

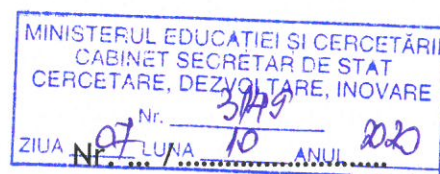
**INTERSESSIONAL PANEL OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION
ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)**

**Geneva, Switzerland
18-22 January 2020**

Contribution by Romania

to the CSTD 2020-2021 priority themes on “Using science, technology and innovation to close the gap on Sustainable Development Goal 3 on good health and well-being” and “Harnessing blockchain for sustainable development: prospects and challenges”

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Ref.: Adresa nr.2423/10.09.2020 - Solicitare de contribuții pentru elaborarea temelor prioritare din cadrul reuniunii inter-sesionale a CSTD

Răspunsuri la chestionarele

privind solicitarea de informații pentru elaborarea temelor prioritare din cadrul reuniunii inter-sesionale ale Comisiei ONU pentru Știință și Tehnologie pentru Dezvoltare

Referitor la solicitările de contribuții pentru elaborarea temelor prioritare din cadrul reuniunii inter-sesionale a CSTD, comunicate prin adresa nr.2423/10.09.2020, vă răspundem cele ce urmează.

I. Referitor la tema 1, *Valorificarea "blockchain"-ului pentru dezvoltare durabilă: perspective și provocări.*

1. Could you share specific examples, projects or initiatives that have used or plan to use blockchain technology for the SDGs in your country? What are the main challenges confronted while trying to implement these projects/initiatives? (Examples may include blockchain solutions for financial inclusion, trade facilitation, supply chains, health, energy, e-Government, etc.)

R. There are no specific examples related to blockchain technology.

2. National systems of innovation affect how different countries can harness blockchain for increasing competitiveness, growth and sustainable development. Please share information about the ecosystem of innovation in blockchain in your country by informing: what are the key industries/specific sector that are pioneer in blockchain innovation in the country? What are the key actors in the national ecosystem of innovation (entrepreneurs, development teams (firms), venture capital, banks and financial services, academia, regulators)? What are the key networks of the ecosystem in your country (including online networks, innovation hubs, forums, etc.)? What are the national strategies, policies, laws and regulations (in place or preparation) related to blockchain?

R. The Government approach was to adopt (Apr. 2018) a Memorandum on approving the signing by Romania of the declarations proposed by the European Commission for the development of new technologies, namely: cooperation in the field of artificial

intelligence, the radar on innovation, and development of blockchain technology at European level.

3. What are the challenges that your government have faced or may face for promoting innovation and competence building in blockchain in your country, to contribute to national development priorities and accelerate the progress towards the SDGs?

R. The implementation is top-down driven; so far the government adopted an Emergency Ordinance on July 1, 2020, on amending and supplementing Law No.129/2019 for preventing and fighting against money laundering and terrorist financing, which completed to transpose the Fifth Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Directive into Romanian legislation.

4. What are the actions that the international community, including the CSTD, can take to contribute to harnessing blockchain for sustainable development?

R. Probably to raise the awareness about the benefits of blockchain technology. However there is still need for public evidences on the advantages of the new technology.

5. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for projects/policies and international collaboration in this context as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

R. Private initiatives: the Romanian blockchain hub – [Modex Blockchain Labs](#).

6. Do you have any documentation, references, technological assessments, future studies or reports on the priority theme in your country or region?

R. The technology is not set (yet) as sectoral priority.

II. Referitor la tema 2, *Utilizarea științei, tehnologiei și inovării (STI) pentru depășirea decalajului în ceea ce privește progresul în atingerea obiectivului de dezvoltare durabilă nr.3 referitor la sănătate și bunăstare.*

1. Can you give examples of projects/policies in your country aimed at using science, technology, and innovation for early warning, risk reduction and management of national risks? What are the main outcomes? And what are the main challenges confronted while trying to implement these projects/policies in your country or region?

R. Yes, two examples of project calls under RD&I programme „Solutions - 2020”: i/ Approaches on [health management](#) during COVID-19 pandemia, ii/ Solutions for [monitoring and aerial work in support](#) of the public health system during the COVID-19 pandemic using UAS systems.

2. Can you provide examples of policies/projects/initiatives aimed at strengthening national health innovation systems? For example, how does your country build innovative capabilities through investments in R&D and human capital?

What institutional and regulatory arrangements are in place to stimulate healthcare innovation and effectively address safety, ethical and other concerns?

R. „Health” is stated priority in National RD&I Strategy 2014-2020 (see [Complex RD&I Projects](#)). It also works for the incoming programming period 2021-2027 (workshop on the [roadmap](#) related to smart specialization in health sector - project SIPOCA 27).

3. Could you share case studies of regional and international cooperation that have strengthened health capacities, particularly in developing countries? Can you provide success stories involving regional or global cooperation in academic research networks, STI diplomacy, or initiatives to make healthcare innovations accessible for all?

R. International cooperation: i/ the [EEA & Norway grants](#) Collaborative Research Projects, 19% focusing on healthcare according to the [statistics](#). The objectives are to contribute to the reduction of economic and social disparities in the European Economic Area and to strengthening of bilateral relations between the Donor States and the Beneficiary States through financial contributions in the priority sectors identified. ii/ Under the instrument ERA-NET Co fund [EuroNanoMed](#)-EUROpean network of transnational collaborative RTD projects in the field of NANOMEDicine, and [PerMed](#) - Personalised Medicine.

4. Could you suggest some contact persons of the nodal agency responsible for projects/policies, related technologies and international collaboration in this context as well as any experts (from academia, private sector, civil society or government) dealing with projects in this area? We might contact them directly for further inputs or invite some of them as speakers for the CSTD inter-sessional panel and annual session.

R. Ministry of Education and Research - [Directorate International Partnerships](#), and the financing agency UEFISCDI, [contacts on site](#).

5. Do you have any documentation, references, or reports on the specific examples on the priority theme in your country or region?

R. Yes, [National RD&I Strategy 2014-2020 approved by Gov Decision 929/2014](#), [National RD&I Plan 2014-2020 approved by Gov Decision 583/2015](#).

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Secretar de Stat

