

## THE ACTION PLAN OF THE CONFERENCE OF INGOs OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

2018-2021

Adopted by the Conference of INGOs on 29 June 2018

The Conference of INGOs has gradually earned recognition as a political body of the Council of Europe by consistently demonstrating its relevance and commitment to our Organisation's values and priorities. This Action Plan aims to reinforce the voice of civil society in the Council of Europe and sets out the main orientations and specific priorities of the Conference's work for the upcoming 3 years. A large part of the content comes from the roadmaps of the thematic committees and the terms of reference of the working groups. The Action Plan shows how the Conference of INGOs provides both a conceptual and an operational response to the Council of Europe's, and more specifically the Secretary General's priorities, and contributes to the protection of the Organisation's values which are being affected by current political and economic factors.

The Conference of INGOs is a collective body comprising all of the INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe (CM/Resolution 2016(3)). On the basis of the Committee of Ministers' Resolution (2005)47, the Conference of INGOs acquired the status of a participant in the intergovernmental committees and their subordinate bodies on an equal basis with the other institutions of the Council of Europe.

### **Our Mission**

The Conference of INGOs is a civil society assembly whose aim is to represent European civil society as the institutional civil society pillar within the Organisation and to promote democracy, human rights and the rule of law through civil society in Europe, alongside the Secretary General, the Committee of Ministers, the Parliamentary Assembly, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities the European Court of Human Rights and the Commissioner for Human Rights.

### **Our Vision**

As a representative body, the Conference of INGOs constitutes an institutional connexion between the Council of Europe institutions and 800 million Europeans. Through the Conference of INGOs, the Council of Europe recognises a vibrant, pluralistic, and dynamic civil society to be an indispensable actor of the democratic system, aiming to safeguard a civic space, acting for open, diverse and inclusive societies and accountable governments.

## Our priorities

The priorities announced in the Action Plan are organised as follows:

1. To protect and reinforce freedom of association and associated rights<sup>1</sup> and to contribute to the democratic security in Council of Europe member states
2. To observe and reinforce civil participation in the decision-making within the Council of Europe and in its member states
3. To contribute to building an inclusive society and protect access to education and to social, cultural and economic rights by vulnerable groups
4. Contribute to the blossoming of a modern European Cultural Identity
5. Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.

Gender equality is central to fulfilling the Council of Europe's mission, and is therefore also a priority for the Conference of INGOs.

Three integrated approaches to these priorities are chosen:

- To reinforce gender equality mainstreaming in the work of the Conference of INGO with respect and implementation of the Strategy of Equality 2018-2023 of the CoE
- To integrate the youth perspective and reinforce youth participation in the work of the Conference of INGOs
- To integrate the migration and post-migration perspective (of the migrants and NGOs' which support them) in the work of the Conference of INGOs

The categories of stakeholders concerned by these actions are as follows: (I)NGOs, public institutions, public authorities and public officials, specific social groups, business sector.

All entities of the Conference of INGOs will conduct the actions to contribute to these priorities under guidance of the Bureau and Standing Committee whose roles are to ensure consistency and coherence of the whole Action Plan.

There is still essential that activities achieve the desired results and impacts within the Council of Europe and in its member states. With this in mind, the Conference of INGOs, must be simultaneously close to the grassroots organisations, works for a general interest of civil society and be involved in the high-level decision-making process in the Council of Europe and other international organisations.

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<sup>1</sup> Right to information, expression, participation, assembly

## **Our Working Methods**

The Standing Committee is the management body of the Conference of INGOs, composed of the directly elected voluntary members of the Conference of INGOs. The INGOs with participatory status, the invited NGOs and experts, contribute on a voluntary basis to the work of the thematic committees through their working groups, to the debates, side events, the country visits and other activities led by the Conference of INGOs. Among its working methods are the twice yearly sessions which include debates with Council of Europe personalities and institutions.

This Action Plan is supplemented by the Roadmaps of the thematic committees

[Human Rights Committee](#)

[Democracy, Social Cohesion and Global Challenges Committee](#)

[Education and Culture Committee](#)

[Road map for youth participation \(2018-2021\)](#)

More specific documents can be developed by the Conference of INGOs bodies in order to precise the expected results and impacts of the actions mentioned in the Action Plan.

