

5G Implementation in Europe and CIS

Strategies and Policies Enabling New Growth Opportunities

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Budapest, Hungary

Regional Seminar for Europe and CIS back-to-back with
Experts' Knowledge Exchange related to the work of ITU-D Study Groups
organized by International Telecommunication Union and hosted by
National Media and Infocommunications Authority of Hungary

Opening Remarks

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Dear Dr Peter Vari, Deputy Director General, National Media and Infocommunications Authority, Hungary,

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning,

On behalf of ITU it is my great pleasure to open this ITU Regional Seminar on 5G implementation in Europe and CIS held back to back with the Expert Knowledge Exchanges of ITU-D Study Groups.

This is already our longstanding tradition of holding this Seminar in Hungary at the kind invitation of National Media and Infocommunications Authority.

Please let me thank NMHH Authority for this significant contribution to the ITU and a longstanding partnership, offering to the ITU membership an important platform for regional collaboration and exchange of good practices in the field of ICT infrastructure development, broadcasting, spectrum management.

Our pleasure of being here is even greater, knowing that Hungary belongs to one of the most connected countries in this part of the Europe region, with very well-developed mobile infrastructure, a high mobile-cellular penetration, and almost complete mobile-broadband population coverage. Congratulations to this achievement.



Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

ITU estimates that by the end of 2017 some 3.58 billion people were online, equivalent to some 48.0% of the global population (up from 3.4 billion people). We may be proud that in the regional comparison Europe and CIS lead this internet use race, with 79,6 and 67,7 users per 100 inhabitants respectively. However there is still significant digital divide to be bridged at the global level. For instance the Internet user penetration in LDCs reached only 17.5% in 2017.

There is no doubt on the fact that this high level of internet use is possible only thanks to the mobile revolution that with time has changed the way we live, we work, interact, socialize and even relax. Globally, the number of mobilecellar subscriptions grew from 2005 to 2017 from 33.9 per 100 inhabitants to an estimated 103.5. Mobile-broadband subscriptions have grown more than 20% annually in the last five years and reached 4.3 billion globally by the end of 2017.

Nevertheless, only 76% of the world's population lives within access of a 3G signal, and only 43% of people have access to a 4G connection. Thus, the majority of the connected world remains under-connected, most of them in developing countries.

Large gaps in connectivity persist, mainly due to the lack of infrastructure, affordability, lack of skills or lack of relevant local content. Therefore significant efforts are needed to ensure that global digital divide is diminishing in a long run and new divides of any kind do not emerge.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

Mobile technologies evolve rapidly, offering diverse opportunities, not only for traditional users, humans, but more and more creating new value chains based on the machine-to-machine communication, artificial intelligence, universe of diverse applications.

Therefore there is definitely no end of the mobile revolution we know from the past.

5G will offer us new capabilities of connectivity that will significantly strengthen impact on sustainable development of each nation.

European countries advance on 5G rollout in line with regional priorities, having already several pilot projects in place and national strategies under implementation. We will hear some of them here.

Also CIS countries are keeping up with the global 5G development trends. For example, Russia has made several successful public tests of 5G in 2018, including those at the World Cup. Most countries of the region are also considering such tests, while first commercial deployments are expected in 2020.

Policy makers widely consider ICT infrastructure and 5G in particular as a fundamental pillar of national digital economy and digital transformation strategies.

It is expected that 5G will enable massive IoT implementation, improvements in logistics, urban planning, transport safety and public security.





Despite overall positive expectations, ITU Member States realize that 5G implementation requires serious reconsideration of spectrum usage, intensive investments and adequate handling of cybersecurity challenges that will need to be addressed in the near future.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I close, I would like to use this opportunity to raise an open call for engagement in the implementation of the ITU Regional Initiatives, in particular those related to the ICT infrastructure. Recently held ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe established 2018-2021 Implementation Plan, identifying series of regular actions and projects for implementation. Also coordination mechanism of CIS countries led towards establishment of a similar plan, including identification of potential projects to be scoped and proposed for implementation in the upcoming years to advance implementation of global connect agenda. I encourage you all to be part of this regional efforts.

Regional Initiatives have been designed by the ITU membership and approved by the World Telecommunication Development Conference 2017. Regional initiatives are known as an affective mechanism for addressing top regional priorities, while ensuring no duplication of efforts amongst relevant stakeholders.

Regional Initiatives also contribute to the work taking place at the global level, including Study Groups. This is also the reason why we are holding Expert Exchange. We are encouraging you to proactively take part in.

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen

All stakeholders of the 5G ecosystem need, more than ever, to establish an inclusive, multi-stakeholder and collaborative dialogue in order to build enabling environment that will

- Create demand for new ICT services
- Drive investment in the infrastructure development
- Foster innovation
- Ensure growth of the ICT sector, and most importantly
- Provide solutions to make our life better, safer and more prosperous, leaving no one behind.

Let's work together...

Thank you.

