



ITU EUROPE CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE NETWORK

REPORT OF THE MID-YEAR VIRTUAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

20 AUGUST 2019

1. Introduction and Opening

The mid-year virtual Steering Committee meeting for the ITU Europe Centres of Excellence (EUR CoE) was held on 20 August 2019. The convening of the mid-year meeting was agreed during the 1st Steering Committee meeting, which was held from 7-8 February 2019 in Warsaw, Poland. The mid-year meeting was organized by ITU and was chaired by the current Steering Committee Chairman, Dr. Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK.

All six CoEs of the region participated in this meeting. The participants to the meeting were:

- Lidia STĘPIŃSKA-USTASIAK, Counsellor, Head of Social Policy Unit, Office of Electronic Communications, Republic of Poland (Chairperson of Steering Committee) and member of GCBI
- Toni JANEVSKI, FEEIT, North Macedonia
- Clement ONIME, ICTP, Italy
- Dmytro CHARKASHYN, ISS, Germany
- Sylwester LASKOWSKI, NIT, Poland
- Ruta JASINSKIENE, NRD, Lithuania
- Vladislav KUMYSH, ONAT, Ukraine

From ITU, the following staff members participated in the meeting:

- Susan TELTSCHER (Head of Capacity and Digital Skills Development Division)
- Jaroslaw PONDER (Head of ITU Office for Europe)
- Mike NXELE (Senior Capacity and Digital Skills Development Officer)
- Halima LETAMO (Training and Development Officer)
- Rosheen AWOTAR-MAUREE (Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe)
- Sylvie RAPOSO (Administrative Assistant)
- Lena LATTION (Project Officer, ITU Office for Europe)
- Usha HELLEMAN (Capacity and Digital Skills Development Intern)

The Chairperson welcomed the participants to the meeting. Following the round of introductions, ITU explained the objective of the meeting and the procedures to be followed in conducting the meeting. It was highlighted that the objective of the meeting was primarily to assess the status of implementation of CoE training activities for 2019 as agreed at the 1st Steering Committee meeting held earlier in the year, to discuss

possible challenges CoEs faced, and to find ways of overcoming those challenges. The aim is to improve on the performance of CoEs in the implementation of agreed training activities. The meeting was also to discuss the implementation plans for the rest of the year. The meeting was essentially part of the monitoring process of the CoE network, which is detailed in the document “Operational Processes and Procedures for the CoE Network 2018”. Each CoE was invited to present their performance, after which discussions ensued.

2. Review of the implementation of the training courses during the past 6 months

ITU presented the summary table showcasing the status of implementation of training courses in the region during the first semester of 2019 (see **Annex 1**). Out of the nine courses that were planned and agreed upon during the 1st Steering Committee meeting held in February 2019, five courses were implemented, two are ongoing and two have been postponed. For those courses implemented, all end-of-training reports have been submitted to ITU and a total of 250 participants were registered. Four of the implemented courses were online and one was face to face.

FEEIT

FEEIT had one course planned in the first six months and successfully implemented it. The course, NGN Evolution, Future Networks and Ultra-broadband Internet (see details in the table below), had 74 participants and was fully run on the new ITU Academy platform. FEEIT focal point provided very useful feedback to improve the platform: Much more effort to register participants especially in groups, is needed by the trainer, in the new system.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
NGN Evolution, Future Networks and Ultra-broadband Internet	28 May-24 June 2019	28 May-24 June 2019	Implemented	74	Submitted

ICTP

ICTP had no courses planned in the first six months of 2019. A face-to-face course on CODATA/RDA Research Data Science Summer School in Trieste, Italy, from 12 to 16 August in which only 1 participant registered from the ITU Academy. It seems that the fees may be a barrier to interested people to register. Details are in the table below

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
CODATA/RDA Advanced Workshop on IoT and Big-Data Analytics	19-23 August	19-23 August	NA	NA	NA

ISS

ISS representative indicated that ISS had planned to implement two self-paced courses [Cybersecurity Techniques and Cyber incident response] which started in July 2019 and will run until end of the year. The course details are in the table below. The courses currently have extremely limited participation but the pace is expected to pick up after summer holidays. Mr Guido Gluske of ISS who looks into the marketing side was not able to attend the meeting and ITU CoE Focal point will be contacting him for an update.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
Cybersecurity techniques	April	1 July - 31dec 2019	Deferred	NA	NA
Cyber incident response	June	1 July - 31dec 2020	Deferred	NA	NA

