 2022.



ITU is currently coordination with UNDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina to identify opportunities to join efforts on digital services and e-governance and sharing the expertise of the GovStack Initiative to build the capacity and empower all the relevant stakeholders.

The first draft of the Digital Development Country Profile for Bosnia and Herzegovina has been developed and circulated to the UNCT in December 2022. The final version of this Country Profile is expected to be released in February 2023.

### 3.3.3 Georgia



ITU joined the Joint Work Plan of the UNCT and takes active participation in the regular UNCT meetings. ITU contributed to the 2021 and 2022 Common Country Analysis (CCA). The “Digital Development Country Profile” for Georgia (updated in February 2022), [available here](#), specifically focus on providing the knowledge basis to the UNCT in the context of rolling out the UN Roadmap for Digital Cooperation in Georgia. A special “Digital Transformation Session” has been in September 2021 with the UNCT to present the findings of the Profile, with a special emphasis on remaining challenges to be addressed. The objective of this session was to pave the way for collaborative work advancing the national digital agenda.

### 3.3.4 Moldova



ITU signed the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework (UNSDCF) UNSDCF and takes active participation in the regular UNCT meeting. ITU is to support operations of the digital task force. ITU has joined the Interagency Disability Inclusion Task Force. Other areas reported as of interest are the following: 5G implementation, regulatory field, cybersecurity.

ITU has finalized the elaboration of the Digital Development Country Profile for Moldova which is [available here](#). ITU and UNDP are also coordinating with UNDP Moldova to advance digital transformation at the national level. In that regard, they joined forces to elaborate the “Digital Transformation Compact” providing a condensed knowledge of components needed to digitally



transform the country and related recommendations. The Digital Transformation Compact is [available here](#).

### 3.3.5 Montenegro

ITU joined the UN Country Team in February 2021, while operationally, ITU already started beforehand to provide inputs to the work of the UNCT and to coordinate its operations in the country. ITU is signatory of the new UNSDCF for the period 2023-2027. ITU took part in the elaboration of the 2021 and 2022 CCA providing analysis on the country's status related to digital development.

A series of actions are planned to be undertaken with the members of the UNCT, including those focusing on digital accessibility, child online protection, gender, and connectivity.

ITU is planning to hold a special coordination session on “Digital Transformation in Montenegro”, based on the Digital Development Country profile for Montenegro (upcoming). This session will aim to identify the key priorities related to digitalization and digitization processes in the country and the potential for collaboration among UN agencies on the digital component. Based on the Common Country Analysis, the session will put a special emphasis on ensuring resilient ICT infrastructure, digital skills, ICT Accessibility for persons with disabilities, digital inclusion, and innovation.

### 3.3.6 North Macedonia



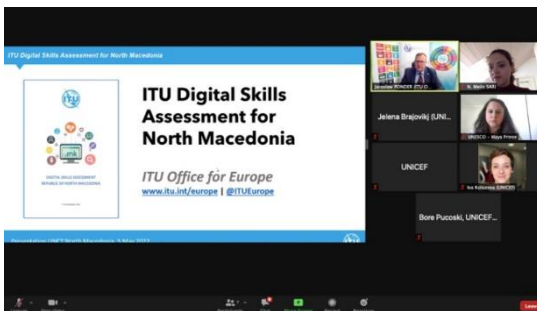
ITU takes active participation in the UNCT meetings, and activities and provided analysis on digital development for the 2022 CCA.

ITU is also leading the cooperation on digital transformation among UNCT members:

- Within the framework of the 2021 UNCT Retreat, ITU held a special session on Digital Transformation and Innovation, providing a platform for all UNCT members to jointly reflect and strengthen digital components in the UNCT strategy towards achieving defined 2021 priorities. Prospects for specific actions might consider eHealth, connectivity, digital accessibility, digital skills, digital inclusion (youth and gender), digitalization of all governmental services;
- The Digital Development Country profile for North Macedonia has been finalized and is available here (updated in February 2022). Based on the country profile, a special session was held in December 2021 with the UNCT and UNSDCF-Outcome groups members to identify strategic areas that would benefit from joint engagement;



- Upon the request of the RCO, ITU held a special session on ‘Digitalization’ in September 2022 in Skopje, North Macedonia, with UNCT members, within the framework of the 2022 UNCT Retreat. This session aimed to gain a common understanding of UN initiatives related to digital development, as well as identify and create windows of opportunities to support the national digitalization agenda.



The ITU Office for Europe also took part of the national consultation on the future of education with North Macedonian teachers on 29 June 2022, which was held as part of a series of national consultation on the future of education in the run up to the UN Education Summit. During this consultation, the ITU Digital Skills Assessment of North Macedonia was presented and discussed, in particular the findings and recommendations related to enhancing the digital skills for teachers.

The ITU Office for Europe is currently coordinating with the EU Delegation in North Macedonia, with the support of the UN Resident Coordinator Office, on supporting the country to advance the digital skills (in particular for the private sector and teachers) and child online protection agendas, and more generally the digital development agenda of the country. This may include joint technical assistance with other UN agencies and leveraging of the donors’ community.

These multiple endeavors led to providing technical support in December 2022 to the Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MISA) on reviewing and finalizing the National ICT Strategy 2023-2027. This technical assistance is consultation with the UNCT North Macedonia.

### 3.3.7 Serbia

ITU joined the UNSDCF for the period 2021-2025 and engaged itself to provide support in a range of areas, upon the need of the UNCT in order to achieve defined 2021 priorities. ITU Office for Europe took part of the 2021 EU Annual Report for Serbia and 2022 CCA. ITU is currently coordinating with UNOPS in Serbia to collaborate on a new project on *Towards making cities smart and sustainable*.

Potential other areas of support include: digital agriculture transformation in the country, e-health, digital skills development for creating equal opportunities for girls and women in STEM sector, the





national assessment on digital skills, capacity building to ensure access to internet for all, digital skills and digital literacy, child online protection, fostering the development of the digital innovation ecosystem, ICT infrastructure leading towards universal access to internet and ICT services, digital accessibility, and digitization of governmental services.

### 3.3.8 Ukraine

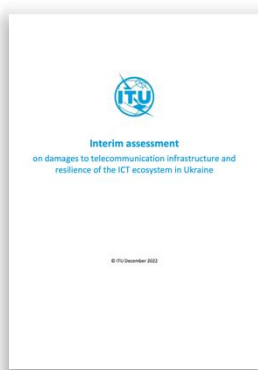
In the follow up to the coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, the ITU Office for Europe continues to contribute to the UNCT work and meetings and participated in the 2022 CCA. In that sense, ITU contributed to the UN Environmental Forum in Ukraine through the participation of a Youth Representative of the ITU Generation Connect – Europe (CG-EUR) Youth Group, to convey, among others, the messages of the Youth Declaration chapter on Environment. The Office for Europe also took part of the UN Policy Paper on Climate Change (to be published).

ITU is also coordinating with UNDP Ukraine to advance digital transformation in the country.



Moreover, ITU finalized the elaboration of the Digital Development Country Profile for Ukraine. The report is based on the Digital transformation wheel methodology and has been updated to provide an overview of the status of digital development in its different dimensions.

According to the ITU resolution 1408 ITU is developing the assessment report on the Telecommunication infrastructure damages and resilience of the ICT Ecosystem in Ukraine. The reports elaborate on the state of the ICT infrastructure in Ukraine as of September having been created in close cooperation with Ukrainian governmental authorities. It serves as the common ground for all the stakeholders interested in contributing to the rebuilding of Ukrainians telecommunications.



Finally, ITU has joined the coordination mechanism for supporting UNCT response to the reconstruction of Ukraine and is part of the UN Transitional Framework. .



### 3.3.9 Türkiye

In line with the coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator, ITU Office for Europe will be providing support to the UN Country Team upon request and need. Briefings for the UNCT on digital transformation are going to be held.

## 3.4 UN Regional Forum for Sustainable Development for Europe and Central Asia

# REGIONAL FORUM

## ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

The United Nations Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD) for the UNECE Region is organized every year by the UN Economic Commission for Europe, in close cooperation with the regional UN agencies, including ITU. The forum took place on 6 and 7 April 2022 in a hybrid format (Virtual – Geneva, Palais des Nations) and was preceded by virtual peer learning round tables from 1 to 5 April. This yearly forum is meant to follow up on, and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs – across Europe, Central Asia, and beyond. As the UN Agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the digital, ITU continues to advocate for the enabling role of ICTs in achieving SDGs. More information can be found [here](#).

Beside the contribution to the RFSD as part of the UNDTG4ECA, ITU contributed to a series of side events and roundtables as follows:



**Peer-learning roundtable on 'Enhancing ocean literacy and the sustainable development of regional seas', 6 April 2022, 15:00-17:00 CEST, hybrid.**

This roundtable will aim to stimulate exchanges between governments, scientists, and other relevant stakeholders to discuss policy actions, progress and challenges faced with regard to ocean literacy, the sustainable development of regional seas, and the related use of information and communication technologies.

Learn more about this session on the dedicated [webpage here](#).



**Peer-learning roundtable on 'Quality education and life-long learning in the context of COVID-19', 6 April 2022, 15:00-17:00 CEST, hybrid.**

The roundtable will address the learning crisis, deepened by COVID-19 measures, throughout the learning cycle, and the role of education, including Education for Sustainable Development, to enhance inclusion, equality and social cohesion to achieve SDG 4. It will



allow to discuss successful strategies and exchange policy actions and knowledge on inclusive education, digital skills and education for sustainable development.

Learn more about this session on the dedicated [webpage here](#).



**Business roundtable on 'Advancing gender equality and women's leadership in selected industries' - 7 April 2022, 13:00-14:30 CEST, hybrid.**

Some of the fastest growing industries are also the most male-dominated ones. And even when gender equality is prioritized, progress often tends to not be evenly spread, with barriers for women persisting in certain corporate functions. During this session, leaders from various industries will address how they are advancing gender equality in the workplace and marketplace and share their solutions to questions like: How can you set realistic but ambitious targets for women's leadership when female workforce participation is low? How do you ensure flexibility and support working parents when simply working from home is not an option? How can you anticipate backlash, tackle stereotypes and engage male leadership and colleagues in meaningful ways?

Learn more about the session on the dedicated [concept note here](#) and dedicated [webpage here](#).

