Africa Broadband Maps

Funded by the European Union

PROPOSED AGENDA

Africa–Europe Study Visit and Regional Harmonisation and Community of Practice Training Workshop

Brussels, Belgium

Monday 30 November – Thursday 3 December 2026

VENUES

Days 1–3	Training workshop at Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie, Avenue Louise 91–93, 1050 Brussels
Day 4	Study visit at the European Parliament (morning) and closing sessions at Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie (afternoon)

PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

DAY 1 Mon 30 November	**Broadband Data and Investment Readiness in the Africa-BB-Maps Countries**
DAY 2 Tue 1 December	**Towards a Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework**
DAY 3 Wed 2 December	**Sustaining Regional Cooperation through a Community of Practice**
DAY 4 Thu 3 December	**Adoption of the Deliverables and Dialogue with the EU Institutions**

Organised by ITU with the support of the EU

3 November 2026

DAY 1 – MONDAY 30 NOVEMBER
Broadband Data and Investment Readiness in the Africa-BB-Maps Countries

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 09:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 10:00	**Opening remarks** **Objective:** *Open the workshop and set out why the EU, ITU and the regional regulatory associations are supporting harmonised broadband data, and what the week is expected to achieve.* Master of Ceremonies: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU • **Laurent Sillano**, Head of Unit, EC DG INTPA • **Thibaut Kleiner**, Director, EC DG CONNECT • **Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe • **Dr Marko Simončič**, Representative, BEREC • **Mayol Abraham Mach Garang**, Senior Officer- ICT, EACO • **Shukya Kiroga**, Head of Electronic Communications, CRASA • **Kevin Ndong**, Head of IT Department, WATRA
10:00 – 10:20	**Group photo and networking break**
10:20 – 10:45	**Presentation of the programme** **Objective:** *Explain how the four days fit together, from investment readiness to adoption of the three deliverables on Day 4, so that delegations understand their role in each simulation.* • **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU • **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU *Q&A*
10:45 – 12:00	**SESSION 1: Panel discussion – Broadband data requirements of financing institutions** **Objective:** *Establish, from the financiers' side, what broadband data an investment proposal must contain before EU and IFC teams can appraise it. This sets the benchmark used throughout Day 1 and in Deliverable 1.* Moderator: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU • **Nour Mehadji,** Policy Officer, EC DG INTPA • **William Schun**, Programme Manager, EC DG INTPA • **Angelica Sartori Conte**, Programme Manager, EU Delegation to Malawi • **Julian McNeill,** Associate, IFC • **Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe *Q&A*

TIME	SESSION
12:00 – 13:00	**SESSION 2: Presentations – Investment readiness in the light of the national policy and regulatory analyses** **Objective:** *Relate the findings of the national policy and regulatory analyses to investment readiness, highlighting the data and regulatory gaps that recur across countries.* Moderator: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU • **Dr Marko Simončič**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Agnieszka Gładysz**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Dr Thomas Senaji**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Catalin Constantinescu**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Bert Klaassens**, Lead Expert, ITU *Q&A*
13:00 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 15:30	**SESSION 3: Simulation 1 – Corridor investment scenario** **Objective:** *Let delegations experience, through a paper corridor scenario, the data, interoperability and data sharing problems that arise when neighbouring countries prepare a joint investment case.* Moderator: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU **Output:** Three provisional donor submissions, one for each corridor
15:30 – 15:50	**Networking break**
15:50 – 16:35	**SESSION 4: Simulation 1 – Presentation of the three corridor proposals to the donor panel** **Objective:** *Test each corridor proposal before a donor panel to show how far the underlying data supports the investment case.* Moderator: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU • **Dr Umar Abdullahi,** Special Adviser, NCC Nigeria: **Corridor Green** • **Tebogo Ketshabile,** Deputy Director, BOCRA: **Corridor Blue** • **Mel Paule-Renée Lasme**, Head of Market Regulation Department, ARTCI: **Corridor Red**
16:35 – 17:30	**SESSION 5: Simulation 1 – Donor panel assessment and key takeaways** **Objective:** *Draw out from the panel's assessment the data gaps that would prevent financing, so that they shape the ITU–EU Investment Mapping and Prioritisation Guidance.* Moderator: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU • **Nour Mehadji,** Policy Officer, EC DG INTPA: **Donor panelist 1** • **William Schun**, Programme Manager, EC DG INTPA: **Donor panelist 2** • **Jean-Francois Le Bihan**, Programme Manager, EC DG INTPA: **Donor panelist 3** • **Dr Marko Simončič**, Representative, BEREC: **Donor panelist 4** • **Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe: **Donor panelist 5** **Output:** Regional Data Challenge Register and data requirements for investment preparation, as the basis of the ITU–EU Investment Mapping and Prioritisation Guidance (Deliverable 1)
17:30	**End of Day 1**