NIT

NIT focal point informed all that the three e-learning courses planned in the first six months were held with very good participation for two courses (72 and 78 participants) and less (19 participants) for the third one. The course details are in the table below. Two were in collaboration with Mr Janevski of FEEIT and one was with a professor in Poland. Currently promotion of the next (fourth) course is underway. One issue to explain the low participation for the third course is possibly the transition of ITU Academy which impacted the course registration aspect.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
Strategic Aspects for Internet Governance and Innovations	4-11 March 2019	4-11 March 2019	Implemented	72	Submitted
Wireless Access Technologies to Internet Network	8-15 April 2019	8-15 April 2019	Implemented	78	Submitted
Legal and regulatory barriers to the introduction of cloud services in the EU	20-27 May 2019	20-27 May 2019	Implemented	19	Submitted

NRD

NRD focal point shared with all that one face to face course was implemented in the first six months, as was planned. The course details are in the table below. The course had seven participants, which in the view of experienced CoEs Focal points in the meeting, was reasonable. Possible reasons discussed are attractiveness of the destination, topic was quite specific and possibly the price was not seen as affordable. But attendees had a very good feedback and saw it as value for money. The next training is perceived as attractive.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
Governing Cyber Security at the National Level: Best practices and lessons learned	7-10 May 2019	7-10 May 2019	Implemented	7	Submitted

ONAT

ONAT had planned to implement two courses in the first six months but they have not been implemented because there were no registrations. The course details are in the table below. The courses will be done later in the year together with the other two planned courses. The question of “how to engage participants” was put to all by the ONAT focal point to all. Following exchanges of views by all it was noted that for a face to face course to run successfully, there is a need

- for a good product and good marketing effort is needed
- to find the correct channel and build a mailing list over time

Moreover, it was noted that based on experience of CoE representatives actively using the ITU Academy platform that, the ITU Academy is not face to face friendly as it does not bring any value addition for face to face while it adds an administrative burden. ITU Academy provides platform to facilitate e-learning and not for face to face.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports
Building broadband telemedicine networks and providing e-Health services at the local, regional and national levels	16-17 May 2019	NA	Deferred	NA	NA
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	16-17 May 2019	NA	Deferred	NA	NA

3. Report on implementation plans for courses for the next months

Each CoE made a presentation on the plans for implementing training in the second half. This covered any training postponed from the first half into the second half, any change in dates for the courses in the second half, as well as the planned fees to be charged for each course. The table of all training courses for the second half is attached to the report as **Annex 2**.

FEEIT

FEEIT course will be delivered as planned and mentioned in table below.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
Wireless and Mobile Ultra-broadband: LTE-A PRO, WLAN, AND 5G NR	19 November - 16 December	NA

ICTP

ICTP indicated that its courses will be delivered as planned though a very low registration has been noted.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
CODATA/RDA Advanced Workshop on IoT and Big-Data Analytics	19-23 August	19-23 August
Technical Aspects of Wireless Solutions for the Internet of Things (IoT)	2-4 September	NA
CODATA/RDA/ICTP/TWAS Research Data Science Summer School in West Africa	18-22 November	NA

ISS

ISS courses are self-paced courses that have been opened during the two past months. No comment has been done as the current self-paced courses will continue until the end of the year. For the following year, they may improve their course by adapting the topics according to the trends in order to attract more participants. They are also considering on proposing a more practical course.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
Cybersecurity techniques	April	1 July - 31dec 2019
Cyber incident response	June	1 July - 31dec 2020

NIT

NIT course will be delivered as planned and mentioned in table below.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
QoS Technologies and Regulation for Fixed and Mobile	24-25 October	NA

NRD

NRD expects an attendance of around 14 persons for the face to face course planned. In addition, they are planning on conducting a more practical training.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
Incident Response Practice: Hands-on scenario-based training	17-20 September	NA

ONAT

Their course in Turkmenistan in October is currently under reconsideration regarding the place where it will take place, maybe in Odessa.

