



Strasbourg, 14 May 2024

CDDEM(2024)6

**STEERING COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY
(CDDEM)**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
PARAMETERS FOR THE APPLICATION AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REYKJAVÍK PRINCIPLES OF
DEMOCRACY
(GT-P)**

Terms of Reference of the Working Group on Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy (GT-P)

Adopted by the CDDEM at its 1st plenary meeting (13-14 May2024)

Task

Under the authority of the Steering Committee on Democracy (CDDEM), the Working Group on Parameters for the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy (GT-P) is instructed to complete the following deliverable, within the following deadline:

	Deadline ▼
Parameters to facilitate the application and implementation of the Reykjavík Principles and other relevant Council of Europe standards to promote, protect and strengthen democracy throughout the member States	31/12/2025

Timeline

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

	Deadline ▼
Outline of the Parameters (submitted for review and discussion at the 2 nd meeting of the CDDEM)	October 2024
First draft, following CDDEM discussion and orientations provided at the 2 nd meeting of the Steering Committee	February/March 2025
Revised draft, following CDDEM discussion and orientations provided at the 3 rd meeting of the Steering Committee	June 2025
(Public) consultations on the Parameters	June/July 2025
Final draft for CDDEM approval	October 2025

Composition

All member states can nominate representatives and/or independent experts and participate in the working group GT-CS. 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 Reykjavík Principles of Democracy, and in particular the following subjects: planning, development and implementation of policies in the field of democracy, methods and techniques of evaluating democracy, civil society and civil participation in political and public life, and elections.

Candidatures for membership in the GT-CS 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 second plenary meeting of the Steering Committee. The election of working group members will be held by secret ballot at the CDDEM's second plenary meeting.

Working methods

The working group GT-CS may hold up to four meetings, in hybrid or online format: one/two in 2024 and two/three in 2025. Written consultations and additional online meetings are encouraged, as necessary. The GT-CS is furthermore encouraged to hold consultations with other bodies within and outside the Council of Europe, including non-governmental organisations. It can appoint a rapporteur, a drafting group or 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-CS.

Working methods

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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-P.

Selection of background documents

The working group GT-P 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](#))
- Background note on the implementation of the Reykjavík Principles of Democracy [\[CDDEM\(2024\)1\]](#)
- [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
- 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\(2016\)4](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the protection of journalism and safety of journalists and other media actors
- 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](#)
 - OECD [Innovative Citizen Participation and New Democratic Institutions: Catching the Deliberative Wave](#)
 - [EU European Democracy Action Plan](#)
 - [EU Defence of Democracy Package](#)