DAY 2 – TUESDAY 1 DECEMBER
Towards a Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework

TIME	SESSION
09:00 – 09:15	**Opening remarks: European regulatory and broadband mapping practice** **Objective:** *Draw on European regulatory and broadband mapping practice as a reference for the day's work on common standards.* • **Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe
09:15 – 09:45	**SESSION 6: Presentation – Results of Day 1 and the draft ITU–EU Investment Mapping and Prioritisation Guidance** **Objective:** *Connect Day 1 to Day 2 by presenting the draft Guidance and the data challenges it records, which frame the discussion on standards.* Moderator: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU • **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU *Q&A*
09:45 – 10:15	**Networking break**
10:15 – 10:45	**SESSION 7: Presentation – Data standardisation and harmonisation as conditions for investment readiness** **Objective:** *Present the Africa-BB-Maps Data Standardisation Pack and explain why common data standards and harmonisation are preconditions for investment readiness.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU • **Catalin Constantinescu**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Clara Nzima,** Data Standards Consultant, ITU *Q&A*
10:45 – 12:00	**SESSION 8: Simulation 2 – Mandatory, optional and country-specific features for harmonised broadband maps (Part 1)** **Objective:** *Agree in corridor groups which features every national map must contain, which are optional and which can remain country-specific and how compatibility is demonstrated, together with the data governance the mandatory set requires.* Moderator: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU **Working groups (continued from Day 1):** • Corridor Green, Corridor Blue and Corridor Red **Output:** Three group proposals classifying the features of the Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework as mandatory, optional or country-specific, each with the agreed data governance arrangements for the mandatory features
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch**

TIME	SESSION
13:00 – 14:30	**SESSION 9: Simulation 2 – Applying the minimum requirements to the corridor proposals (Part 2)** **Objective:** *Apply the agreed minimum requirements to the Day 1 corridor proposals to show what a common standard changes in practice for an investment case.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU • **Rebecca Mukite,** Head of Infrastructure, UCC: **Corridor Green** • **David Madondo**, Engineer, POTRAZ: **Corridor Blue** • **Mireille Nduwayo,** Technical Director, ARCT Burundi: **Corridor Red** **Output:** Revised corridor recommendations: first with the same evidence expressed under the Data Standardisation Pack, then with new evidence
14:30 – 15:00	**Networking break**
15:00 – 16:00	**SESSION 10: Simulation 2 – Results, challenges and key takeaways** **Objective:** *Compare the group findings and identify the data work that remains before the minimum requirements can be met.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU • **Issouf Touré,** Head of Data-Driven Regulation, ARTCI • **Jane Mwafulirwa,** Senior Economist - Research, ZICTA • **Asegdew Fitawok,** Director, Universal Access and Service, ECA Ethiopia **Output:** Three group syntheses of the remaining data work and of the governance issues that no standard can resolve
16:00 – 17:00	**SESSION 11: Simulation 2 – Agreement on the draft ITU Africa-BB-Maps Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework** **Objective:** *Resolve the remaining differences between the group proposals so that a single framework can be put forward for adoption as Deliverable 2, including adoption of the identified version of the Data Standardisation Pack.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU • **Juan Arevalo Torres,** Managing Director, Randbee Consultants • **Catalin Constantinescu**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Clara Nzima**, Data Standards Consultant, ITU **Output:** Draft ITU Africa-BB-Maps Common Data Standards and Data Sharing Framework (Deliverable 2)
17:00	**End of Day 2**

DAY 3 – WEDNESDAY 2 DECEMBER
Sustaining Regional Cooperation through a Community of Practice

