

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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Item 11 of the agenda

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

**ELECTION OF TWO BUREAU MEMBERS  
Candidates**

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

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## **Introduction**

At its 15<sup>th</sup> plenary meeting, the CDDG should elect two Bureau members.

As of 14 April (deadline for candidatures), the list of candidates is as shown in the table below. The resumes provided by candidates appear in Appendix (candidatures are in alphabetical order).

## **Action required**

CDDG members are invited to take note of the information below and in appendix.

### **TABLE OF CANDIDATURES**

<b>BUREAU</b>
Mr Georgios Chrysafis (Greece)
Ms Puck Gorrissen (Netherlands)
Ms Milica Marković (Serbia)
Mr Jurij Mezek (Slovenia)
Mr Ruslan Popiuk (Ukraine)
Mr Sertaç Sezgin (Turkey)

**APPENDIX****Georgios CHRYSAFIS (Greece)**

**Full name:** CHRYSAFIS Georgios

**Nationality:** Greek, **Residence:** Athens, Greece, **Origin:** Ioannina-Epirus Region, Greece,

**Occupation:** Ministry of the Interior-Directorate of Organising and Functioning of Local Authorities. **Past occupation:** Epirus s.a. Development Agency, M.O.U. s.a. (Management Organization Unit of Development Programmes), University of Ioannina, Humanet NGO, Prefecture of Ioannina.

**Studies:** **Economics** (Economic Department of the Law School at the National University of Athens), **International and European Studies** (University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki), **M.Phil. in Philosophy of the Sciences** (University of Ioannina), **M.Sc. in Public Policy and Administration** (Athens University of Economics and Business), **PhD In Philosophy of Political Economy** (University of Ioannina, Thesis: "Moral Philosophy and Political Economy in the Classical British Liberalism: John Locke, Bernard Mandeville, Adam Smith"), Graduate of the **National School of Public Administration**.

**Motivation:** I've been attending CDLR and CDDG meetings since the year 2011, participating in working groups and I also have been member of the Bureau during the period 2016-2018. I wish to continue working for and supporting the purposes of the Council of Europe and it would be an honor for me to achieve the approval from the CDDG colleagues to continue participating more actively and contributing more effectively and successfully in the Council of Europe's principles, strategies and policies.

**PUCK GORRISEN (Netherlands)**

Dear Madam/Sir,

As being a member of CDDG, I would like to express my interest for the position as a Bureau member of our committee.

I started my professional career at the Dutch Ministry of Interior and Kingdom relations. For over three years I have been working at the Democracy Department, mainly focusing on policy areas such as disinformation, integrity of elections and (financing of) political parties. Throughout these year I gained broad knowledge of some of the crucial basic elements for democracy; supporting an open and free public debate (online), run free and fair elections and supporting political parties in their important role as being intermediaries between the citizens and the government. With this experience, I was also elected as an expert in the Committee of Experts on the Integrity of Online information. An expert committee working under the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society.

In my role as a policy officer I work at all different levels. For instance, I advise municipalities and provinces on how to deal with new challenges for democracy that come with technological progress. Additionally I operate at EU level as an active member of the cooperation network on elections and I represent the Netherlands in a range of working groups focussing on elections, disinformation and democracy.

Being a relative new member to the CDDG I hope to bring new perspectives, and being able to connect with the work of other steering committees. I am very motivated to work with the other Bureau-members, when elected, to support the important work of the CDDG.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Puck Gorrissen**

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**Democracy Department**

**Democracy and Governance Division**  
**Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations**  
 Turfmarkt 147 | 2511 DP | The Hague

P.O. Box 20011 | 2500 EA | The Hague | The Netherlands  
 .....

**E** [puck.gorrissen@minbzk.nl](mailto:puck.gorrissen@minbzk.nl)  
**M** +31 6 15609101  
 .....

**Milica MARKOVIĆ (Serbia)**

**Support  
the change  
you want  
to see!**

As Gandhi said,  
if you want  
to change the world,  
start from  
changing yourself!