Courses planned	Original dates	Final dates
Building broadband telemedicine networks and providing e-Health services at the local, regional and national levels	16-17 May 2019	NA
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	16-17 May 2019	NA

4. Review of the implementation of other recommendations made during the last SC meeting

The meeting went through other recommendations and decisions of the last Steering Committee meeting namely:

a. Cooperation among CoEs in the region and with CoEs from other regions is encouraged including organization of joint training activities. It was also encouraged to improve collaboration between ITU Members and CoEs across the network.

Status: ITU has informed the Steering Committee that information of all CoEs in the global network is available in the ITU Academy platform, where there are links to each CoEs website.

Mr Ponder here informed all that the government of Albania offered to host a FEEIT course and will provide more information to FEEIT in this regard.

b. Look for a solution for authentication of certificates issued by the CoEs with one of suggested options was to reflect reference number on the certificate and another option might be that ITU provides confirmation upon request.

Status: ITU informed that inclusion of a number on the certificate is being discussed with the website developer, hence the need to register all participants in the platform even for face to face trainings as the certificate will have to be automatically generated.

c. Need for CoEs to actively promote their activities (in addition to ITU's promotion) is very important. Use of social media is key in this regard.

Status: It has been strongly advised that each Centre of Excellence should use the digital social media [twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, webpage] to promote its courses. A mechanism to share all social media publications of each other was discussed. All CoEs are requested to inform ITU of promotion actions taken so that ITU can further promote these actions, where possible.

d. Flexibility in vocational training is key and needs to be embedded in the approach towards to the trainees (who normally are active professionals and expect flexibility).

Status: Not discussed in meeting

e. Partnership building with diverse stakeholders is important and possible, however requires close coordination with ITU in order to ensure neutrality.

Status: Not discussed in meeting

f. CoEs are highly encouraged to use ITU content and while developing the content take into account the work of the ITU on the issue.

Status : ITU will provide to all Centres of Excellence, all ITU Academy syllabus developed for the purposes of CoE trainings (use of material is for free).

g. CoE Trainings organized in the country other than the country of CoE's region requires consultation with ITU, Chairman of Steering Committee of the other region and at least one CoE from the region where the workshop will take place.

Status: Not discussed in meeting

h. In the context of the implementation of GDPR framework in Europe, CoEs need to be equipped with clear understanding if ITU Academy is compliant with the regulations.

Status: Not discussed in meeting

i. CoEs can also introduce new courses in between steering committee meetings by writing to the ITU regional coordinator, who would then circulate to the steering committee. The courses will be approved if there is no objection from any Member of the Steering Committee within 7 days.

Status: No items were presented.

j. Training catalogue plays an important role in reaching out to the audience.

Status: The catalogue is an important promotional material. All CoEs were requested to provide 2021 courses information by 1st of November 2020 so that the draft 2021 catalogue is finalized and endorsed in the next Steering Committee meeting.

k. In principle courses free of charge should be avoided but in special cases they can be considered as an option, subject to approval by the Steering Committee of the respective region. Centers of Excellence recommend that, courses free of charge could be considered to be held only in languages other than English

Status: Not discussed in meeting

5. ITU Academy

A short presentation was given about the new ITU Academy platform. The presentation focused on the new arrangement of the training courses, the navigation on the Learning Management System as well as highlighting the features and functionalities of the updated platform. It is stressed that the correct course information is highly important for both CoEs and ITU.

The new platform received good feedback by the users that find it more interactive and easier to navigate.

The Centres of Excellence mentioned the following:

- The current process of group registration is complicated for the companies to follow up, it has been described also as time consuming. However, HCB mentioned that due to financial accountability and operational security reasons, these steps are, for now, necessary. ITU will continue to explore ways of making this lighter without compromising security. .
- The payment obligation before the course starts, was raised as several companies are paying only after receiving the service. This principle works well with companies or organisations who would have made a commitment to pay for the training after delivery, in essence this commitment is considered as payment before training as it is received, normally in writing, before the learners are taught. ITU emphasised that this principle cannot be extended to individuals, unless well-known reputable organisations have made the commitment on their behalf.

