

Towards the ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe: “Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation — Europe”

1 July 2021 | Virtual Meeting | 12:00 – 13:25 CEST

Organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

The launch of the ITU Regional Good Practice Report: “Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation — Europe” will be organised virtually on 1 July 2021, 12:00-14:00 CEST. This regional event is organised within the framework of the ITU Regional Initiative for Europe on ICT Centric Innovation Ecosystems.

This launch event is aimed to disseminate the research findings about opportunities inherent in accelerating digital transformation in the Europe region. The event will be the first step towards the ITU Regional Innovation Forum for Europe taking place in September 2021. The event participants will get an understanding of the critical enablers and linkages needed to foster ICT-centric innovation. This knowledge will be amplified by an opportunity to discover the good practices that serve as a basis for strengthening national digital innovation ecosystems all across the Europe region.

The *Regional Good Practices Report: Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation — Europe* is the first one in a series that will focus on good practices from each ITU region. It gives an understanding of the state of the Europe region’s ICT-centric innovation ecosystem and the region’s ICT-centric innovation capacity based on the three engines of growth (technology ecosystem, entrepreneurial ecosystem and innovation ecosystem). It also provides a comparative ranking of the region’s ICT-centric innovation ecosystems and identifies good practices from the Europe region that can be used to build sustainable digital innovation ecosystems with ITU’s digital innovation framework.

The event targets all interested stakeholders at the Europe region level contributing to building of the ICT centric ecosystems.



Draft AGENDA

Thursday | 1 July 2021

[12:00 – 12:05] **Opening remarks and setting the context**

Jaroslav Ponder, Head of the ITU Office for Europe

[12:05 – 13:15] **Accelerating innovation, entrepreneurship and digital transformation**

This session will drive a multistakeholder discussion on the good practices highlighted in the Regional Good Practice Report based on the enablers of digital transformation.

Moderator: Valentina Stadnic, Consultant, ITU Office for Europe

Speakers:

- **Report overview:** Katarzyna Jakimowicz, Digital Innovation Ecosystem Expert, ITU Office for Europe
- **Vision and strategy:** Annie Vashakmadze, Head of Department for International Relations and Relations with Donors, Georgia's Innovation and Technology Agency (GITA)
- **Infrastructure and programmes:** Jens von Axelson, Programme Manager, Challenge-Driven Innovation, Vinnova – Sweden's Innovation Agency
- **Talent and champions:** Olgeta Dhono, IT Director, National Agency for Information Society (NAIS), Albania
- **Culture and communities:** Ivana Kostić, Co-Founder, Health-Tech Lab, Serbia

Questions and answers

[13:15 – 13:25] **Closing remarks and way forward**

Ana Maria Meshkurti, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe

