ESCWA
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia —————— *for* REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Workshop on ICT Policy Making in ESCWA Member Countries
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Building a regional ICT policy makers network

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The project ... (1)

- **Title:** Capacity-building for ICT policy-making;

- **Executing entity:** UN-DESA;

- **Collaborating entities:** UN-Regional Commissions, UNDP and UNCTAD;

- **Objective:** Build sustainable national capacity in developing countries and countries with economy in transition in developing and implementing national ICT policies, e-strategies and programmes aimed at harnessing the potential of ICT for promoting development.

The project ... (2)

- **Mandates:**
  - **MDGs Goal 8**: Develop a global partnership for development;
  - **WSIS Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda.**
- **Priorities** (for training of ICT policy makers in DCs)**:**
  - **Building an enabling environment for ICT development;**
  - **Devising sustainable ICT-for-development strategies;**
  - **Integration with national development programmes;**
  - **Implement ICT strategies effectively and**

The project ... (3)

- **Activities:**
  - To carry out a study of existing ICT strategies of selected UN Member States in order to provide a sound, up-to-date and comprehensive reference base for decision makers;
  - To hold five regional seminars (physical meetings) on capacity building for ICT policy and strategy development;
  - To hold ten thematic online workshops on ICT policy for development for decision makers;
  - To assist selected Member States, upon request, in developing ICT policy and strategy through advisory services and technical assistance;
  - To carry out the design and implementation of a dedicated portal and websites as a platform for the thematic online workshops and for continuous networking and interaction among the participants of the capacity-building project;
  - To provide support for participation of decision makers of developing countries and countries with economies in transition in high-level international and regional conferences and forums on ICTD issues.

The regional network… (1)

- **Objectives:**
  - To serve as catalyst to galvanize partnership formation and increase the chances of successful ICT policy formulation and implementation;
  - Collaboration and coordination in developing and implementing a "regional strategy";
  - Accelerate the move towards the development of the information society in the region

The regional network… (2)

- **Main functions:**
  - Establish a Website comprising ICT strategies of member countries, an e-forum and a database of ICT policy makers in the region;
  - Act as a driver of success through knowledge sharing;
  - Provide a quick and easily accessible access to top insight from leading experts in the region;
  - Facilitate access to similar networks from other regions;
  - Participate in the execution of activities of the project.

The regional network… (3)

- **Business model (*to be discussed*):**
  - Act as a community of practice on ICT policy-making for the region;
  - Ownership of the stakeholders' network;
  - Initial Website to be developed by a consultant, with information provided by the network members;
  - Sustainability: Updating information by focal points in each member country; charge fees (?) for added value services; …;
  - Incentives to increase participation in the stakeholders' network, e.g. issuance of a monthly electronic bulletin; announcements about new participants; activating the e-forum with issues to discuss; ….

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Thank you
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