



Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)



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Geneva, 9 February 2021

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- Regulators
- ITU Sector Members
- Academia
- Regional and International Organizations from Europe

**Subject: ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Meaningful Connectivity, 8-9 March 2021,
Online Meeting**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to participate in the ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Meaningful Connectivity to be organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) with the support of the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia. The Forum will be held remotely on 8 and 9 March 2021.

This Forum is organized within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on Broadband Infrastructure, Broadcasting and Spectrum Management adopted by the World Telecommunication Development Conference in 2017 (WTDC-17) that aims at facilitating high-speed connectivity with resilient and synergistic infrastructure development, deployment and sharing.

Building upon the newly released ITU report on [Digital Trends in Europe 2021](#) the Forum will provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between stakeholders on strategies and policies aimed at connecting the unconnected and at ensuring that connectivity is leveraged meaningfully, thereby contributing to social and economic development and accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Forum will focus on:

- The digital divide in Europe: From connecting the unconnected towards meaningful connectivity
- Connecting rural areas in Europe: Regional and national approaches
- Use of ICTs in public institutions: A focus on connecting schools
- Fostering digital skills development: Supporting demand creation for meaningful connectivity.

The outcomes of the Forum will contribute to the work of ITU, including the activities undertaken by the ITU Study Groups, as well as other initiatives undertaken in line with ITU Connect Agenda 2030 and the [UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#).

The results of the discussions will also feed into ITU's work streams relating to the projects on "ITU Interactive Transmission Maps"; "Giga – Connecting every school to the Internet" and "Supporting investment opportunity mapping systems in broadband infrastructure for South Eastern Europe". A project laboratory will be held on the second day of the event.

Documents related to this event, including the Agenda and presentations, will be made available on the ITU website at <http://www.itu.int/go/EUR-MC-2021>.

To participate, please register online using the link available on the webpage no later than **3 March 2021**. The information as well as links to connect to the online platform will be provided to participants upon registration.

Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe (tel: +41 22 730 6065, e-mail: eurregion@itu.int) is at your full disposal for any questions you might have concerning this event.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director



ITU Regional Forum for Europe on Meaningful Connectivity

This Regional Forum for Europe is held within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on “Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting, and spectrum management”, and is related to the work of [ITU-D Study Groups Question 1/1](#) on “Strategies and policies for the deployment of broadband in developing countries”, [Question 5/1](#) on “Telecommunications/ICTs for rural and remote areas”, [Question 1/2](#) on “Creating smart cities and society” as well as to the projects on “[ITU Interactive Transmission Maps](#)” and “[Supporting Investment Opportunity Mapping Systems in Broadband Infrastructure for South Eastern Europe](#)”. It is organized by the International Telecommunication Union and supported by the Ministry of Public Administration of the Republic of Slovenia

<https://itu.int/go/EUR-MC-2021>

8-9 March 2021 | Virtual



Ministry of Public Administration
Republic of Slovenia

Draft AGENDA

Monday | 8 March 2021

[9:45 – 10:00]	Virtual Networking
[10:00– 10:15]	Opening Ceremony
[10:15 – 11:30]	Session 1: The Digital Divide in Europe: from Connecting the Unconnected towards Meaningful Connectivity Focus: Addressing the changing paradigm in the age of pandemic to ensure purposeful use of connectivity
[11:30 – 11:40]	Coffee break
[11:40 – 13:00]	Session 2: Connecting Rural Areas in Europe: regional and national approaches Focus: Closing the service divide in rural areas of Europe region through last mile connectivity initiatives and other means.
[13:00 – 13:30]	Lunch break
[13:30 – 14:45]	Session 3: Use of ICTs in Public institutions: a focus on connecting Schools Focus: delivering digital public goods in schools fostering meaningful connectivity in Youth
[14:45 – 16:00]	Session 4: Fostering Digital Skills development: supporting demand creation for Meaningful Connectivity Focus: empowering individuals for effective in the use of connectivity and digital technologies supporting social and economic development
[16:00 – 16:15]	Conclusions of Day One

Tuesday | 9 March 2021

*[9:45 – 10:00]	Virtual Networking
[10:00– 12:00]	Project Laboratory
[12.00 – 12.15]	Conclusions of Day Two and Way Forward
