



هيئة الاتصالات والفضاء والتقنية  
Communications, Space &  
Technology Commission



أكاديمية التنظيمات الرقمية  
DIGITAL REGULATORY ACADEMY

## Training Workshop on Digital Regulation for Arab States

8 November 2023  
Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

***Organized in the framework of the ITU Regional Development Forum for Arab Region (RDF-ARB) –  
Accelerating the digital development in Arab Region***

### **Objective**

To better equip participants in addressing the challenges of digital transformation, ensuring user protection, and fostering competitive environments for the private sector, this workshop aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of policy and regulatory approaches within the digital ecosystem. It underscores the significance of collaborative regulatory strategies; especially as digital transformation impacts various sectors. Additionally, the workshop offers insights into the latest regulatory developments and global trends.

This workshop is organized by ITU with the kind support of Saudi Arabia as part of the collaboration between Saudi Arabia and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on assistance in telecommunication/ICTs to ITU Member States, and other partners.

### **Expected Outcome**

The intended learning outcomes of this workshop are designed to equip ICT/Telecommunications regulators, regulatory agencies, ICT policymakers, and sector members dealing with regulatory affairs with the key capabilities that include: the ability to develop effective digital transformation strategies, understand the roles within the digital ecosystem, and grasp the evolution of regulatory frameworks and their wide-reaching impact on markets, policies, businesses, and consumers.

Furthermore, participants will delve into regulatory insights, exploring and analysing crucial issues in the fast-changing digital landscape. They will learn to adapt to this dynamic environment by distinguishing new developments from foundational principles, while also understanding the significance of collaborative governance in addressing regulatory challenges. Additionally, they will acquire the skills needed to implement industry-best practices for enhanced regulatory decision-making, contributing to the growth and sustainability of the ICT/Telecommunications sector.

### **Target Audience**

The target audience for this workshop is ICT/Telecommunications regulators, other relevant regulatory agencies, ICT policymakers and staff from sector members dealing with regulatory affairs.

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

**Workshop Moderator:** [Dr. Mustafa Almahdi](#), Programme Officer, ITU

**Workshop Instructor:** [Dr. Miriam Stankovich](#)

Time	Sessions/Topics covered	Description
9h00-09h30	<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <a href="#">Mr. Adel Darwish</a>, Regional Director, ITU Arab Regional Office for Arab States</li><li>- <a href="#">Mr Ahmed S. Alrahmah</a>, Advisor, International Affairs, Director, Digital Regulatory Academy (DRA), Communications, Space, and Technology Commission (CST), Saudi Arabia</li></ul>
9h30-10h30	<b>Session 1: Introduction to the training and ITU's regulatory tools and frameworks</b>	This introductory session will provide an overview of digital regulation, collaborative governance and regulatory tools developed by ITU to assist policy makers and regulators in making informed and evidence-based decisions.
10h30-11h00	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
11h00-12h00	<b>Session 2: Developing a digital transformation strategy</b>	This session examines the necessary steps and essential elements to be considered when developing a national digital transformation strategy by examining what needs to be achieved, why it is important, and how to do it. The purpose of this session is to provide concrete guidance in implementing the 4 phases of the digital transformation development cycle.
12h00-13h00	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
13h00-14h00	<b>Session 3: Innovative approaches to regulation: ICT Regulatory sandboxes</b>	This session will examine the establishment and management of an ICT regulatory sandbox, explaining the different steps and stages of the process from conceptualizing a sandbox, to its operationalization, and implementation. The session will further provide participants with the opportunity to learn from the benefits and risks of sandboxes, and from the roles of the different stakeholders.
14h00-15h00	<b>Session 4: Emerging technologies and evolving regulation</b>	Artificial intelligence (AI), big data, blockchain, machine learning, Industry 4.0, and the Internet of Things (IoT) are not just buzzwords: they impact agriculture, communications, energy, healthcare, infrastructure, social welfare, and transportation. While emerging technologies may contribute to positive social change,

		they can also pose risks and dangers if left unchecked. This session will examine the implications of these digital technologies (e.g., AI, big data, IoT, blockchain, etc.) on regulation and policy, the role of regulators, and the impact of emerging technologies on business, access, and use. The session will cultivate the critical skills necessary for assessing emerging technologies' strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and introduce frameworks for developing regulatory responses tailored to particular contexts.
15h00-15h30	<b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	
15h30-16h30	<b>Session 5: Competition and Economics in the Digital Economy</b>	<p>This session will examine how the new digital environment is challenging traditional models of competition regulation and creating new market dynamics that require different approaches to economic regulation. The session will address market definition and analysis in a digital environment, including determining significant market power, adopting appropriate ex-post and ex-ante remedies, addressing network effects of digital platforms, and establishing rules for mergers. Key topics covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools for measurement and analysis</li> <li>• Examples of KPIs for competition</li> <li>• Retail price regulation</li> <li>• The concept of "dominance"</li> <li>• Authorization/licensing models</li> <li>• Price discrimination</li> <li>• Mergers and acquisitions</li> <li>• Online dispute resolution</li> </ul> <p>Case studies</p>

**Facilitator and Trainer:**

Dr. Miriam Stankovich, Senior Digital Policy Expert, DAI

**Training Workshop Coordination:**

Dr. Mustafa Almahdi, Programme Officer, ITU ([mustafa.almahdi@itu.int](mailto:mustafa.almahdi@itu.int))