



Strasbourg, 7 April 2021

DG-SP(2021)3

**EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS' PLATFORM OF THE
STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
AT LOCAL LEVEL**

**MEETING REPORT
HELD BY VIDEOCONFERENCE, 29 MARCH 2021**

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair

Mr Markku Mölläri, Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), opened the meeting of the European Stakeholders' Platform of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level ('the European Platform'). He welcomed members and gave indications as regards the conduct of the meeting.

The list of participants appears in Appendix I.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix II.

3. Report of the fourth meeting of the Enlarged Bureau (24 March 2020)

The Secretariat recalled the main decisions that had been taken by the European Stakeholders' Platform during its last meeting, as outlined in the meeting report (DG-SP(2020)6). New Rules of procedure for the functioning of the Platform had been approved as well as new Regulations for implementing ELoGE. Following that meeting, efforts had been made to enhance the visibility and outreach of ELoGE, setting up a specific webpage. Ways to strengthen cooperation with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe were being explored. The Secretariat also underlined the need to discuss whether the ELoGE benchmark should be reviewed and simplified in order to strengthen specific elements such as civil society participation and gender equality.

4. Election of the second Vice-Chairperson

The European Stakeholders' Platform elected Mr Gerhard Ermischer, representative of the INGOs Conference, for another two-year mandate.

5. Information on ELoGE progress and implementation in 2020-2021

The Secretariat presented the ELoGE progress and implementation in 2020-2021, referring to document DG-SP(2021)1.

In the past year, despite the objective difficulties caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, ELoGE had been successfully implemented in a number of member States, with activities, consultations and meetings moving online. The feedback from participating local authorities was overwhelmingly positive.

The Secretariat briefed the European Stakeholders' Platform on the activities which had been carried out in Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Italy (Friuli Venezia Giulia), Greece, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Slovak Republic and Spain (Basque Country).

6. Renewal and accreditation requests

The European Stakeholders' Platform examined the new accreditation requests as set out in DG-SP(2021)2. To this end, it heard presentations and held an exchange of views with the following representatives:

- Ms Antonella Valmorbida, Secretary General of the Association for Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA), requesting accreditation to implement ELoGE in Croatia and North Macedonia,
- Mr Fernando Jiménez Sánchez, on behalf of the Chair for good government and public integrity at the University of Murcia, Spain, requesting accreditation to implement ELoGE in the region of Murcia,
- Ms Katalin Kolin-Sabján, Secretary of International Affairs, Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ), requesting accreditation to implement ELoGE in Hungary,
- Mr Daniele Del Bianco, Director of the Institute of International Sociology of Gorizia (ISIG), on behalf of the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE), requesting accreditation to implement ELoGE in Italy.

In deciding each request, the European Stakeholders' Platform considered the impact of possible Covid-19 restrictions, the outreach capacity of the requesting entities amongst municipalities, their expertise, capacity and experience in the field of good governance, the gender dimension and the involvement of the civil society.

The European Platform decided, in accordance with Article 9 of the Regulations and the structures and procedures as set out in the requests:

- to grant accreditation to the Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities (TÖOSZ) to implement ELoGE in Hungary until 30 June 2024. In taking this decision, the European Stakeholders' Platform underlined the need for the accredited entity to take into account the principle of gender equality and the participation of civil society in the implementation of ELoGE;
- to grant accreditation to the Italian Association of the Council of European

Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE) to implement ELoGE in Italy until June 2024. In taking this decision, the European Platform underlined the need for the accredited entity to ensure the gender dimension in the implementation of ELoGE.

Furthermore, the European Platform decided, in accordance with Article 10 of the Regulations and the structures and procedures as set out in the request, to grant accreditation to the Association for Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) for implementing ELoGE in Croatia and North Macedonia until 30 June 2023. In taking this decision, the European Stakeholders' Platform underlined the need for the accredited entity to promote gender equality in the implementation of ELoGE.

In taking these decisions, the European Stakeholders' Platform recalled the need for accredited entities to keep it informed of their actions in regard to ELoGE as well as possible changes to their functioning or composition.

