



MAIN OUTCOMES

1 Introduction

The ITU Regional Development Forum for the Europe (RDF-EUR) was organized by the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Budva, Montenegro, from 27 to 28 September 2016, in collaboration with the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP). The Forum was held back to back with the [Regional Conference on "Regulation of Electronic Communications Market"](#).

The overall theme for this Forum is ICTs for Sustainable Development.

The objective of the ITU Regional Development Forums (RDFs) was to provide an opportunity for high-level dialogue between the BDT and decision-makers, governments and regulators, of ITU Member States and Sector Members. RDFs serve as a platform for assessing strategic orientations that may have an impact on BDT's regional work plan in between World Telecommunication Development Conferences. In this context, these Forums aim at reporting on the activities of the Dubai Action Plan, with particular emphasis on regional initiatives in order to get feedback from membership to adjust BDT's work in the regions.

A major aim of the RDF-EUR was to review the three-year implementation plan (2015-2017) for the five European regional initiatives adopted by WTDC-14 in the areas of innovation, broadband, spectrum and broadcasting, cybersecurity and accessibility. The implementation plan is based on a series of proposals and commitments from Secretariat, Member States and other stakeholders. The Forum also provided an opportunity for continued dialogue on the ITU Strategic Plan for 2016-2019 and on strengthening synergies between regional initiatives and the activities of ITU-D study groups, ITU Academy, ITU Centres of Excellence, Academia and membership.

2 Participation

The meeting was attended by more than 60 participants representing 14 Member States from the region, including 1 international financial development institution, 3 regional organisations and 1 international body. The list of participants can be found [here](#).

3 Documentation

RDF-EUR was paperless. 30 presentations/speeches were delivered during the meeting. Relevant documentation, including the agenda, presentations and Reference Materials were made available at the RDF-EUR [website](#).

4 Opening ceremony

The following dignitaries addressed the opening ceremony: Mr Brahim Sanou, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau, ITU; Mr Zoran Sekulić, Executive Director, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, (EKIP) Montenegro; Ms Fiona McCluney, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for Montenegro; Mr Manuel da Costa Cabral, Chairman, Com-ITU of CEPT (The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations); Mr Goran Svilanović, Secretary General, The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC). The speeches are available on the [RDF-EUR website](#).

5 High-Level Round Table

RDF-EUR benefited from a dynamic roundtable discussion on ***National and Regional Strategies Fostering the Growth of Digital Economy for Sustainable Development***. The session was moderated by Mr Jaroslav Ponder, ITU Europe Coordinator. Participants were

- **Mr Brahim Sanou**, Director, Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT), International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- **H.E. Vujica Lazović**, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister, Ministry of Information Society and Telecommunications, Montenegro
- **H.E. Milena Harito Shteto**, Minister, Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration, Albania
- **H.E. Saša Dalipagić**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Communications and Transport, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **Mr Zoran Sekulic**, Executive Director, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services, Montenegro
- **H.E. Karol Okoński**, Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland
- ~~**H.E. Tatjana Matić**, State Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia~~
- **Mr Franc Dolenc**, Director of the Agency for Communication Networks and Services of the Republic of Slovenia
- **Mr Goran Svilanović**, Secretary General, The Regional Cooperation Council (RCC)

Key discussions

H.E. Vujica Lazović stressed on the pivotal role of broadband access as an enabler for the information society which will trigger social development. He elaborated on the Digital Montenegro plan which aligns with the European Digital agenda 2020 and addresses ICT development from 3 perspectives namely ***infrastructure, information society and electronic economy***.

