

ITU Africa-BB-Maps Programme

Africa-EU Broadband Mapping Study Visit and Policy Training Workshop (WATRA) - Romania

Bucharest, Radisson Hotel, 19-21 May 2026

ARRIVAL - Monday, 18 May 2026

DAY 1 - Tuesday, 19 May 2026: Policy Foundations & Strategic Orientation

08:00 - 08:30	<p>REGISTRATION AND BADGING</p> <p>Delegates complete training registration and receive training materials.</p>
08:30 - 09:00	<p>Opening Ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgian Grigore, Director, Executive Division for Monitoring and Control, Technical Coordination Division, ANCOM • Ruffus Samuel, Principal Manager, Partnerships, West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly (WATRA) • Dana Jon Kamason, Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU • Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe
09:00 - 09:15	<p>Official Group Photo</p>
09:15 - 10:00	<p>SESSION 1: Romania and ANCOM Experience in Broadband Mapping</p> <p>Objective: Introduce delegates to the Romanian institutional and regulatory context, including the role and evolution of ANCOM, its legal mandate, GIS experience, broadband mapping work, and the practical arrangements for the study visit to ANCOM on Thursday.</p> <p>History and institutional role of ANCOM in Romania's telecommunications regulatory framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandru Cozma, Director, International Cooperation Division, ANCOM <p>Romanian broadband mapping experience: legal, regulatory and institutional lessons from ANCOM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cristina Emilia Lupu, Expert, Executive Division for Limited Resources Management and Regulation, Technical Regulation, General Authorization and Numbering Division, Technical Regulation and Communications Security Department, ANCOM <p>GIS and broadband mapping in Romania: technical implementation, data workflows and regulatory use cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalin Iulian Constantinescu, Expert, Executive Division for Monitoring and Control, Technical Coordination <p>Presentation of the ANCOM study visit: objectives, agenda and expected learning outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Catalin Iulian Constantinescu, Expert, Executive Division for Monitoring and Control, Technical Coordination Division, Monitoring Coordination Service, ANCOM <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>

10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break
10:30 - 11:30	<p>SESSION 2: Connecting Europe and Africa through Broadband Mapping: Policy, Regulation and Institutional Cooperation</p> <p>Objective: Present the work of ITU Europe in relation to the European Union and Africa-BB-Maps framework, introduce the first WATRA policy analysis findings for Nigeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Benin, and draw lessons from European regulatory experiences for national broadband mapping systems. Presentation of the ITU Africa-BB-Maps Capacity Building Program</p> <p>Moderator: Valentina Stadnic, Programme Officer, ITU Office for Europe</p> <p>The Africa-BB-Maps Training Programme Explanation of the training design, including simulation-based learning, expert interventions, group work modalities, and expected deliverables.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Dana Jon Kamason, Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU</i> <p>ITU Africa-BB-Maps Policy Analysis Findings and European Regulatory Lessons for National Broadband Mapping Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Agnieszka Gładysz, ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert</i> • <i>Bert Klaassens, ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert</i> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
11:30 - 12:30	<p>SESSION 4: African Regional and National Contexts - Policy Challenges and Case Studies</p> <p>Participants present and compare their national and regional contexts, with a focus on the main legal, policy, regulatory and institutional challenges identified through the Africa-BB-Maps country analyses.</p> <p>Moderator: Dana Jon Kamason, Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU</p> <p>Nigeria Experience on the ITU Africa-BB-Maps Policy Analysis: national context, broadband mapping policy, regulatory and institutional challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative, NCC Nigeria</i> <p>Cote d'Ivoire Experience on the ITU Africa-BB-Maps Policy Analysis: national context, broadband mapping policy, regulatory and institutional challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative, ARTCI Côte d'Ivoire</i> <p>Benin Experience on the ITU Africa-BB-Maps Policy Analysis: national context, broadband mapping policy, regulatory and institutional challenges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative, ARCEP Benin</i> <p>WATRA regional perspective: regional cooperation, policy alignment and broadband mapping priorities with ITU Africa-BB-Maps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative, WATRA</i> <p>Q&A and Discussion</p>
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch Break

