

## 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:** MINISTRY OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENERGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

**TITLE:** ON DIGITAL SKILLS – ASSISTANCE ON PREPARING DIGITAL SKILLS STRATEGY

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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]

The digital economy allows and encourages remote work and it opens up a world of opportunities for young people, women and disadvantaged groups and the society as a whole. Importance of digital skills is growing due to fast spread of new technologies as well as industry digitalization. According to the World Economic Forum at least 133 million new roles will be generated as a result of the new division of labour between humans, machines and algorithms that may emerge globally by 2022. Basic digital skills are a must for everyone to be an active citizen of the society to also ensure effective employability capacities in the era of digital transformation.

Covid-19 underpinned the importance digital skills have in our daily life as well as business processes, while moving from offices to teleworking, greater social distancing and meeting, studying and teaching online as well as getting more and more services online. Hence, need to possess digital skills, from basic to advanced, has proliferated further and it is among the most prominent areas to be addressed by all interested actors.





The gaps in digital skills in Albania as much as in the region are still high. The first ever figure for Albania is on 2019 related digital skills shows that the percentage of individuals aged of 16-74 years old who have declared at least one digital skill is on level 40.8%.

In addition, according to Digital Economy and Society Index, both 2018 and 2019 assessments, show that Western Balkan lag behind the EU average in basic and advanced digital skills. Digital skills are usually addressed through the education strategies or other strategies addressing skills and employment.

**Proposal** [max 400 words]

**Proposal:** Support is required to prepare a Digital Skills Strategy. Digital Skills Strategy is essential on opening the door to a wide range of opportunities in the 21st century. Economies that implement comprehensive digital skills strategies ensure their populations have the skills they need to be more employable, productive, creative, and successful while ensuring they remain safe, secure and healthy online.