H.E. Milena Harito Shteto shared with all her strong belief that ICT can be a real mean to reinforce cooperation among the young and needs to be acted upon very fast for effective progress in the region. The development of the digital infrastructure and interoperability of services permeating regional borders should be on the agenda. The support of international partners such as ABRD, World Bank and ITU must be availed of for regional as well as in-country ICT initiatives. She provided an overview of Albania's ICT evolution. With a population of 4.5 million where the average age is 34 years old, there is a strong desire and will to give the young generation hope to stay in the region through decent if not challenging jobs. With 33% household internet penetration, ICT accessibility to mountainous and remote areas is being addressed through a regional EU project to bring broadband in such areas. Albania is witnessing a lot of activities around digital payments, online banking, mobile payment and M-PESA. Government is being transformed to become citizen centric where Government is brought closer to citizens via a project of World Bank and UNDP for streamlining and simplifying online services and related procedures. Citizen one stop shops with strong backup support are in place together with eservices such as eprocurement, esignature and enabling policies such as the open data policy and the national broadband policy. Education is being transformed via ICT with the presence of digital labs in schools and provision of tablets to students. E-health is currently addressed through the government online portal (allows citizens to print their health cards), better telehealth and telemedicine. All government vacancies are available online and all State databases are interconnected. New projects include a national geoportal for better land and territory management and the innovation hub which promotes development of more startups. She requested ITU to look into a regional initiative to help the youth in ICT entrepreneurship and innovation.

H.E. Saša Dalipagić made an appeal for south eastern european countries to develop ICT through collaboration. In line with its sustainable development goals, Bosnia and Herzegovina has applied for accession to EU. In this context, the legal system for business exchanges including electronic ones is being analysed for future alignment. A new electronic signature legislation is thus being prepared together with

the adoption of ISO 27000 information security standards. A development policy in line with Europe 2020 and SEE2020 is required. Immediate and continuous actions are needed for the creation of a sustainable information society and for the reduction of regional disparities. Collaboration with members in the region and with EU through a synergy to resolve issues in a more efficient and effective way is needed.

H.E. Karol Okoński stressed that we should be ambitious in moving forward our digital economy and removing obstacles that do not stimulate innovation (current procurement laws is blocking factor in Poland). He advocated a new model of country development based on 5 pillars: reindustrialization, development of innovative companies, funding development, foreign expansion, social and regional development. He stressed on Poland's responsible development plan which is a strategy for sustainable economic development triggering the digitization of Poland and development of innovation. Actions within the Plan include law improvement, stimulating the development of companies and their innovativeness, close cooperation with private sector, linking innovation with other policies, such as industrial policies.

Mr Zoran Sekulic elaborated on the need for eGovernment services, telemedicine, mobile banking for economic, social and cultural progress. All countries in the region must embrace the global advances in broadband, IoT and complete engagements for interconnections, interoperability and developing capacity for local content. In parallel, the need to mitigate the risks of abuse when new infrastructure is deployed must be given due consideration. ICT accessibility and affordability in rural scarcely populated inaccessible places must be in the forefront as part of the wider goal of high quality and efficient use of ICTs for entire society where jobs are created and socio economic disparities reduced.

Mr Franc Dolenc conveyed the regards and support from his Minister for the RDF. He believes that the social concept of innovation is not addressed in the European information society which is therefore not as efficient as Silicon Valley or other countries such as China. There is a need to focus on start-ups and on bringing usual partners from industry verticals (and not just ICT engineers) together. The Internet is now perceived as a critical infrastructure and is in need for regulation in some areas especially in the light of services such as Facebook, Uber, Alibaba, What's App and more. Slovenian government is building 3 cost effective clouds centralised for state and innovative (private) services to be deployment faster (in days and not years) and smarter. There is a need to recognise the importance of open data which is the oil of the future information society. Everything not confidential can be a basis for innovation as exemplified by data usage made by Google and Facebook. The use of big data analytics for education, learning and experimentation must be promoted. Slovenia is proud of the extremely fast deployment of its 4G network. He believes that the region has a diversity of language, culture, legal system with much opportunity to optimise, think globally and act with local/regional solutions. He advocated the need to try to use as little as possible of state money and develop ICT through innovative partnerships to live up to the challenge of giving a better life to all.