14:00 - 14:30	<p>SESSION 5: Scenario Framing: Infrastructure Sharing and Co-deployment: Bringing GIS Evidence into Policy Discussion</p> <p>Moderator: Elind Sulmina, Project Officer, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU</p> <p>Context: A national roads authority is expanding the highway through a remote region. An NRA analyst learns that the construction corridor passes through an area with no fiber infrastructure. There is an opportunity to mandate or incentivize the roads authority to install fiber conduits during construction at minimal additional cost. But the NRA must first spatially identify whether existing telecom infrastructure falls within or near the project area.</p> <p>Policy Question: How does an NRA use GIS to identify co-deployment opportunities between telecom infrastructure and civil works projects? What regulatory mechanism enables this kind of infrastructure sharing, and what spatial evidence is needed?</p> <p>Core Challenge: The EU Broadband Cost-Reduction Directive requires member states to facilitate physical infrastructure sharing and co-deployment during civil works. No equivalent obligation exists in most African jurisdictions, but the economic logic is the same. Missing this window means the opportunity to lay fiber at low cost may not return for a decade.</p>
14:30 - 15:30	<p>SESSION 6: Policy Simulation 1 - Part 1 Infrastructure Sharing - Telecom-to-Telecom Access</p> <p>Moderator: Bert Klaassens, ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert</p> <p>Context: A smaller mobile operator has filed a complaint with the national regulatory authority (NRA). It can't get access to towers and ducts owned by the dominant operator in a remote district. Without that access, the smaller operator cannot extend its network to underserved communities. It is now considering building duplicate infrastructure to meet the needs of the underserved community. This duplicate infrastructure will cost significantly more and will take much longer to deploy. The dominant operator is claiming its passive infrastructure is fully utilized. The smaller operator disputes this claim and is asking the NRA to intervene.</p> <p>Policy Question: What spatial evidence does the NRA need to assess whether the dominant operator's passive infrastructure is available for sharing? What regulatory mechanism, if one exists in the national framework, can the NRA use to require disclosure of infrastructure data or to mandate access?</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break
16:00 - 17:00	<p>SESSION 7: Policy Simulation 1 - Part 2 co-deployment with Civil Works – ITU Jury Challenge</p> <p>Moderator: Agnieszka Gładysz, ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert</p>

	<p>Context: While the NRA is assessing the infrastructure access complaint, a roads authority analyst contacts the regulator with new information. A major national highway expansion is underway in the same remote district. The construction corridor passes through an area with no existing fiber infrastructure. An engineering review suggests that fiber conduit could be installed during road construction at a fraction of what a standalone installation would cost later. However, the Roads Authority did not know about the connectivity gap and did not include conduit installation in the original project scope. There is only a narrow window to amend the plan before civil works begin. There is currently no legal mechanism requiring the Roads Authority to notify the NRA of planned civil works, and no policy requiring co-deployment during construction.</p>
17:00-17:45	<p>SESSION 8: Presentation of Simulations 1 and Outcomes</p> <p><i>Objective: Presentation of the results by the working groups and discussion on lessons applicable to national broadband mapping implementation.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Elind Sulmina, Project Officer, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU</p>
17:45	<p>End of Day 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandru Cozma, Director, International Cooperation Division, ANCOM

