



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

**(Revised) REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTING
THE EUROPEAN LABEL OF GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE
(ELOGE)**

As approved by the European Stakeholders' Platform
on 24 March 2020

I. Introduction

1. The Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local level (herewith 'the Strategy') was adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 26 March 2008, at the 1022nd meeting of the Ministers' Deputies.¹
2. The Strategy aims at promoting action and policies that establish or improve good governance, in particular at local level. These measures, however, can also be implemented at regional and national levels of government.
3. One of the tangible achievements of the Strategy is the establishment of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE),² a label which is awarded to municipalities having achieved a level of governance which is in line with the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance of the Council of Europe.
4. The present Regulations govern the procedure for implementing ELoGE. They were adopted by the European Platform at its meeting on 18 May 2016 and amended on 24 March 2020.

II. The Strategy

5. Member States³ that wish to join the Strategy are invited to inform the Council of Europe and make their decision public. By joining the Strategy, Member States commit to implementing ELoGE. ELoGE, however, can be implemented irrespective of the relevant Member State joining the Strategy.

III. ELoGE

6. ELoGE can be awarded to municipalities of Council of Europe member States which achieve a high standard of governance, as measured against a national (regional) benchmark which is equivalent to the European Benchmark of the Centre of Expertise and based on the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance.
7. ELoGE is awarded for one year. The physical distinction consists of a crystal dodecahedron the facets of which bear the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance engraved. The Council of Europe shall provide the dodecahedron.
8. The procedure for implementing ELoGE consists of two stages: accreditation by the Council of Europe; and national (regional) implementation leading to awarding the label.

¹ <https://rm.coe.int/1680701699>

² <https://rm.coe.int/eloge-benchmark-en-17-09/16808d71d4>

³ In federal or regional states, where the competences and responsibilities about local government lie with the federated states or with the regions, the references to member States in these Regulations must be understood as referring to the federated states or regions.

IV. Accreditation

Entities which can request accreditation

9. The following entities can apply for accreditation from the European Stakeholder's Platform to award ELoGE:

- i. an ad hoc national or regional stakeholders' platform comprising representatives of central or regional government, local government, civil society and social and economic actors in a balanced way, the composition of which shall be communicated to the European Stakeholders' Platform at the moment of applying for accreditation;

or

- ii. an existing national or regional body or institution which is reputable and has substantial know-how, expertise and/or experience in the field of good governance, in particular at local level.

10. Accreditation requests can also be submitted by reputable transnational platforms, bodies or institutions with substantive know-how, expertise and/or experience in the field of good governance, in particular at local level, with a view to awarding ELoGE in one or more Council of Europe member States or regions where no national or regional stakeholders' platform, or any existing national or regional body or institution has been granted accreditation. The competence of such transnational entity to award the label in a country or region shall cease upon accreditation of a national (regional) body for the same purpose.

11. Upon submitting an accreditation request, the requesting entity shall submit a national (regional) benchmark for assessing the performance of municipalities with regard to the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance, providing an explanation of its equivalence to the Council of Europe benchmark.

Granting or renewing accreditation

12. The European Stakeholders' Platform is the Council of Europe body responsible for granting the accreditation to implement ELoGE. It is composed of the Bureau of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) and two members of the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO). Members of other Council of Europe bodies can be represented in the European Stakeholders' Platform according to the conditions established in its Rules of procedure.

13. Upon receiving an application from one of the bodies mentioned under Articles 10 and 11 above, the European Stakeholders' Platform will grant accreditation if it is satisfied that:

- the member State (or region) has no objection against the accreditation;
- municipalities are (or will be) adequately informed about and free to take part in the process leading to the awarding of ELoGE;
- the national (regional) benchmark for assessing the performance of the municipalities with regard to the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance is equivalent to the Council of Europe benchmark. Any changes the requesting entity may deem necessary or desirable, at the level of the national (regional) benchmark, shall be approved by the European Stakeholders' Platform;
- the scoring of municipalities with regard to the benchmark will be verified by an independent body or person and supplemented by other information about the public's views of the performance of the municipality;
- the accredited entity has the capacity to administer the process for granting the label;
- equality and diversity, including the balanced participation of women and men at all stages of the process, will be taken into account in implementing ELoGE;
- the rules, procedures and decisions in relation to implementing and awarding ELoGE are taken according to a transparent procedure and can be subjected to review.

14. Accreditations to the entities listed under Article 9 i. and ii. can be granted for a maximum period of 3 years, which can be renewed upon the applicant's request for a duration to be decided by the European Stakeholders' Platform. Renewals of accreditation can be granted if the Stakeholders' Platform is satisfied that there has been no change in the circumstances that justified accreditation in the first place. Accreditations to entities listed under Article 10 can be granted for a maximum period of 2 years and can be renewed once.

15. The European Stakeholders' Platform may request additional information to be provided by the entity applying for accreditation or renewal of accreditation.

16. The European Stakeholders' Platform decides according to its Rules of procedure. Decisions of the European Stakeholders' Platform cannot be appealed. They will be communicated to the applicant without delay.

Suspension, withdrawal or refusal of accreditation

17. The European Stakeholders' Platform may suspend an entity's ability to award the Label at any time, in the event of suspicion of a breach of the applicable Regulations or other possible irregularities, pending further inquiries. If at the conclusion of the inquiries the European Stakeholders' Platform finds serious breaches of the Regulations, it shall withdraw accreditation and may take such other action as may be necessary to safeguard the reputation of the Label.

18. A decision not to grant accreditation is without prejudice to the right to submit further applications.

V. Implementing and awarding ELoGE at national (regional) level

19. The accredited entity is responsible for managing the process for awarding the Label, and for any actions and consequences as a result thereof. It commits itself to promoting the Label and the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance and to implementing ELoGE in a meaningful number of municipalities within the period of its accreditation.

20. Accredited entities shall keep the European Stakeholders' Platform informed about their actions in regard of ELoGE and respond to requests from the European Stakeholders' Platform in a spirit of cooperation. On a regular basis, or at the latest before the end of their accreditation, they should provide a narrative report to the European Stakeholders' Platform describing its activities in relation to ELoGE.

21. Accredited entities shall bear the costs related to the process for implementing ELoGE.

VI. Exceptional awarding of ELoGE by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance in co-operation with a non-accredited entity

22. With the agreement of the European Stakeholders' Platform, the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance may exceptionally award ELoGE in co-operation with a national, regional or transnational entity which is not accredited but is qualified to apply for accreditation, at the following conditions:

- no accredited entity can award ELoGE in the country or region concerned;
- the entity in question has the capacity, reputation and resources to become accredited and is interested in doing so;
- the municipalities in question have successfully run the ELoGE benchmark and have fulfilled all the conditions which are normally required for being awarded the label;
- the results of the benchmarking have been assessed by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance in cooperation with the entity in question.

23. The above procedure can be resorted to with the same entity only for one round of ELoGE for any given country (or region). A refusal to grant ELoGE according to this procedure is without appeal.

VII. Miscellaneous provisions

24. All correspondence with the Council of Europe and the documentation relating to ELoGE shall be in one of the Organisation's official languages.

25. On a periodic basis, the European Stakeholders' Platform, in consultation with accredited entities, should assess the implementation of ELoGE, its effectiveness in promoting compliance with the Twelve Principles of Good Democratic Governance, and consider ways to improve it.

26. These provisions can be modified and supplemented at any time by the European Stakeholders' Platform in the light of the experience.