



**Telecommunication  
Development Bureau (BDT)**

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- Administrations of ITU Member States
- ICT Ministries
- Regulators
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional Organizations from Europe
- UN Organizations
- European Youth Organizations

**Subject: Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The *Road to Addis* was launched on 9 November, to preview and build momentum towards the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC-21). On this occasion, the "Generation Connect" global initiative (<https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/>) was announced. It aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today's digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future. In this context I have also called for nominations to join the Generation Connect Visionaries Board (see circular [BDT/DNS/DGS/067](#) of 24 November). The Visionaries Board's goal is to provide strategic guidance to ITU on youth participation and empowerment, amongst other issues.

With the objective of further strengthening the engagement of Youth at the regional level, I am pleased to announce the establishment of the **Generation Connect – Europe Youth Group (GC-EUR)** (<https://www.itu.int/go/Generation-Connect-Europe>) and to invite your organization to provide support for this effort.

GC-EUR aims at providing a unique participative process for youth to contribute to the work of ITU in the European region. It will offer European youth a virtual platform to discuss opportunities and challenges related to digital technologies. Through this platform, youth will be consulted and able to share with ITU membership their interests, concerns and perspectives on digital transformation, especially in the context of the upcoming [ITU Europe Regional Preparatory Meeting](#) (RPM-EUR) for WTDC-21 to be held virtually from 18 to 19 January 2021.

GC-EUR will work toward the creation of a crowd-sourced document to be presented by the representatives of GC-EUR at the RPM-EUR. Afterwards, GC-EUR will continue its work, providing valuable contributions related to the organization of the **WTDC-21 Generation Connect Global Youth Summit** to be held on 6-7 November 2021, back to back with WTDC-21, 8-19 November 2021, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The Generation Connect initiative has been launched in line with the ITU Youth Strategy which 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. GC-EUR will also contribute to the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on

Digital Inclusion and will benefit from the support of the Conference of the European Postal and Telecommunication Administrations (CEPT).

In this context, a **Call for Nominations of the Members of the GC-EUR** to become digital youth envoys for Europe is being launched. This call targets all European youth between 18 and 24 who have an interest and/or experience and knowledge in the field of digital technologies and digital transformation. They should possess strong communication, analytical and writing skills, the ability to work remotely in teams, and have an advanced level of English. European youth are kindly invited to submit their candidatures through the **online form** by **3 December 2020, 11:59 p.m. CET**. After an in-depth analysis of all candidatures the composition of the group will be announced by **5 December 2020**. The kick-off meeting of GC-EUR will take place on **8 December 2020**. More information on GC-EUR is available at <https://www.itu.int/go/Generation-Connect-Europe>.

I would like to take this opportunity to affirm the importance I attach to the effective implementation of the ITU Youth Strategy, this concrete initiative being an effective action in this regard. The current challenges around the world only confirm the urgent need to enhance the meaningful involvement of youth, not only as participants but also and above all as contributors, partners and actors of change, in digital cooperation processes. Indeed, as “digital natives” young people have valuable knowledge and expertise to share regarding digital technologies and as the future generation of the digital world, they are the future recipients of all policies regarding digital technologies.

I invite all of our European Membership to work with us to ensure the success of this initiative. I would highly appreciate if you would activate youth networks in your countries to ensure that all countries are represented in this transformational effort.

Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (Email: [EURregion@itu.int](mailto:EURregion@itu.int); Phone: +41 22 730 5467), is at your disposal should you require any further information.

I look forward to your support for this important initiative.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin  
Director