Mr Goran Svilanović highlighted the two ICT regional issues namely roaming and broadband on which his organisation is focussed. He proposes to bring on board Albania and Kosovo in the regional roaming initiative which currently involves Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro and Macedonia. He also wishes to see more involvement of telecom operators as well as regulators in the discussions. He pointed out that regional roaming could be completed even before some members join EU and being given that telecom service operators are mainly from EU nations, they can therefore already apply EU rules when deploying international roaming. His organisation will be sharing the results of a regional study on roaming with all by end of October 2016. He informed all of a study on potential regional broadband infrastructure sharing initiative by World Bank. The support of Chambers of Commerce of all countries as a key partner in building the digital economy was proposed.

Mr Sanou urged all participants to act fast with a responsible regional ICT development plan that includes interoperability and should now include big data and open data as part of the infrastructure to build the digital economy. He highlighted the use ICT to enhance the cultural dimension of human kind and the social concept of innovation. He strongly believes in putting collaboration at the centre of everything including ICT where roaming has become part of the global infrastructure. He appreciated the concept of transparency enshrine in bringing Government to people. ICT can in today's Forum stand for **Innovation - Collaboration - Transparency**.

There was consensus in concluding that the RDF is a relevant platform for the exchange of information on current status, new plans and for generating new ideas to put Information society creation on a fast track for socio-economic development. While acknowledging involvement so far, Member States were requested to fully participate in the WTDC preparatory meeting to be held on 26-28 April 2017 in Vilnius.

6 Review of the Implementation of the Regional Initiatives for Europe Adopted at the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2014 (WTDC-14) with Emphasis on Lessons

The session began with a comprehensive report on the progress in the implementation of Regional Initiatives for Europe by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Coordinator for Europe Region, ITU. Mr Ponder walked through the evolution of the WTDC initiatives 2010 to 2014 and invited proposals for actions based on what countries need for 2017 while keeping in mind WTDC 2017 preparations that would require formulation of new initiatives in the near future. The bottom up approach taken was highlighted.

He elaborated on

- the partnership with EC on broadband mapping and in country work done by ITU
- ITU work with broadcasters (European broadcasting Union) for ICT accessibility for persons with disabilities
- the strengthening the existing non ITU platforms instead of creating new ones in the area of Child Online Protection
- bringing in right partners such as ENISA and Council of Europe for building confidence in the use of ICTs
- entrepreneurship, innovation and youth as probably the most talked about and
- upcoming future area of action

The Challenges, Opportunities and Commitments were further discussed for the specific initiatives following the presentations of experts and stakeholders.

6.1 Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

- Mr Tamir Mostarac, Associate Director, Senior Banker, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) ("Working with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Information & Communication Technologies (ICT) Sector")
- Mrs. Latinka Razpopova, Chief Expert, Development of Electronic Communications Department, Communications Directorate, Ministry of Transport, Information Technology and Communications (MTITC) of Bulgaria
- Mr. Bozo Krstajic, National Internet Exchange Programm (IXP), Montenegro
- Mr. Shefqet Meda, Director, Technical Regulation and Infrastructure Department, Electronic and Postal Communications Authority (AKEP), Albania
- Mr. Jose Toscano, Director General and Chief Executive Officer, International Telecommunication Satellite Organization (ITSO) ("Satellite: A Compelling and Effective Solution to Bridge the Broadband Divide")

Session highlights towards possible proposals

- The funding approaches of EBRD were explained with concrete examples. Some direct in country technical assistance were highlighted. Countries at RDF level may formulate in country or regional actions where support of EBRD may be envisaged.
- Bulgaria has prepared a draft law on Electronic Communications Networks and Physical Infrastructure:
 - To transpose the provisions of Directive 2014/61/EU
 - To apply measures to reduce the cost of deploying high-speed electronic communications networks
- Montenegro set up its MIXP in 2015 with the following benefits:
 - Optimised bandwidth usage hence better quality of Internet access service

- Improved the routing efficiency by containment of local traffic within the country
- Improved security of local communications
- Lowered prices for some services,
- Future plans and possible regional proposals include
 - Caching global services and contents most commonly used in the local community within the IXP
 - Connecting with the neighboring IXPs
 - Connecting with more significant global ISPs
- ITU twinning project where Slovenia provided assistance to Albania in preparing technical specifications for upgrade of broadband infrastructure mapping.
- Considering that 70% of people who do not have access to broadband infrastructure are in rural areas, regulators and governments were invited to assess the financial and regulatory viability of embracing satellite communications as a possible solution to bridge the digital divide especially where accessibility is restrained. ITSO can assist with information to reach sustainable decisions, training and indicate avenues of implementation including funding.