Objectives / priorities	Actions	Qualitative and quantitative indicators	entities in charge of the implementation	Period (time)
To protect and reinforce freedom of association and associated rights* and to contribute to the democratic security in CoE Member States (*associated rights: rights to information, expression, participation, assembly)	To draft, adopt and publish the <b>opinions and studies by the Expert Council on NGO Law</b> in topics related to freedom of association	Ratio of opinions published concerning current legislative framework regarding freedom of association	Expert Council on NGO Law	2018-2021
	To develop the <b>fact-finding visits of the Conference of INGOs</b> delegation in CoE Member States, together with local and national NGOs, focused on the NGO's participation in public decision-making (also related to objective 2)	Number of fact-finding visits of the CINGO per year quantity and relevance of the stakeholders involved (NGOs, public authorities, international institutions) Number of reports published and comments from governments received	President, Bureau, Expert Council, members of the Conference of INGOs	2018-2021
	To develop a " <b>mainstream</b> " <b>information campaign on freedom of association.</b>	Production of media support for information campaign. Number of individuals and CSOs that interacted with the campaign; number of institutions that associated themselves with the campaign; Number of National Parliamentarians and local governments that associated themselves with the campaign	SC, members of the Conference of INGOs	2019-2020
	Implementation of the <b>project "Strengthening Freedom of Association in Council of Europe Member States"</b>	Number of alerts received, quality of the information collected, relevance of the local partners contracted, quality and number of the analyses delivered by the Expert Council and its dissemination	Project team, Bureau, Expert Council	2019-2021

	To implement an instrument that enables the assessment of the outputs of freedom of association at national level in the MS	The good practices identified to answer the closing civic space	HR Committee, Expert council	2019-2020
	To inform and <b>influence</b> decisions and policies at the Council of Europe level for the respect, protection, support and promotion of <b>freedom of expression and media</b> development in the Council of Europe member states through the events and special tool for peace and security, starting by journalists education/ training (ethics) on informing with respect, prudence and responsibility to sensitive issues as religious sentiments, etc.	Three events or seminars on regional security, divergences on freedom of expression and the criminal offences on hate speech to sensitize INGO members and CoE stakeholders, publication and dissemination of the special tool.	HR Committee	2018-2020
To observe and reinforce civil participation in the decision-making in CoE and member states	To review, <b>update the Code of good practice for civil participation in decision-making</b> taking into account the new Guidelines on civil participation and the Resolution (2015) of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities regarding implementation of the Code	Published revised version of the Code of good practice for civil participation in decision-making and transmission to the appropriated organs of the Council of Europe. Number of meetings and contributions received from CINGO and Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.	Drafting group within Conference of INGOs and representatives of the Congress, partners NGOs	2018-2019
	To develop action and to raise awareness around the <b>instrument “monitoring by third parties (NGOs)”</b> .	To set-up online tools or training sessions.	HR Committee	2018-2020
	To contribute to the <b>implementation of the guidelines on civil participation in decision-making</b> by inviting a grass root NGOs to WGs on democratic participation, strengthen communication canals with NGOs under threat, feed information to decision-making bodies of the CoE and MPs of member states.	Appropriable and quantity of the feedback received from grass root NGOs, from national MPs and local governments (UK, Bulgaria, Turkey)	DEM Committee, Bureau	2018-2020

	Contribution to the <b>new toolkit for civil society</b> related to the implementation of the guidelines (under responsibility of the Civil Society Division)	Active consultation led by the DEM Committee with the grass root NGO and INGOs, concrete proposal sent to the Civil Society Division	DEM Committee	2018-2019
	To reinforce the role of civil society in the <b>fight against corruption</b> by specific tools for surveillance and prevention of corruption	Adoption of the policy document and position paper by the CINGO Publication of tools, , effective co-operation with GRECO and grass root NGOs active in the field	DEM Committee, INGO members	2018-2020
	To provide <b>non-official translations of the guidelines</b> on civil participation in decision-making	Number of languages in which the Guidelines on Civil Participation are translated. Feed-back from member INGOs and grass root NGOs in the member countries	DEM Committee, Bureau, INGOs members	2018-2021
	Implementation of CDPPE and CDCPP recommendations, enriched with INGOs current practices, regarding the national minorities, vulnerable groups, participation in public and cultural life	Seminars on the practical implementation of the CDPPC with the partners of the education sector and the INGOs	E&C Committee	2018-2020
	To reinforce knowledge and empower people to become involved in society, thus serving to <b>promote awareness of European citizenship and democratic engagement</b> . Reflect on how and why digital tools contribute, or do not contribute, to it by disseminating human rights and building European citizenship, with the aim of living together harmoniously through its integration in education and culture.	Level of dissemination of Digital Citizen publication(s) to policy makers and concerned stakeholders	Transversal WG on Digital Citizen, thematic Committees	2018-2020

