Law and Internet Foundation
Bulgaria

2021

Communication on Engagement

United Nations Global Compact

COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT

Period covered by this Communication on Engagement

From: **09.10.2019**   To: **15.10.2021**

Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent

15.10.2021

To our stakeholders:

I am pleased to confirm that Law and Internet Foundation reaffirms its support to the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles in the areas of Human Rights, Labour, Environment and Anti-Corruption. This is our Communication on Engagement with the United Nations Global Compact. We welcome feedback on its contents.

In this Communication of Engagement, we describe the actions that our organization has taken to support the UN Global Compact and its Principles as suggested for an organization like ours. We also commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders using our primary channels of communication.

Sincerely yours,

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Daniela Ilieva
Executive Director

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Part II. Description of Actions

To support the United Nations Global Compact, Law and Internet Foundation has performed the following activities in the previous two years, since we became part of the Global Compact:

- By incorporating the UN Global Compact principles into our internal operations, we are fostering the awareness of the employees about them, and also communicate progress following the Communication on Progress (COP) requirements;

- The principles of the United Nations Global Compact are incorporated into the creation and implementation of all current and future projects of the Foundation;

- Law and Internet Foundation has developed its own Human Rights Department with a focus on criminal law, radicalization, prevention and protection, as well as research on ICT influence on fundamental human rights – their protection and the new forms of human rights violation which result from digital transformation. In this relation several of our projects are based on the UN Global Compact human rights principle, including:

  - **FAIR** (Enhancing the Fair Trial for people suspected or accused of crimes) – The problem of ensuring fair trial to persons suspected or accused of crime in the European Union through establishing minimum standards for their rights in the course of criminal proceedings has become a serious challenge due to the significant differences in the national legal frameworks of the Member States. The FAIR project comes to overcome this issue by enhancing their rights, as well as by contributing to the practical implementation of several European Directives, which establish the minimum standards for procedural rights in criminal proceedings.

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- **MIICT** (ICT Enabled Services for Migration) – MIICT was conceived with the goal of designing, developing and deploying tools that address the challenge of migrant integration. In service of this goal, the project undertakes to co-create improved ICT-enabled services with migrants, refugees, public sector services, NGOs (Non-Governmental-Organisations) and other interest groups. By involving research-users at the center of our approach we address the need to improve and customise the interfaces used to access key public services so that they better address the requirements of migrants and refugees.

- **PRESENT** (Enhancing the Right to be Present) – The PRESENT project addresses the direct need of training and receiving insight on the changes that are going to be incorporated in the legislation of the European Union Member States in order to transpose Directive (EU) 2016/343. The PRESENT project will provide training to legal practitioners, prosecutors, and judges, who will then contribute to the enhancement of the rights to be present, as delineated in the Directive in each country. Further, the PRESENT project will provide a comprehensive comparative analysis for all partner countries; legislation in respect to the right to be present of suspected or accused persons in criminal proceedings.

- **E-PROTECT** (Enhancing PROtection of Children – vicTims of crime) – The project aims at raising the awareness on child rights that are granted by Directive 2012/29/EU and to enhance the cooperation among the professionals who deal with child victims of crime and often are the first point of contact. In order to achieve these objectives, under E-PROTECT has been developed an online platform which provides information on the practical application of Directive 2012/29/EU and transposition in relation to child rights as well as hosts online events.

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- o **E-PROTECT II** (Enhancing PROfessionals' capaciTy to dEal with Child vicTims) – E-PROTECT II builds upon the results realized by the E-PROTECT project and it aims to bring more light in terms of how Directive 2012/29/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2012 establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime (Victims' Directive) has been transposed in 10 EU Member States (MSs), what Individual Needs Assessment Methodologies (IAMs) exist in the examined MSs and how they are applied. E-PROTECT II focuses on ensuring the practical implementation of its own IAM to make existing national systems more compliant with child victims' rights and needs. Furthermore, it is aimed at strengthening the capacity building & better cooperation between competent authorities, legal practitioners, and social service providers, thus bettering the quality of provided services to child victims. Under the implementation of the project has been developed a simulation game that presents the already elaborated IAM in a more accessible way.