6.2 Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting

- Mr. Zoran Branković, Regulatory Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (RATEL), Serbia (“An Overview of 4G Implementation Status in Serbia”)

Session highlights towards possible proposals

- Goals for spectrum management may include:
 - Creating conditions for the development of electronic communications
 - Fostering competition of electronic networks and services
 - Improving capacity and quality of networks
 - Development of the electronic communications market
 - Protection of the interests of users of electronic communications
- In Serbia, the transition from analogue to digital TV was completed in June 2015 and the RF band 790-862MHz is reassigned from broadcast to public electronic communication services for IMT system (IMT-2000 and IMT-Advanced) on a technology neutral basis.
- RATEL invites all interested parties to submit their requests for use of frequencies for the purpose of conducting trials in the frequency band 3400-3800 MHz. The Agency hopes that this will help stimulate innovation in every possible area of application for these frequency bands.

6.3 Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

- Mr Dejan Masliković, CEO, ProForma, Serbia

Session highlights towards possible proposals

- Capacity building as a key element for digital inclusion of persons and to be conducted through workshops for professionals in the media and for persons with disabilities. By accepting the standards of universal design and universal access in creating and broadcasting media content and placement of information, media opens the possibility for the smooth implementation of inclusion.
- 3 workshops will be done in Serbia and if successful, further regional implementation will be considered.
- A joint project to strengthen the capacity of media professionals and people with disabilities to use ICT in the creation of accessible media content and information that can be marketed in the fields of education and health is envisaged.

6.4 Entrepreneurship, innovation and youth

- Ms Elda Zenelaj, Coordinator in the Unit for Electronic Communications, Postal Services and Integration Department of Innovation and Good Governance, Minister of State for Innovation and Public Administration, Albania (“Entrepreneurship, Youth and Innovation: the Albanian Experience”)
- Ms Katarzyna Bis-Płaza, Head of Unit, Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland (“Innovation in Governance: Effective Introduction of mID on the national level”)

Session highlights towards possible proposals

- Albania's Digital Agenda involved a legal regulatory framework on innovation, a fund for SMEs, Innovation and start-ups, and an Economic Reform Program (2016-2020) for innovation
- Key lessons learnt include
 - ICT as strategic sector fostering growth, inclusion and jobs;
 - Ecosystem Mapping which strengthens key stakeholders ability to connect to resources, to engage in collaborative transformation, and create services for needs across the country;
 - Collaborative Human Capacity Building to reduce skills mismatch that exist between talents coming out of formal educational and vocational schools to develop skills for the 21st century (fostering lifelong learning objectives);
 - Development of entrepreneurial support to foster innovation
- Other countries in the region may avail of ITU support to develop an innovation ecosystem whereby ICT is applied for sustainable development
- Poland is adopting a new law for E-ID and mobile ID (mID)
- A proposal to initiate an expert group of professionals in mobile ID has been formulated
 - a forum to exchange info at international level namely case studies on business model, architecture and security; implementation of information campaigns etc
 - at the end a summary report for the ITU community will be released to benefit countries in the region
- A meeting in Warsaw from 18-19 October 2016 is planned where representatives of most advanced countries in this field will come together to share their experiences

6.5 Building confidence and security in using telecommunications/ICTs

- Ms Rosheen Awotar-Mauree, Cybersecurity Officer, BDT, ITU ("Update on Cybersecurity Actions in Europe Region")
- Mr Szymon Wójcik, Empowering Children Foundation, Poland ("Challenges for child online protection and possible answers from Polish perspective")
- Ms Natalija Radoja, Head of the Department for Regulation, Analysis and Planning, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Serbia ("Child safety and protection in the use of information and communication technologies")
- Mr Laurent Chrzanovski, CEO, Swiss WebAcademy, Romania ("The bright and the dark sides of awareness raising in Europe, for children safety but not only: the Romanian example")