Finally, the European Stakeholders' Platform favourably considered the request submitted by the Chair for good government and public integrity at the University of Murcia for implementing ELoGE in the region of Murcia, Spain. The European Stakeholders' Platform invited the applicant to complete its accreditation request and to submit it anew by 1 June 2021. The new request should include an implementation plan, information on the structures that would be involved in implementing and awarding ELoGE, and an explanation of the expertise of the applicant in the field of good governance as a whole.

Due to lack of time, the European Stakeholders' Platform agreed decide on the requests for the renewal of accreditations (document DG-SP(2021)2) by written procedure within one week. Requests had been submitted by:

- the Institute of Local Administration (ITA), Greece, to continue to implement ELoGE in Greece;
- Eudel Association of Basque Municipalities, Spain to continue to implement ELoGE in the Basque Country, Spain;
- the Foundation in support of Local Democracy, Poland to continue to implement ELoGE in Poland.

The Secretariat would send out an e-mail to this end.

7. Updating ELoGE Benchmark

Due to lack of time, this item was postponed.

8. Promotion of ELoGE in 2021

Due to lack of time, this item was postponed.

9. Next meeting

The next meeting would be held as the need arises.

APPENDIX I

*Meeting report
[DG-SP(2021)3]*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHAIR / PRESIDENT

Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI, Ministerial adviser, Department for Local Affairs and Regional Administration, Ministry of Finance, HELSINKI, Finland

VICE-CHAIRS/VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr Peter ANDRE, Ministry of Interior, Senior Expert for Legal Affairs, WIEN, Austria

Mr Gerhard ERMISCHER, CIVILSCAPE, Representative of the INGOs Conference to the CDDG, ASCHAFFENBURG, Germany

OTHER MEMBERS / AUTRES MEMBRES

Mr Francesco GIUSTINO, Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri, D.A.R.A. - Ufficio Attività Internazionali, ROMA, Italy

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs, BRUSSELS, Belgium

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, LONDON, United-Kingdom

Ms Stefanía TRAUSTADÓTTIR, Senior Advisor, Local Government, Department of Local Government and Regional Policy, Ministry of Transport and Local Government, REYKJAVÍK, Iceland

OTHER PARTICIPANTS / AUTRES PARTICIPANTS

PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Ms Sibel ARSLAN, General Rapporteur on local and regional authorities, member of the Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

OTHERS / AUTRES

Mr Daniele DEL BIANCO, Director of ISIG, on behalf of the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE)

Mr Fernando JIMENEZ SÁNCHEZ, Catedrático de ciencia política y de la administración Universidad de Murcia

Ms Katalin KOLIN-SABJÁN, Secretary of Foreign Affairs/ Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities

Ms Antonella VALMORBIDA, The European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA), Secretary General

Ms Siobhan SMYTH, Senior Policy Adviser, Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, LONDON, United Kingdom

Ms Gurpal CHEEMA, Policy Adviser, Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, LONDON, United Kingdom

SECRETARIAT

Ms Sonia SIRTORI, Head of the Democratic Governance Division – Secretary of the CDDG - Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance, Directorate General of Democracy

Ms Alina TATARENKO – Head of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance / Democratic Governance Division / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Mr Stefan STANKOVIC, Democratic Governance Division / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Ms Isabelle ETTER - Assistant

Interpreters / Interprètes

Ms Katia DI STEFANO

Ms Elisabetta BASSU

APPENDIX II**AGENDA**

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda *[DG-SP(2021)OJ1]*
3. Report of the fourth meeting of the Enlarged Bureau
(24 March 2020) [\[DG-SP\(2020\)6\]](#)
4. Election of the second Vice-Chairperson [Regulations](#)
[Rules of procedure](#)
5. Information on [ELoGE](#) progress and implementation in 2020-2021 *[DG-SP(2021)1]*
6. Renewal and new requests of accreditations *[DG-SP(2021)2]*
7. Updating ELoGE Benchmark [Benchmark](#)
 - Exchange of views
8. Promotion of ELoGE in 2021
9. Next meeting