



Strasbourg, 13 November 2017

DG-SP(2017)7rev

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

Revised draft report of the European Stakeholders' Platform meeting
Strasbourg, 6 September 2017

1. Opening of the meeting

The Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) opened the meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the CDDG in its capacity as European Stakeholders' Platform of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance. He welcomed the members, in particular the new members.

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 first meeting of the European Stakeholders' Platform
(18 May 2016)

The participants took note of the report of the first meeting of the European Stakeholders' Platform held in May 2016 (document DG-SP(2017)1).

4. European Stakeholders' Platform

The Chairman and the Secretariat recalled the structures for the promotion of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance, the Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy and granting of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE), Rules of procedure of the Enlarged Bureau acting as European Stakeholders' Platform and the ELoGE Benchmark (documents DG-SP(2017)2, 3 and 4).

The European Stakeholders' Platform suggested that the CDDG could usefully examine in greater detail:

- Possibilities for clarifying and improving certain points in the Regulations and Rules of procedure;
- Conditions for accreditation for granting ELoGE by intermunicipal structures and transregional and/or transnational associations or organisations such as Euro-Regions.

The Secretariat was instructed to collect considerations and prepare proposals for possible modifications to the Rules of Procedure for initial discussion by the Enlarged Bureau.

5. Election of a second Vice-Chairperson

This item was postponed until the next meeting to allow the Conference of International NGOs additional time for consultation prior to nominating a candidate.

6. Information requested by the European Stakeholders' Platform at its last meeting

Renewal of the application for accreditation by Bulgaria

The European Stakeholders' Platform took note of the information set out in document DG-SP(2017)5 and expressed appreciation for the achievements by the Bulgarian authorities and the National Stakeholders' Platform. This illustrated the clear value of the Strategy and their contribution to the Council of Europe Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance.

Having examined the Bulgarian proposals for adjustments to the four indicators of the benchmark that required modification, the European Stakeholders' Platform, accepted the proposed wording for Indicator 6 of Principle 4 (Openness and Transparency). It considered that, in order for the Bulgarian authorities to realise the full potential under the ELoGE programme, the remaining three proposals for modification concerning Indicator 4 of Principle 1 (Citizen Participation, Fair Conduct of Elections, and Representation), Indicator 1 of Principle 11 (Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion), and Indicator 5 of Principle 12 (Accountability), were insufficiently precise and asked the Bulgarian Stakeholders' Platform to modify the indicators as per the consultant's recommendations (document DG-SP(2017)5).

Application for Accreditation by Malta

The Chairman recalled the terms of the conditional accreditation granted to the National Stakeholders' Platform of Malta as set out in the report under point 3 of the agenda.

The Secretariat was instructed to pursue the dialogue with the Maltese authorities with a view to obtaining the information sought by the European Stakeholders' Platform and the report on the implementation of the Strategy at the end of the accreditation period (end of December 2017).

7. New applications for accreditation of Stakeholders' Platforms

The European Stakeholders' Platform welcomed the important number of applications received and expressed appreciation for the efforts by the Centre of Expertise for local government reform in this respect.

The Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Ms. Alina Tatarenko presented background information to each of the application requests for accreditation.

The European Stakeholders' Platform examined the applications presented and:

As regards the application by Greece:

took note of the letter from the Ministry of Interior of Greece promoting the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level and supporting the accreditation request submitted by the Institute of Local Administration (ITA); and

decided to grant the Institute of Local Administration accreditation to award ELoGE until 31 December 2020 underlining the need to ensure that in translating the benchmark, processes and criteria were fully respected.

As regards the application by Poland:

to grant the Fundacja Rozwoju Demokracji Lokalnej (Foundation in Support of Local Democracy) accreditation to award ELoGE until 31 December 2020 on condition of presenting the adjusted benchmark and questionnaire to the European Stakeholders' Platform.

It was understood that the Polish authorities had been informed of the programme and had raised no objections.

