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CDDG(2021)19
Item 5 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

CDDG WORKPLAN 2022

Action required:

CDDG members are invited to examine and agree on the following matters:

- **tasks to be undertaken in 2022 and to be completed by the end of 2023 at the latest, the timeline of work and the corresponding working groups to be established (composition, working methods etc) – see also doc. CDDG(2021)20**
- **the proposed work plan and timetable for 2022, appearing at the end of this document**

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

1. 2021: the end of the biennium

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the implementation of the [terms of reference of the CDDG in the period 2020-2021](#), especially with regard to the initial schedule of meetings.

Once alternative working methods have been put in place, especially the introduction of online meetings, work could be resumed and all the main specific tasks would in principle be completed by the end of 2021, thanks in particular to additional online meetings of the working groups:

- the study on the impact of the digital transformation, including artificial intelligence and automated decision-making, on democracy and good governance was adopted by the CDDG following its 13th meeting (15-16 April 2021) and additional time left to delegations for final amendments, with subsequent editing for its on-line publication on 6 September ([see news](#));
- the elaboration of guidelines on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process (including voter registration, transmission and tabulation of results, etc.) as a follow-up to the Secretary General's reports on the State of Democracy, Human Rights and Rule of Law, was completed by the working group on democracy and technologies (GT-DT) which met on 24 September and is undergoing final consideration by the CDDG at this 14th meeting.
- a draft Recommendation for the Committee of Ministers on democratic accountability of elected officials and bodies at local and regional level with a view to complementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)3 on the supervision of local authorities' activities and updating previous work in this area: this draft recommendation has been finalised by the working group on accountability (GT-RE) and could also be approved by the CDDG at the 14th meeting.

Additional work of particular relevance was initiated in 2020 in relation to democratic governance and the response to Covid-19 in member States, including the organisation of a thematic (online) meeting on the subject in June 2020, followed by the approval and publication of a special report at the end of the year. The CDDG had agreed to pursue this work in future so as to incorporate a broader range of experience gathered by member States in relation to the management of the pandemic and its consequences: the (draft) terms of reference for 2022-2025 provide at present, under specific task 6, for the "preparation of a report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies, building on its work on Democratic governance and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic".

2. Activities in 2022: outlook

It is recalled that starting from 2022, the programming of the activities of intergovernmental committees and their respective terms of reference is based on a quadrennial approach. Budgets are still adopted on a two-year basis by the Committee of Ministers, therefore the terms of reference are actually approved for the first biennial period and approved on a provisional basis for the second period of two years.

The table below lists the CDDG's specific tasks for the period of 2022-2025, according to the draft terms of reference currently under consideration by the Committee of Ministers – see also document CDDG(2021)18. The final approval of these terms of reference and the budget for the biennium 2022-2023 could take place during the 1418th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies of 23-25 November 2021. The CDDG would thus be in a position to approve its workplan for 2022, including the creation of subordinate working bodies, at its 14th meeting on 29-30 November.

Tasks	Deadline
1. Draft Recommendation on Principles of good democratic governance of general application to all levels of government, building on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance at local level	31/12/2023
2. Report on new forms of deliberative democracy, with a view to complementing Recommendation CM/Rec(2018)4 on the participation of citizens in local public life and the 2017 Guidelines on civil participation in decision-making and taking into account its own work on e-democracy	31/12/2023
3. Report on green public administration aimed at collecting and disseminating good practice and case studies and identifying guidance for administrations at local, regional and national level, taking into account the proceedings of the 2020-2021 edition of the World Forum for Democracy and its previous work on digitalisation of the public administration	31/12/2023
4. Handbook on the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence by the public administration, identifying case studies, best practice and policy recommendations	31/12/2024
5. Draft Recommendation on multilevel governance	31/12/2025
6. Report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies, building on its work on Democratic governance and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic	31/12/2025
7. Report on delivering social services at local level, building on the information collected during its work on Democratic governance and the Covid-19 pandemic	31/12/2025
8. Consultation to take stock of implementation of Recommendation CM/Rec(2017)5 on electronic voting and the Guidelines on new technologies and the different stages of the electoral process, involving the Venice Commission and Election Management Bodies	31/12/2025

The first three tasks would need to be completed by the end of 2023:

1. Draft Recommendation on Principles of good democratic governance of general application to all levels of government;
2. Report on new forms of deliberative democracy;
3. Report on green public administration aimed at collecting and disseminating good practice and case studies and identifying guidance for administrations.

The work would therefore start in 2022 and the corresponding working groups need to be established. Given the particularities of each subject, the CDDG would probably need to establish a specific working group for each task.

As mentioned in the report of the Bureau's 22nd meeting (14-15 October) [doc. CDDG-Bu(2021)18], the Bureau takes the view that the CDDG should start as a priority work on a draft Recommendation on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic governance applicable to all levels of government, and on a Report on deliberative democracy (specific tasks i. and ii. respectively, of the draft terms of reference), and thus establish two working groups to this effect. Since the Division on Elections was currently preparing a report on deliberative democracy, this could serve as a basis for the CDDG's work on task ii. One of the two working groups would need to finalise its work within one year, or one year and a half, so as to allow the CDDG to launch activities by a third working group in the beginning of 2023 on a Report on green public administration (specific task iii) after some preliminary work in 2022.

3. Decisions to be taken at the 14th plenary meeting of the CDDG

The CDDG needs to take a series of decisions:

- determining which of the three tasks to be completed by the end of 2023 should be dealt with first;
- the working time allocated to this/these task(s), between one year and two years, bearing in mind the available resources;
- setting-up the subordinate bodies concerned so that these would start working in 2022, and approving their terms of reference (see also document CDDG (2021)20);
- approving the workplan with a schedule of meetings for 2022.

In comparison with the biennium 2020-2021, the (draft) budget for the biennium 2022-2023 provides for the same number of (two) plenary and (two) bureau meetings and of corresponding meeting days, as well as a comparable budget for working groups. The CDDG could thus work in 2022 at a similar pace of work.

4. Proposals for the organisation of work in 2022

It is anticipated that thanks to the possibilities offered by the online Kudo platform - in addition to consultations in writing if necessary - and the experience gathered by the CDDG with these new working methods, the schedule of activities and meetings for 2022 could be implemented as planned irrespective of the evolution of the pandemic next year. It should also be recalled that in accordance with *Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods*, subordinate bodies should be encouraged to rely on information technologies and written consultation in their work.

Given the uncertainties in relation to the health crisis in 2022, the options of full or partial on-line (hybrid) format for all meetings need to be retained for the time being.

The following table provides an overview of the main possible dates for 2022.

Draft timetable for 2022		
COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP	DATE	PLACE
Working Group 1	24-25 February	Strasbourg/videoconference
Working Group 2	7-8 March	Strasbourg/videoconference
CDDG Bureau	24-25 March	Paris / videoconference
15th CDDG	21-22 April	Strasbourg / videoconference
Working Group 1	15-16 September (with additional on-line meeting in June, as necessary)	Strasbourg/videoconference
Working Group 2	26-27 September (with additional on-line meeting in June, as necessary)	Strasbourg/videoconference
CDDG Bureau	13-14 October	Paris / videoconference
16th CDDG	28-29 November	Strasbourg / videoconference