

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY
(CDDEM)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE
WORKING GROUP ON THE REYKJAVIK PARAMETERS OF
DEMOCRACY - FRAMEWORK AND METHODOLOGY FOR
THEIR APPLICATION
(GT-P2)**

Prepared by the Secretariat

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on the Reykjavik Parameters of Democracy - framework and methodology for their application (GT-P2)

Adopted by the CDDEM at its 4th plenary meeting (26-28 November 2025)

Task

Under the authority of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), the Working Group on the Reykjavik Parameters of Democracy - framework and methodology for their application (GT-P2) is instructed to complete the following deliverables, within the following deadline:

	Deadline ▼
Framework for supporting the use of the Reykjavik Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik Principles for Democracy ("Parameters' framework and methodology")	October 2027
Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections of women, girls and young persons, vulnerable groups	September 2026

Timeline

The GT-P2 task is comprised of the following steps, to be delivered within the following deadlines:

	Deadline ▼
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outline of the Parameters' framework and methodology - Revised draft of Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections of women, girls and young persons, vulnerable groups <p><i>To be reviewed and discussed at the first GT-P2 meeting and submitted to the 5th plenary meeting of the CDDEM</i></p>	March 2026
<p>First draft of the framework and methodology, following CDDEM discussion and orientations provided at the 5th plenary meeting of the Steering Committee</p> <p><i>To be circulated via written procedure</i></p>	July 2026
<p>Second revised draft of Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections</p> <p><i>To be circulated via written procedure</i></p>	August 2026

<p>Revised draft of the framework and methodology, following CDDEM orientations provided in written procedure</p> <p>Final draft of Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections</p> <p><i>The framework and methodology to be reviewed and discussed at the second GT-P2 meeting and submitted to the 6th plenary meeting of the CDDEM. The draft Guidelines to be finalised and approved at the second GT-P2 meeting and submitted to the 6th plenary meeting of the CDDEM for adoption.</i></p>	October 2026
<p>Possible piloting of the Parameters' framework and methodology</p> <p><i>To be reviewed, discussed and refined at the third GT-P2 meeting</i></p>	First half of 2027
<p>Final draft of the framework for CDDEM adoption</p> <p><i>To be finalised and approved at the fourth GT-P2 meeting, following the orientations provided at the 7th plenary meeting of the CDDEM.</i></p>	October 2027

Composition

All member states can nominate representatives and/or independent experts and participate in the working group GT-P2. The Council of Europe will bear the travel and subsistence expenses of experts from seven member states, taking into account in particular relevant expertise, geographical representation, gender balance and inclusion of various legal systems. It will additionally bear the travel and subsistence expenses of two independent experts appointed to the working group by the Secretary General.

Other member states may designate representatives without defrayal of expenses. Institutions and bodies with the status of CDDEM participant or observer may also designate representatives to the working group, without defrayal of expenses.

The experts should have adequate specialisation in the areas addressed by the *Framework for supporting the use of the Reykjavík Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles for Democracy* and/or the *Guidelines on enhancing participation in elections of women, girls and young persons, vulnerable groups*, and in particular the following subjects: constitutional and/or administrative law; democracy assessment tools; data and evaluation, in particular qualitative assessment methods; civil society participation and democratic innovation; electoral law and administration; gender equality; youth participation; minority rights, disability and accessibility; voter behaviour and mobilisation of under-represented groups.

Candidatures for membership in the GT-P2 working group, with defrayal of expenses, shall be submitted to the Secretariat. The list of candidates whose expenses are to be borne by the Council of Europe shall be communicated to the CDDEM members before the fourth plenary meeting of the Steering Committee. The election of working group members will be held by secret ballot at the CDDEM's fourth plenary meeting.

Working methods

The working group GT-P2 may hold up to four meetings, in hybrid or online format: two in 2026 and one/two in 2027. Written consultations and additional online meetings are encouraged, as necessary. The GT-P is furthermore encouraged to hold consultations with other bodies within and outside the Council of Europe, including civil society organisations. It can appoint a rapporteur, a drafting committee of both, and/or rely on contributions from expert consultants.

Provisions of Resolution [CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods are applicable *mutatis mutandis* to the working methods of the GT-P2.