As regards the application by Spain – Basque Country:

took note of the letter from the Basque country's authorities supporting adhesion to the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level and the accreditation request by Eudel; and

decided to grant the Association of Basque Municipalities (EUEDEL) accreditation to award ELoGE until 31 December 2020, also in light of its long standing involvement with the Council of Europe and the Centre of Expertise, and it being understood that there was no objection on the part of the Spanish national authorities.

Application by the European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives (UDITE):

In the light of the applicable regulations, the European Stakeholders' Platform could not grant accreditation to UDITE for awarding ELoGE.

As UDITE was well-placed to assist the Centre of Expertise in implementing ELoGE and identifying municipalities that would merit the Label of Governance' Excellence, the European Platform encouraged UDITE to proceed with the programme as a pilot-project and that the Centre of Expertise would award ELoGE to individual municipalities as appropriate and in conformity with the rules.

The European Stakeholders' Platform would hold an in-depth discussion on the issue of applications by transnational associations and organisations at its next meeting, taking into account also the experience with this project.

8. Other business

No other business was presented to the Platform.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held in conjunction with a meeting of the CDDG Bureau or Plenary Session in 2017, in function of possible new applications submitted by member States.

APPENDIX I

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE /
COMITE EUROPEEN SUR LA DEMOCRATIE ET LA GOUVERNANCE (CDDG)

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

Mr Georgios CHRYSAFIS, Directorate of Organisation and Functioning of Local Government,
Ministry of the Interior, Greece

M. Damien FERAILLE, Bureau des structures territoriales, Direction Générale des Collectivités
locales, Ministère de l'Intérieur, France

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

M. Paul-Henri PHILIPS, Coordinateur pour les Organisations Internationales, Relations
multilatérales et Organisations Internationales, Belgique

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Deputy Director, Democracy, Department for Communities and Local
Government, United Kingdom

Mrs Stefánía TRAUSTADÓTTIR, Senior Advisor, Local Government, Department of Local Government
and Regional Policy, Ministry of Transport and Local Government, Iceland

CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONFERENCE DES ONG DU
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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

Apologised for absence / excusée

Mrs Alexandra Luminita PETRESCU, FITRAM, Representative of the INGOs Conference to the
CDDG, Romania

SECRETARIAT

Mr Daniel POPESCU, Head of Democratic Governance Department / Chef du Service de la
gouvernance démocratique - Directorate of Democratic Governance and Anti-Discrimination /
Direction de la gouvernance démocratique et de l'anti-discrimination, Directorate General of
Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie

Mrs Jutta GÜTZKOW, Head of Good Governance Division / Chef de la Division de la bonne
gouvernance – Secretary of the CDDG / Secrétaire du CDDG - Directorate of Democratic
Governance and Anti-Discrimination / Direction de la gouvernance démocratique et de l'anti-
discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy / Direction générale de la démocratie

Mr Theo WELS, Administrator / Administrateur – Good Governance Division / Division de la
bonne gouvernance - Directorate of Democratic Governance and Anti-Discrimination / Direction
de la gouvernance démocratique et de l'anti-discrimination, Directorate General of Democracy /
Direction générale de la démocratie

APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda [DG-SP(2017)OJ1]
3. Report of the first meeting of the Enlarged Bureau (18 May 2016, Strasbourg) [DG-SP(2017)1]
4. European Stakeholder's Platform:
 - Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy and granting of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) [DG-SP(2017)2]
 - Rules of Procedure of the Enlarged Bureau [DG-SP(2017)3]
 - ELoGE Benchmark [DG-SP(2017)4]
5. Election of a second Vice-Chairperson
6. Information requested by the European Stakeholders' Platform at its last meeting: [DG-SP(2017)5]
 - Bulgaria
 - Malta
7. New applications for accreditation of Stakeholders' Platforms: [DG-SP(2017)6]
 - Greece
 - Poland
 - Spain - Basque Country
 - European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives (UDITE)
8. Other business
9. Date of the next meeting