### 3.5 ITU Office for Europe and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum

ITU Office for Europe continues to proactively contribute to the WSIS Process. Both regional contests (Innovative Digital Solutions for Accessible Europe and Digital Excellence in Agriculture) have been designed in the way to create synergies with the ongoing WSIS Stocktaking/Prizes. A special publication on ICT Projects and WSIS Action Line Related Activities in Europe was prepared and released at the Regional Preparatory Meeting. In addition Europe Office facilitated two special sessions within the framework of the WSIS Forum 2022, as follows:



### 4. ITU Office for Europe and the European Union (EU)

Significant efforts have been dedicated to strengthening cooperation with the institutions of the European Union:

- Regular coordination with corresponding institutions was introduced
  - o Directorates General, incl. CNECT, INTPA, NEAR, EEAS
  - o EU Delegation in Geneva



- Follow up activities to the Memoranda of Understanding
  - BERIC and EaPeReg
  - Discussions on possible MoU with EMREG
- Support to the programming exercise of DG INTPA for the multiannual programming in the implementation of the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation, with the focus on Digital was provided.
  - Strategic analysis of MIPs was carried out at the global and regional level.
  - Developing portfolio of potential areas of cooperation on projects, including
    - Regulation
    - Capacity Building
    - Data Governance
    - Digitalization
    - Infrastructure Development
- During WTDC 2022, ITU organized a series of bilateral meetings of ITU-DG INTPA with Member States from Africa as well as with numerous regional organizations, with the aim of advancing scoping exercise for the potential project on National Broadband Mapping Systems. This included the following: EACO, SADC, CRASA, Nigeria, Senegal, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Rwanda. A series of bilateral meetings with other countries are currently being set up, namely Kenya, Mozambique.

ITU Office for Europe continued to lead the UN Brussels Team Task Force on Digitalization for the Sustainable Development Goals strengthening coordination between EC and UN system on policy related issues. A series of coordination meetings with EU institutions are being organized including DG INTPA, DG CONNECT, DG HEALTH, DG AGRI, EASS, others.



## 5. ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe 2022

The following presents all activities planned or carried out during the period of January to May 2022. Activities are presented per Regional Initiative and in a chronological order.

### 5.1 EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management

#### 5.1.1 Technical Assistance to Montenegro on IPv6

The technical assistance to Montenegro on IPv6 is focused on equipping the country with the necessary equipment, technical knowledge, and strategic approach to IPv6, thereby enabling the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

The Assistance is composed of 2 phases. The first phase, which has been completed, includes i) a national workshop for policymakers held on 20-21 April 2021, ii) a Training of national experts held from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2021, and iii) the elaboration of the strategic plan to establish an IPv6 Laboratory at the country level. i) National Workshop



This workshop was aimed at raising awareness at the national level with regards to the transition from IPv4 to IPv6. It

showcased the work of the ITU undertaken over the past years and brief policymakers on the importance of this activity.

Beyond providing an overview of IPv6 and its relevance for the country, the workshop also addressed the main technical challenges foreseen for a successful implementation of IPv6 at the national level and elaborate on the strategic approach needed among key players to make this step forward.

The workshop also presented the steps ITU and EKIP are taking to initiate the transition to IPv6 and presented the forthcoming training of experts that will be held in the month of May. The workshop is targeted at all main policymakers at the country level, but also at representatives of industry, and academia, who will have dedicated space to intervene with questions and comments.



#### ii) Training of Experts

The training of experts successfully trained around 25 experts in the country with the in-country support of EKIP. This entailed 5 days of training with 4 hours of practical training per day. The training was delivered with the support of MUST University of Malaysia, building upon previous technical assistances delivered by the ITU.

#### iii) Strategic plan for IPv6 Implementation in Montenegro

The strategic plan assesses the current situation with regards to the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 in Montenegro, by pinpointing key challenge areas and identifying possible solutions for triggering the



much-needed transition at the country level. The report identifies training of experts at the country level as of primary importance, and hence the establishment of a laboratory at the country level. Taking stock of currently available equipment, it identifies three possible solutions to establish such a laboratory at the country level.

Based on the three experiences above, the second phase of the technical assistance is focusing on the establishment of the IPv6 Laboratory, responding to a direct request for assistance by the country. ITU is supporting the development of the laboratory with the purchase of the needed equipment, in line with the recommendations of the strategic plan. The laboratory will support the country in developing capacity and train experts at the national level, with particular focus on training IT professionals from public institutions across the country.

The bidding process for the implementation of the IPv6 Laboratory was initiated Q1 2022 with the administrative procedures as well as with the formation of the technical committee, composed of members from the ITU Office for Europe (EUR, ITU-D), the Future Networks and Spectrum management division (FNS, ITU-D), and from the ITU-T sector, within the Information Technology Asset Disposition (ITAD, ITU-T). The bidding process also instructed procurement division of ITU to open and publish the bid on the United Nations Global Market Place (UNGM Marketplace). The process resulted in two offers received. These offers have been evaluated by the technical committee. The selected offer has been finalized in December 2022 and a contract with a third-party provider has been signed.

As of January 2023, ITU and this third-party provider have established a contract to supply the University of Montenegro with all components to allow the IT Faculty to install the IPv6 laboratory. Due to the global crisis and shortages of semiconductors and chips, equipment is expected to experience delays and hence to be delivered by Q2 this year.

### 5.1.2 Regional Assessment on EMF and Risk Communication Challenges

During several initiatives organized in 2020 on the topics of 5G and spectrum management, the issue of EMF emerged of primary importance. In response to national and regional stakeholders' concerns about the issue, and in response to the increasing attention attracted in Europe region, the ITU Office for Europe designed a Regional Assessment on "EMF limit levels and risk communication challenges in Europe" that prompted ICT Ministries or Regulatory Authorities in charge of EMF to respond to a [questionnaire](#).

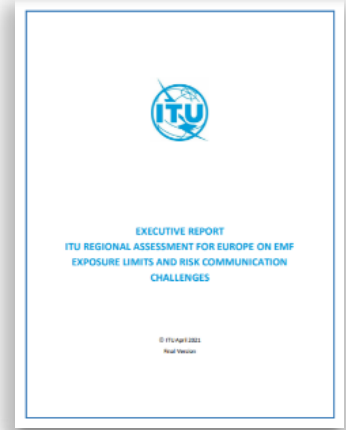
The questionnaire included 14 questions distributed in 5 main areas including:

- 1) EMF national regulation
- 2) Approval procedures prior to building / planning permission
- 3) Measurement of EMF



- 4) Acceptability by the public
- 5) Risk Communication

31 institutions from 29 countries responded to the questionnaire and provided the basis for the elaboration of the Executive Report – ITU Regional Assessment for Europe on EMF limit levels and risk communication challenges“which contains 5 recommendations relating to the 5 areas of the questionnaire. The report also serves as a reference point for the wider stakeholder community in Europe during future capacity building initiatives undertaken by the ITU Office for Europe and beyond.



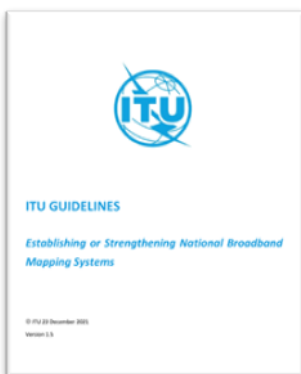
### 5.1.3 Elaboration of ITU Mapping Guidelines based on the European experience

In the context of the ITU Regional Regulatory Forum for Europe on Regulation Supporting Digital Transformation, held virtually on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020, two background papers were produced on the following topics:

1. Broadband Mapping Systems in Europe and Regional Harmonization Initiatives
2. Infrastructure sharing and co-deployment in Europe: good practices based on collaborative regulation



The first paper outlining the European Union’s regulatory framework on broadband mapping attracted stakeholders’ attention, particularly from those countries in South Eastern Europe which are seeking to frame regulations and technical systems for broadband mapping on those of the European Union.



For this reason, the ITU Office for Europe has developed the ITU Guidelines “Establishing or Strengthening National Broadband Mapping Systems” based on the European experience. The Guidelines does not only consolidate the strategic, institutional and policy requirements of efficient broadband mapping, but also guide on the design and implementation of projects aimed at constructing technical systems at the country level. In doing so, the Guidelines aim at setting clear steps required for a successful implementation of broadband mapping systems from all angles, to be used in non-EU countries and other countries seeking to mirror, to some degree, the European experience.

This exercise is carried out with the support of UKE (Office for Electronic Communications), Poland and in close coordination with European Commission, BEREC, EaPeReg, World Bank and benefits from other NRAs such as, AKOS (Slovenia), Arcep (France), BNetzA (Germany), ANACOM (Portugal), RTR



(Austria). The report has received comments from AKOS (Slovenia), Arcep (France), RTR (Austria and BEREC, and is in the process of reviewing and finalising with the support of the UKE.



The Executive Meeting on Broadband Mapping Systems was an online executive meeting which was held on 24 May 2022 from 10:00 to 11.30 CEST.

The objective of the Executive Meeting was to present the ITU Guidelines for establishing/strengthening broadband mapping systems which are a set of operational Guidelines serving as a baseline tool for non-EU NRAs and other institutions in charge of broadband mapping systems at the national level to support them in the establishment or strengthening of broadband mapping tools. The guidelines address both pillars of strategic/regulatory matters and project setup/technical requirements which are nevertheless intertwined. The Guidelines draw upon the experiences of various stakeholders, including NRAs from the European Union, BEREC, and the European Commission and address the critical questions faced by all stakeholders in this field.

In addition to that, this executive meeting also gave the opportunity to reflect ITU’s overall work and engagement in the field of broadband mapping systems, with a special focus on the global gap analysis and the new layer of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps. At the end of the different presentations, all stakeholders were invited to provide comments and update regarding their respective work in this field. The meeting recording can be accessed [here](#).

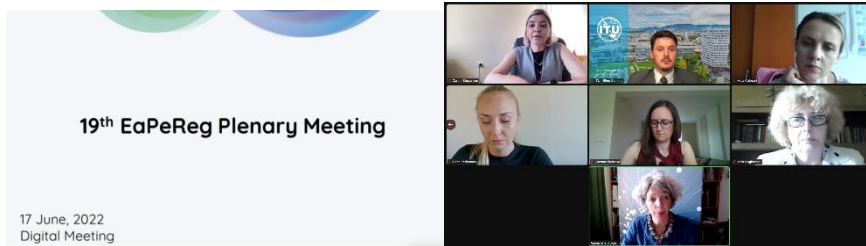
In the context of broadband mapping systems, the ITU Guidelines were also presented during the EU DG Near Taziex workshop on “Tools and applications for Broadband Mapping” held physically in Brussels, Belgium – from 31 May to 2 June 2022. The objective of this workshop was to present to the relevant European partners as well as EaPeReg partners ITU’s work in this field and provide them with an understanding of how the guidelines could be utilized to advance their agenda in the field of broadband mapping systems.



