

ITU Regional Development Forum for Europe (RDF-EUR)

Information and Communication Technologies for Attaining Sustainable Development Goals

Tuesday 26 May 2020 | 11:00 – 15:30 | Remote Meeting

<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regional-Presence/Europe/Pages/Events/2020/RDF/Remote.aspx>

CONTRIBUTION BY [Intel Corporation]

TITLE: ITU-D Representative

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Europe Regional Initiative: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- EUR1: Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management
- ~~EUR2: A citizen-centric approach to building services for national administrations~~
- EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development
- EUR4: Enhancing trust and confidence in the use of information and communication technologies
- ~~EUR5: ICT-centric innovation ecosystems~~

Year(s) of implementation: [Tick the relevant boxes or delete the irrelevant items]

- ~~2019~~
- 2020
- 2021

Background [max 300 words]

Intel's purpose is to create world-changing technology that enriches the lives of every person on earth. In this context, Intel has supported different ITU Regional Office's events (including the events organized within the framework of the ITU WTDC Regional Initiatives for Europe) as speaker/panellist and shared technical and global policy expertise.

Proposal [max 400 words]

Covid-19 situation clearly shows the importance of widespread, resilient high-speed broadband infrastructure, including 5G/IMT-2020. The importance of high-speed broadband connectivity is also explained in Regional Initiative EUR1 (Broadband infrastructure, broadcasting and spectrum management. Resilient high-speed broadband infrastructure and connectivity is key for the teleworking, e-health, e-learning, e-commerce etc. and economic recovery.



According to UNESCO¹, half of the total number of learners – some 826 million students kept out of the classroom by the COVID-19 pandemic, do not have access to a household computer and 43% (706 million) have no internet at home, at a time when digitally-based distance learning is used to ensure educational continuity in the vast majority of countries. This is also a concern in Europe both in developed and developing countries. Different countries started to work on the provision of computer and broadband connectivity for the low-income students/households.

In fact, not only students but other people also need computer and connectivity to mitigate the effects of Covid-19 by working from home and using digital services. EUR3 Initiative may also focus on this problem (EUR3: Accessibility, affordability and skills development for all to ensure digital inclusion and sustainable development).

Intel has also regional and global experience on data security and privacy, details can be seen at; <https://www.intel.com/content/www/us/en/policy/policy-security-privacy.html>

Therefore, we recommend considering the following proposals;

- To expand the scope of Regional Initiatives to cover the Covid-19 (especially according to above problems).
- To organize regional events on Covid-19 and learn on the best practices of the countries (including countries from other regions) especially on above problems (resilient high-speed infrastructure and connectivity, e-learning, e-health, digital economy stimulus programs etc.).
- To support the European Commission's Covid-19 response and efforts on "Digital Response"².

¹ <https://en.unesco.org/news/startling-digital-divides-distance-learning-emerge>

² https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/health/coronavirus-response/digital_en