Session highlights towards possible proposals

- Hosting by a host Member State of the 2017 Regional Cyberdrill with participation of all National CIRTs and observers from Member states with no National CIRTs
- Participation in SG2Q3 through the submission of relevant country experiences such as
 - Montenegro's experience in hosting Regional Cyberdrill 2015
 - Poland's experience in developing a Child Online Protection event
 - Cyprus experience in setting up a National CIRT in 2015
 - Romania's experience in the annual public private dialogue on Cybersecurity
- Participation in the upcoming Regional Cybersecurity Forum in Sofia 29-30 November 2017
- Countries to be identified or to contact ITU for National Cybersecurity Strategy review or elaboration as from early 2017
- Countries to be identified or to contact ITU for a National CIRT implementation or enhancement for 2017
- Countries to identify relevant courses in Cybersecurity for provision via ITU Centre of Excellence
- Child Online Protection is a complex topic with rapid changes. In essence children need to know that they have choices and we need to help them make informed choices
- The local platform in Poland has successfully gather momentum to now become an information platform to be launched in September 2017
- Internet addiction can become a future Child Online Protection topic to be addressed by all
- Sharing of good practices with partners in different languages must be pursued further
- The Romanian public-private dialogue on Cybersecurity wishes to expand Child Online Protection topic to cover online protection for all.

7 ITU-D Study Groups, ITU Centres of Excellence, Membership/Academia

With the aim of strengthening synergies between regional initiatives and the activities of ITU-D study groups, ITU Academy, ITU Centres of Excellence, Academia and membership, presentations were delivered by Ms Ilaha Rzayeva, Programme Officer, ITU and Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Coordinator for Europe, ITU. Member States are requested to contact ITU for more information on how to share practices and learn from other in study groups and to partner with ITU centres of excellence to provide training / capacity building in various fields pertaining to ICT for sustainable development.

8 Towards the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017: Regional Emerging Trends, Challenges, Opportunities and Needs

- Preparatory process for WTDC-17 by Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Coordinator for Europe Region, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Road to WTDC-17: Stop in Vilnius by Mr Paulius Vaina, Chairman of PT on WTDC-17 of the Com-ITU CEPT and Acting Head of International and Public Relations Division, The Communications Regulatory Authority (RRT), Lithuania
- Regional preparations towards WTDC by Prof. Dr. Vladimir Minkin, Chairman, TDAG of ITU-D and WG-ITU, and CIC, Regional Commonwealth in the Field of Communications (RCC)

Session highlights

- BDT will be celebrating 25 years in Argentina at WTDC 2017 where the common theme is ICTs 4 SDGs where the ITU-D Action plan for 2018-2021 will be elaborated.
- Participants may contact ITU to engage in Pre-event, social events, exhibitions or to sponsor.
- Regional Preparatory meetings (RPMs) are being held as from November 2016 (CIS region) to end in April 2017 (Europe region in Vilnius on 26-28 April 2017)
- Preparation for WTDC-17 is a parallel process: Preparation of the European countries take place in CEPT and ITU (RPM, TDAG held in Geneva on 9-12 May 2017)
- CEPT com-ITU has formed a Project Team (PT) WTDC-17, which is an ad hoc group for preparations for the event which started its activities in August and follows the bottom-up approach for the formation of WTDC agenda



- The PT works via e-mail, has physical meetings (back-to-back during other meeting of com-ITU, RPMs) and cooperates with other regions to develop viable and supported proposals
- What is expected from Vilnius 2017 ?
 - Discussed priorities of CEPT countries related to management of ITU, including WSIS and cybersecurity
 - ICT and access development

