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## **EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)**

### **CENTRE OF EXPERTISE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM**

**For discussion**

Secretariat Memorandum  
prepared by the  
Directorate General of Democracy  
Democratic Governance Department

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## Introduction

The CDDG terms of reference state: « *Under the authority of the Committee of Ministers, [...] and building on the achievements in the area of local and regional democracy, the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) will steer the Council of Europe's intergovernmental work in the field of democracy and democratic governance and advise the Committee of Ministers in its field of competence.*» The CDDG is further instructed to "*(iv) promote the implementation of the Twelve Principles of Good Governance through targeted action and the use of the tools of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform;*"

The Centre of Expertise, in delivering good governance and promoting European standards and best practice through capacity-building programmes, policy advice and legal assistance activities, at both local and regional as well as at national level, is inspired by the guidelines and recommendations of the Council of Europe's intergovernmental Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG). The latter, in turn, contributes to guidance materials and toolkits for the Centre.

In accordance with its Strategic Plan 2017-2022, presented to the CDDG at its meeting in December 2017, the Centre continues to build on delivering good governance to regional and local authorities but also to central authorities through policy advice, legislative assistance, capacity-building and intergovernmental support. While local government reform remains its core area of expertise, the work of the Centre is expanding to multi-level governance and assistance in the area of public administration.

As indicated in its Annual Activity Report 2018, the projects and activities to which the Centre of Expertise contributes, increasingly comprise significant components in terms of support and legal advice at the level of central authorities such as, for example, in Albania, Croatia, Cyprus, and the Ukraine.

Based on its cooperation with national schools for public administration in member states, a number of the toolkits, such as the Leadership Academy Programme (LAP) and the Training Needs Analysis and national training strategy (TNS), and others also have been or are being adapted to support capacity building and training at all levels.

## Proposal for consideration

In light of the above, it would appear appropriate to consider whether the designation Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform correctly reflects its activities or whether, in line also with the evolution of the CDDG and its terms of reference which comprise "*the strengthening democratic institutions, public administration reform, decentralisation, and good governance at all levels*", a designation such as 'Centre of Expertise for Good Governance' would more accurately correspond with its activities.

**Action required**

The CCDG is invited to examine the information provided and to propose, if considered appropriate by the Committee of Ministers, to modify the designation of the Centre of Expertise to "Centre of Expertise for Good Governance".