

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **TELECENTRE EUROPE Annual Conference 2015**

**Belgrade, 24-25<sup>th</sup> September**

### **TEAC Event Highlights**

- Official Day 1 opening and Keynote speech by Ms. Snezana Markovic, Assistant Minister in the Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development
- Launch of the I-LINC platform on youth employability: Panel at 14:00-15:30, 24<sup>th</sup> September
- Unite-IT Digital Inclusion Award ceremony: 24<sup>th</sup> September 19:00 at Hotel Hyatt Regency Belgrade (Crystal Ballroom)

*Belgrade, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015*

Telecentre Europe Annual Conference (TEAC) 2015 is an event organised by Telecentre Europe together with its Serbian member organisation, the International Aid Network. TEAC is an official event of the European eSkills for Jobs Campaign<sup>1</sup>. Telecentre Europe is a Brussels-based European NGO that represents the interests of non-formal ICT training centres and other digital inclusion intermediaries<sup>2</sup>.

The aim of the event is trifold: firstly, to raise awareness about the role of e-Skills and digital empowerment for employment opportunities and social inclusion; secondly, to gather all organisations and persons interested in reducing the digital gap to meet and exchange knowledge; finally, to contribute to EU policy making by producing policy papers based on the event outcomes.

### **Day 1, Sept 24<sup>th</sup> (09:00 - 16:00)**

The first day will focus on policy and good practice. After the conference opening with local and international keynote speakers, the [UNITE-IT](#) project partners will moderate a series of simultaneous workshops on the digital inclusion of vulnerable groups, the education and training of digital skills, the relation between ICT and youth employability and the importance of gender balance in the ICT and STEM fields. An afternoon panel on youth employability will bring five representatives from the ICT industry, civil society, and academia to tackle this burning issue at both EU and national levels. After the discussion, Telecentre Europe will launch a new online stakeholder platform on youth employability called "[I-LINC](#)", a project funded by the European Union. In the evening, four awards will be presented to the winners of the best digital inclusion practices in Europe (*Unite-IT Award ceremony*, held at 19:00).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://eskills-week.ec.europa.eu>

<sup>2</sup> *Inclusion or digital inclusion intermediaries are public places where people can access computers, the Internet, and other digital technologies that enable them to gather information, create, learn, and communicate with others while they develop essential digital skills.*

Event website: [teannualconference2015.info](http://teannualconference2015.info)

Official website: [www.telecentre-europe.org](http://www.telecentre-europe.org)

**Follow the event on Twitter**

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## Day 2, Sept 25<sup>th</sup> (09:00-13:00)

The second day is centred on learning about [e-Participation](#) and online tools to boost active citizenship. Local experts from Serbian government, research centre and NGO will share their views on the topic. The panel will be followed by guided table discussions, led by representatives of the EU funded *E-uropa project*. The conference will close with the world café session on sustainability and funding for telecentres, networks and NGOs working in the field of digital inclusion.

**END**

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## BACKGROUND

Since 2008, Telecentre Europe has organised seven annual gatherings for its member organizations and stakeholders. This year we are expecting 150 participants at the Hyatt Regency Belgrade.

### Definitions and further information

#### eSkills

eSkills or digital skills refer to a broad set of skills necessary in the modern workplace. Successful innovation in ICT services requires cross-disciplinary, cognitive and problem-solving skills as well as an understanding of the fundamentals of business and communication skills, including competence in foreign languages. They should also be seen in the wider context of a core set of competences equipping all European citizens for the knowledge-based economy and society. These key competences should be provided in a lifelong learning context. They can be divided into subsets: ICT user skills, ICT practitioner skills and e-Business skills.

#### Digital inclusion

Digital inclusion or eInclusion is social inclusion in the 21st century that ensures individuals and disadvantaged groups have access to, and skills to use, Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and are therefore able to participate in and benefit from the growing knowledge and information society.

#### e-Participation

*E-participation* is citizens' participation in administration, service delivery, decision making and policy making. While e-governance consists of top-down government initiatives, e-participation is a wider concept including all stakeholders in the democratic decision-making processes.

The ICT solutions used to provide public services or to engage in the policy making process and contribute to it are known as *e-participation tools*. These can be voting and polling online, campaigning through web surveys, online petitions and consultations or discussing in chat forums.

#### Social media channels

@tc\_europe  
#TEAC14 and #eskills

#### Blogging space

[www.unite-it.eu](http://www.unite-it.eu)

#### Follow the event on Twitter

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