Milica Marković  
Republic of Serbia

CDDG members  
Council of Europe

**Milica  
Marković**  
*Serbia*

Your candidate for  
the Bureau member!





LL.B. and PROFESSIONAL POLITICAL SCIENTIST

[Specialist in political parties and elections](#)

Almost 15 years in the Ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, currently in the position of a **Senior adviser, Head of Department** for the development of the local self-government system.

*Sparkle from one of Western Balkan countries, which brings youth with respectful experience, and supports gender balance!*

Deals with issues of European integrations, E-government, Public Administration Reform and Electoral systems.

Certified lecturer for Local Self-government System, Law on Administrative Procedure, Basics of EU system and *Acquis communautaire* of the EU relevant for Local Self-government.

#### Activities in the CoE

Since 2011 - actively participates in the work of CDLR, later CDDG;

2011 - Participated at Ministerial Conference in Kyiv, Ukraine;

2014, 2020 - Gave birth to beautiful boys (short break in CoE activities ☺);

2016 - Engaged in Peer Review exercise in Armenia which gave significant contribution to Armenian Draft Law on Inter-municipal cooperation. She strongly recommends peer-to-peer cooperation and experience exchange as one of the most fruitful tools in strengthening of democracy and good governance within the CoE.

#### Objective

If you elect her for member of the Bureau, she will be proactive and creative in mutual cooperation, between Bureau and the Committee, but also between Bureau, Committee and Member States and committed to achieving excellence in good governance!

#### Interesting facts

- ✚ Published two books of poetry. Last one is partially written in English.
- ✚ Speaks Serbian, English, Slovakian, very good understands Montenegrin, Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian, Bulgarian and Italian language.
- ✚ Likes to take part in a knowledge quizzes, in 2008 she won in Serbian famous quiz "Puzzle" and in 2017 she was the finalist in the same quiz.
- ✚ Voluntary blood donor and humanitarian activist, providing support and actively participates in different actions

#### Contact

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 +3813060106  
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**Jurij MEZEK (Slovenia)**

Jurij Mezek,  
Member of Slovenian delegation to CDDG  
Ljubljana, 13.4.2022

To the Attention of European Committee on Democracy and Governance Member States

I am very interested in applying for the position of the Bureau member.

For the past ten years, I have been working in the Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) in two fields, at first NGO's and now local self-government. MPA performs, among others, tasks relating to the systemic organisation and functioning of the public sector and in cooperation with other line ministries, the Ministry strives to reduce administrative burdens and improve the quality of public administration. At the systemic level, the Ministry is responsible for the operation of non-governmental organisations and local self-government.

The Local Self-Government Division, where I work now, is responsible for the systemic regulation of the organisation and operation of Slovenian municipalities. The Division prepares legislative solutions in the field of local self-government; in cases where the content relates to the operation of municipalities, it participates in the drafting of relevant legislation in this field that is within the competence of other ministries.

The Division advises municipal bodies on the implementation of their tasks and responsibilities. It is responsible for the implementation of the European Charter of Local Self-Government and legislation in the field of the organisation, operation and financing of municipalities. Local self-government is within the exclusive competence of the Republic of Slovenia, its legislation is therefore not aligned with the body of EU law; however, it is bound to respect the European Charter of Local Self-Government of the Council of Europe.

I believe the combination of my education and experience make me a great candidate for this position. My professional skills appear to be well suited to CDDG requirements. I am a university graduate sociologist and a Master of Science, I obtained both titles at the University of Ljubljana. In addition, I continued my professional development in the United Kingdom, where I completed Contemporary European Studies at the University of Sussex, and in Switzerland, where I completed the Specialization in Organization, Management, Training and Development and Public Administration Center for Socio-Economic Development in Geneva.