As a continuation of its attendance in Brussels, the ITU Office for Europe attended the 19<sup>th</sup> Plenary of EaPeReg, which took place digitally on 17 June 2022, to present the results of WTDC22 and highlight the existing cooperation between the two organizations to advance connectivity across the Eastern Region of Europe by leveraging ITU’s body of knowledge in the field of broadband mapping systems







### 5.1.4 “New layer of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps on National Broadband Mapping Systems Initiatives”

The "New Graphical Interface of the Interactive Transmission Mapping Map" is a Global initiative of ITU that aims at building transmission maps about backbone networks. The new layer will display all 193 ITU member states practices and capacity in the field of broadband mapping systems, thus complementing the existing and on-going collecting effort on ICT Data that has enabled the establishment of ITU's data platform since 2012.



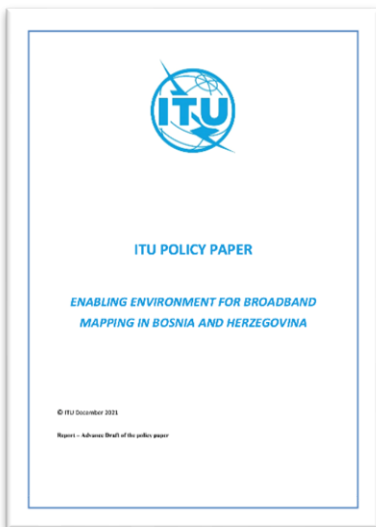
This exercise is based on the model of the European experience which entailed the engagement of 46 countries identifying relevant information about national broadband mapping systems and establishing the community of experts.

This global outreach on the subject of broadband mapping systems demonstrated how different parts of the world are equipping themselves for broadband mapping system activities, but it appears that this heterogeneity in this field is an extremely promising avenue for ITU to establish itself as the global actor on the broadband landscape, shaping its future development.

The ITU Guidelines “Establishing or Strengthening National Broadband Mapping Systems” and the New layer of the ITU Interactive Transmission Maps on National Broadband Mapping Systems Initiatives” are expected to be presented by the ITU Office for Europe on 24 May 2022 during an online meeting.

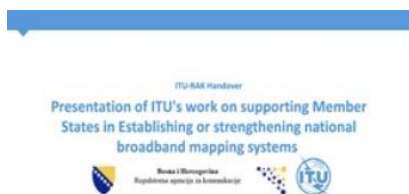


## 5.1.5 Technical Assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina on enabling environment for broadband mapping

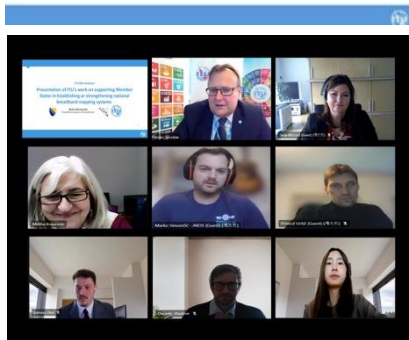


This project responds to a direct request for assistance from the Communications Regulatory Authority (CRA). Leveraging expertise from AKOS, it will support the country in reviewing the enabling environment for broadband mapping in the country and provide recommendations on the key governance and regulatory steps to be taken as a basis for future successful implementation of broadband mapping systems in the country.

This ITU policy paper titled “Enabling environment for broadband mapping in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (unpublished) is the result of the collaboration between ITU and RAK with the joint support of Slovenian National Regulatory Agency AKOS.



Its objective was to assess the national broadband landscape environment of the country and the requirements for establishing broadband mapping systems capabilities.



On February 4, 2022, together with the Communication Regulatory Authority of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RAK) ITU presented the results of the first phase of the technical assistance and set up the preparatory work for the second phase consisting of:

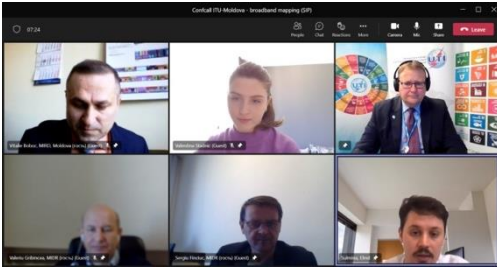
- a concrete project roadmap and action plan in the form of a final report for a national broadband mapping system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including financial, human resources, organizational and sustainability indications.
- A brief tailored technical specification document according to the project roadmap to enable the implementation of a broadband mapping systems owned and operated by RAK.

The second phase of the technical assistance started in May 2022 and was concluded in July 2022 with the first advance draft of the technical report titled: “Technical specifications for the implementation of broadband mapping systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina” This advance draft was approved by the Communications Regulatory Authority and the handover meeting took place on 9 November 2022





In line and in continuation with already existing cooperation with the country, Bosnia and Herzegovina has currently showed interest in receiving a first training in the field of Fifth-generation collaborative regulation (G5 Regulation).

### 5.1.6 Technical Assistance to Moldova on Infrastructure Resilience



This action responds to the immediate need to strengthen the resilience of the ICT infrastructure at the country level. Within the framework of the Connect2Recover project assessment of the resilience of infrastructure is expected to be carried out this year to identify gaps and areas of action.

### 5.1.7 Technical Assistance to Moldova on Broadband Mapping Systems

**Implementation of the Broadband Mapping Systems and SIP in Moldova based on the Registry of engineering infrastructure facilities**

Video Tele Conference 28 March 2022

**Introduction of the state of play and scope of the project**

Mr. Vitalie BOBOC  
Head of Communication Infrastructure Department  
Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova

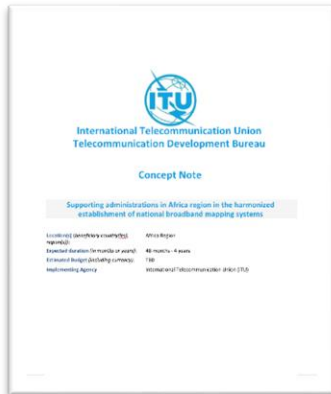


In addition to the technical assistance on the infrastructure resilience, direct assistance to the Regulator has been scheduled in order to build solid foundations for strengthening of capabilities of broadband mapping system at the country level. The technical assistance to Moldova in this field would equip the country with technical recommendations that would enable the National Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Information Technology ANRCETI to establish both a broadband mapping system and a SIP that is interoperable with the Registry of engineering infrastructure facilities (REIF).

**5.1.8** The technical assistance start in September 2022 and is expected to be concluded by January 2023. Several meetings have taken place among the ITU Office for Europe, together with ITU Experts, and the representatives of the Government of Moldova (Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development of the Republic of Moldova), the Communication Regulatory Authority) ANRCETI, the Information Technology & Cyber Security Service (STICS), the Interoperability Platform Mconnect, E-Governance Agency Moldova, and the Public Services Agency. The meetings held thus far are contributing in shaping the technical report. **ITU Cooperation work with European Union Directorate General for**



## International Partnerships (DG INTPA) on Development of harmonized broadband mapping systems across



ITU Office for Europe since beginning of 2022 has started a series of active discussions with the European Commission and the various Directorate General (DG INTPA, DG Connect) to collaborate together in the field of broadband mapping systems development in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) Region for meaningful connectivity as well as transformative change at the regional level; while also strengthening cooperation in the field to achieve inclusive digital transformation in Africa. The work is expected to continue in 2023. This work is achieved via the collaboration of the different ITU partners, i.e. the ITU Regional Office for Africa; the Global Service of ITU, with the ITU Future Networks & Spectrum Management (FNS) Division and with the ITU Resource Mobilization (PRM) Division.

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

#### Digital agriculture

##### 5.2.1 Digital Excellence in Agriculture: ITU-FAO Regional Contest in Europe and Central Asia

The ITU-FAO “Study on the Status of Digital Agriculture in 18 countries of Europe and Central Asia” highlighted the need for coordination among stakeholders, as the use of ICTs in agriculture has spawned a consistent wave of innovation. Following this observation and as an integral part of this cooperation, in November 2020, ITU and FAO launched the “Digital Excellence in Agriculture: ITU-FAO Contest in Europe and Central Asia”, with the aim to overcome the various challenges of sustainable and resilient food systems through identifying innovative digital agriculture practices across the regions. In accordance with the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this Contest aimed at working towards closing the digital, rural and gender divides, known as the triple divide, in order to include all members of society in this unprecedented transition. The webpage of the contest can be [accessed here](#).



The last phase of the Contest consists in the elaboration of a “Digital Excellence in Agriculture” Report, to be released in 2022. This report focuses on the 29 finalists practices of the contest. It provides a set of scalable, innovative solutions to support practitioners, small and large farm holders, and all stakeholders and partners who are transitioning to digital technologies and digital processes. In addition, the report provides an analysis of current technological trends identified through the contest and the use of such digital solutions across the agricultural sector.

### 5.2.2 Development of the Guide for EU Accession Countries on the Digital Agriculture Development

With the aim of accelerating the implementation of digital agriculture and providing support to the EU Accession Countries a special guide is being developed in partnership with FAO and upon consultation with the European Commission. Upon finalization, the Guide will be launched in Q4/2022-Q1/2023, providing necessary foundation for the technical assistance upon request of the countries, facilitating their process of alignment of national policies, strategies and regulations with the EU standards.

### 5.2.3 m-Health Knowledge and Innovation Hub for Europe (ITU-WHO- Andalusian Public Health Service (SSPA/FPS) – Project funded by European Union (2020-2022)

mHealth Innovation and Knowledge Hub is a project funded by the European Union (“EU”) through the Horizon 2020 program, with a total funding of 3 million Euros. The European m-Health Hub is intended to serve as a mechanism to share success in mHealth across the European region and boost uptake of mHealth solutions amongst national governments. At a high level, the mHealth Hub will provide services in areas of operational research, training and education, identifying standards, regulatory and policy goals, and implementation support. It will have a dual focus on knowledge management & innovation, and on practical implementation.



