

The RIPE NCC Pledges to Partners2Connect Digital Coalition Initiative

<https://www.itu.int/itu-d/sites/partner2connect/>

The RIPE NCC serves as the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia. As such, we allocate and register blocks of Internet number resources (IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers) to Internet service providers and other organisations within our service region. The RIPE NCC is a not-for-profit organisation representing more than 20,000 members, which supports the open RIPE community and the development of the Internet through capacity building, training, data and analysis, and contributions to public policymaking.

The RIPE NCC welcomes ongoing ITU efforts to achieve universal connectivity, especially for the least developed countries. We collaborate with the ITU-D, governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders undertaking capacity-building and development initiatives. We offer our technical expertise to help further Internet development across our service region and beyond.

As an ITU-D sector member, the RIPE NCC is joining the ITU Partner2Connect Digital Coalition to help support the work of two focus areas.

Focus Area: Access

Economic and social growth rely on connectivity now more than ever before, which the COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted. In the face of IPv4 run-out and rising prices of Internet address space on the secondary market, network operators will need to deploy the next-generation Internet Protocol, IPv6, to connect the remaining billions who are not yet online.

The exhaustion of IPv4 addresses puts pressure on governments – especially in developing countries, which tend to have fewer Internet number resources historically – to accelerate the transition to IPv6. Governments, along with ISPs, network operator groups (NOGs), Internet exchange points (IXPs), and the technical community, need to lead the way in IPv6 deployment.

The RIPE NCC commits to expanding its ongoing IPv6 efforts across its service region and beyond, supporting the deployment of this critical enabling technology to connect the unconnected.

In this context, the RIPE NCC pledges to create an Internet country report focusing on some of the least developed countries in the RIPE NCC service region and those undergoing difficult economic and political challenges: Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. RIPE NCC Internet Country Reports offer a comprehensive analysis of the current state of Internet development in different parts of the service region to make our data and insights available to technical communities, decision-makers, and governments. With this special edition of our country reports, we hope to help local network operators create the most resilient networks possible in these countries and to optimise their domestic interconnectivity and international connectivity to the global Internet.

Focus Area: Adoption

Empowering communities through capacity development and engaging with different stakeholder groups and communities has always been a core element of the RIPE NCC's mission. We pledge to expand our efforts in capacity building, strengthening individuals' and communities' technical skills in our service region and beyond, with a focus on the least developed countries:

Increased E-learning Enrolment

The RIPE NCC has developed an online e-learning platform whereby participants can take online courses on various technical topics at their own pace. In 2022, we pledge to enrol 2,500 new participants in the RIPE NCC Academy who will complete at least 18,000 e-learning modules. We will also keep offering our online live webinars, with 60 webinars and expecting about 1500 participants.

More Inclusive and Expanded Certified Professionals Programme

We also pledge to add a new course to the RIPE NCC Academy and RIPE NCC Certified Professionals: BGP Security. The goal is to support local Internet communities with digital skills development and best practices, which will, in turn, help create a more secure and resilient Internet infrastructure.

In 2022, we will expand the RIPE NCC's Certified Professionals programme to make it available in countries outside the RIPE NCC service region.