



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 28 November 2019

CDDG(2019)12
Item 8.3 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE 12 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD GOVERNANCE AND THE EUROPEAN LABEL OF GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE

Programme, conclusions and recommendations

For information

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

*This document is public. It will not be distributed at the meeting. Please bring this copy.
Ce document est public. Il ne sera pas distribué en réunion. Prière de vous munir de cet exemplaire*

An international conference on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance was organised by the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise for Good Governance on 28 October 2019 in Strasbourg, under the aegis of the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

The conference aimed at presenting the results of the implementation of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELOGE) in France, share the experience of municipalities from across Europe, and promote good governance among all member states. The conference was followed by a ceremony awarding the ELOGE distinction to the four participating French municipalities: Metz, Sceaux, Strasbourg and Suresnes.

Participants included representatives of the French municipalities; the French National Centre for Local Civil Service (CNFPT) and other ELOGE-accredited organisations; municipalities and government from about 20 other member states; the European Committee for Democracy and Governance; the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance; and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

The Council of Europe's 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance encapsulate fundamental values defining a common vision of democratic governance in Europe. ELOGE is awarded to local authorities who can demonstrate their respect of the 12 Principles measured against the relevant benchmark.

Programme

- 15:00 **Doors Open. Registration and Coffee**
Towards a Common Vision of Good Governance in Europe. Opening and Welcome
Chair: Mr Peter Andre, *Chair of the European Committee for Democracy and Governance, Chair of the European Stakeholder's Platform for Good Governance*
 Mr Jean-Baptiste Mattei, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of France at the Council of Europe, Chairman of the Ministers' Deputies*
 Ms Claudia Luciani, *Director of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Council of Europe*
 Mr Franck Perinet, *Deputy Director General of CNFPT (French National Centre for Local Civil Service), Director of INET (National Institute for Territorial Studies),*
 Mr Luís Leite Ramos, *Member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*
 Dr Gerhard Ermischer, *Vice-President, Conference of INGOs of the Council of Europe*
- 15:30 **Panel 1**
 European Label of Governance Excellence: the French experience. Exchange of views with representatives of municipalities of France: Metz, Sceaux, Strasbourg, Suresnes.

- 16:30 **Panel 2**
European Label of Governance Excellence: European perspective. Exchange of views with representatives of municipalities from Bulgaria, Greece, Poland, Spain, Malta; of the Federation of European Union Local Authority Chief Executive Officers (UDITE); and of the Structural Reform Support Service of the European Commission (SRSS).
- 17:45 **Promoting Good Governance for the Regions**
Ms Irén Lejegren, *Örebro Region, Sweden, Assembly of European Regions*
- 18:00 **Promoting the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance Online**
Presentation by Mr Daniele Del Bianco, *expert from the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance*
- 18:20 **Conclusions:** Ms Snežana Samardžić-Marković, *Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe*, Mr Peter Andre, *Chair of the European Stakeholders' Platform*
- 18:30 **ELoGE Award Ceremony** to the French municipalities
- 19:00 **Reception** hosted by the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe (Restaurant Bleu)

Conclusions and recommendations

The conference confirmed that the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance bring Council of Europe member states closer together around a clear vision and set of values of good governance, based on participation, transparency, ethics, effectiveness, sound financial management, sustainable development, and accountability.

The experience of measuring and benchmarking good governance and awarding the ELoGE received positive feedback: the municipalities involved indicated that the process allowed them to raise awareness, provided them with a valuable reference, and helped them improve their governance according to the specific indicators included in the ELoGE benchmark. As a result of the conference, it is hoped that more public authorities throughout Europe will officially adopt a commitment to the 12 Principles and strive to improve their results accordingly.

Interested authorities can also go beyond this: they can develop action programmes to improve governance, implement capacity-building activities, initiate performance management systems, or take part in domestic and international exchanges.

In particular, looking beyond the conference, the Council of Europe should:

- invite all member states to take measures to improve the legal and institutional framework in line with the 12 Principles; to strengthen the capacity of public authorities and the partnerships between all levels; and to promote sharing of knowledge and experience;
- encourage the municipalities and regions of Europe to adopt the 12 principles and follow them in their everyday work;
- encourage governments, associations, think-tanks, training centres and other relevant institutions to apply for ELoGE accreditation, thereby gaining the right to award the Label, and to implement ELoGE-based projects. The Centre of Expertise stands ready to provide all necessary support;
- encourage municipalities to apply for the Label and to conduct the benchmarking in order to improve governance and services to citizens.

Discussions in the conference led to the following recommendations and observations on ELoGE:

- ELoGE will constantly evolve, and the tool should also develop accordingly, adapting within acceptable boundaries to ensure robust application in individual countries;
- a mechanism should be developed to support stakeholder engagement, notably an evaluation process gathering citizen views that is statistically meaningful; Although some good practice has been identified, such as the mobile 'App' platform in the Greek ELoGE experience, more innovative ways of gathering the views of citizens should be developed. Such techniques may vary depending on the environment: focus groups / citizen panels etc.;
- the benefits of using ELoGE as a benchmarking tool should be better explained to Mayors in order to increase participation in the programme;
- the use of labels such as ELoGE is a powerful way to promote Council of Europe standards and good governance;
- case studies of successful delivery of ELoGE should be collected and shared. Consideration should be given to developing a 'community of good practice for ELoGE' – this could be a web-based platform with case studies to share learning and outcomes;
- a review of the impact of ELoGE should be undertaken in a set time period after implementation in each country, for example one year post-delivery. This would enable to assess impact;
- some of the indicators of the ELoGE benchmark could be revised and updated, based on the 10 years of experience of ELoGE implementation;
- the ELoGE Rules and Regulations should be revised to take into account recent requests to include inter-municipal co-operation, international organisations, regions, other levels of government, etc.