Andalusian Public Health Service (SSPA/FPS) has been identified as the stakeholder in charge of establishment and management of the Hub. The Consortium consists of 20 partners from 12 EU countries, representing both the public and private sector. Implementation of the European mHealth Knowledge and Innovation Hub began in February 2020.

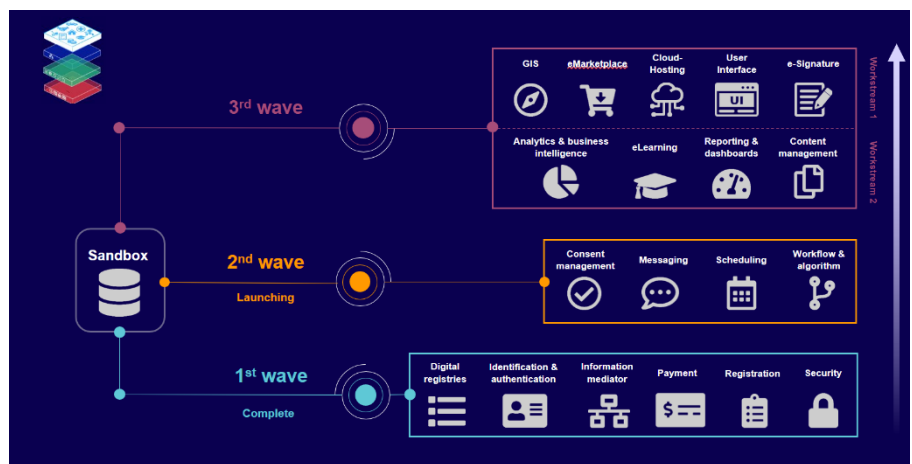
mHealth Hub has been continuing to carry out a series of activities in 2022, while establishing self-sustainability model, taking into account that the project will come to the end during 2022. More information on mHealthHub is available on the project’s [webpage](#).



## 5.2.4 GovStack – Accelerating the digital transformation of government services

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia (MFA Estonia), the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of the Federal Republic of Germany (BMZ), and the Digital Impact Alliance (DIAL) are collaborating to accelerate digital transformation and digitalization of government services for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in low-resource settings. The collaboration aims at establishing a global high-level framework for digital government cooperation to assist countries in learning and implementing scalable digital services and applications in a cost-efficient, accelerated and integrated manner that are built by applying the best software development principles and best countries' experiences and practices.

In line with its first main activity area, the GovStack is developing a variety of building block technical specifications, which are being rolled out in waves. The 1st wave of specifications for foundational building blocks are released and available



here. It includes digital registries, identity and verification, information mediator, payment, registration, and security building blocks. The consent management, messaging, scheduling, workflow and algorithm building blocks are part of the 2nd wave, and are currently under development.

The GovStack sandbox should provide a collaborative environment for all digital government ecosystem actors to discover, understand, engage, experiment, innovate, and build digital government solutions using the GovStack platform. The bidding process for the GovStack Sandbox development was closed on 2nd May. As the result, [GoFore](#) was selected and GovStack onboarded a team of 13 to start building this environment, The engagement in the GovStack activities is also advancing in a number of countries like Ukraine, Moldova, and North Macedonia, allowing them to select the level of involvement that best suits their needs. For example, the work with the Government of Ukraine is currently focused on the Ukrainian Platform of Registries, covering the Fit-Gap analysis as well as exploring the future steps in relation to the platform prototype development and its integration into the GovStack Sandbox. Also, efforts were directed towards expanding Ukraine's Digital Public Goods package.



Besides, ITU has agreed to join forces with the European Commission to streamline the Open-Source community development as part of the digitalization and multilateralism programme. Even though the activity implementation is expected to start in 2023, this commitment reinforces the previous efforts by meeting the urgent need to nurture, develop and sustain global and national ecosystems and open-source communities.

Moving towards the successful scale-up of the project at the European level and beyond, several activities focusing on global and subregional implementations were undertaken.



D4D Collaboration for the Horn of Africa Initiative on Digital Government and Cybersecurity was kicked off on March 15. It aims to enhance digital service delivery through implementing digital government services and strengthening national and regional cybersecurity in the region.

On March 16, the GovStack initiative was pledged by GIZ at the Launch of the Partner2Connect Focus Areas Action Framework, aiming to support the Digital Public Goods ecosystem by developing the specification of 12 ICT building blocks that will reach up to 2.000.000 citizens.



On May 12, the GovStack initiative was presented at the e-Governance Conference in Tallin, the largest e-governance event in the region hosted by one of the founding partners of the initiative. At the dedicated workshop held in a hybrid format, participants had a chance to get hands-on knowledge on building resilient e-governance architecture using reusable software components based on a real-life use case.

As part of the WSIS 2022, and cherishing its spirit, the launch of the “GovStack WSIS Prize for best Digital Service Design” was announced, and the community was invited to prepare reference implementations to be nominated for the prize in 2023. Besides, GovStack launched its “CIO Digital Leaders Forum” and held the first episode of it. During these two sessions, representatives of Estonia, India, Ukraine, Perú, Egypt, and Rwanda shared their experiences in the



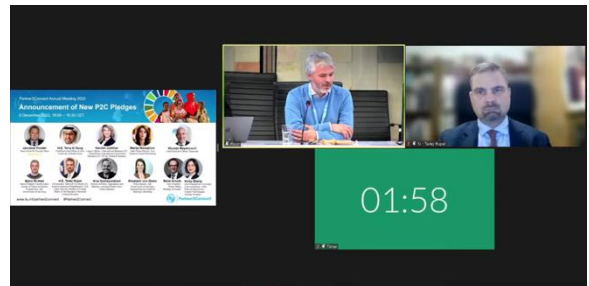




On 1st December, GovStack partners joined the [digital.global] network launch- a kick-off event for the strategic realignment of BMZ's digital policy. In this sense, a panel to discuss ways of combating poverty and inequality with a sovereign digital infrastructure as the basis for resilience was organized. Also, the session touched upon the role of digital public infrastructure for societal resilience, the importance of digital public goods, and the cooperation opportunities that exist in this field.



At the 1st Partner2Connect (P2C) Annual Meeting, held on December 8, GovStack initiative was pledged by GIZ to empower half a million women through e-learning on Atingi platform until 2025 and to strengthen a whole-of-government approach by supporting Ukraine in improving their digital registries for the country recovery and enabling it to share Ukrainian DPGs with the world.



Moreover, the GovStack Implementation Playbook has been developed and is in continuous co-design effort by a multidisciplinary team of experts representing GovStack partner organizations. Tools and methods presented in the playbook follow best practices in government digital service co-design and delivery. They have been co-designed as part of the

GovStack country implementation work.

The playbook also integrates a curated set of best practices coming from different assessment frameworks developed by International Organizations like ITU, OECD, UNDP, and World Bank, among others. It also gathers reference tools and methods from digital services manuals, and design standards developed by different digital service teams worldwide.

The latest version of the Playbook is currently available on GitBook and can be accessed [here](#).



## 5.2.5 ITU-UNEP-UNITAR project on “E-Waste Monitoring for the Western Balkans”



Concept Note  
Regional E-Waste Monitor  
for the  
Western Balkans



Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) offer great opportunities for sustainable development but also constitute one of the fastest-growing streams of physical waste in today's global environment and thus can cause considerable health and environmental risks. Data and comparable overviews on e-waste are essential in all stages of the policy cycle, to evaluate developments over time, elaborate national and international policies and limit e-waste generation, prevent illegal dumping, promote recycling, and create jobs in the recycling sectors.

To counter the lack of internationally comparable e-waste statistics in the Western Balkans, ITU Office for Europe and the Environment and Emergency Telecommunications Division, UNEP Regional Office for Europe and Vienna Programme Office, and UNITAR-SCYCLE Programme joined forces under the '*ITU-UNEP-UNITAR E-Waste Monitor for the Western Balkans*' project. This project is implemented within the framework of the [Global E-waste Statistics Partnership](#).

This project targets five countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Montenegro, and Serbia, and seeks to be implemented in close cooperation with the respective governments and national statistical offices.

The project aims to:

- i) Train on how to make and collect e-waste statistics,
- ii) Make an assessment of e-waste statistics, e-waste management practice and e-waste legislation landscape in the Western Balkans;
- iii) Produce the Regional E-waste Monitor Report for the Western Balkans, in order to analyse trends in the transboundary movement of e-waste, inform policymakers, industries, and businesses about regional e-waste data, and support the development of national and regional counter-measures through policies, regulations, awareness-raising, and industrial response.

Overall, this project will build foundations for making digitization and digitalization processes green and sustainable.

Within the framework of the project, a [regional briefing](#) was held on 15 December intending to introduce the topic at the regional level laying the basis for engagement at the national level. This regional briefing was followed by a kick-off meeting of the project with designated national focal points on the 16 March.





flows and an e-waste national roadmap.

The five country profiles have been drafted in December 2022 and the validation period started subsequently. Learn more about the project and its milestone at the [dedicated webpage](#).

## 5.2.6 Information session on “Toolkit on digital transformation for people-oriented cities and communities”

**Information session**

**Toolkit on Digital Transformation for People-Oriented Cities and Communities**

Virtual, 21 June 2022, 14:30 - 15:30 CEST

The **Information Session** on the recently launched “Toolkit on Digital Transformation for People-oriented Cities and Communities” was organized by the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau (TSB) of the ITU with the support of the ITU Office for Europe, and took place **virtually on Tuesday 21 June**. The **new Toolkit** launched by ITU in close collaboration with other 10 UN entities and cities supports strategizing and planning the digital transformation of cities and communities to promote sustainable, inclusive, resilient, and improved quality of life for residents in cities and communities. The objective of this information session was to provide an overview of the *Toolkit*, its functionalities, and stakeholders that can benefit from it. It also provided a snapshot of the commonly identified challenges to advance people-oriented digital transformation at the local level and presented a series of solutions that may be scaled up. This information session was also the occasion to zoom in on some of ITU's efforts in driving people-centered cities and communities, through the development and implementation of ITU standards and indicators on smart sustainable cities, buildings, electronic waste, and the circular economy. Overall, this information session also provided a platform for exchange on the topic. Access the recording of the session [here](#).



