

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Strasbourg, 9 November 2023

CDDG(2023)16
Item 8 of the agenda

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

**INFORMATION ON
THE EUROPEAN LABEL OF GOVERNANCE EXCELLENCE
(ELoGE)**

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 as stipulated in the Council of Europe CM Recommendation (2023)⁵ and the ELoGE Benchmark. The Benchmark has been updated in 2023 following the adoption of the Recommendation, and the feedback received from the accredited platforms, ELoGE-awarded municipalities, and implementing partners.

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. In 2022-23, ELoGE was implemented in 15 member States and Kosovo*. Overall, since 2009, ELoGE has been implemented in 20 member states.

The appendix to this document contains 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.

Action required

Members of the CDDG are invited to take note of the information provided below, and to promote implementation of ELoGE in their respective states.

* All references to Kosovo, whether the territory, institutions or population, in this text shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations' Security Council Resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

APPENDIX

ELoGE: Current status and accreditation requests

Member State	Status
1. Bosnia and Herzegovina	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 Herzegovina 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). A series of workshops and capacity-building activities based on the ELoGE Benchmark and the Leadership Academy Programme were organised have been delivered. The CEGG has supported further dissemination of ELoGE in BiH and a video and promotional material has been prepared. The award ceremony will be held in Sarajevo in December 2023 during the final conference of the Link4Cooperation project.
2. Bulgaria	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." 22 Bulgarian municipalities were awarded the Label. A new accreditation request has been received for the period 2024-2026.
3. Croatia	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. An accreditation request from the Association of Cities of the Republic of Croatia has been received and the CEGG has been invited to present the new ELoGE benchmark at the annual conference in Croatia on 23 November 2023.

4. Cyprus	Request for accreditation received in September 2023, from the Union of Cypriot Municipalities (UCM).
5. Finland	The Finnish Institute of Public Management (Haus) received accreditation to deliver ELoGE in Finland at the 8 Meeting of the ELoGE Accreditation Platform on 24 March 2023. The process was launched in Helsinki on 21 September 2023. Further workshops and capacity-building activities are planned to raise-awareness of the label with a view to an award ceremony in March 2024.
6. France	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. 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. 5 municipalities, including two "communautés des communes" were awarded the Label at an award ceremony in the Council of Europe on 24 March 2023.
7. Hungary	Following the first award ceremony for ELoGE in Hungary on 10 November 2021. The 2nd cycle was launched in 2023 under the new CEGG project with an award ceremony planned for 30 November 2023 in conjunction with the 2023 Best Practice Programme.
8. 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 Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region has agreed to pilot the revised ELoGE benchmark in autumn 2023 in the context of a European Academy Programme, implemented by AICCRE-FVG supported by the CEGG.
9. Greece	The Award Ceremony for the 2nd cycle of ELoGE in Greece took place in summer 2021. A renewed accreditation request is expected in 2024 following internal restructuring.
10. Latvia	ELoGE was launched in April 2022 by the accredited Latvian institution, Providus. An award ceremony took place in the context of an International Conference on Good Governance on 26 May 2023 under the Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe and five Latvian municipalities were awarded the label. Representatives from several neighbouring member states participated in the Conference, sharing experience and practice in the implementation of ELoGE and policies to promote good democratic governance at the local level. A roundtable discussion involving accredited institutions was also held <i>en marge</i> of the Conference, contributing to the revision process for the new ELoGE Benchmark.
11. Lithuania	A first cycle of ELoGE was implemented in 2020. The Lithuanian Prime Minister Opens the ELoGE Award Ceremony A renewal request was granted to Lithuanian authorities at the 8 Meeting of the ELoGE Accreditation Platform on 24 March 2023. An award ceremony will be organised in the context of an international conference on good democratic governance to be organised in Vilnius on 16 November 2023, with support from the CEGG. Recently awarded Polish municipalities and representatives from other neighbouring member States will participate in an event that will also serve to promote CM/Rec(2023)5 and CM/Rec(2023)6.

12. Malta	An ELoGE workshop for representatives of Maltese local councils, with the participation of Ms Hon. Alison ZERAFA CIVELLI, Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Local Government, was organised in June 2022. 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. A presentation of ELoGE and the toolkits of the CEGG was delivered in the context of an event to celebrate 30 years of local government in Malta in July 2023. A request to renew accreditation to deliver ELoGE in Malta is expected to be submitted in 2024.
13. North Macedonia	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. An award ceremony for Municipalities awarded the label in North Macedonia, Croatia, and Kosovo* was organised in Skopje on 22 November 2022. 9 municipalities from North Macedonia were awarded ELoGE. A second cycle will be launched in Skopje on 20 November 2023.
14. Norway	The last ELoGE round was held in 2014. Improving local democracy through ELoGE: Time's good governance journey in Norway

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15. Poland	The Polish Foundation for Local Democracy currently has accreditation to deliver ELoGE until 2026. The second ELoGE Award ceremony took place on 28 September 2021. The CEGG supported dissemination and implementation of ELoGE in Poland in 2023 leading to the organisation of a third award ceremony took place in Warsaw in September 2023 where 4 municipalities received the label. The award ceremony was organised in the context of the National Congress of Secretaries. The Ceremony also served as an opportunity to discuss a possible flagship project proposal for funding under the Technical Support Instrument 2024.
16. Portugal	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. Several municipalities indicated they had pursued to the Benchmarking process but were unable to complete or submit full applications by the end of year deadline. The ELoGE evaluation commission, meeting in February 2023, recommended awarding the label to two municipalities. Dispensation was given by the ELoGE Accreditation Platform to deliver the awards at a national event organised in Vila Pouca de Aguiar in June 2023.
17. Romania	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. 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 took place on 11 May 2023 in Bucharest . In the end, 30 local authorities from all across Romania representing all types of territorial administrative units - 4 county councils; 6 cities; 6 municipalities; and 14 communes – completed the process.
18. Slovak Republic	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 .
19. Spain – Basque region	Third cycle of ELoGE in the Basque Country, Spain was conducted in 2020. In 2022, the 4 th cycle was launched. A request to renew accreditation for the period 2024-2026 has been submitted to the ELoGE platform and an ambitious implementation plan has been developed.
20. Spain – Murcia region	Accreditation was granted to the Chair for Good Government and Public Integrity, University of Murcia, and the first round was launched in March 2022 An award ceremony took place on 23 November 2022 during which 5 municipalities were awarded the label.
21. Türkiye	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. The municipalities of Şişli and Sultanbeyli were awarded the Label at a ceremony in Istanbul on 2 November 2022. Following this successful piloting, the Arguden Governance Academy was granted Accreditation to deliver ELoGE with a view to expanding implementation throughout Türkiye. Awareness raising and capacity building activities have been implemented and a memorandum of understanding has been signed with ALDA to support implementation in Türkiye.

22. Kosovo*	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. 6 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. A second cycle will be launched with CEGG support in November 2023.
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