

# DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF DEMOCRACY



We work for human dignity and sustainable democracy in Europe based on human rights standards

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COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

**S**ince the founding of the Council of Europe in 1949, its member states have been committed “to the spiritual and moral values which are the common heritage of their peoples and the true source of individual freedom, political liberty and the rule of law, principles which form the basis of all genuine democracy” (Statute of the Council of Europe).

■ The overall mandate of the Directorate General of Democracy (“DGII”) is to support the Organisation in fields which are vital for democracy. Its priorities are to strengthen human dignity, participation, diversity and democratic innovation, particularly by:

- ▶ Ensuring respect for human dignity without discrimination
- ▶ Improving, through innovation, the functioning of institutions and securing their compliance with democratic and human rights standards
- ▶ Strengthening the democratic competencies of Europe’s citizens and their trust in and willingness to participate in the democratic process
- ▶ Promoting respect for diversity in Europe’s societies, in a spirit of solidarity and tolerance, based on the human rights and legal standards of the Council of Europe.

■ The Directorate General of Democracy sets standards and monitors and supports their implementation through targeted programmes and policies.

DGII regularly co-operates with national governments, local and regional authorities, civil society and other international organisations.

The Directorate General comprises four directorates.



# DIRECTORATE OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION

■ In a way, the Council of Europe's mission starts here: the Directorate focuses on the emerging generation, enabling children and young people to become responsible and engaged European citizens who advocate human rights and participate fully in today's diverse democracies.

## EDUCATION

- ▶ To reinforce democratic citizenship across Europe, an extensive programme on human rights and citizenship education offers training opportunities, educational tools and guidelines.
- ▶ International agreements on mobility, higher education, mutual recognition of qualifications and the internationally-recognised language competence system ("A1-C2") ensure young people can live and learn abroad.
- ▶ The "Pestalozzi Programme" ensures teacher mobility across Europe.
- ▶ History teaching through the eyes of other nations and marginalised groups encourages reconciliation and understanding.
- ▶ The "European Day of Languages" promotes intercultural understanding.

## YOUTH

- ▶ To increase participation in democratic culture, the European Youth Centres in Strasbourg and Budapest train 2,500 young people and the European Youth Foundation supports activities involving 15,000 young people every year.
- ▶ The Council of Europe is the only international organisation to enable youth leaders to participate directly in setting its programmes and priorities alongside governments.
- ▶ Youth activists across Europe are tackling discrimination and abuse online through the "No Hate Speech Movement".
- ▶ Youth Peace Ambassadors and Youth Peace Camps help overcome divisions in conflict-riven communities through democratic citizenship.
- ▶ The Organisation has worked for over 20 years to give young Roma a political voice – the first international organisation to do so.



# DIRECTORATE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

## DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

■ The Directorate helps ensure that national and local authorities and NGOs across Europe function according to European standards, and promotes democratic innovation through:

- ▶ The European Committee on Democracy and Democratic Governance (CDDG), a forum where national reforms are reviewed by peers
- ▶ The Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, which assists central and local authorities concerning effective management, public ethics, local finances, territorial and administrative reform and leadership development
- ▶ Assistance with elections, by strengthening central electoral administrations, professionalising the observation of elections and encouraging the participation of first-time voters, women and minorities
- ▶ 400 international non-governmental organisations, which interact with the Council of Europe through the Conference of International Non-governmental Organisations
- ▶ The annual World Forum for Democracy, which brings together activists and political leaders to debate major issues for democracy and democratic societies.

## DEMOCRATIC CULTURE

■ The Directorate promotes democratic participation, respect for diversity and enhanced social cohesion through:

- ▶ The “Platform on Culture and Digitisation”, to foster access to culture and cultural creation in the digital era
- ▶ The sustainable use of cultural heritage resources to improve the well-being of citizens and increase their participation
- ▶ The European Landscape Convention, which promotes the democratic management of our environment, and the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (“Bern Convention”), which ensures the European governance of biodiversity
- ▶ The “Intercultural Cities” network, which supports local authorities in managing and benefiting from cultural diversity.



## DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN DIGNITY AND EQUALITY

■ The Directorate monitors and supports member states in implementing ground-breaking conventions which safeguard human dignity, integrity and equality. The European Committee for Social Cohesion, Human Dignity and Equality (CDDECS) provides a forum for enhancing the implementation of these standards through the exchange of good practice and experience.

### EQUALITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY

- ▶ The “Lanzarote Convention” is the first international legally-binding instrument to criminalise all forms of sexual violence against children.
- ▶ The Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings protects victims and ensures their rights are respected; compliance is monitored by independent experts (GRETA).
- ▶ The “Istanbul Convention” is the first and only European legally-binding instrument to prevent and combat violence against women, explicitly criminalising nine forms of violence; compliance is monitored by independent experts (GREVIO).
- ▶ The Directorate promotes gender equality and the application of human rights standards regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

### ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

- ▶ The European Commission against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) monitors racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism, intolerance and racial discrimination and advises governments.
- ▶ Conventions monitored by independent experts protect the rights of people belonging to national minorities and promote the use of Europe’s regional and minority languages in public life.
- ▶ Discrimination against people with disabilities is addressed by promoting equal rights and opportunities in every sphere of life.

### SPORT AND INTEGRITY

- ▶ Conventions tackling spectator violence, doping and match-fixing are leading international legal references.



# EUROPEAN DIRECTORATE FOR THE QUALITY OF MEDICINES AND HEALTHCARE (EDQM)

## QUALITY OF MEDICINES

— The EDQM sets quality standards for medicines and their ingredients which are recognised world-wide and contributes to making high-quality medicines accessible. It also evaluates the quality of active pharmaceutical ingredients, inspects manufacturing sites (certification of suitability) and runs programmes for market surveillance of medicines.

## HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

- ▶ Blood transfusion activities are based on the non-commercialisation of substances of human origin (voluntary and non-remunerated donation), protecting the health of blood donors and recipients.
- ▶ The programme on organ, cells and tissue transplantation actively promotes the non-commercialisation of organ donation; it combats organ trafficking and supports ethical, quality and safety standards in the field of transplantation.

## PHARMACEUTICALS AND PHARMACEUTICAL CARE

- ▶ Recommendations on the classification of medicines into prescription and non-prescription medicines aim to balance patient safety and accessibility of medicines.
- ▶ Scientific indicators measure the quality of pharmaceutical care in Europe.
- ▶ Legal texts and recommendations on best practices aim to harmonise the preparation of medicinal products in pharmacies throughout Europe.
- ▶ The “Medicrime Convention” – the first international legal instrument to criminalise the counterfeiting of medical products – is the cornerstone of the EDQM’s anti-counterfeiting strategy, which focuses on prevention and inter-disciplinary co-operation.
- ▶ The EDQM protects public health by establishing common policies related to the quality and safety of cosmetics and food contact materials.



## PARTIAL AGREEMENTS

### EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR MODERN LANGUAGES (GRAZ, AUSTRIA)

The ECML promotes reform in the teaching and learning of languages, trains teacher trainers and publishes examples of good practice.

### PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON YOUTH MOBILITY THROUGH THE YOUTH CARD

Over four million young people have a European Youth Card, which gives advantages/discounts on transport, accommodation, language courses and cultural activities.

### CULTURAL ROUTES

The cultural routes promote Europe's shared heritage and contribute to the sustainable development of lesser-known regions. Today, 29 cultural routes cross the whole of Europe.

### EURIMAGES

Eurimages promotes European co-operation and diversity by funding films produced by professionals from different European countries. More than 60 films have won prestigious awards.

### EUR-OPA

EUR-OPA deals with disaster prevention, management and post-disaster rehabilitation by identifying good practice, raising awareness and developing new tools, supported by 26 national, specialised centres.

### NORTH-SOUTH CENTRE

The Centre promotes dialogue and cooperation between Europe and civil society in the North African reform countries, contributing to building global democratic citizenship and intercultural dialogue, particularly among young people and women.

### ENLARGED PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON SPORT (EPAS)

EPAS aims to make sport fairer, to combat abuse in sport and to ensure that it conforms to high ethical standards.

### PARTIAL AGREEMENT ON THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE DEVELOPMENT BANK

The Development Bank contributes to sustainable and equitable growth in Europe. It responds to emergency situations and helps finance social projects.



The Directorate General of Democracy supports the Council of Europe in fields which are vital for the sustainability of democracy: ensuring respect for human dignity without discrimination on the basis of human rights standards; improving the functioning of democratic institutions; and strengthening the democratic competencies of Europe's citizens and their willingness to engage in the democratic process.



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