Since 2017, I have been attending CDDG meetings regularly. In this period, I organised a peer-to-peer advice in order to assess the Strategy of Local Self-Government 2020. The peer review was organised and conducted in July 2017 in cooperation with the Council of Europe's Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform and a ad-hoc assessment mission of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Local elections in the Republic of Slovenia (18 November 2018). In 2022, I was appointed member of Working group on deliberative and participatory democracy (GT-DD) within CDDG. I have adequate working experiences in forms of deliberative and participative democracy at local level and e-democracy platforms.

The decision to submit a candidacy is also conditioned by the fact that the Republic of Slovenia has not had a member of the esteemed Bureau since its membership in the Council of Europe.

Sincerely,

Jurij Mezek

Ministry of Public Administration of Republic of Slovenia  
Directorate for local self-government, NGO's and political system  
The Local Self-Government Division  
e-mail address: [jurij.mezek@gov.si](mailto:jurij.mezek@gov.si)



**Ruslan POPIUK (Ukraine)****CURRICULUM VITAE**

1. **Family name:** Popiuk
2. **First names:** Ruslan
3. **Date of birth:** 07.09.1987
4. **Nationality:** Ukraine
5. **Civil status:** Married

**6. Education:**

DATE (FROM – TO)	INSTITUTION	DEGREE(S) OR DIPLOMA(S) OBTAINED:
From 2005 to 2009	Institute of International Relations Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Bachelor's Degree (Specialist in International Relations)
From 2009 to 2011	Institute of International Relations Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Master's Degree (Political analyst on international affairs, interpreter of German and English )

**7. Language skills: Indicate competence on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 – excellent; 5 – basic)**

LANGUAGE	READING	SPEAKING	WRITING
Ukrainian	mother tongue		
German	B1	B1	A2
English	Upper-Intermediate	Upper-Intermediate	Intermediate

8. **Membership in bodies:** Official representative of Ukraine in European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG)

**9. Other skills: (e.g. Computer literacy, etc.):**

- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Team player with experience in teams of more than 25 employees (separate unit).
- Self-starter and strong independent worker.
- Proven ability to effectively manage both personnel and projects
- Organizational and Strategic Planning.
- Work under stressful conditions and tight deadlines
- Computer and Internet literate: MS Office (Word, Excel, Power Point) etc.

10. **Present position: State Expert (Since March 2020 - Acting Head) of the Expert Group for Interaction with the Council of Europe Institutions of the Directorate for the Development of Local Self-Government, Territorial Organization of Power and Administrative-Territorial Structure, Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine**

11. **Years within the firm:** 4 years and 11 Month

**12. Key qualifications:**

- Long work experience with the international Donors organizations (Developments Partners) in the context of attraction of financial and technical assistance (such as Council of Europe, USAID, European Commission, GiZ, KfW, Sida etc.)

- Availability of wide base of contacts among the existing and potential donors (Developments Partners), and in particular among the main stakeholders of decentralization reform (central executive bodies, local authorities, all-Ukrainian associations of local self-government, experts etc.)
- Successful experience in establishing and organizing cooperation of the Ministry with international partners in field of decentralization reform and coordination of programs and projects of international technical assistance aimed to supporting decentralizations reform
- Possession of practical skills concerning coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of the Ministry's cooperation with programs and projects of international technical assistance in the field of local self-government, territorial organization of power and administrative-territorial structure, providing proposals for its optimization.
- Many years of experience in professional communications and Protocol support for the participation of Ministry's top-management in international events.
- Experience of organizing and accompanying delegations in international visits on issues related to local self-government.
- Good knowledge of donor priorities, processes and donor assistance mechanisms

