



# ITU Global Innovation Forum 2020

## Regional Forum for Europe

### Unlock your digital ecosystem's potential

29 October 2020 | Virtual | 13:00–17:00 GMT+1

Organised within the framework of the  
[ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT-Centric Innovation Ecosystems](#)

Supported by the Office of the Commissioner of Communications, Cyprus



More information and [registration](#) at [http://itu.int/go/EUR\\_RIF20](http://itu.int/go/EUR_RIF20)

The conference will take place in English.

## CONCEPT NOTE

### CONTEXT

This event is organized within the framework of the [2020 ITU Global Innovation Forum](#). The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of digital technologies in enabling economic growth, entrepreneurship, digital inclusion and the capacity to respond quickly to new challenges in a time of unprecedented crisis. It has revealed the shortcomings of many systems, but also accelerated the pace of digital transformation of economies at large.

The Regional Innovation Forum for Europe will empower participants with new approaches, insights, tools, frameworks, communities and relevant case studies to understand how to mainstream sustainable ecosystems that accelerate digital transformation in Europe.

### OBJECTIVE

This one-day forum aims to build regional and national capacities by identifying, pitching and highlighting successful projects and/or initiatives, policies and programmes in developing digital ecosystems. The programme builds upon the recently launched ITU toolkit, [Bridging the digital innovation divide: A toolkit for strengthening ICT centric ecosystems](#), and will be supported by a series of national and regional best practices and initiatives fostering ICT-centric innovation and digital transformation. This event is organized within the framework of the ITU European Regional Initiative on Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Youth, adopted by the [World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017](#) (WTDC-17), Buenos Aires.

It also contributes to the digital integration, one of the pillars of the RCC-coordinated Multi-annual Action Plan for a Regional Economic Area in the Western Balkans, endorsed by WB6 Leaders at the



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Trieste Summit of the Berlin process (12 July 2017), in particular focusing on promoting uptake of smart technologies and accelerating digital transformation, as well as supporting skills development and access to digital talent.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

This forum targets all stakeholders involved in **nurturing digital innovation**, with a particular emphasis on the stakeholders in the sectors facing the biggest opportunities and challenges in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as **tourism, commerce, digital inclusion, digital health, online learning, public services** and **digital agriculture**. Particularly, this agenda has been customized for the needs of ICT policy makers, regulators, tech incubators, national innovation agencies, development agencies, entrepreneurs, ecosystem builders, academia as well as institutions willing to undertake national reviews on the ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and develop coherent approaches to move countries towards an innovation driven economy.

### EXPECTED RESULTS

This forum is designed to empower participants with the methodology, frameworks, tools and context-relevant case studies to accelerate digital transformation through promoting innovation and entrepreneurship. Furthermore, participants will also be able to get to know projects or initiatives that are conducive to a digital innovation ecosystem.

### ORGANIZERS

The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** is the United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs). ITU is committed to connecting all the world's people – wherever they live and whatever their means. Through their work, they protect and support everyone's fundamental right to communicate. The Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D), one of the three pillars of ITU, fosters international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication and ICT equipment and networks in developing countries.

The **Office of the Commissioner of Communications of Cyprus** is responsible for the development of the electronic communications market. The office is also responsible for the cybersecurity of critical infrastructure as well as the operation of the National Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT). The promotion of innovation and digital ecosystems in general aligns fully with their targets as it helps enhance the digital posture of the country and consequently the development of the electronic communications market. Their aim is to ensure that this development will be take place in a cybersecure way.

