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**EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE
(CDDG)**

CENTRE OF EXPERTISE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

Progress and implementation of ELoGE in 2023

Secretariat Memorandum
prepared by the
Directorate General of Democracy and Human Dignity
Democratic Governance Division

Introduction

The **European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)** is awarded to municipalities which have demonstrated compliance with the 12 principles of good democratic governance measured against a Council of Europe benchmark.

For implementation, ELoGE relies on a partnership between the Council of Europe and an existing reputable regional, national, or transnational entity or an ad hoc platform with a substantive know-how, expertise, or experience in the field of good governance, especially at the local level.

Revision and updating of the Benchmark has been launched to take on board feedback from accredited platforms, ELoGE-awarded municipalities, and implementing partners. A questionnaire to accredited bodies aimed at gathering their feedback on the ELoGE process was launched at the end of 2022. A series of exchanges with relevant experts and stakeholders will be organised in the coming months to help feed into the revision process. The revised benchmark and ELoGE regulations will take into account the draft Recommendation on principles of good democratic governance prepared by the CDDG.

By 2023, ELoGE was implemented in 20 member States and Kosovo*.

Below is a short summary of recent developments in member States. More details and reports are available on the [ELoGE](#) and [news](#) websites of the Good Governance Division. A dedicated section of the revised [E-DEN platform](#) has been created to serve as a repository for ELoGE reports and as a networking opportunity for accredited entities and awarded municipalities.

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ELoGE: Current Status and Accreditation Requests

Member State	Status
<p>1. Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>	<p>Accreditation was granted to the Mostar Local Democracy Agency to deliver ELoGE at the 7th meeting of the ELoGE Accreditation Platform on 25 March 2022. ELoGE in Bosnia and Herzegovine is being implemented in the context of the Link4Cooperation project funded by the EU and supported by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance (CEGG).</p> <p>A series of workshops and capacity-building activities based on the ELoGE Benchmark and the Leadership Academy Programme were organised in June-October 2022 with the 12 participating municipalities.</p> <p>The award ceremony will be held in Sarajevo in December 2023 during the final conference of the Link4Cooperation project.</p>
<p>2. Bulgaria</p>	<p>The sixth round of ELoGE was implemented in 2022 and an award ceremony was organised in Velingrad on 23-25 November 2022 in the context of the Forum “Bulgarian Municipalities – Achievement of European Quality Standards for Local Governance.”</p> <p>22 Bulgarian municipalities were awarded the Label.</p>
<p>3. Croatia</p>	<p>Accreditation was granted to European Association for Local Democracy (ALDA). Following a launch event in October 2021, 18 municipalities embarked on the process and 3 completed the process and were awarded the label at an award ceremony in Skopje, North Macedonia on 22 November 2022.</p>
<p>4. France</p>	<p>Mayors and elected officials from local authorities in France, as well as senior officials from INET, CNFPT, the SNDGCT, AFCCRE, and Intercommunalités de France met on 30 May 2022 to launch the 2nd cycle ELoGE in France.</p> <p>A podcast for local elected officials and municipal staff was published on the webpage of the CNFPT. A flyer indicating the 6 advantages of the ELoGE label and a user guide for “candidate councils” have also been prepared as a means of encouraging more local authorities to apply to the ELoGE process.</p>

	5 municipalities, including two “communautés des communes” were awarded the Label at an award ceremony in the Council of Europe on 24 March 2023.
5. Hungary	Following the first award ceremony for ELoGE in Hungary on 10 November 2021, a 2 nd cycle will be prepared and launched in 2023 under the new CEGG project.
6. Italy	Following piloting of ELoGE in Friuli-Venezia-Giulia, a nationwide cycle was launched in 2022 by the accredited body AICCRE (L'Associazione italiana per il Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa). An award ceremony was held in Venice on 2 December 2022 where 39 municipalities were awarded the Label. The second round should be launched in 2023.
7. Greece	The Award Ceremony for the 2nd cycle of ELoGE in Greece took place in summer 2021. A third cycle will be implemented before the end of the current accreditation period in 2024.
8. Latvia	ELoGE was launched in April 2022 by the accredited Latvian institution, Providus. An award ceremony is planned for 26 May 2023 under the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. Latvian municipalities will receive the ELoGE label during an international Conference on good democratic governance at the local level. Representatives from several neighbouring member states will share experience and practice in the implementation of ELoGE and policies to promote good democratic governance at the local level.
9. Lithuania	A first cycle of ELoGE was implemented in 2020. The Lithuanian Prime Minister Opens the ELoGE Award Ceremony A new accreditation was given to the Ministry of Interior in 2023, the second round is being organised, with an award ceremony planned for December 2023.

<p>10. Malta</p>	<p>The second cycle of ELoGE in Malta was launched with a workshop for representatives of Maltese local councils in June with the participation of Ms Hon. Alison ZERAFA CIVELLI, Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Local Government. A public consultation on the Local Government Reform Strategy made specific reference to the importance of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance and the value of apply the ELoGE benchmark as a means of measuring and improving local governance performance.</p> <p>A request to renew accreditation to deliver ELoGE in Malta is expected to be submitted in 2023.</p>
<p>11. North Macedonia</p>	<p>Following launch of the ELoGE project in Skopje in November 2021 by ALDA, a workshop was organised for the ELoGE coordinators from the 14 participating municipalities in March 2022.</p> <p>An award ceremony for Municipalities awarded the label in North Macedonia, Croatia, and Kosovo* was organised in Skopje on 22 November 2022. Nine municipalities from North Macedonia were awarded ELoGE.</p> <p>The accreditation was renewed for ALDA Skopje, the second round will be launched in the course of 2023.</p>
<p>12. Norway</p>	<p>The last ELoGE round was held in 2014.</p> <p>Improving local democracy through ELoGE: Time's good governance journey in Norway</p>
<p>13. Poland</p>	<p>The Polish Foundation for Local Democracy currently has accreditation to deliver ELoGE until 2024. The second ELoGE Award ceremony took place on 28 September 2021. A third round was launched in autumn 2022.</p> <p>The CEGG will support dissemination and implementation of ELoGE in Poland in 2023. The award ceremony will be organised in the context of the most important annual meeting of local government experts in Poland, the National Congress of Secretaries, planned for 6-7 September 2023 in Warsaw.</p>

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<p>14. Portugal</p>	<p>Following the successful launch of ELoGE in Portugal in cooperation with UDITE – the European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives, and ATAM – the Portuguese Association of employees of local administrations in 2020, a second cycle was initiated in July 2022. A workshop was organised in Alenquer, Portugal, on 19 September 2022 with 10 participating municipalities.</p> <p>The ELoGE evaluation commission, meeting in February 2023, recommended awarding the label to two municipalities. Accreditation was extended for UDITE to deliver the labels at a national event in 2023.</p>
<p>15. Romania</p>	<p>Accreditation was granted to the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government. A launch event was organised in May 2022 and a further awareness-raising conference in September 2022.</p> <p>Capacity-building workshops for local experts were organised in December 2022. More than 40 municipalities have declared their intention to apply the benchmark. An award ceremony is planned for 11 May 2023 in Bucharest.</p>
<p>16. Slovak Republic</p>	<p>A second cycle of ELoGE was implemented in the Slovak Republic in 2022. 7 Municipalities were awarded the Label at a ceremony on 28 June 2022.</p>
<p>17. Spain – Basque region</p>	<p>Third cycle of ELoGE in the Basque Country, Spain was conducted in 2020. In 2022, the 4th cycle was launched.</p> <p>An award ceremony for the Fourth cycle of ELoGE in the Basque region is planned for 2023.</p>
<p>18. Spain – Murcia region</p>	<p>Accreditation was granted to the Chair for Good Government and Public Integrity, University of Murcia, and the first round was launched in March 2022</p> <p>An award ceremony took place on 23 November 2022 during which 5 municipalities were awarded the label.</p>

<p>19. Türkiye</p>	<p>The Arguden Governance Academy and Marmara Municipalities Union received accreditation to deliver ELoGE in Türkiye on a pilot basis as a part of the MATRA-Dutch-funded project. The 12-month project is called “Integrated Municipal Good Governance Model” sought to operationalise the 12 principles at every stage of municipal governing processes.</p> <p>The municipalities of Şişli and Sultanbeyli were awarded the Label at a ceremony in Istanbul on 2 November 2022.</p> <p>Following this successful piloting, the Arguden Governance Academy has requested and received the renewal of Accreditation to deliver ELoGE with a view to expanding implementation throughout Türkiye.</p>
<p>20. Kosovo*</p>	<p>ALDA was granted accreditation to implement ELoGE in Kosovo*. ELoGE was launched at a ceremony in Pristina in April 2022, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior. A capacity-building and awareness-raising workshop was organised for the 13 participating municipalities in June 2022. Six municipalities having demonstrated their respect for the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance were recognised at an award ceremony in Skopje, North Macedonia on 22 November 2022.</p> <p>A second cycle will be launched with CEGG support in 2023.</p>
<p>21. Albania, Armenia, Cyprus</p>	<p>Implementation from 2024 is being discussed.</p>

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