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

#### ICT Accessibility

#### 5.3.1 Regional Assessment of Enabling Environments Ensuring Accessible ICT for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region



The ITU Office for Europe has been carrying out a regional assessment of enabling environments ensuring accessible telecommunications and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Persons with Disabilities in the Europe Region consisting of 46 countries. The assessment is designed to provide ITU members and

stakeholders from the European region with a holistic vision regarding the current implementation status on ICT accessibility laws, regulations, policies and strategies. ITU also intends to provide advice to policy makers and stakeholders throughout the region through good practices and recommendations, and support ITU members’ efforts in ensuring that information and communications, as well as ICT products and services, are available and accessible to all citizens without any discriminations of gender age or abilities, so including to persons with disabilities.

The assessment is an important part of the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiative on “accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development”. In particular, it will contribute to the Accessible Europe initiative, Connect 2030 Agenda, and the ITU strategic goal number 2, target 2.9, calling on Member States to establish accessible ICT environments for persons with disabilities in all Member States by 2023.



Additionally, the assessment is fully in line with the requirements for the transposition of the European Union (EU) legislation regarding disability inclusion as indicated in the European Accessibility Act and other Directives that deal with ICT accessibility, and aims at facilitating ITU Members’ understanding of the related requirements and fulfilment with the deadlines.



In 2022, ITU Office for Europe carries a series of consultations at the country level seeking the opportunity to roll out the report's recommendations at the national level with the support of the UN Sustainable Development System.

### 5.3.2 Accessible Europe: ICTs for All "Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities"



Through its EUR-3 regional commitment, the ITU Office for Europe has been actively collaborating with partner organizations to foster an environment conducive to the development of accessible ICTs for persons with disabilities as well as an inclusive digital society in the region.

Within this context, the fourth edition of Accessible Europe: ICT 4 All "Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities" was held on December 6, 2022. This Special Event for Europe was organized by the ITU . and took place virtually

The 2022 edition commemorated the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, which is annually marked on December 3, as a day of celebration, sharing, and advocacy for the immediate and long-term improvement of the lives of persons with disabilities. This celebration also provided an ideal occasion to acknowledge the efforts committed to addressing the needs of those with disabilities and to empowering them to lead independent lives.

In this context, the event focused on collaborative efforts for an accessible digital society within the European region. It highlighted the importance of establishing a harmonized approach to ensure the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in the digital world. It also looked into the importance of digital tool and service standardization in answering needs of persons with disabilities. Finally, in line with the conclusion of the European Year of Youth, a special youth session was held to hear the perspectives of young people with disabilities on a more Accessible Europe.

For further information on the 2022 edition of the Regional Forum, please see here: <https://www.itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-22>.



## Gender Equality

### 5.3.3 Network of Women – Europe

The Network of Women (NoW) was created to encourage gender balance in the activities leading up to the World Telecommunication Development Conference, WTDC-22, scheduled to take place from 6 to 16 June 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The first Network of Women (NoW) for Europe meeting was launched on 19 January 2021 at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-21 for Europe (RPM-EUR).

The Network's vision is to provide a neutral platform for exchange of information between new and experienced female delegates, as well as for advice and support from women who have successfully ascended to leadership positions in ITU-D. NoW Europe is own and led by ITU-D women delegates with the support of the ITU-D.

The Network's Objectives to:

- build, in the medium and long term, a community where female delegates support each other, expand their network, advocate and share experience and knowledge;
- promote the active participation of women in the activities of ITU-D and the development sector in general;
- give visibility to women and empower them for larger responsibilities in their respective delegations, at WTDC-22 and in future similar platforms;
- encourage experienced female delegates to mentor ICT professionals in order to create a stronger base for women in the digital space.

ITU Office for Europe continues to provide operational support to the activities carried out by the network of women in order to ensure vibrant implementation of this platform while seeking synergies with the actions carried out under the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe related to Gender Equality.

With the aim of strengthening the engagement of Women in the Digital for Development activities, ITU Office for Europe and EU Delegation cooperated on the organization of Network of Women - Digital Ambassadors.

In addition, on the occasion of the Girls in ICTs Day a special social media campaign has been coordinated with the EU Delegation, attracting several European Ambassadors to provide their strategic messages.





### 5.3.4 Girls in ICT Celebration



## Girls in ICT Access and Safety

Europe Region Event

28 April 2022 | 16:00-17:00 CEST



Follow us on Twitter  
@ITUEurope  
Join us online!

International Girls in ICT Day 2022 was observed on 28 April 2022.

The European Celebration of Girls in ICTs: Access and Safety, was held virtually on 28

April 2022, from 16:00 to 17:00 CEST. The event was organized by ITU, with the coordination of the Regional Network of Women (NoW). The event aimed at providing high representatives of the European Regional Network of Women with the opportunity to exchange on first-hand experiences and act as role models to encourage and inspire European girls and young women to pursue an education and career in the STEM field. The event provided a platform for discussions on the challenges and opportunities for girls and young women to take an active role in the ICT sectors.

Over the years, Girls in ICT Day was celebrated in more than 170 countries with over 11,000 events worldwide by engaging key stakeholders and partners to inspire girls in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) careers through trainings, information sharing, capacity building activities and role models. Adolescent girls with job-specific skills related to STEM – such as engineering, computer programming, cloud technology, robotics, health sciences and technologies – are better equipped to equally and actively participate in changing economies and evolving labour markets. Currently, traditional employment sectors are declining in response to automation, while innovation opens new ones demanding different skills. Without STEM skills – critical thinking, problem-solving and digital skills– girls and women will be further left behind from equal economic and social participation.



More information on the Girls in ICT initiative see here: <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Digital-Inclusion/Women-and-Girls/Girls-in-ICT-Portal/Pages/GirlsInICTDay/2021/GICT-2021.aspx>

### 5.3.5 ITU-UNICEF-UN Women Regional Event on ‘Advancing generation equality forum commitments in Europe and Central Asia: Action coalition #5 on technology and innovation for gender equality’



The regional event on *“Advancing Generation Equality Forum Commitments in the Europe and Central Asia: Action Coalition #5 on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality”* was held virtually on 4 July 2022 from 09:00 to 11:45 CEST. The event was jointly organized by the ITU Office for Europe, UNICEF and UN Women, in partnership with the UN Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE), within the framework of

the regional series on the Generation Equality Forums (GEF) and in support of the priorities of the Action Coalition (AC) on Technology and Innovation for Gender Equality (AC TIGE), co-led by ITU and UNICEF. The AC TIGE is part of the six ACs formed under the GEF convened by UN Women to address issues that are among the most intractable barriers to equality, and has been created to urge stakeholders to look at technology as one of the key areas in which achieving gender equality can transform our world and recognize the catalytic role technology can play. The event will convene AC TIGE commitment makers from governments, private sector, civil society, as well as women and girl leaders in a dynamic dialogue on the progress and implementation of the regional commitments to advance gender equality in STEM. The event will showcase how the commitments are translated into tangible action and discuss gaps that remain to be addressed and related policy recommendations. It will also aim to serve as a key platform to foster new strategic alliances and partnerships advancing women and girls participation in technology and innovation.

## Youth

### 5.3.5 Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group

The ITU Youth Strategy aims to improve and have a real impact on the lives of young people around the world, and to ensure meaningful participation of youth in ITU as key stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.







In line with the ITU Youth Strategy and within the framework of the “Generation Connect” global initiative, European Youth were called upon to contribute to the preparatory process for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21), in particular the Regional Preparatory Meeting (RPM) for Europe, through the establishment of the **Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR)**.

Since December 2020, the Members of the Europe Youth Group, consisting of 24 young people aged between 18 and 24, coming from all around Europe, have been working towards the elaboration of a **Youth Declaration**, providing their views on the challenges and opportunities related to digital development and sharing the actions they would like to see happening in regards to the regional priorities of the Europe region, as an input to the RPM for Europe.



The Youth Declaration developed by the group identifies five thematic priorities



as primary (capacity development, policy and regulation, cybersecurity, environment, and digital inclusion) while recognizing the importance of several other thematic priorities. Declaration was presented by GC-EUR representatives at the RPM for Europe, held virtually on 18-19 January 2021.

GC-EUR continues its work, providing valuable contributions related to the organization of the WTDC-22 Generation Connect Global Youth Summit to be held on 6-7 November 2021, back-to-back with WTDC-212, on 6-16 June 2022, in Kigali, Ruanda.

### The First and the Second Generation Connect European Digital Youth Jam

ITUEvents  
**Generation Connect**  
**European digital youth jam**  
 Contributing to the European Year of Youth  
 Online meeting  
 4 April 2022  
 10:00 - 14:00 CET  
 Follow us on twitter: @ITUEurope  
<http://itueurope.zcic>



The ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR) organized the first ever Digital Youth Jam, held virtually on 3 December 2021. The event aimed at gathering European youth leaders and organizations to discuss the GC-EUR Youth Declaration covering topics such as capacity



development, policy regulation, cybersecurity, environment,



and digital inclusion. The event also provided a platform for European Youth to gather, discuss, network and learn from each other.



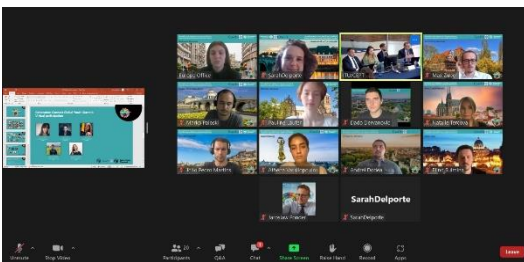
The **Second European Digital Youth Jam** was an event organized by the members of the ITU Generation Connect - Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR), facilitated by the ITU Office for Europe. The event took place virtually on **4 April 2022**. The aim of the Digital Youth Jam was to bring together young European leaders from different organizations to create meaningful engagement by lifting young voices to regional level discussions.

### European Youth at the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit

Significant efforts of the ITU Office for Europe have been dedicated towards the mobilization of the European Youth participation at the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit to be held on 2-4 June 2022. Several countries have been invited to facilitate participation or support the European Youth in their work. On 18 May 2022, a special event on *Meaningful Youth Engagement in Europe and Beyond: Towards the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit* was organized jointly by ITU Europe Office and CEPT Com-ITU. Event provided an unique opportunity to connect young leaders, in particular those attending Global Summit (onsite or virtually) with the European Policy Makers.



