



Strasbourg, 18 June 2018

CDDG-Bu(2018)9

**BUREAU OF THE EUROPEAN COMMITTEE
ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
(CDDG)**

MEETING REPORT¹

27 April 2018, Council of Europe, Paris

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair, Mr Peter Andre, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants, in particular Ms Milica Marković (Serbia) for whom it was the first Bureau meeting. The list of participants is set out in Appendix I.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda as adopted is presented in Appendix II.

3. Information on recent developments at the Council of Europe

The Bureau took note of the information presented on the implications of the cessation of Turkey's major contributor status and the subsequent measures taken by the Council of Europe, including adjustments to working methods, expenditure and staff, comprising also the departure of an administrator from the Good Governance Division.

In light of the operational adjustments and reductions in the CDDG's budget, the Bureau asked the Secretariat to keep it informed of developments at the Council of Europe that might impact on the CDDG's activities and/or budget with a view to ensuring that the objectives set out under the CDDG's Terms of Reference 2018-2019 could be met.

¹ Prepared by the Secretariat and approved by the Chair.

4. Decisions of the Committee of Ministers of relevance to the work of the CDDG

The Bureau took note of the decision by the Committee of Ministers to strengthen the transversal approach for the rights of people with disabilities and to add this to the terms of reference of all relevant intergovernmental committees, including the CDDG (see document CDDG-Bu(2018)1). The final text of the amended terms of reference would be communicated to the CDDG following adoption by the Committee of Ministers.

The Ministers' Deputies, at their 1308th meeting on 21 February 2018, had taken note of the abridged report of the 8th meeting ([CM\(2018\)11](#)) and the report on the activities of the CDDG in 2016-2017.

5. State of implementation of the CDDG's activities according to its terms of reference

5.1 Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec(2001)19 on the participation of citizens in local public life

The Bureau took note of the adoption by the Committee of Ministers of the revised Recommendation on the participation of citizens in local public life ([CM/Rec\(2018\)4](#)) and its explanatory memorandum ([CM\(2018\)13-final](#)) at its 1311th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies (21 March 2018) as well as the changes agreed upon by the Ministers' Deputies (document CDDG-Bu(2018)2).

Whilst the Bureau considered that all CDDG delegations should do their utmost to ensure that potential concerns of Member States were resolved prior to adoption of texts by the CDDG and transmission to the Committee of Ministers, some issues might still require clarification or resolution at the level of the Committee of Ministers. However, Bureau and working group meeting reports should call upon all delegations to actively coordinate the work of the CDDG and texts under preparation with their authorities to minimise such instances.

5.2 Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation R(98)12 on supervision of local authorities' action

The Chair and Mr Paul Rowsell (UK), who chaired the working group, gave an overview of the first meeting, concerns to be addressed, and the areas of the recommendation that required revision.

The Bureau examined the preliminary draft text prepared by the expert, Dr Robert Hertzog, and agreed that various issues concerning the underlying principles and forms of supervision (administrative, financial and democratic or political supervision), accountability and the role of the State needed to be more precisely defined. It wished to bring a number of issues to the attention of the members of the working group (see Appendix III).

5.3 *Democratic Governance of Metropolitan Areas*

The Bureau took note of the final report on the Seminar on Democratic Governance of Metropolitan Areas which took place on 17-18 October 2017 in Thessaloniki (Greece). The report had been prepared by the Council of Europe experts, Messrs Paul Hildreth and Ioannis Psycharis.

5.4 *Public ethics*

The Bureau took note of the proposals in terms of approach, working methods and timetable for the working group as outlined in document CDDG-Bu(2016)5.

In terms of the Handbook and guidelines, it agreed that:

- the working group should focus on public ethics in the context of governance and democracy and the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance in particular;
- it should address the widest possible range of public officials but needed to clarify whether members of parliament should be included or not;
- the Handbook should facilitate the practical implementation of the Guidelines which would outline the features of good public ethics practice;
- the Handbook would require revision in terms of structure and content, excluding topics adequately covered by other Council of Europe instruments or bodies or in the remit of the member States themselves.

The Bureau instructed the Secretariat to finalise the terms of reference of the working group and preparations for its first meeting accordingly.

5.5 *Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance*

The Bureau welcomed the successful completion of the ELoGE Programmes in Greece and in Spain (Basque Country) as well as the International Roundtable for the promotion of the European Label of Governance Excellence on 6 December 2017 in Madrid.