Selection of background documents

The working group GT-P2 is expected to take into account pertinent standards, reports and documents produced under the aegis of the Council of Europe and other organisations, including:

- [Reykjavik Declaration](#) – United around Our Values
- The [European Convention on Human Rights](#) (ETS No. 005) (with the relevant [Protocols](#))
- [Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe 2025](#): Towards a New Democratic Pact for Europe
- [Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe 2023: Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – An Invitation to Recommit to the Values and Standards of the Council of Europe](#)
- [Report of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe 2021: Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law – A Democratic Renewal for Europe](#)
- [Secretary General’s Roadmap on the Council of Europe’s Engagement with Civil Society 2024–2027 \(SG/Inf\(2023\)28\)](#)
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2023\)6](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Deliberative Democracy
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2023\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Principles of Good Democratic Governance
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)6](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on protecting youth civil society and young people, and supporting the participation in democratic processes
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)11](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Need to Strengthen the Protection and Promotion of Civil Society Space in Europe
- [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2018\)4 on the Participation of Citizens in Local Public Life](#) (see also [2017 Committee of Ministers’ Guidelines on Civil Participation in Decision-Making](#) as well as [Civil Participation in Decision-Making Processes – An Overview of Standards and Practices in Council of Europe Member States](#); and the [Toolkit on Civil Participation in Decision Making](#))
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2007\)14](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the Legal Status of Non-Governmental Organisations in Europe
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2003\)3](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on Balanced Participation of Women and Men in Political and Public Decision Making
- [Parliamentary Assembly Recommendation 2232 \(2022\)](#) “Safeguarding and Promoting Genuine Democracy in Europe” (as well as [Resolution 2437 \(2022\)](#) and Report [Doc. 15486](#))
- Relevant [Studies and Opinions by the Venice Commission](#)
- Relevant [Article Guides](#) concerning the European Court of Human Rights’ case-law
- Venice Commission and OSCE-ODIHR Joint Guidelines on Freedom of Association ([CDL-AD\(2014\)046](#))
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on standards for e-voting
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)12](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on electoral communication and media coverage of election campaigns
- Committee of Ministers’ [Guidelines](#) on the use of information and communication technology (ICT) in electoral processes in Council of Europe member States (9 February 2022)
- Venice Commission Code of good practice on electoral matters ([CDL-AD\(2002\)023rev2-cor](#))
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2010\)12](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on judges: independence, efficiency and responsibilities and explanatory memorandum

Terms of reference of the Working group on parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavik principles of democracy – Assessment framework (GT-P2)
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- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on democratic accountability of elected representatives and elected bodies at local and regional level
- Guidelines of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on Public Ethics ([CM\(2020\)27-addfinal](#))
- Parliamentary Assembly [Resolution 1154 \(1998\)](#) “Democratic functioning of national parliaments” and accompanying [report](#)
- Parliamentary Assembly [Resolution 2537 \(2024\)](#) “Relationship between the parliamentary majority and the opposition in a democracy” and accompanying [report](#)
- Venice Commission Compilation of Opinions and Reports Concerning Separation of Powers ([CDL-PI\(2020\)012-e](#))
- Venice Commission Parameters on the Relationship between the Parliamentary Majority and the Opposition in a Democracy: a checklist ([CDL-AD\(2019\)015](#))
- Criminal Law Convention on Corruption ([ETS No. 173](#))
- Civil Law Convention on Corruption ([ETS No. 174](#))
- Additional Protocol to the Criminal Law Convention on Corruption ([ETS No. 191](#))
- Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism ([CETS No. 198](#))
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2017\)2](#) on the legal regulation of lobbying activities in the context of public decision making
- Recommendation [R \(2003\) 4](#) on common rules against corruption in the funding of political parties and electoral campaigns
- Recommendation [R \(2000\) 10](#) on codes of conduct for public officials, including a Model code of conduct for public officials (in appendix) – [Explanatory Memorandum](#)
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2014\)6](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on a Guide to human rights for Internet users
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)1](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2018\)2](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the roles and responsibilities of internet intermediaries
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on promoting a favourable environment for quality journalism in the digital age
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)11](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on principles for media and communication governance
- Recommendation [CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on combating hate speech
- UN Resolution [A/RES/55/96](#) “Promoting and Consolidating Democracy”
- UN Goals 5, 11, and esp. 16 of the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)