



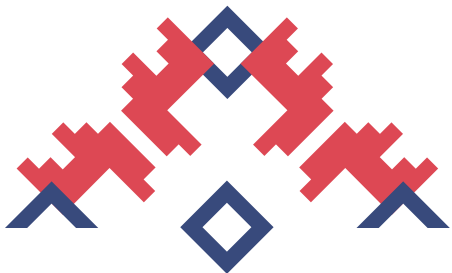
*Historical village of Kovachevica,
West Rhodope*

The Republic of Bulgaria

is committed to continue the consistent efforts to share its experience and good practices and to facilitate the process of bridging the digital divide, both among the ITU member countries in Region “C” and within the other ITU regions.

Based on the existing high quality information and communication services in the country, including the high-speed broadband communications services, and the longstanding practical experience in this field, the Republic of Bulgaria will contribute to the implementation of the ITU goal to connecting all the people in the world.

In the context of the candidature of the Republic of Bulgaria for re-election as Member of the ITU Council, the Bulgarian Government will continue the efforts to promote international cooperation, especially within Region C, aimed at developing telecommunications/ICTs to facilitate people's lives.



REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

CANDIDATE FOR RE-ELECTION TO THE ITU COUNCIL 2019-2022

FOR REGION “C”

Photo credit:
Pencho Chukov
Kardzhali dam lake

Ever since its membership in the ITU in 1880, the Republic of Bulgaria has been strongly committed to the achievement of the goals of the ITU which, at present, focus on growth, inclusiveness, sustainability, innovation and partnership in the field of telecommunications/ITCs.

This continuous commitment is illustrated by:



Visit to Bulgaria of Mr. Houlin Zhao, ITU Secretary General.

- A number of policies and initiatives supporting the Sustainable Development Goals concerning the ICT sector, namely: Concept of Digital Transformation of Bulgarian Industry; E-government Strategy for 2016–2020; National Open Data Portal; National Strategy for Lifelong Learning (2014–2020 г.); Strategy for Efficient Implementation of ICTs in Education and Science (2014–2020), etc.

- Initiatives promoted among the Western Balkan countries relating to Broadband for All, high-speed cross-border connectivity and gradual reduction/abolition of roaming charges for these countries. Thus Bulgaria will contribute to WSIS Action Line 2 and hence – the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.



*Ancient stone drawings "Magurata" cave
West Fore-Balkan*



Cape Kaliakra, Black sea

- Successful implementation of two pilot projects within the framework of the ITU regional cooperation: (1) Provision of IT skills and specialized hardware equipment and software for elderly people and for people with visual impairments, and (2) Provision of free internet access for the residents of a border region in Bulgaria.

- The Child On-line Protection initiative, proposed by the Bulgarian Presidency of the ITU Council at the 63th Council session, which still remains among the most significant initiatives of the ITU Telecommunications Development Sector, a testimony to the vital sustainability of the initiative offered by Bulgaria.

- Hosting of the ITU-ENISA Regional Cybersecurity Forum for Europe, held on 29–30 November 2016 in Sofia.

- Active participation in the ITU Council sessions, all key ITU conferences and other ITU bodies and events, including the regional organisation for Europe – CEPT.

- Re-election of a Bulgarian representative as a Vice-Chair of Study Group 2 (ITU-D SG2) of the Telecommunication Development Sector for the period 2014–2017.

- As a current member of the ITU Council, Bulgaria is a member of the Staff Pension Committee of the ITU.

- Active participation in debates on key issues within the remit of the ITU.



*Dyavolski most "Devil's bridge", Arda River
Rhodope Mountains*