- o **A4** (Crossing borders for effective police investigation to protect female victims of sex trafficking and enhance accountability mechanisms) - A4 aims at improving the effectiveness of police investigations of female victims of sex trafficking. Greek northern borders are one of the main Europe's backdoors for sex traffickers, while Greece has been convicted twice for violating the Art. 4 of the ECHR in cases of sexually exploited women victims of THB (Trafficking of Human Beings). The A4 Project builds upon the Convictions under the Art. 4 aiming to enhance perpetrators' accountability for the protection of women/girls victims of sex trafficking through a police-led resilient mechanism in the EU south-eastern border, built on a border crossing alliance (Bulgaria-Greece) constructively interconnected with an interregional safety net (5

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Northern Greek Border Regions) and advanced from the acquired knowledge of a central European country (Austria).

- ○ **NESTOR** (National Network of Schools for Parents in Prison, Enhancing Responsive Father Parenting) – NESTOR is a project which addresses the gap in regard to adult education in prisons. In particular, its objective is to enhance the parenting skills of prisoners by creating and testing a National Network of 30 Schools for Parents in prison which will be developed in Greece. It is expected that NESTOR will provide policy recommendations on ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education as well as to promote lifelong learning.

- Law and Internet Foundation has joined and supported the UNGC Network Bulgaria and Bulgarian Food Programme joint initiative to lower food waste at events.

- In regard to the labour principle of the United Nations Global Compact, some of our projects are based on it, including:

  - ○ **EMPLOY** (mEntoring prograMme for young People at risk for Labour fOrce entrY) – EMPLOY is a two-year project which aims at enhancing the labour market entry of young people with fewer opportunities, NEETS, economically disadvantaged people, and young migrants by providing the necessary career guidance, skills and competences, so that they can be qualified and competitive enough. In order to achieve this goal, under the EMPLOY project has been developed a multilingual mentoring e-Hub (consisting of mentoring topics, mentoring tools, peer learning section, and other useful and relevant learning materials); Skills and Competences Handbook which includes the key skills and competences that young people should possess to successfully enter into the labour market; Policy Toolkit which outlines policy recommendations addressing policy- and

decision- makers to improve youth policies in relation to the labour market integration of young people from groups at risk.

- **DEEP** (Digital Entrepreneurship for Employability Paths) — DEEP aims at enhancing the chances for professional success of VET students with different educational backgrounds by developing not only their digital but also entrepreneurship skills. The innovative element in the DEEP project is that it uses an integrated and interdisciplinary approach according to which theses skills are not treated separately like in the curricula of state education in most Member States of the European Union. In order to accomplish the outlined goals, the DEEP Consortium has developed an OER (Open Educational Resources) platform, Analysis of the Digital-Entrepreneurship Dynamics and specific courses on digital entrepreneurship. The developed courses are the necessary tools and knowledge which the project aims to provide to VET teachers, trainers, and mentors so they can help their students to effectively acquire entrepreneurial and digital skills. The innovative educational materials and resources have been tested by more than 200 VET students in all partner countries.

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Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

In the last two years, Law and Internet Foundation has realized the following qualitative and quantitative outcomes to measure the results of the activities, listed in the previous part of the COE:

- 14 projects compatible with the UN Global Compact principles, with more than a dozen of different partners involved, introduced to the UN Global Compact in various ways – meeting, memos, examples;
- 9 current projects based on the UN Global Compact principles;
- Increased awareness of UN Global Compact principles of Law and Internet Foundation stakeholders through various means;
- 5 events held within the principles of the UNGC Network Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Food Bank's joint principles on food waste reduction.

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