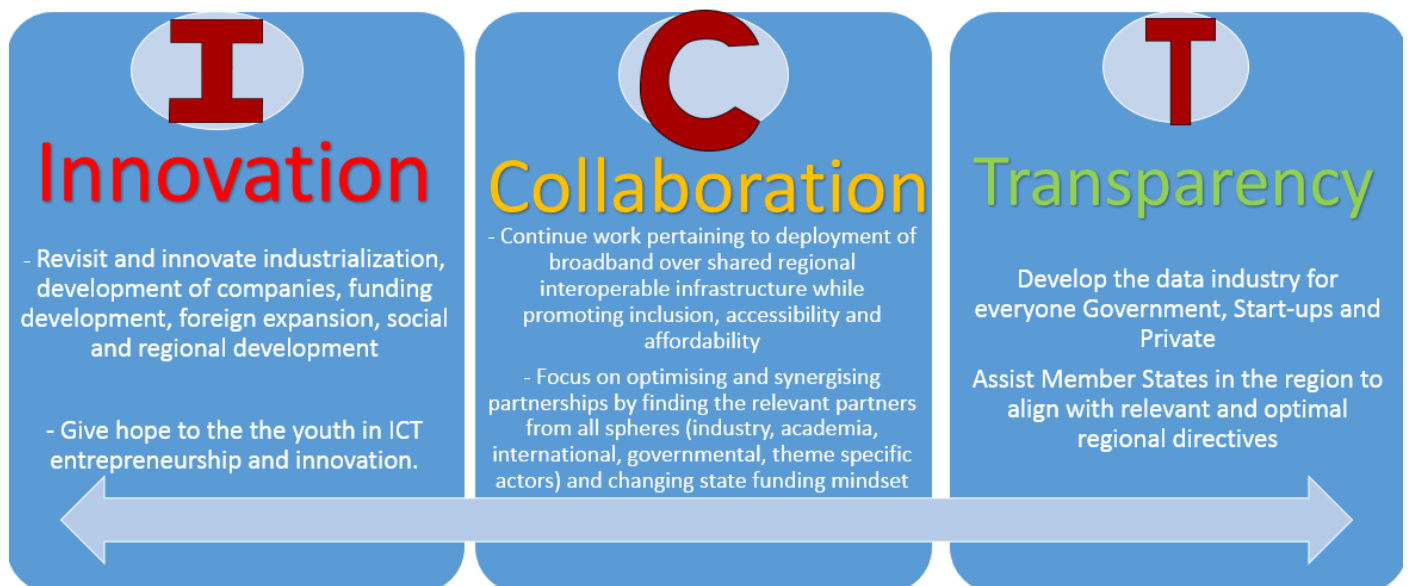
- Cooperation between regions and assistance (to specific countries)
- All participants are requested to look into defining challenges for leveraging ICT for sustainable development. These will be discussed and after being agreed upon, a contribution on each challenge will be prepared and shared with all countries for endorsement
- A draft declaration for WTDC 2017 was shared together with rules pertaining to streamlining of resolutions and certain possible amendments

Presentation of initial proposals for consideration within the framework of the regional preparatory process towards WTDC-17

- A global initiative on mobile ID - practices for implementation
- A regional initiative to help the youth in ICT entrepreneurship and innovation
- A regional Cyberdrill to test and enhance know how of CIRTs
- A global Child Online protection event and sharing of enhanced practices
- A public private sector dialogue expanding from Child Online Protection to Online Protection
- A regional capacity building exercise for media broadcasters to cater content for persons with disabilities
- A regional initiative to connect national IXPs
- Identify relevant country contributions for ITU Study Groups
- Spectrum ???
- Identify countries for 2017 to be provided support in
 - Directed training on accessibility
 - National Cybersecurity Strategy review or elaboration
 - National CIRT implementation or enhancement
 - Innovation ecosystem plan elaboration

Some possible proposal for WTDC 2017

Based mainly on round table discussion



9 Conclusion

- Mr Jaroslaw Ponder, Europe Coordinator, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Mr Boris Jevric, Deputy Executive Director, Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services (EKIP), Montenegro

All stakeholders were thanked for their contributions to the process of reviewing, enhancing and actioning the implementation plan for the regional initiatives for Europe. BDT and Participants thanked the Agency for Electronic Communications and Postal Services of Montenegro (EKIP), Montenegro for hosting the Regulatory Conference for Europe and for the warm hospitality during the stay in Budva.