6. Next physical Steering Committee meeting

The chairperson requested all CoEs to consider the possibility to host the next Physical Steering Committee tentatively on 19-20 November 2019 or 18-19 December 2019. A possible rotation between CoEs in the region may be considered for future years. Hosting requirements will be sent by ITU. If a CoE is interested by hosting, it should make a request by email, accepting the hosting requirements. The other options are:

- to host it back to back with CEPT meeting to be held in Copenhagen in January 2020 but this will delay us as compared to other regions and will delay
- to have a joint Europe and CIS Steering Committee as proposed in the meeting of February 2019 can be considered and the current proposal was in Minsk, Belarus.

All CoEs have been requested to get back on this aspect and to also consider if it could be joint with CIS CoEs. There was no objection to having a joint meeting.

ITU thanked all the participants for their contributions to the meeting and their commitments to implement outstanding trainings in the coming six months.

Annex 1: Status of implementation of training courses during first semester 2019, as agreed at 1st Steering Committee

CoE	Courses planned	Delivery mode	Original dates	Final dates	Status	Number of participants	End-of training reports	Training fee (USD)
NIT	Strategic Aspects for Internet Governance and Innovations	online instructor-led	4-11 March 2019	4-11 March 2019	Implemented	72	Submitted	150
NIT	Wireless Access Technologies to Internet Network	online instructor-led	8-15 April 2019	8-15 April 2019	Implemented	78	Submitted	150
NIT	Legal and regulatory barriers to the introduction of cloud services in the EU	online instructor-led	20-27 May 2019	20-27 May 2019	Implemented	19	Submitted	150
ISS	Cybersecurity techniques	self-paced	April	1July-31dec 2019	Ongoing	2	Not submitted	250
ISS	Cyber incident response	self-paced	June	1July-31dec 2020	Ongoing	0	Not submitted	250
FEEIT	NGN Evolution, Future Networks and Ultra-broadband Internet	online instructor-led	28 May-24 June 2019	28 May-24 June 2019	Implemented	74	Submitted	150
NRD CS	Governing Cyber Security at the National Level: Best practices and lessons learned	face-to-face	7-10 May 2019	7-10 May 2019	Implemented	7	Submitted	800
ONAT	Building broadband telemedicine networks and providing e-Health services at the local, regional and national levels	face-to-face	16-17 May 2019	Autumn	Not implemented	-	Not submitted	150
ONAT	Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	face-to-face	16-17 May 2019	Autumn	Not implemented	-	Not submitted	150

Annex 2. Planned training activities for the period July to December 2019.

Training course topic [Face to Face]	CoE	Dates	Venue	Training fee
Organizational and technological aspects of providing e-Health services	ONAT	Postponed TBC in Autumn	Odessa, Ukraine	150 USD
Features of 5G technology implementation at the local (some towns), regional (district, region) and national level	ONAT	Postponed TBC Autumn	Odessa, Ukraine	150 USD
CODATA/RDA Advanced Workshop on IoT and Big-Data Analytics	ICTP	19-23 August	Trieste Italy	500 USD
Technical Aspects of Wireless Solutions for the Internet of Things (IoT)	ICTP	2-4 September	Trieste, Italy	500 USD
Incident Response Practice: Hands-on scenario-based training	NRD CS	17-20 September	Vilnius, Lithuania	800 USD
Automation of broadband networks designing. Selecting the most appropriate solutions to build network	ONAT	October	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan	Free (in Russian)
QoS Technologies and Regulation for Fixed and Mobile	NIT	24-25 October	Warsaw, Poland	500 USD
IoT Entrepreneurship	ICTP	6-8 November	Trieste, Italy	500 USD
The use of adaptive technologies to transmit video over radio channels	ONAT	7-8 November	Odessa, Ukraine	Free (in Russian)
CODATA/RDA/ICTP/TWAS Research Data Science Summer School in West Africa	ICTP	18-22 November	Nigeria	300 USD

Training course topic [Online]	CoE	Dates	Venue	Training fee
Security and QoS in Internet Network	NIT	26 August - 2 September	Online	150 USD
Technical, business and regulatory aspects of 5G Networks	NIT	30 September - 7 October	Online	150 USD
Wireless and Mobile Ultra-broadband: LTE-A PRO, WLAN, AND 5G NR	FEEIT	19 November - 16 December	Online	150 USD