



GT-G(2023)1

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

Terms of reference of the Working Group on Governance¹ (GT-G)

Task

Carry out work for the CDDG with a view to:

- Finalise the text of the draft explanatory memorandum to the draft Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on Principles of Good Democratic Governance (specific task 1 of the terms of reference 2022-2025)
- the preparation of a preliminary draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on multilevel governance (specific task 5 of the terms of reference 2022-2025)
- the preparation of a preliminary draft report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies, building on the CDDG's earlier work on democratic governance and the response to the Covid-19 pandemic (specific task 6 of the terms of reference 2022-2025)

Timeline: January 2023 – December 2024

- draft explanatory memorandum to the draft recommendation on principles of good democratic governance (task 1) to be finalised, as necessary, at a first meeting to be held in January or February 2023, so as to be available for adoption at the 17th CDDG meeting in April;
- draft recommendation on multilevel governance (task 5) and draft report on multilevel governance and response to emergencies (task 6) to be finalised for adoption by the CDDG at its 20th meeting in the second half of 2024.

The working group may hold up to four meetings: two in 2023 and two in 2024. Written consultations and additional on-line meetings are encouraged, as necessary.

¹ As approved by the CDDG at its 16th meeting and complemented by written procedure on 18 January 2023.

If in the course of its early work on tasks 5 and 6, the working group considers that the two tasks would benefit from being combined, for instance to avoid redundancies, it shall make a proposal to the CDDG to combine the two tasks.

Composition

All member States can nominate representatives and/or independent experts and participate in the working group at their own expense. Institutions and bodies with the status of CDDG participant or observer are also invited to nominate representatives in the working groups.

The Council of Europe will bear the costs for the participation of experts from the following 8 member States: **Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Norway, Slovak Republic, United Kingdom.**

Experts nominated should have adequate specialisation in the following areas:

- governance, multilevel governance; the functioning of central State institutions and of local and regional administrations including their cooperation in general and/or in specific concrete policy areas;
- cooperation between public institutions and different types of actors
- the design and implementation of reforms in the field of decentralisation, vertical and horizontal coordination, financial equalisation;
- the public management of public emergencies and crises such as climatic events, natural / technological / other disasters, pandemics and other health crises, general civil protection and emergency plans

Background documents and resources

The working group is expected to take into account the experience of a variety of state models and institutional traditions (centralised, decentralised, federal) and to consider policy guidelines which are relevant for all.

It should take into account pertinent standards, reports and documents produced under the aegis of the Council of Europe and other organisations, including:

- general instruments, such as the [European Charter of Local Self-Government and its Additional Protocol on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority](#), and texts on specific policy-areas, for instance: Recommendation CM/Rec (96)12 of the Committee of ministers to Member States on the distribution of powers and responsibilities between central authorities and local and regional authorities with regard to the environment; Recommendation CM/Rec(2014)1 of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Council of Europe Charter on shared social responsibilities;

- relevant work of the CDDG, in particular the 2020 special report on “Democratic governance and Covid-19” and the information collected from member States in this context (see the [dedicated webpage](#));
- relevant work of the Parliamentary Assembly and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (including lessons stemming from monitoring work), and of other Council of Europe sources such as the [Code of good practice for civil participation in decision-making](#) (jointly updated by the Congress and the Conference of INGOs);
- work from the OECD on [multilevel governance and decentralisation](#).

Working methods

The working group may use on-line meetings and written consultations as necessary. It is encouraged to hold consultations with other bodies within and outside the Council of Europe, including non-governmental organisations. It may rely on contributions from expert consultants. See also [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods](#)