TIME	SESSION
09:00 – 09:15	**SESSION 12: Presentation – Results of Day 2 and introduction to the Community of Practice** **Objective:** *Link the Day 2 results to the question of sustainability and introduce the Community of Practice as the body that will carry harmonisation forward after the workshop.* Moderator: **Elind Sulmina**, Project Officer, ITU
09:15 – 10:45	**SESSION 13: Workshop – Designing the Regional Community of Practice (ReCoP) Charter** **Objective:** *Work with WATRA, CRASA and EACO on the ReCoP's purpose, membership, governance and secretariat, including who holds decision authority, technical maintenance and implementation support for the common standard after handover.* Moderator: **Dr Marko Simončič**, Lead Expert, ITU • **Kevin Ndong,** Head of IT Department**,** WATRA • **Shukya Kiroga,** Head of Electronic Communications, CRASA • **Mayol Abraham Mach Garang**, Senior Officer- ICT, EACO • **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU *Q&A* **Output:** Draft inputs on the Africa-BB-Maps ReCoP Charter
10:45 – 11:15	**Networking break**
11:15 – 12:30	**SESSION 14: Workshop – Co-drafting the ReCoP Work Programme 2027–2028** **Objective:** *Set out what the ReCoP should deliver in 2027–2028, and in what order, as the basis of its Work Programme.* Moderator: **Mayol Abraham Mach Garang**, Senior Officer- ICT, EACO **Output:** Draft inputs on the Africa-BB-Maps ReCoP Work Programme 2027–2028
12:30 – 13:30	**Lunch**
13:30 – 15:00	**SESSION 15: Workshop – Presentation and comparison of the subregional proposals** **Objective:** *Compare the subregional proposals to identify common ground and the differences to be settled before the Charter and Work Programme are finalised.* Moderator: **Shukya Kiroga,** Head of Electronic Communications, CRASA • **Emmanuel Avulla**, Principal Manager, Spectrum Administration, NCC Nigeria • **Emmanuel Boukari**, Head of Information Systems Security, ARCEP Benin • **Seepelo Malefho,** Head of IT, BOCRA **Output:** Draft inputs on the Africa-BB-Maps ReCoP Charter and Work Programme 2027–2028
15:00 – 15:30	**Networking break**

TIME	SESSION
15:30 – 17:00	**SESSION 16: Workshop – Results, challenges and key takeaways** **Objective:** *Consolidate the day's work and agree the points that remain open, so that Deliverable 3 can be presented for adoption on Day 4.* Moderator: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU *Q&A* **Outputs:** Draft ReCoP Charter and draft ReCoP Work Programme 2027–2028 (Deliverable 3)
17:00	**End of Day 3**

DAY 4 – THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER
Adoption of the Deliverables and Dialogue with the EU Institutions

TIME	SESSION
08:30 – 09:00	**Assembly and security badging** 08:30: Meeting point: Paul Henri Spaak Building, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047 Brussels 08:45 – 09:00: Badging, security check, meeting with tour guides and transfer to the EU Parliament
09:00 – 12:00	**SESSION 17: Study visit to the European Parliament – EU institutional and legislative processes** **Objective:** *Give delegations first-hand understanding of how the European Parliament shapes EU legislation and external action, including the instruments that fund connectivity in Africa.* Host: **European Parliament**
12:00 – 12:45	**SESSION 18: Meeting with the Rapporteur of the European Parliament on the Global Europe Instrument (name to be confirmed)** **Objective:** *Open a direct dialogue with the Parliament's Rapporteur on how harmonised broadband data can inform Global Europe investment in African connectivity.* Moderator: **Jaroslaw Ponder**, Head, ITU Office for Europe
12:45 – 13:15	**Return on foot (about 25 minutes) to the conference venue (Thon Hotel Bristol Stephanie)**
13:15 – 14:00	**Lunch**
14:00 – 15:30	**SESSION 19: Adoption of the deliverables and next steps** **Objective:** *Present the three workshop deliverables for adoption in substance by the participating delegations, record each institution's position and any reservations, and agree follow-up actions, responsibilities and the consolidation timetable.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU Secretariat: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU
15:30 – 16:00	**Networking break**
16:00 – 16:30	**SESSION 20: 2027 outlook** **Objective:** *Outline the programme's priorities for 2027 and how the deliverables will be taken forward at national and regional level.* Moderator: **Dana Jon Kamason**, Project Manager, ITU
16:30 – 17:00	**Closing ceremony and presentation of ITU Academy certificates** **Objective:** *Close the workshop and recognise participants' completion of the ITU Academy training.* Moderator: **Patricia Schlageter**, Project Coordinator, ITU
17:00	**End of training**
19:30 – 22:00	**Reception hosted by ITU** Venue to be confirmed