### Meaningful Youth Engagement in Europe and Beyond: Towards the Generation Connect Global Youth Summit



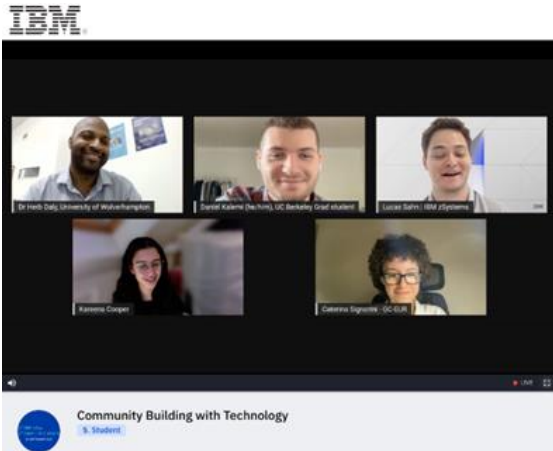
Within the context of the ordinary meeting of Com-ITU which took place in London on 17-20 May 2022 in a hybrid format, in preparation for the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21) and the ITU Plenipotentiary Conferences (PP-22), the ITU Office for Europe organized a special session highlighting the work of the Generation Connect Europe Group and the contribution of its members to the ITU Generation Connect Global Youth Summit. The session was held in a hybrid format on 18 May, from 16:00 to 17:00 GMT+1.

With the active participation of the Generation Connect Europe Youth Group, the session introduced and presented all Europe Youth Envoys who participated, both physically and virtually, and brought their contributions to the Global Youth Summit. The session was also the occasion to provide a brief overview of the outcomes and key takeaways from regional events organized with the contribution of GC-EUR Youth Group, such as the European Digital Youth Jam, and the European Celebration of Girls in ICTs.

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### IBMz Conference – “Community Building with Technology” Session



Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoys Daniel Kalemi and Caterina Signorini were speakers at the "Community building with Technology" session at the 2022 IBMz Conference, which took place on September 15, 2022 and featured a lineup of global thought leaders highlighting industry trends and innovation spanning AI, Quantum, and more. They presented their perspectives on how technology may be utilized to strengthen communities all around the world, as well as how young people can play a key role in determining their own digital destiny.

### YOUNGA - Working Group Session: Future of Education and Work



In honor of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, Secretary-General António Guterres invited all member states to hold the largest, most inclusive global dialogue on the future we want. This call to action sparked the creation of YOUNGA, a global impact event designed to bring together current and future political leaders.

Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Europe Office, spoke at the Working Group Session: Future of Education and Work, which targeted young people with an interest in ICT. Together with the Head of ITU Africa Office Anne-Rachel Inne and IFC Officer Clara Aranda, he provided his thoughts on his own professional path and the sector, and offered guidance to young people.

### Misk Global Forum





On November 9-10, 2022, the Misk Global Forum convened in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, bringing together young leaders, creators, and thinkers with established global innovators to explore, experience, and experiment with ways to lead the change. The objective of this year's Misk Global Forum was to facilitate change through intergenerational communication.

Three GC-EUR Youth Envoys (Dado Dervanovic, Elisa Haxhillazi, and Yusuf Kerem Calikoglu) were chosen by the MGF from a pool of applicants from all around the world and were provided with the opportunity to attend the forum in person.

### Closing Event of the European Year of Youth



As part of the Czech Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Czech Republic held the closing event for the European Year of Youth on December 6, 2022. This event focused on the following two primary



themes: (i) Education (with a focus on inclusivity and digitalization), (ii) Mental health (with a focus on accessibility and raising awareness).

As part of the (inclusive) education and digitalization panel, the ITU Europe Office participated in the debate and offered ideas.

### UN Women - Generation Equality Europe and Central Asia Youth Forum





From December 6-8, 2022, the first-ever Europe and Central Asia Youth Forum was hosted in Istanbul, Türkiye by the UN Women Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Regional Office. The objective of the event was to discuss the progress accomplished and the necessary next steps for young involvement, as well as to contribute to the Generation Equality initiative.

GC-EUR Youth Envoy Dado Dervanovic was invited by UN Women ECA to conduct a presentation on "What does youth activism on tech and digitalization look like?". His intervention included his experience as an ITU Generation Connect Youth Envoy and a Montenegrin youth activist, the role of the ITU at the Technology and Innovation Action Coalition, the CSW priority theme, the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Technology's Action Plan and the ITU Youth Strategy. He also emphasized the possibility of future collaboration between GC-EUR envoys and UN Women ECA.

Dado Dervanovic also moderated a session on "technology as a modality of inclusion, acceleration, and community mobilization." This session provided an important opportunity to discuss the role of technology in promoting equality and inclusion, and its potential to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### Accessible Europe – Youth Session

**ITUEvents**  
**Accessible Europe: ICT 4 ALL**  
 Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**Session III**  
**The future of ICT and digital accessibility: What does youth aspire?**

 <b>Emel Aysu Sürmen</b> Regional Focal Point (GC-EUR) & Digital Inclusion Consultant ITU Generation Connect Europe Youth Envoy & ITU Europe Office Moderator	 <b>Timothy Rowies</b> Rapporteur on Mainstreaming Disability Issues (CoE) & Former President (EUDY) Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth & European Union of the Deaf Youth	 <b>Ivana Recmanová</b> Disability Activist, Writer, Translator & Communication Advisor for LGBT+ and neurodivergent people A-komunita	 <b>Dr. Miro Griffiths</b> Disability Activist & Scholar in Disability Studies University of Leeds	 <b>Jack Kavanagh</b> Pharmacist, Speaker, Facilitator & Host "Only Human" Podcast & "Breaking Boundaries" Documentary
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**6 December 2022, 14:00 - 16:30 (CET), Virtual**

Follow us on Twitter: @ITUEurope Visit our webpage: [itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-22](https://itu.int/go/Accessible-Europe-22) Register: [itu.int/new/CRM/js/sr/C-00012072](https://itu.int/new/CRM/js/sr/C-00012072)

In line with the conclusion of the European Year of Youth, a special youth-led youth session titled "The future of ICT and digital accessibility: What does youth aspire?" was held to hear the



perspectives of young people with disabilities on what a more accessible Europe would look like. The panelists discussed how ICTs can be used to empower young people with disabilities, as well as how to make ICT more accessible to them to ensure equal opportunities and access to information.

Several young disability activists and youth with lived experience participated in the session; (i) Timothy Rowies, Rapporteur on Mainstreaming Disability Issues of the Council of Europe Advisory Council on Youth and Former President of the European Union of the Deaf Youth; (ii) Ivana Recmanová, Disability Activist, Writer, Translator and Communication Advisor at A-Komunita; (iii) Dr. Miro Griffiths, Scholar in Disability Studies at University of Leeds; and (iv) Jack Kavanagh, Pharmacist, Speaker, Non-Exec Director at Only Human Podcast and “Breaking Boundaries” Documentary.

This event was successful in providing a platform for young people with disabilities to have their voices heard, which is essential in creating a more accessible and inclusive digital world. Furthermore, it demonstrated the importance of ITU in providing a platform for young people with disabilities to be heard and their rights and interests to be represented in the digital sphere.

## UNECE Youth Dialogue



On 20 December 2022, ITU GC-EUR representatives took part in the UNECE Youth Dialogue “Shaping the future of the region”. This Dialogue gathered young people across the Pan-European region to discuss how they can and are driving change for a sustainable future and are key actors for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It was an occasion to advocate for the role of youth in shaping the digital future of the region and present initiatives of the GC-EUR.

## European Youth Event (EYE) 2023

The European Youth Event 2023 will take place in Strasbourg between 9 and 10 June 2023. The 5th edition of EYE will signal the beginning of preparations for the EU elections of 2024. A main focus of this EYE will consequently be active young participation in political life and the power of youth to shape the future of Europe.



In preparation for this event, several UN agencies participating in the UN Task Force on Young produced a joint proposal on youth participation in democracy and decision-making processes. Under the overarching theme of "Youth and Democracy," ITU proposed prospective areas of focus in which it could make a significant contribution, such as the digital transformation of government and youth participation in democratic or international processes.

The specifics will be determined after consultations with the interested UN agencies.

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

### *Child Online Protection*

#### 5.4.1 Roll-out of the ITU COP Guidelines at the National Level in Europe Region

ITU firstly developed the Guidelines for Child Online Protection (COP) in 2009. Upon request of the Member States, the COP Guidelines have been updated and launched officially in June 2020 in all six UN Official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian Spanish).

With the aim to facilitate the roll-out of the COP Guidelines at the national level, significant efforts have been dedicated in order to release the materials in languages other than the official UN ones. This translated into a series of trainings, workshops, webinars and communication campaigns supported by ITU. ITU Office for Europe thanks all administrations and stakeholders who made it possible and encourages others to engage in this process as well.

#### **Albanian language:**

[COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Albanian Language](#)

[COP Guidelines for Policymakers in Albanian Language](#)

[COP Guidelines for Industry in Albanian Language](#)

[Workbook "Work with Sango"](#)

[Storybook "Online with Sango"](#)

#### **Bosnian language:**

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Bosnian language](#)

#### **Bulgarian language:**

[ITU COP Guidelines for Policymakers in Bulgarian Language](#)



[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Policymakers in Bulgarian Language](#)

[Policy Brief in Bulgarian language](#)

[Online Safety with Sango Flyer in Bulgarian Language](#)

[Online Safety with Sango Poster in Bulgarian Language](#)

**Croatian language:**

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Croatian language](#)

**Serbian language:**

[ITU COP Guidelines and related materials in Serbian language](#)

**Hungarian language:**

[COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Policymakers in Hungarian language](#)

[Executive summary COP Guidelines for Industry in Hungarian language](#)

**Lithuanian language:**

[COP Guidelines for Industry in Lithuanian language](#)

**Romanian language:**

[Storybook for children under 9 years old in Romanian language](#)

[Workbook for children aged 9 to 12 years old in Romanian language](#)

[Social media campaign in Romanian language](#)

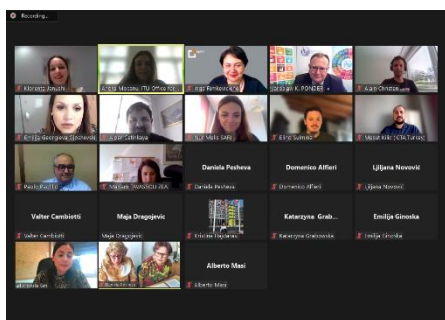
**Turkish language:**

[COP Guidelines for Parents and Educators in Turkish language](#)

**Ukrainian language:**

[COP Guidelines and related materials in Ukrainian language](#)

The ITU COP Guidelines have been recently translated in Maltese (unpublished) language and are currently being translated in **Macedonian and Finnish** languages. Efforts are dedicated to make them available also in **Polish**.



