



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: BDT/EUR/DM/134

Geneva, 25 November 2011

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Subject: **Virtual Meeting on ITU Regional Initiative on E-Accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe – Internet and Digital Television for Blind People and People with Visual Impairment Problems**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), I would like to invite your organization to participate in a **Virtual Meeting on Regional Initiative on E-Accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe - Internet and Digital Television for Blind People and People with Visual Impairment Problems**, to be conducted on the **16th December 2011 from 14:00 to 16:00 hours**.

The main objective of this virtual meeting will be to present and to discuss interim results of the background research necessary for elaboration of the final version of the project document on this initiative.

This virtual meeting will offer an opportunity to provide a feedback on presented material as well as to determine the scope of the Regional Initiative on E-Accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe.

I would also like to use this opportunity to request all Telecommunication Administrations of Central and Eastern Europe to provide additional information, relevant to this regional initiative, through responding to an attached questionnaire (see Annex One) and sending it to eurregion@itu.int no later than 14 December 2011.

World Telecommunication Development Conference 2010 has agreed on implementation of three Regional Initiatives for Europe Region, including one on E-Accessibility. In this context a close interaction amongst Administrations on these initiatives is indispensable to ensure an effective and efficient implementation of the WTDC-10 decisions.

This virtual meeting is targeted at Administrations of ITU Member States only.

I cordially invite your organization to join this virtual meeting as a new way of fostering enhanced collaboration amongst Administrations of Europe Region.

More information on the meeting can be found at www.itu.int/itu-d/eur (see Regional Initiatives, E-Accessibility). Please note that this virtual meeting will be conducted in English only. Notification of participation should be sent by e-mail to eurregion@itu.int no later than **14 December 2011**.

Should you need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Brahima Sanou
Director

Annex One: Questionnaire.

Annex One



ITU Regional Initiative on E-Accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe - Internet and Digital Television for Blind People and People with Visual Impairment Problems



ITU-D is in the process of implementing the European Regional Initiative on E-Accessibility in Central and Eastern Europe - Internet and Digital Television – for Blind People and People with Visual Impairment Problems, approved by WTDC-10. In order to achieve its objectives and make appropriate estimate of budget requirements, based on existing technologies and consumer devices, we ask you to kindly provide answers to the following questions.

You are requested to send your reply no later than 14 December 2011, to: EURregion@itu.int, Cc: roxana.dunnette@ties.itu.int; 5ko.kantchev@gmail.com

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is the number of schools for visually impaired persons in your country and at what level (primary, high school, university?)
2. Are they connected to Internet, how many posts “Internet for blind “would be necessary per school?
3. What is the number of related content institutions linked to those schools (libraries, curricula translation into Braille , etc)?
4. Are there any specific national/regional programs for teachers training in this field? How many national institutions?
5. Is there any mechanism in place to engage organizations, private entities or volunteers to support, sponsor and advertise activities of schools for blind?
6. What is the investment system for access service devices in schools (government, NGO’s, Lions club, private etc)?
7. Is the switchover to digital television, already done or if planned what is the deadline ?
8. Are there any provisions to accommodate the needs of viewers with visual and/or hearing impairments or disabilities within any major broadcast infrastructure changes planned for digital television production and distribution ?
9. Do you have trained personnel to produce audio access services?
10. Are digital “talking set-top “boxes available for sale in your country?
11. Are Braille keyboards/software available for sale locally?
12. What are the international conventions, regulations and legislations that govern the country policy on accessibility options for people with visual disabilities or impairments ?

----- THANK YOU -----