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| **Summary:** Draft Regional Initiatives – outcome of the RPM |
| **Proposal:** |
| For approval. |
| **Background:** |
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**Introduction**

These draft proposals have been prepared by the RPM and are subject to further consultations through CEPT coordination mechanism. BDT is kindly requested to support and help to identify the European member states’ needs.

Recalling the draft CEPT General Principles for WTDC 2014: deployment of networks, regulatory measures relevant for the development of telecommunications and empowering society, the RPM believes that proposed lines of actions are important factors of ICT development in coming years and with ITU-D’s assistance the regional approaches initiatives towards development of ICTs would become more coherent and effective.

The proposed action and objectives should be performed within the remit and mandate of ITU. Possible duplication of work should be avoided taking into account internal ongoing ITU activities in other sectors, the Council Working Groups as well as all regional and international organizations’ activities in these fields. Cooperation with other regional organizations should be fostered.

Members are welcomed to comment on this draft paper. Member are requested to take into consideration the draft CEPT Principles for WTDC while working on the document in particular Results Based Management related issues.

**Priority areas:**

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| **Priority Areas for Europe Regional Initiatives** |
| **1 Building capacities in the field of spectrum management**  **Objective**:  The main objective of this initiative is to foster regional cooperation, mainly supplemented by the direct assistance to the administrations in the process of analogue TV switch off, as well as management of the frequencies in the digital dividend bands that shall be utilized bearing in mind the most effective use of radio spectrum.  **Expected results**: Assistance to the countries in need the following:   1. Transition from analogue to digital terrestrial broadcasting and switch-off process; 2. Building capacity in management of spectrum, including in digital dividend band; 3. Elaboration of studies, benchmarks and guidelines on the economic and policy aspects of the assignment and use of the radiofrequency spectrum. |
| **2 Broadband ubiquity including smart grids**  **Objective:** Due to significant differences within European states there is an urgent need to take steps and assist administrations in every aspect of practical implementation and development of high speed networks. This action may also comprise the establishment of local/regional broadband roll-out plans. Boosting the development of communication networks would benefit from using the experience in infrastructure sharing with energy sector (smart grids) and should be aiming at benefiting from synergies in cross sectoral fields. The degree of progress in this field varies a lot between member states in the region, therefore sharing the best practices, regulatory policies and providing assistance would help to use resources most effectively.  **Expected results:** Assistance to the countries in need the following:   1. Creation of new legislative paradigms fostering broadband development, including cost effective solutions for remote and rural areas and models for infrastructure sharing including applications of smart grids; 2. Establishment of national and regional plans and monitoring of implementation and elaboration of relevant crossectoral policies and strategies including setting-up national coordination mechanisms; 3. Development of strategies for super-fast broadband infrastructure development; 4. Mapping of broadband infrastructure across the region; 5. Monitoring of the quality of services and consumer protection. |
| **3 Making ICT applications more accessible**  **Objective:** To further promote e-accessibility in ICT ecosystem, and provide the administration with most suitable solutions available. Second objective would include building the confidence in ICT applications through activities aiming at building the confidence in use of ICTs amongst children and youths in Europe. Both objectives may comprise assistance to national regulatory authorities and sharing the best practices in cooperation with relevant institutions.  **Expected results**: Assistance to the countries in need in the following:   1. Formulation of strategic plans and regulatory frameworks promoting e-accessibility and building confidence in ICT use at the national level; 2. Creating the environment for deployment of solutions for e-accessibility, including television/ICT applications for people with disabilities; 3. Builiding the capacities and promoting e-education solutions; 4. Taking the existing knowledge on risk and vulnerablilities to children in cyberspace and by providing best practices and assisting member states; 5. Providing platform to raise awareness on child online protection and safety issues; 6. Developing and implementing roadmaps for the national or regional COP initiativies. |
| **4 Enterpreneurship, Innovation and Youth**    **Objective:** To foster creation of an enabling environment and building capacities at the regional level aiming at growth of entrepreneurship, increase of innovation in the ICT ecosystem, while encouraging empowerment of the young men and  women and creation for them new opportunities in the ICT sector. Strengthened cooperation with diverse stakeholders, including Academia and private sector will be necessary.    **Expected results:** Assistance to the countries in need in the following:   1. A strengthened and expanded regional network of ICT incubators; 2. An improved performance, gender-responsiveness, and sustainability of ICT incubators across the region; 3. An enhanced competitiveness and sustainability of SMEs in the region; 4. Integrating ICT professionals, including young people and students, into the employment market by providing them with appropriate skills and knowledge and promoting self-development to help them find employment or create their own businesses. |

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