Mr Jevric looks forward to ITU's support for Infofest 2017 with new proposals for more back to back events to improve the quality of Infofest.

Annex One: Implementation Plan for ITU Regional Initiatives for Europe

1 Regional Initiative EUR1 – Spectrum management and transition to digital broadcasting

2015

- April: Pan-European overview of transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting
Digital Switchover Overview database completion.
- May: Regional Seminar on Spectrum Management and Digital Broadcasting (Hungary) Sep-
- Dec: ITU cooperation platform for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting
and switch-off process
- Sep-Dec: Experience sharing on innovative spectrum monitoring tools
- May-Dec: Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy
trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training

2016

- Q1/Q2: Regional Seminar on Outcomes of WRC-15
- Sept: Skills building events on Spectrum Management & Broadcasting
- Jan-Dec: ITU cooperation platform for transition from analogue to digital terrestrial
broadcasting and switch-off process
- Q4: Meeting of Sub-regional Coordination Mechanisms
- Q3: Cross-regional consultation and training course – Hungary
- Jan-Dec: Twinnings and country assistance upon request
- Jan-Dec: Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy
trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training
- Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

- Q1/Q2: Regional Seminar on Spectrum and Broadcasting – Hungary
- Sept: Skills building events on Spectrum Management & Broadcasting Jan-
- Dec: Twinnings and country assistance upon request
- Jan-Dec: Spectrum Management Training Programme (SMTP) on the ITU Academy
trainings of ITU Academy, including CoEs Training
- Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2 Regional Initiative EUR2 – Development of broadband access and adoption of broadband

2015

- April: Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
- June : Implementation of the National Broadband Plans across the region
(Focus on non-EU countries)
- August: New Legislative Paradigms Fostering Broadband Development: Case Study on Portugal
- Sept: Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2015
- International Regulatory Conference on Broadband, Montenegro
 - Workshop on IXP, Montenegro

October: Support to the development of ITU Quality of Service Training Programme
Nov/Dec: Regional workshop on Quality of Services and Consumer Protection – Italy
May-Dec: Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy

2016

- Q1/2 Regional Conference on Mapping Broadband Infrastructure – Poland
April: Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
May: Paper on national strategies for bridging broadband gap in remote and rural areas: Cost-effective solutions for remote and rural areas
June: Regional workshop on IXPs: Building Capacities –
Sept: Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2016
- International Regulatory Conference, Montenegro
Jan-Dec: Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy
Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

- March: Continued development of ITU Interactive Terrestrial Transmission Maps
April: Regional Workshop on Broadband – Lithuania
May: Monitoring of the implementation and elaboration of relevant cross-sectoral policies
and strategies, including setting up national coordination mechanisms
Sept: Regional meetings at INFOFEST 2017
- International Regulatory Conference, Montenegro
Jan-Dec: Trainings by Centres of Excellence under ITU Academy
Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

3 Regional Initiative EUR3 – Ensuring access to telecommunications/ICTs, in particular for persons with disabilities

2015

- April: Regional Workshop on Smart Accessibility on Connected TV (March, Barcelona) (AUB, EC, ITU)
June: Experts Group Meeting on Accessibility (June, Italy) back to back with International Symposium on Respeaking-live-subtitling-and-accessibility
July: Establishment of the list of European Member States with national ICT accessibility policies and analysis
August: Finalization of curriculums of two online trainings on accessibility
September: Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)
October: Regional Conference for Europe on Accessibility, Serbia
October: Online training for broadcasters on how to create audio description (AD) and closed caption (CC) files for television/video programming and how to transmit AD and CC.
November: Online training for policy makers and regulators on Modules 1 and 4 of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy report; (Regulation, Policy, Strategies, Accessible TV)

2016

- February: Finalization of curriculum of an online course on Module 6: Accessible ICT public procurement policy framework based upon the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report. (M. 6)
April: European benchmark with focus on non-EU countries based on the Model ICT