An executive briefing on “ITU Child Online Protection Guidelines – Roll out in Europe: Regional and national updates” was held virtually on 25 May from 10:00 to 11:00 CEST. The briefing drew attention to the recently released and upcoming COP materials made available by ITU to all countries and stakeholders globally, including an online self-paced training targeting parents and educators, in order to continue the efforts





in creating a safe online space for all children and the Youth, and presented the types of support that ITU can provide to assist national stakeholders in Europe Region in rolling out the COP Guidelines at the national level. The briefing also allowed stakeholders from Albania, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Malta and North Macedonia to present concrete examples of recent efforts to roll out the COP Guidelines at the national level, and exchange on challenges and good practices that can be scaled up in other countries of the Region.

#### 5.4.2 Roll-out of the ITU COP Guidelines in Malta



The collaboration between the Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society (MFWS), the Ministry for Education of Malta and the ITU Office for Europe resulted in the elaboration of a situational assessment on child online protection at the national level in Malta. This assessment constitutes the basis for a statistical exercise aiming at mapping the current level of child online protection in the country and identifying gaps to be addressed. A launching event of the translated ITU COP Guidelines in Maltese language is foreseen to take place at a later stage.

Upon the request of the MFWS, and within the framework of the “P.O.P-up: Promote Online Protection” project established by MFWS, the ITU is assisting in the delivery of a set of Training of Trainers (ToT) for social workers of the education system in Malta.



1. The first piece of training was held in coordination with the Maltese Ministry for Education and the directors of Maria Regina College and St. Benedict College. The module targeted social workers, counsellors, and psychotherapists of the two targeted colleges. +30 participants took part in this first round of training. The training is composed of 3 phases as follow: IThe first phase of this assistance consisted in the completion of the recently launched [online self-paced training for academic and non-academic staff](#). This online self-paced training provided the knowledge basis on COP for social workers.
2. Following the completion of the online self-paced training, ITU Europe Office jointly with the ITU Child Online Protection unit delivered an onsite one-day ToT module on the 6<sup>th</sup> of December 2022. This module contained a series of activities and instructions to transform the knowledge gained into activities supporting the development of the teaching skills necessary to provide effective training. It also demonstrates how the COP guidelines can be used strategically to address COP challenges.





The third phase consists in the completion of a take home final assignment (until end of February 2023), to validate the knowledge and acquired and put them into practice. Upon good completion of this assignment, participants will receive an ITU certificate. Following this first module, it was decided that the assistance on the ToT will be extended to all state schools nationally in 2023.

### 5.4.3 Roll out of the ITU global project “Creating a safe and prosperous Cyberspace for children” in Albania



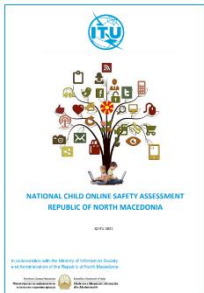
The National Authority on Electronic Certification and Cybersecurity (NAECCS) of Albania, raised the hand to become a pilot country for the ITU global project “Creating a safe and prosperous Cyberspace for children”. Within this context, ITU is supporting the NAECCS in rolling out the COP Guidelines at the national level, following the objective to foster a culture of child online protection with all relevant stakeholders through knowledge sharing and digital skills development. The start of the implementation of the ITU Global Project in Albania was announced during the event “Promoting Implementation of COPs in Albania”, which was organized by NAECCS and held on 29 September 2021. The implementation of the Global Project in Albania is planned to take place until March 2023.

As of October 2022, 190 secondary school students, 460 parents and educators, as well as 100 experts from Child Online Protection Units and Industry operators have been trained on the subject of child online protection based on the ITU COP Guidelines. In addition, 4500 single viewers have reached through a COP dedicated social media campaign.

More than 7,000 people were reached following a dissemination campaign on NAECCS social media channels and YouTube channel of three promotional videos that were elaborated with key messages for children, youths, parents and educators, and industry stakeholders. Circa. 500 people engaged by following the NAECCS’s social media channels; more than 100 people have participated in quizzes shared on Instagram stories.



#### 5.4.4 Assessment of the National Approach towards the Child Online Protection in North Macedonia



The ITU Office for Europe provided its assistance on the elaboration of a Child Online Protection National Assessment in North Macedonia in collaboration with the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. The Assessment includes qualitative and quantitative research, including interviews with relevant national stakeholders, and will lead to developing a strategy and operational roadmap based on identified challenges, opportunities, and recommendations. **A launching event** of the National Child Online Safety Assessment took place on **11 July 2022**. The event was open to all relevant stakeholders at the national level. The aim of the event was to present report details, conclusions and recommendations, as well as to inform, engage and mobilize all stakeholders. In conjunction with the awareness and stakeholder event, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Ministry of Information Society and Administration and the Ministry of Education and Science.

#### 5.4.5. UNWTO Global Youth Tourism – Special Session “Building trust and confidence to feel empowered online”



The special session “Building trust and confidence to feel empowered online” was organized by the ITU Office for Europe and was held on **29 June in Sorrento, Italy**, within the framework of the Global Youth Tourism Summit (GYTS) convened by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). was organized by the ITU Office for Europe and was held on **29 June in Sorrento, Italy**, within the framework of the Global Youth Tourism Summit (GYTS) convened by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).



This session aimed to be an interactive session to explore current digital challenges and opportunities from youth perspectives. In particular, it addressed the issue of **online risks and harms** such as cyberbullying, fake news, and Internet exploitation **and how to manage them** to ensure that the Youth was feeling empowered online and could **fully harness the benefits of the digital world**. The session also presented an opportunity for the delegates to learn broadly about the ITU, its Office for Europe, and be inspired to contribute to the international digital development dialogue.

#### 5.4.6. 16th International Conference “Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online”



The 16th International Conference “Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online” took place from the 27th to the 30th of September in a Hybrid format, in Warsaw, Poland, and online. The organization of the conference was led by the Polish Safer Internet Centre (PCPSI), which includes NASK National Research Institute and the Empowering Children Foundation. The event was co-financed by the European Union. The main partner of the conference was the Orange Foundation. The ITU was also a partner of this Conference under the framework of the ITU European Regional Initiative EUR4. Within this framework, ITU delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

The ITU Office for Europe and ITU Child Online Protection Global Unit also jointly hosted a special virtual workshop on “The importance of capacity building to ensure child online protection: An ITU demonstration”. on September 29, 2022. Following the approach of the ITU regarding COP, the workshop provided an overview of the importance of capacity building for all stakeholders (children and youth, parents, careers and educators, industry players, and policymakers) in the context of keeping children and youth safe online. It also focused on the knowledge to be acquired by educators with a demonstration of the recently launched ITU Online Self-paced Training for educators.

More information can be found at the dedicated webpage accessible here.



**ITUEvents**

The importance of capacity building to ensure child online protection: An ITU demonstration

Organized within the framework of the 16<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online"

29<sup>th</sup> September 2022 | 10:00 - 12:00 CEST  
Online Workshop

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CHILD ONLINE PROTECTION | CAPACITY BUILDING | THE ROLE OF EDUCATORS | ITU SELF-LED TRAINING

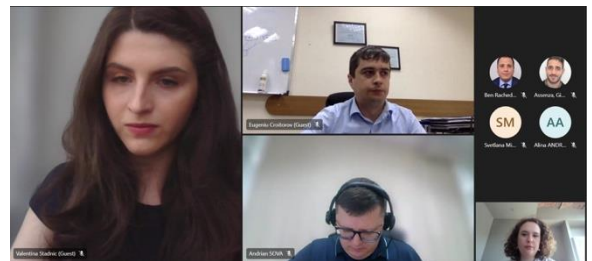
16th International Conference  
Keeping Children and Young People Safe Online  
29th to 30th September 2022

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### 5.4.7. CSIRT Readiness Assessment in Moldova

With the aim of strengthening the resilience of infrastructure and confidence in the use of ICTs in Moldova, the CSIRT readiness assessment is currently carried out in the country, being done in line with a new country’s strategy on digital transformation. The first phase of the assessment was successfully completed in January 2022.

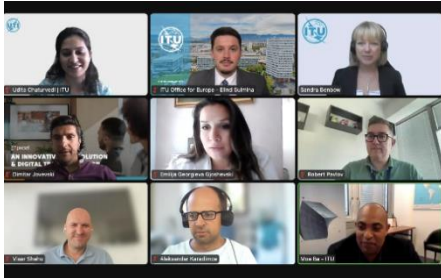
A workshop representing the second phase of the assessment was held on June 10 and offered an opportunity to validate the preliminary conclusions of the analysis and collect additional information.



The assessment with a set of recommendations based on which the country undertook further steps to improve the national cybersecurity posture and will take the decision to establish the national CSIRT was approved in September 2022. As the document was released in December 2022, it was updated to reflect the latest cybersecurity developments in the country.



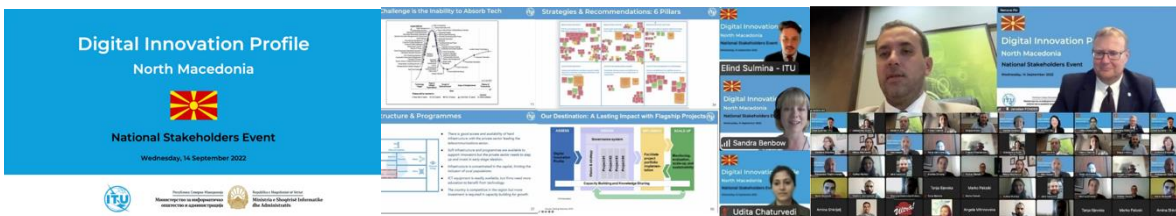




The national stakeholder event, which took place on 14 September 2022, was the main stage where the ITU team could present the initial results of this work, as this gave the opportunity to bring together all the relevant stakeholders of the country.

After having carried out thorough research and engaged with stakeholders, through one-on-one interviews and co-creation workshops, the assessment process came to the penultimate stages. ITU’s DIP team put together its findings about North Macedonia’s ecosystem and recommendations for its growth that can steer North Macedonia’s innovation journey in the right direction and presented it during the national stakeholders’ event.