Mr Chrysafis (Greece) reported that the 15 municipalities which had received the ELoGE Label, under the Council of Europe/EU Technical Assistance Project on Institutional Enhancement of Local Governance in Greece, included small, medium as well as larger municipalities. A 2nd phase to the Programme was being considered.

Ms Marković (Serbia) informed the Bureau that in the context of the Programme for Improvement of Administrative Efficiency and Effectiveness at Local Level, the Good governance index had been developed through the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in cooperation with representatives of national and local government.

The Bureau also took note of the new E-Learning Tool on each of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance. Due to a lack of time, the on-line tool could not be presented.

6. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

Activities under the Chairmanship of Denmark and of Croatia

Conference: "Democratic culture – from words to action", 23-24 April 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark

The conference was organised by the Education Policy Division for representatives of the education sector in the context of the [Danish Chairmanship](#). The CDDG had therefore not been represented. The [Reference Framework of Competences for Democratic Culture](#) (RFCDC) as well as the new Council of Europe [Education Policy Advisors Network](#) (EPAN) were launched at the conference.

Cross-Border Cooperation: 25 May 2018, Dubrovnik, Croatia

The Bureau took note of the information presented in CDDG-Bu(2018)7 on the International Conference on Cross-Border Cooperation organised under the [Chairmanship of Croatia](#) with significant input from the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform. Several member States, including members of the CDDG, would be participating.

The Bureau considered that it would be useful to present the possible benefits and added value the European Outline Convention on Transfrontier cooperation (Madrid Convention) and its additional protocols to member States and to again draw the CDDG delegations' attention to this at the November meeting.

7. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies

Inclusion and anti-discrimination programmes

The Bureau was informed that the CDDG's active involvement was sought in the development and strengthening of multi-level governance and coordination of policy in the field of inclusiveness and integration. It examined the request to nominate a CDDG representative who would attend relevant meetings of the Inclusive Integration Policy Labs, prepare contributions and input by the Committee to the Policy Labs and report back to the Committee.

It instructed the Secretariat to issue a call for expressions of interests by member States to nominate appropriately qualified candidates in time for the first meeting on 26 June 2018 in Strasbourg. Candidates would need to have experience with governance of integration policies and specific knowledge of standards and best practice in policy coordination between the central and local level as well as among ministries (see Appendix IV).

The Bureau would finalise selection and nomination of the representative from the candidatures received.

9. Other business

Mr Damien Feraille (France) informed the Bureau that he was taking up other duties and would therefore be unable to continue his work as member of the CDDG and Bureau.

The Chairman and other members of the Bureau thanked Mr Feraille for his dedication and valuable contributions to the work of the Committee. Election of a new Bureau member would be included on the agenda of the November CDDG meeting.

10. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Bureau would take place on 19 October 2018 in Paris, ahead of the CDDG's plenary meeting on 28 to 30 November.

APPENDIX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****CHAIRMAN / PRESIDENT**

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APPENDIX II**AGENDA**

- 1. Opening of the meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda** [CDDG-Bu(2018)OJ1 rev.]
- 3. Information on recent developments at the Council of Europe**
- Oral information by the Secretariat
- 4. Decisions by the Committee of Ministers of relevance to the work of the CDDG** [CDDG-Bu(2018)1]
- 5. State of implementation of the CDDG activities according to its terms of reference 2017-2018**
 - 5.1 *Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation Rec(2001)19 on the participation of citizens in local public life*
- Decision by the Committee of Ministers [CDDG-Bu(2018)2]
[CM/Rec(2018)4]
[CM(2018)13-final]

- Civil Participation in Decision-Making: Toolkit – Oral information
 - 5.2 *Revision of Committee of Ministers' Recommendation R(98)12 on supervision of local authorities' action*
- Report on the first meeting of the working group [GT-CACL(2018)3]
- Preliminary draft revised text [CDDG-Bu(2018)3]
 - 5.3 *Democratic Governance of Metropolitan Areas*
- Conference on good democratic governance in Metropolitan Areas (Thessaloniki, 17-18 October 2017): Seminar Report [CDDG-Bu(2018)4]
 - 5.4 *Public ethics*
- Preparation of the activities of the working group on public ethics [CDDG-Bu(2018)5]
 - 5.5 *Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance*
- Promotion of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance in member States: Update [CDDG-Bu(2018)6]
- The 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance: E-Learning Tool

6. Chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers

Activities under the Chairmanship of Denmark and of Croatia

- Seminar: "Democratic culture – from words to action",
23-24 April 2018, Copenhagen, Denmark – Oral information
- Cross-Border Cooperation: 25 May 2018, Dubrovnik, Croatia

[CDDG-Bu(2018)7]

