

## SEMINAIRE

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## SEMINAR

COMMITTEE FOR TRADE, INDUSTRY AND  
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENTDistr.  
GENERALWORKING PARTY ON INDUSTRY AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT  
**Team of Specialists on Internet Enterprise Development**TRADE/WP.8/SEM.2/AC.3/1  
16 August 2001UNECE Conference on Digital Economy Development  
in South East Europe

ENGLISH ONLY

Bucharest, Romania, 4-5 October 2001

Information NoticeIntroduction

1. This information notice gives details regarding the organization and participation in the Conference on Digital Economy Development in South East Europe with Special Reference to Romania, organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in cooperation with the Government of Romania. The Workshop will be held in Bucharest (Romania) from 4 to 5 October 2001.

2. New information and communications technologies are transforming the economic landscape bringing unparalleled opportunity and change. The United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) is committed to ensuring that the transition economies of central and eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) will be able to exploit the immense potential of the Information Age.

Objectives and scope

3. To promote the development of the Internet and electronic commerce in transition economies; to review the Internet infrastructure and prospects for electronic commerce in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the CIS; to consider the potential of electronic commerce for small and medium-sized enterprises; to identify the needs for capacity building.

4. The conference will explore the central issues in electronic commerce and Internet-based enterprise development in transition economies. The discussions should not only raise awareness of the current situation but also provide a vision of the vast potential and upcoming opportunities for these countries.

5. Participants include key decision-makers and officials from all over the region; people who will provide the framework by fostering infrastructure developments and improving business conditions; international business leaders with years of experience; the major players in electronic commerce who will set the pace for the

future; high-ranking representatives from international organisations and the European Union who assist transition economies and help them confront the new challenges.

6. Participants will be able to discuss on an equal footing with experts from all over the world these exciting market opportunities, get acquainted with the latest technological and regulatory developments and gain insider knowledge from experts in the field.

7. The Forum will attempt to answer such practical questions as: what is the realistic potential and time-scale of these new prospects, and what can transition economies do to benefit from the digital economy development? what can Governments in the region do to stimulate electronic commerce, to encourage start-up ventures, assist the emergence of profitable business operations and create long-term employment opportunities?

8. The conference will assess the progress made since the first conference held in Bucharest in October 2000 and set the new directions of digital economy development in the region.

#### Venue

9. The Workshop will take place at Romexpo Conference Centre in Bucharest.

#### Organization

10. The workshop will be held on 4-5 October 2001 in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Romanian Foreign Trade Centre, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania and Bucharest Municipality. Speakers will include high-ranking officials from UN/ECE member States and key players in the industry both at the global and regional level. Registration will begin at 08.00 on 4 October. The Workshop will start at 09.00 on the same date and will end on 5 October.

#### Programme of the Workshop

11. The provisional programme of the Workshop can be obtained from Mr. Nan Onoriu by sending an email to him at: nano@traderom.ro.

#### Participation

12. In order to assure the practical focus of the Workshop, participation in the Workshop is open to both representatives of Governments and to enterprises from transition and market economies, which are interested in discussing issues of the digital economy development and enhancing their expertise in this area. Attendance by the private sector from transition economies is particularly encouraged. In addition, representatives of governmental and semi-governmental bodies involved in e-commerce related activities, as well as e-government and e-learning, will be invited.

13. Representatives from the European Commission and other relevant international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other interested international agencies also will be invited.

### Passport and Visa Requirements

14. All participants should be in possession of a valid passport, with an entry visa (if required) which may be obtained from the Romanian diplomatic representation in each participant's country. It is always advisable that visa applications, if required, be made at the earliest possible date. The conference secretariat will provide letters to the Romanian visa authorities (i.e. consulates) confirming the attendance at the conference of those participants who need such a letter and request it directly from the secretariat.

### Languages

15. The working language of the Workshop will be English. Simultaneous interpretation into Romanian will be provided.

### Participation fee and cost of attending

16. There is no conference fee for this Conference. Cost of travel and stay in Bucharest is borne by the participants.

### Registration

17. Interested parties are invited to fill out the attached Registration Form (if you have not yet returned the pre-registration form) and return it by 30 September 2001 at the latest to the following address:

Mr. Nan Onoriu  
Deputy Director-General  
Romanian Foreign Trade Centre  
17 Apollodor Street  
Bucharest 5, PO-Box 42/3  
Romania  
Tel: (+40 1) 335 3464  
Fax: (+40 1) 311 1491  
E-mail: nano@traderom.ro

### Further Details

18. Further details can be obtained through the UNECE secretariat:

Mr. Daewon Choi  
Programme Officer  
Internet Enterprise Development Programme  
UNECE Secretariat  
Tel.: (+41 22) 917 2474  
E-mail: daewon.choi@unece.org

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ANNEX I

**REGISTRATION FORM**

This form should be filled in and returned as soon as possible but **not later than 30 September 2001** to:

Mr. Nan Onoriu  
Deputy Director-General  
Romanian Foreign Trade Centre  
17 Apollodor Street  
Bucharest 5, PO-Box 42/3  
Romania  
Tel: (+40 1) 335 3464  
Fax: (+40 1) 311 1491  
E-mail: nano@traderom.ro

(Please type or write legibly)

1. Family name (Mr., Ms., Mrs.): .....

First name: .....

. Nationality: .....

3. Professional position: .....

3. Representing country or  
International organization or company: .....

4. Professional address: .....

.....

Telephone No. (please include country and city codes): .....

Telefax No. (please include country and city codes): .....

E-mail address:.....