



Strasbourg, 10 November 2022

CDDG(2022)15
Item 7 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

STATE OF PLAY IN 2022 AND AGENDA OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2023

CDDG members are invited:

- to take note of the current progress of work in the implementation of activities in 2022
- to consider and approve modalities for the completion of pending work regarding principles of good democratic governance (specific task 1) and deliberative democracy (specific task 2)
- to consider and approve in principle a workplan of activities in 2023

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

It is recalled that starting from 2022, the programming of the intergovernmental committees' activities 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. This means that changes can be proposed by the CDDG to the Committee of Ministers for the second half of the Biennium, in particular.

It is also recalled that *Resolution CM/Res(2011)24 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods* regulates the functioning of steering committees and their subordinate bodies, and encourage these to make use, as necessary, of information technologies and written consultations in their work.

On-going activities: state of play in 2022

The table below recalls the CDDG's specific tasks for the period 2022-2025, according to its [terms of reference](#).

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
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The following proposals stem from the Bureau discussions held on 13-14 October – see meeting report [[CDDG-Bu\(2022\)14](#)].

As regards task 1

The elaboration of a draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on principles of good democratic governance is nearing completion and it could thus be submitted for provisional adoption at the 16th meeting.

The working group on principles of good democratic governance (GT-BG) and the Bureau considered that this draft Recommendation should be accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum providing detailed criteria and guidance for its implementation. Since this draft is undergoing its first consideration by the CDDG plenary at this 16th meeting, it could be submitted again for final approval at the 17th meeting in April 2023, with the possibility for members to send final comments in writing both on the recommendation and the explanatory memorandum.

This would allow for the final adoption of two consistent drafts in April 2023 and later for the opportunity to incorporate additions or changes possibly stemming from the Fourth Council of Europe Summit of Heads of States and Government (Reykjavik, Iceland, 16-17 May 2023). Democratic governance and the promotion of democratic values are, indeed, expected to be prominent subject matters of this important event, in accordance with the High Level Group's report on the future of the Council of Europe (see item 3 of the agenda and [CDDG\(2022\)9 / Link to the Report](#)). The Bureau was of the opinion that at the 16th meeting, action to promote the Recommendation would also need to be discussed, especially in the light of the Fourth Summit and/or to give effect to recommendations of the high-level report mentioned earlier.

As regards task 2

It is recalled that the subject of deliberative democracy has warranted the drafting of a recommendation, in addition to a report on this subject, and that the draft prepared by the Working Group of Deliberative Democracy (GT-DD) underwent a public consultation in October - November. After consideration of the draft and the results of the consultation at the present 16th meeting, an additional meeting of the GT-DD in the beginning of 2023, to be held online, would allow to finalise the draft so that its final adoption could take place at the CDDG's 17th meeting in April 2023.

As for the report on methods of deliberative democracy, the Bureau suggested that a version revised by the GT-DD would be ready for final adoption at the present 16th meeting.

Work in 2023

Working groups

In the light of what precedes, it is proposed to have one more meeting in 2023 of the Working Group of Deliberative Democracy (GT-DD) in order to finalise the draft recommendation. It would be an informal on-line meeting, of half a day or a full day.

It is proposed to start the new work in 2023 with a report on green public administration (task 3) and to establish a working group for that purpose (GT-A). The report is due by end of 2023.

The Bureau, considering that the subject of good democratic governance remains of particular importance in 2023, proposes the creation of a second new working group on governance (GT-G), to start work in the beginning of 2023 with a view to finalising any pending task in relation to specific task 1, and to carry out preliminary work in relation to task 5 (Draft Recommendation on multilevel governance) and task 6 (report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies).

The preparation of a handbook on the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence by the public administration (task 4), a task which is to be implemented by the end of 2024, could be postponed for the time being.

The Council of Europe would bear the costs for a total of four working group meetings – two meetings per group - in 2023 and – subject to the planned appropriations being approved by the Committee of Ministers for the biennium 2024-2025 – for four working group meetings in 2024.

Plenary meetings

The CCDG would hold two plenary meetings in 2023, in April (17th meeting) and in November (18th meeting).

Other events

The possibility of holding a **special conference on green public administration**, together with the Icelandic presidency of the Committee of Ministers, is to be considered, provided Iceland is interested in this. In such a case, this event could be held over one day, possibly in combination with, and immediately before the 17th meeting for reasons of savings.

The CDDG is tasked with **reviewing the implementation of Recommendation CM/rec(2017)5** of the Committee of Ministers to member States on standards for e-voting every two years. The next review is due in 2023. For this third round of review, it is proposed to organise a one-day conference in collaboration with the Division on Election and in close coordination with the Venice Commission, so as to provide an in-depth assessment and evaluation of implementation, and also to give time for reflection on the use of the ICT Guidelines. The event could be held before the summer, in June for instance.

For the sake of developing outreach, inviting further (external) bodies could be considered (e.g. the International Foundation for Electoral Systems – IFES). The exact modalities, date, speakers etc. are to be discussed (item 7, see document [CDDG(2022)16]).

The conclusions from the conference would then be presented at the CDDG 18th plenary meeting in November 2023.

Conclusions on progress of work

Already in the first half of 2023, the CDDG will have fully completed work on the implementation of specific tasks 1 and 2 (deadline: end of 2023), although a draft recommendation on deliberative democracy was added to task 2.

Work can be launched already in 2023 in respect of specific task 3 (green public administration) and task 5 – in combination with task 6 (concerning multilevel governance, including in relation to emergencies). The preparation of a Handbook on the use of digital technologies and artificial intelligence by the public administration (task 4 – deadline: end of 2024) would be started after those tasks, in 2024.

The CDDG is invited:

- **to take note of the fact that work in 2022 / in the biennium 2022-2023 is being implemented according to plans, and even slightly ahead of deadlines;**
- **to consider and approve modalities for the completion of pending work regarding principles of good democratic governance (specific task 1) and deliberative democracy (specific task 2);**
- **to consider and approve in principle a workplan of activities in 2023. A tentative draft workplan appears in appendix.**

APPENDIX

Timetable for 2023		
COMMITTEE/BODY	DATE	PLACE
Informal (on-line) working group GT-DD	7 February	On-line
GT-G, for the remainder of task 1 (principles of good demo gov) + tasks 5 and 6 (multilevel governance)	20-21 February	Strasbourg
GT-A – task 3 (green public administration)	2-3 March	Strasbourg
CDDG Bureau [and possibly ELoGE platform]	23-24 March	Paris
CDDG conference on greening public administration, under the auspices of the Icelandic Presidency	26 April	Strasbourg
17th CDDG	27-28 April	Strasbourg
Conference on implementation of Rec(2017)5 on e-voting	16 June	Strasbourg
GT-G (tasks 5 and 6)	21-22 September	Strasbourg
GT-A (task 3)	2-3 October	Strasbourg
CDDG Bureau	16-17 October	Paris or Strasbourg
18th CDDG	30 November-1 December	Strasbourg