7. Activities of other Council of Europe bodies

Inclusion and anti-discrimination programmes:

- Governance and Integration Policies
- 34th Session of the Congress (27-28 March 2018): Information by
the Chair

[CDDG-Bu(2018)8]

8. Other business

9. Date of the next meeting

APPENDIX III

**MESSAGE SENT TO MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE REVISION OF
RECOMMENDATION NO. R(98)12 OF THE COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS TO MEMBER
STATES ON SUPERVISION OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES' ACTION (GT-CACL)
ON 17 MAY 2018**

Dear members of the working group,

On Friday 27 April 2018, the Bureau of the CDDG examined the preliminary draft revised text of the recommendation on the supervision of local authorities' action and identified a number of issues to be brought to the attention of the working group.

The Bureau invites the members of the working group to consider the following (in addition to issues identified by the working group already and listed in document GT-CACL(2018)3):

- Recommendation R(98)12 and any revision thereof should be considered in the light of the European Charter on Local Self-Government ('the Charter');
- Recommendation R(98)12, recommends that governments of member states "*Adopt the appropriate measures to extend the application of the principles enshrined in Article 8 of the Charter to all forms of supervision of local authorities' action;*"
- Article 8 of the Charter refers to administrative supervision of local authorities' action. Recommendation R(98)12 in that respect appears to include: supervision of legality in full and financial supervision in part;
- Recommendation 1 of Recommendation R(98)12 also makes reference to recognising "*the essential role of political supervision by citizens and to foster this implementation, ...*".

In this context, the working group, in examining the newly proposed wording of the first paragraph of the first recommendation to the governments of member States (page 9 of the document), is invited to consider whether the principles, enshrined in Article 8 of the Charter and the application of which needs to be extended to other forms of supervision, are sufficiently clear and to identify, as may be necessary, those principles as well as define the key features of supervision.

The Bureau further wishes to ask working group members to consider how the revised recommendation should deal with the elements of supervision that are

- wholly related to administrative supervision,
 - partly considered to constitute administrative supervision (such as certain elements related to financial supervision),
 - considered to be entirely outside of the realm of administrative supervision (and, for example, could be considered to be covered under 'political supervision'. The term democratic supervision was suggested in the working group discussions),
- and to list the elements for the different types of supervision.

Kind regards,
The CDDG Secretariat

APPENDIX IV**MESSAGE SENT TO CDDG MEMBERS ON 4 MAY 2018**

Dear members of the CDDG,

On Friday 27 April 2018, the Bureau of the CDDG examined a request for the CDDG to provide input and support to the Council of Europe's Inclusive Integration Policy Labs being organised under the Intercultural cities (ICC) Programme in order to promote cooperation and coordination among local and regional and national authorities in the field of integration and diversity management.

The Policy Labs seek to facilitate the transfer of good practice and on-going dialogue between local, regional and national levels and sharing innovative approaches. You will find attached the conclusions of the first Integration Policy Lab in November 2017. An Inclusive Integration Policy Lab is scheduled for 26 June 2018 in Strasbourg. The concept note and the draft agenda for the Policy Lab are attached to this message. A number of member States are also planning Policy Labs at national level.

Although those activities in the field of integration are not currently an active part of the CDDG's tasks, the Committee, under its terms of reference which also require it to take due account of relevant transversal perspectives and the objective of building cohesive societies, is well-placed to contribute to strengthening multi-level governance and policy coordination. For that reason it is proposed, in a first instance, that the CDDG nominate a representative who would attend the relevant meetings and the meeting on 26 June next in particular. The working language of the Inclusive Integration Policy Lab may be English only.

The CDDG representative to be appointed would be expected to actively follow written exchanges, report back to the CDDG and prepare contributions and input, both for the Policy Labs and for the Committee. Following the receipt of candidatures submitted by member States, the CDDG Bureau will finalise the selection and nomination of a CDDG representative, in time for the first national level Policy Lab on 26 June 2018 in Strasbourg.

Candidates

Member States are invited to submit candidatures for nomination to the Inclusive Integration Policy Labs and ideally should have:

- Specific knowledge of standards and best practice in policy coordination between the central and local level as well as among ministries;
- Practical experience with governance in relation to policies for integration and inclusiveness (at local, regional or national level) would be a distinct plus;
- A sound working knowledge of English.

Candidates should be available to attend the next meeting of the Inclusive Integration Policy Lab on 26 June 2018.

Candidatures should reach the Secretariat no later than Thursday **24 May 2018 (close of business)**.

Kind regards,
The CDDG Secretariat