Accessibility Policy Report

May: Online Training for procurers on Module 6: Accessible ICT public procurement policy framework

July: Finalization of curriculum of an online course on Modules 3: Mobile communications accessibility policy framework based upon the Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report. (M. 6)

April: Regional Conference for Europe on Accessibility

October: Online training for on Module 3 of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report;

September: Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)

Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

April: Regional workshop for Europe and CIS on accessibility

May: Online training for on Module 5 (Module 5: Web accessibility policy framework) of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report

September: Setting up internet access points and provision of ICT equipment/software to be used by people with visual/hearing impairments (age related visual/hearing problems)

October: Online training for on Module 2 (Module 2: ICT accessibility framework on public access) of the ITU Model ICT Accessibility Policy Report

Dec: Reporting to WTDC-17

4 Regional Initiative EUR4 – Building Confidence and security in the use of telecommunications/ICTs

2015

June: Curriculum for an online training for professionals and teachers

July: Study of the best practices on COP in Europe

August: Benchmark of national initiatives on COP in particular in non EU countries

Sept: - International Conference for Europe on "Keeping children and young people safe online",
Poland
- Conference in Sibiu, Romania

October: - October Awareness Month
- Training under ITU Academy

December: Elaboration of a model national strategy for COP at the national level

2016

February: Celebration of the Safer Internet Day

April: Workshop on Child Online Protection, Turkey

May: Benchmark of campaigns on COP across the Europe

June: Identification of the countries interested in piloting the transposition of the model national strategy for COP at the national level

Sept: Conference/Workshop for Europe on COP

October: October Awareness Month

October: Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe and CIS, Bulgaria

Nov.: Training under ITU Academy

Nov./Dec. Development of a Regional Strategy Guide for Child Online Protection
Dec: Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17

2017

February: Celebration of the Safer Internet Day
March: - Update on best practices on COP in Europe and national initiatives
- Curriculum for an online training on COP
April: Workshop for Europe and CIS on COP
Sept.: Showcase of countries with transposed model national strategy for COP
Sept: Conference/Workshop for Europe on COP
October: October Awareness Month
Training under ITU Academy
Dec: Reporting to WTDC-17

5 Regional Initiative EUR5 - Entrepreneurship, innovation and youth

2015

April: Stocktaking incubators
May: Innovation track at WSIS
June: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " kickoff - Athens
August: End of consultation on the Implementation Plan open to all stakeholders
looking for their engagement and financing of implementation plan
Sept: Benchmark of innovation capabilities in European ICT ecosystem
October: Launch of alpha version of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – Budapest
Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
Dec: Regional conference on ICT innovation ecosystem – Belgrade/Tirana

2016

March: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " meeting - TBD Guidelines
on ICT innovation ecosystem / self assessment toolkit
April: Girls in ICT Day: national winners announced
launch of the regional network (incubation opportunities or exchange or internship)
May: Innovation track at WSIS: global approach with regional seeds
June: Fostering knowledge triangle for unlocking entrepreneurship and innovation
(academia/community) - Prague
Sept: Development of curriculum for training based on guidelines under ITU academy
October: Launch of operational version of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – TBD (Telecom)
Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
Dec: Regional conference on financing mechanisms for ICT innovation ecosystem –
Tirana/Belgrade
Dec Reporting to Regional Preparatory Meeting for WTDC-17 (date determined at the later stage)

2017

February: Training on ICT innovation ecosystem under ITU academy
March: Implementation Task Force on "ITU-ICT-Agora " meeting - TBD
April: Girls in ICT Day: national winners announced
Upscaling of the regional network (incubation opportunities or exchange or internship)
May: Innovation track at WSIS: shared learning with all regions on ICT innovation ecosystem
June: Impact assessment of "ITU-ICT-Agora" platform
Sept: Upscaling of curriculum for training on ICT Innovation ecosystem under ITU academy

October: Review of "ITU-ICT-Agora " platform – TBD (Telecom)
Launch of regional competition of "Girls in new technologies"
December: Reporting to the WTDC-17