The work for the Digital Innovation Profile for North Macedonia will be published in Q1/2023.



### 5.5.3 Digital Innovation Profile for Serbia



The Digital Innovation Profile for Serbia was produced in 2021 and required reviews and checks both from the ITU DIP team as well as the Government of the Republic of Serbia. The official handover of the DIP for Serbia is expected to be published in January 2023.



## 5.5.4 Building upon the conclusions of the ITU Report on Regional Good Practices: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation in Europe

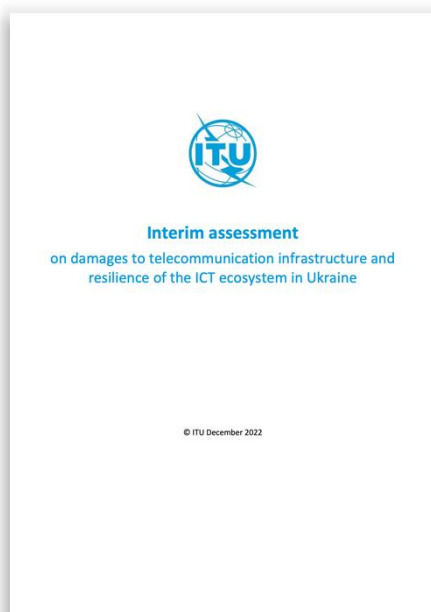


Report on 'Regional Good Practices: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation' has been completed and published, providing a basis for a series of discussions with countries on potential assistance in the field of building innovation ecosystem at the national level.

This report provides an overview of the comparative innovation capacity of the European region through ICT-centric innovation policy monitors and insight on how good practices can strengthen capacity to integrate ICT innovation into national development agendas. The full report can be accessed here:

[https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Publications/GOOD\\_PRACT.03-2021-PDF-E.pdf](https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Documents/Publications/GOOD_PRACT.03-2021-PDF-E.pdf)

## 6 Follow up to the implementation of the ITU Council Resolutions 1408 on Assistance and Support to Ukraine for Rebuilding of their Telecommunication Sector



At the recent ITU Council, March 2022, the ITU Council Resolution 1408 on "Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector" has been adopted. As an immediate response to this resolution, a number of actions have been undertaken so far, including:

- A Special TaskForce on Resolution 1408 was established at the level of the General Secretariat to coordinate intersectoral response to any issues related to the implementation of the Resolution;
- Regular coordination with the UN Resident Coordinator and Administration of Ukraine was introduced, aiming to identify the particular needs of the Country, and to prepare the proposals for effective technical assistance;
- Special coordination on Ukraine has been kicked off at the level of the UN Digital Transformation Group for Europe and Central Asia, being part of the UN Sustainable Development System Regional Coordination Platform, the group intends to strengthen action of One UN assisting Ukraine on Digital;

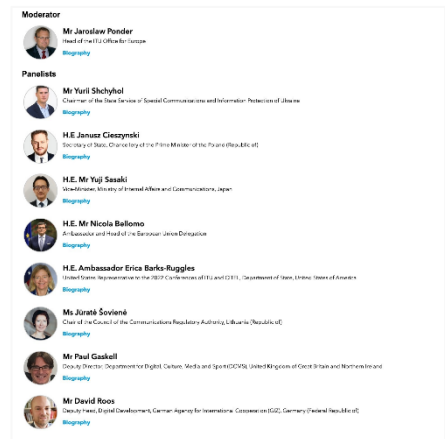




- Coordination on the methodology on telecommunication and broadcasting infrastructure assessments, establishing its resilience and taking note of the damage has been carried out and the Project Team is about to kick off the work;
- Preliminary assessment of financial needs necessary for the implementation of the Resolution and appropriate internal mechanisms enabling swift implementation of the Resolution were reviewed;
- A Special Fund in Trust dedicated to the implementation of the Resolution 1408 was established and circular sent out;
- Following the guidance of the Membership, the Partner2Connect Digital Coalition Mechanism will be used to mobilize commitment of the Member States to the process of rebuilding the ICT and broadcasting infrastructure in Ukraine;
- A special pledging session was held within the framework of the Partner 2 Connect Digital Development Roundtables. Session took place on 9 June 2022, 11:30 – 12:00, offering stakeholders to voice out their pledges.

Many relevant stakeholders from the Europe Region and beyond pledged in favor of Ukraine. The countries that presented on stage were Poland, Lithuania, Spain, Estonia, Sweden, Japan, the European Union, The United States of America, Germany and United Kingdom. The following presents an overview of the pledges collected during the P2C session.

All stakeholders are kindly invited to provide financial contributions to the Fund in Trust or submit their Pledge to [eurregion@itu.int](mailto:eurregion@itu.int).



Name of organization submitting this pledge	Name of organization submitting this pledge2	Location of HQ	Type of organization	Name of pledge	Pledge Type	(USD) Estimated financial value	Number of people targeted
Poland	Chancellery of the Prime Minister of Poland	POL	Government	Poland's pledge on countermeasures to the Russian Federation's aggression against Ukraine	Advocacy	1,400,000	5,000,000
Lithuania	Communications Regulatory Authority, Lithuania	LTU	Communications Regulatory Authority and Ministry of Transport and Communications	Assistance and support to Ukraine for rebuilding their telecommunication sector	Programmatic	22,000	44'000'000
Spain				Spanish Assistance to Ukraine	Policy	20,500,000	41,460,000
Estonia	Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	EST	Government	Estonia's pledge for assistance and support to Ukraine	Programmatic	N/A	44'000'000
Sweden	Republic of Slovenia	SVN	Government	Support to Ukraine	Financial	270,000	44'000'000
Japan	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan	JAP	Government	Support to Ukraine for new task force	Financial	100,000 CHF (104,000 USD)	44'000'000
European Union	European External Action Service/European Commission/European Union	BEL	International Organisation	Support to Ukraine	Financial/Programmatic	4,160,000,000 EUR (4,400,000,000 USD)	44'000'000
United States of America	Department of States, United States of America	USA	Government	Support to Ukraine	Programmatic	N/A	44'000'000
Germany	The German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)	DEU	Government	Support to Ukraine in building up the digital public infrastructure	Programmatic	N/A	44'000'000
United Kingdom	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	GBR	Government	Support to Ukraine against cyberthreats	Programmatic	8'000'000	44'000'000

As a result of the Council Resolution 1408, ITU engaged with Ukraine in assessing the telecommunication infrastructure damages the countries had experienced thus far. Upon request from Ukraine, ITU in coordination with Lithuania proceeded with drafting of the report titled "ITU assessment report on Telecommunication Infrastructure Damages and Resilience of the ICT Ecosystem in Ukraine".



This report was developed by the ITU Office for Europe in close collaboration with the Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDTU), National Commission for the State Regulation of Electronic Communications, Radiofrequency Spectrum and the Provision of Postal Services (NCEC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFAU) as well as the State Service of Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine (SSSCIP).

The Assessment Report was developed in close collaboration with public and private sectors of Ukraine, to determine the nature and extent of the losses, damages and harm caused by the war to the ICT ecosystem of the country. It provides information about sustainability and resilience of the telecommunication market, supported by timely amendments to the policies and regulations, and deployment of emergency plans and measures by the State authorities. Finally, the report develops recommendations on the actions required to effectively restore/rebuild the ICT infrastructure of the regions, which have been suffering military aggression since 24 February 2022.

## 6.1 ITU Academy Training Centres – the ITU’s new flagship programme to develop the capacity of ICT professionals across the globe

**ITU Academy**  
TRAINING CENTRES



Starting in 2023, one of ITU’s key training delivery mechanisms, the Centres of Excellence programme will be relaunched as the ITU Academy Training Centres (ATCs) programme, following the outcomes of the World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2022 where the ITU membership adopted the revised Resolution 73.

The ITU Academy Training Centres programme takes the ITU's capacity development work forward into the future. It will directly contribute to building knowledge and skills among professionals in the ICT field thus enabling them to contribute to, and fully participate, in the digital transformation.





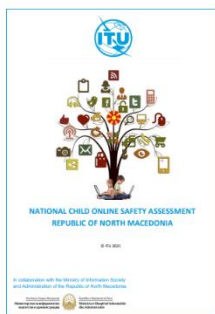
## 7 Flagship reports launched in 2022

All reports and publications are an important milestone of the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives ensuring evidence based approach applied in the actions undertaken across the region. More information on publications and reports relevant to the Europe region can be [consulted here](#).

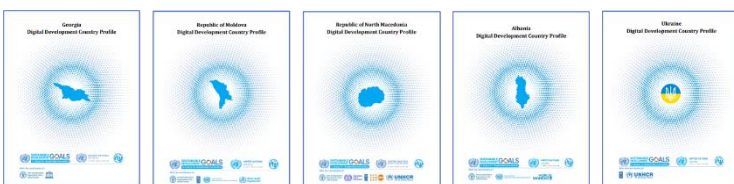
### The following presents a series of report published in 2022:



The [National Digital Skills Assessment for North Macedonia](#) has been completed upon the request of, and in collaboration with, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. The purpose of the report was to assess the current supply and demand of digital skills in North Macedonia, to contribute to the development of a digital skills strategy that will meet citizen needs, and to contribute to further growth of the digital economy and digital society. The assessment results are delivered in a set of explicit and implementable recommendations. The scope includes in particular an assessment of basic digital skills in the private sector, start-ups, and the education sector, as well as an assessment of the current demand for all levels of digital skills across the economy.



The National Child Online Safety Assessment for North Macedonia has been completed upon the request of, and in collaboration with, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration. The assessment also benefitted from the collaboration of the Ministry of Education. This report covers a State assessment of the existing situation, supplemented by existing statistical sources, covering infrastructure, education, organizational activities and child protection legislation as well as a summary of current issues with associated online safety provision together with any specific recommendation. It concludes by suggested areas for a national online safety strategy and action plan to consider and cover.



### Digital Development Country Profiles:

The aim of the Digital Development Country Profiles series is to provide a comparable analysis for priority countries of the European region, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

The Report addresses digital transformation based on the various experiences of the ITU, the UN specialized agency for ICTs, and other UN system organizations, offering a broad overview of the activities and projects being implemented at the national level and in the wider region. All country profiles benefitted from the latest update in February 2022, and two new country profiles were finalized as of February 2022, namely Albania and Ukraine.

- [Digital Development Country Profile – Albania](#)