### 13. Specific experience in the region:

COUNTRY	DATE FROM - TO
Kyiv City and Kyiv Region	2013 - 2016

### 14. Professional experience

DATE FROM – TO	LOCATION	COMPANY & REFERENCE PERSON <sup>1</sup> (NAME & CONTACT DETAILS)	POSITION	DESCRIPTION
1. 2013 - 2017	36, Khreshchatyk str., Kyiv, 01044 Ukraine	Kyiv City State Administration  International Relations Department  Head of the Department – Taras Golota  Phone: +38-044 202-74-51  Fax: +38-044 202-76-28  Email: welcome.kiev@ukr.net  <a href="https://kievcity.gov.ua/">https://kievcity.gov.ua/</a>	Chief Expert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search, preparation and implementation of programs and projects to attract foreign investment, ensuring the participation of Kyiv in grant programs;</li> <li>• Direct coordination of structural divisions of KCSA within cooperation in implementation of joint projects with USAID, GiZ, KfW .</li> <li>• Coordinate the participation of the KCSA in the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation HORIZON 2020.</li> <li>• Organizational and information support of participation of the management of KCSA in the international conferences and forums.</li> </ul>

DATE FROM – TO	LOCATION	COMPANY & REFERENCE PERSON <sup>1</sup> (NAME & CONTACT DETAILS)	POSITION	DESCRIPTION
2. 2011-2012	1, Kosmonavta Komarova str., Kyiv, 03058 Ukraine	National Aviation University Institute of International Relations Department of Journalism Head of Department – Yaroslav Kozachok Phone: +38-044 406-79-01	Assistant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documents management</li> <li>• Assisting in conducting seminars and lectures</li> </ul>

#### 15. Other relevant information (e.g. Publications):

Was trained in:

- 2013 - Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine. Advanced training of employees of public authorities in the field of external relations according to the program of a thematic seminar concerning the European integration
- 2015 - The National Academy of Public Administration under the President of Ukraine. Special short seminar "European integration in conditions of the implementation the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU.
- 2014-2015 - European Academy Berlin (EAB). Training program "Academy for Good Governance and Empowerment in Europe".
- 2017 – European Academy Berlin (EAB). AGREE 1 — «Train the Trainer» Academy for Good Governance and Empowerment in Europe.

Diplomas and awards:

- Diploma of the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing of Ukraine for conscientious work, high professionalism, personal contribution to the implementation and formulation of state policy in the field of civil service
- Diploma of the Department of Military Cooperation and Peacekeeping Operations of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine for fruitful cooperation and interaction in the development of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the implementation of the military-historical project "Club of Vintage Aviation" Air Squadron.

- Gratitude of Kyiv Mayor Klitschko V.V. for conscientious work, impeccable performance of official duties, significant personal contribution to the socio-economic development of the city of Kyiv.

**Sertaç SEZGIN (Turkey)**

Dear Madam/Sir,  
Dear colleagues,

As current member of CDDG I express my interest for the position as a Bureau member of our committee.

I am a supervisor of local governments and working for 12 years in the Ministry of Interior of Turkey in the section of General Directorate of Provincial Administration. I supervise the financial and administrative proceedings of local governments, as well I guide them to act in accordance with the law and public interest. I also worked on city councils, ethics, participatory local democracy, environment and urbanization during my work experience. I very like to work in this area; I did my master's degree in urbanization and environmental problems. I took part in many projects for the improvement of local governments.

I have been a member of the CDDG for 5 years, since 2017. I am very proud of being here part of this committee. During this time, we have done important work and prepared reports related to local governments. I hope my work background and the experience I have gained in this committee contribute in boosting the 12 Principles of Good Governance and the work of the CDDG. In the upcoming period, I will contribute to the committee in the field of environment and green public administration, which are also the subjects of our committee and which is my area of expertise. If elected, I promise to work hard in concrete manner and I believe in good spirit of co-operation.

Kind regards,

Sertaç SEZGIN  
Supervisor of Local Governments  
General Directorate of Provincial Administration, Ministry of Interior of Turkey  
sertac.sezgin@icisleri.gov.tr