To contribute to building an inclusive society and protect access to social, cultural and economic rights by vulnerable groups	<b>Promote the cultural diversity programme</b> of the Council of Europe, with INGOs' insights.	Number of the INGOs best practices collected and their impact. Ensure their visibility within Council on Europe and outside.	E&C Committee	2018-2020
	To promote and develop access to education and training for all	Seminars with sector Long Life Learning partners and INGOs	E&C Committee	2018-2020
	<b>Undertake a follow-up on the campaigns designed by the CDPPE</b> related to minorities and vulnerable group.	Number of the INGOs best practices collected and their impact. Ensure their visibility within Council on Europe and outside	E&C Committee	2018-2020
	Raise awareness to the political opportunities and contribute to the monitoring process of the European Social Charter. Advocate to assure that adequate education is provided to all throughout life. Give a voice to those who do not have the opportunities to express themselves with dignity, transmit their practical knowledge and experience of poverty and exclusion.	Number and quality of the documents submitted to the European Committee of Social Rights with relevant information provided by INGOs. Create by January 2020 an online hub for the work done on the topic of poverty. Ensure the celebration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, 17 October, every year until 2020 in a new and innovative way.	Transversal WG Poverty, thematic Committees, Bureau	2019-2021
Contribute to the blossoming of a modern European Cultural Identity	Collect INGOs current practices regarding <b>Competence for Democratic Culture</b> and ensure the transmission of the information from the CoE to INGOs and other partners	Number and diversity of best practices identified Exchanges of views realised	E&C Committee	2018-2020
	Promote harmonious living at all levels (cities < Europe) through education and culture Exchange of views between various stakeholders: INGOs, <b>intercultural cities representatives</b> , European (CoE) institutions	Number of exchanges of views with stakeholders realised, topics and issues which are shared Examples of concretes impacts	E&C Committee	2018-2020

	Write a multifaceted modern definition of a holistic <b>European cultural identity</b> white paper.	Publication – contribution to the writing of a publication on the European Cultural Identity	E&C committee	2018-2020
	Highlight the benefits of <b>European heritage</b> (material & immaterial) to promote European values + follow-up on the decisions of the CDCPP.	Proposal of meetings and debates between INGOs and European personalities Number of acts of disappearance, plundering and destruction of heritage	E&C Committee	2018-2020
Continue to develop the institutional strengthening process of the Conference of INGOs to respond in a relevant way to the institutional evolution of the Council of Europe and geopolitical challenges.	Development and implementation of the <b>Code of Conduct for the Conference of INGOs</b>	Drafting, adoption and implementation	Drafting group, V&D Committee, Conference of INGOs	2018
	To reinforce the <b>working relation with CoE organs, institution and other external institutions and external experts.</b>	Participation of the representatives in the Conference of INGOs' actions and session. Number of events and actions where Conference of INGOs was represented, formalised partnership between Conference and other intergovernmental institution (i.e FRA)	Bureau, SC	2018-2021
	To adopt and implement a communication strategy	Develop collaborative tools that support the work of the Bureau and SC including shareable agendas and consolidating the existing database, send out a triennial internal and external newsletters, internal and external stakeholder mappings	Bureau, SC	2018-2021
	To review the <b>Rules of Procedure and propose other statutory provisions of the Conference of INGOs</b> in the fields of good and ethical governance of the Conference of INGOs and its bodies, and of its operational effectiveness and efficiency	Drafting of the report, adoption of the new measures and provisions by the Conference of INGOs	Drafting group, SC	2018-2020



	To conduct an <b>external evaluation of the functioning</b> and work of the Conference of INGOs (contract notice to be prepared)	To receive the concrete recommendation to increase the relevant of the Conference of I	Bureau	2019
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<b>Integrated approaches</b>				
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Reinforce the gender equality mainstreaming in the work of the Conference of INGO with respect and implementation of the Strategy of Equality 2018-2023 of the CoE	Task Force on Gender Equality: collect of information and analyse, participation of the representative of the task force in the working groups of the thematic Committees ( <a href="#">see terms of reference</a> )	number of information/ alerts received, number of analyses drafted and submitted to the Bureau, explicit references made to the gender mainstreaming in the products delivered and specific actions led by the Committees and Working Groups	VP of the Conference in charge of Gender Equality, members of the task force, thematic committees	2018-2021
Take into account youth perspective in the work of the Conference of INGOs	Task Force on Youth: Develop an integrated youth approach, specific to the INGO Conference, facilitating the participation of young people alongside the youngest, encouraging an intergenerational, more inclusive and representative dialogue and becoming a platform for debate and support known and recognised by young people in all Member States (see <a href="#">Road map for youth participation</a> )	number and quality of the specific actions realised and explicit references made in the products delivered and specific action led by the Committees and Working Groups; collaborations and implementation of actions with CoE and external partners	VP of the Conference, and Rapporteurs of the Bureau in charge of, thematic committees	2018-2021
Take into account migration perspective (migrants and NGOs' which support them) in the work of the Conference of INGOs	Task Force on Migration : collect of information and analyse ( <a href="#">see terms of reference</a> )	number of information/ alerts received, number of analyses drafted and submitted to the Bureau, explicit references made in the products delivered and specific action led by the Committees and Working Groups	VP of the Conference, and coordinator, and members of the Task forces, thematic committees	2018-2021