DAY 2 - Wednesday, 20 May 2026: Simulations, Enforcement & Roadmap

09:00 - 09:15	Recap of Day 1 and Objectives of Day 2 Master of Ceremonies: Representative, ITU
09:15 - 10:30	SESSION 9: Simulation 2 - Policy Decision-Making under Uncertainty (Pt I) Moderator: Elind Sulmina , Project Officer, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU Context The NRA is preparing to use broadband mapping evidence to support a regulatory decision, but the available datasets are incomplete, inconsistent or contested by operators. Some coverage data may be outdated, infrastructure inventories may be missing, and operators may challenge the accuracy or confidentiality of the information requested. The NRA must decide how to proceed when the evidence is not perfect, while still ensuring that regulatory action is credible, proportionate and legally defensible.
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - 12:30	SESSION 10: Simulation 2 - Policy Decision-Making under Uncertainty (Pt II) Mid-Session Jury Challenge Moderator: Dana Jon Kamason , Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU The jury introduces new information indicating that key datasets used by delegates are partially inaccurate, and that operators are contesting the regulator's conclusions. Delegates must reassess their policy responses, justify decisions under legal and regulatory scrutiny, and propose safeguards to ensure defensibility despite uncertainty.
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH BREAK
14:00 - 15:15	SESSION 11: Simulation 3 - Enforcement, Compliance & Accountability (Pt I) Moderator: Elind Sulmina , Project Officer, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU Context The NRA has introduced broadband mapping obligations requiring operators to submit coverage, infrastructure and service availability data. However, some operators submit incomplete information, delay reporting, or provide data that appears inconsistent with field evidence and user complaints. The NRA must design an enforcement and compliance framework that ensures operators meet their obligations while respecting due process, confidentiality requirements and proportionality.
15:15 - 15:45	Coffee Break
15:45 - 17:00	SESSION 12: Simulation 3 - Enforcement, Compliance & Accountability (Pt II) Moderator: Agnieszka Gładysz , ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert Mid-Session Jury Challenge

	<p>The jury introduces a scenario where operators refuse to comply with reporting obligations and initiate legal appeals against the regulator's decisions. Delegates are required to adapt enforcement strategies, reinforce due process safeguards, and propose legally robust solutions that mitigate litigation risks while preserving regulatory credibility.</p>
<p>17:00 - 17:30</p>	<p>SESSION 13: Presentation of Simulations 2 and 3 Outcomes</p> <p><i>Objective: Present the results of the two simulations and reflect on lessons applicable to national broadband mapping implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Learning Outcome: Delegates present the results of the two simulations and reflect on lessons applicable to national broadband mapping implementation.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Bert Klaassens, ITU Africa-BB-Maps Expert</p>
<p>17:30 - 17:00</p>	<p>Closing of Day 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexandru Cozma, Director, International Cooperation Division, ANCOM

DAY 3 - Thursday, 21 May 2026: Recognition, Reflection & Study Visit

09:00 - 09:30	Transfer from Raddisson to ANCOM Delegates depart from the hotel and travel to ANCOM premises
09:30 - 12:30	Session 14: Study to ANCOM Objective: Provide delegates with direct exposure to ANCOM’s institutional, regulatory and technical experience in broadband mapping, including its legal framework, GIS-related work, operational practices and lessons learned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction to ANCOM • Overview of ANCOM’s institutional mandate and regulatory role • Presentation of ANCOM’s broadband mapping experience • Legal, regulatory and institutional lessons from Romania • GIS and data management aspects of broadband mapping • Exchange with ANCOM technical GIS team • Q&A and discussion
12:30 - 13:00	Transfer from ANCOM to Radisson Delegates depart from ANCOM and travel to Radisson
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 - 15:00	SESSION 15: Summary of Outcomes and Lessons Learnt <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapporteur, ITU <p>All the teams of delegates present and reflect collectively on the training experience, consolidate key takeaways from the simulations, policy sessions and ANCOM study visit</p> <p>Moderator: Dana Jon Kamason, Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative, NCC Nigeria</i> • <i>Representative, ARTCI Côte d’Ivoire</i> • <i>Representative, ARCEP Benin</i> • <i>Representative, WATRA</i>
15:00 - 16:00	ITU Certificate Award Ceremony Moderator: Elind Sulmina, Project Officer, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dana Jon Kamason, Project Manager, Africa-BB-Maps, ITU • Cristin Nicolae Popa, Executive Director, Executive Division for Monitoring and Control, ANCOM Official individual and group photograph with certificates.
16:00 - 16:15	CLOSING CEREMONY <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cristin Nicolae Popa, Executive Director, Executive Division for Monitoring and Control, ANCOM