

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

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Item 8 of the agenda

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

ELOGE ACCREDITATION PLATFORM

DRAFT REVISED RULES OF PROCEDURE

As adopted by the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG)
at its meeting on 8 December 2015 and amended on 31 May 2020
[and on 24 November 2023]

The participants are invited to consider the present document prepared by the ELoGE Platform with a view to its discussion and possible adoption by the CDDG

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

ELoGE Accreditation Platform

In accordance with the Committee of Ministers' decision at the 1234th meeting of the Ministers' Deputies on 10 September 2015, the ELoGE Accreditation Platform¹ is the Council of Europe body responsible for:

- granting the accreditation to implement and award the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) to a national (or regional) body known as the national (or regional) "stakeholders' platform"
- elaborating the regulations for the implementation of ELoGE
- supervising the elaboration of the ELoGE criteria ("benchmark").

The national platforms can also adjust the Council of Europe "benchmark" to reflect the specific national needs and circumstances, subject to the prior approval by the ELoGE Accreditation Platform.

Composition

The composition of the ELoGE Accreditation Platform is as follows:

- a) the members of the responsible Council of Europe body² and up to two representatives of civil society³;
- b) the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe may respectively appoint a representative who will be able to take part in the meetings and online consultations of the Accreditation Platform as observers, without the right to vote-

The President of the CINGO, the Secretariat of the Congress and the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly communicate to the Secretariat of the responsible body the names of their respective members and representatives – as appropriate - with the date of the beginning of their terms of office.

The duration of terms of office of the members and representatives shall be as follows:

- for members of the responsible body, the same as their elected membership of that body;
- for members of the CINGO (and, if applicable, representatives of the Congress and/or the Assembly) two years from the date which is communicated to the Secretariat.

¹ Formerly: the ELoGE Accreditation Platform of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level

² Currently: the Bureau of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) in accordance with its terms of reference

³ Currently appointed by the Council of Europe Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations (CINGO)

Chair and Vice-Chairs

The Chair and Vice-Chair of the responsible body shall also be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Accreditation Platform. The Platform may elect a Second Vice-Chair from among the members appointed by the CINGO, for a two-years mandate.

Meetings

The Secretariat of the responsible body shall be responsible for the organisation of the meetings (convocations, agendas, working documents).

Meetings shall normally be held in conjunction with ordinary meetings of the responsible body. Ad hoc and informal meetings can also be held on-line, as necessary.

When examining applications for the accreditation of national or regional stakeholders' platforms or of national (regional) institutions, the Accreditation Platform may invite the applicants to present their case and answer questions.

The Secretariat may invite experts to attend meetings or parts thereof and contribute to the discussion of specific items on the agenda.

Quorum

The decisions taken by the Accreditation Platform shall not be valid unless a majority of its members entitled to vote are present. A member unable to attend a meeting may designate another member as proxy to represent them, including for voting.

Decisions may also be taken in writing between meetings, including by electronic/digital means and shall be subject to the quorum set out hereinabove.

Voting

Each member of the Accreditation Platform entitled to vote shall have one vote. Decisions shall be taken by consensus every time this is possible or, in case where a vote is necessary, by a majority of the votes cast.

Procedural matters shall be settled by a majority of the votes cast. Where the question arises as to whether or not a matter is procedural in nature, it may not be regarded as such unless the Accreditation Platform members entitled to vote decide to that effect by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast.

For the purposes of these Rules, "votes cast" shall mean the votes of members cast in favor or against. Members abstaining shall be regarded as not having cast a vote.

Decisions of the Accreditation Platform are final and cannot be appealed.

Publicity

Meetings of the Accreditation Platform shall be announced on the Council of Europe website. The reports of its meetings will be made public after adoption. The other documents can be made public upon request, unless otherwise requested by their authors or the Chair.

Defrayal of expenses

The costs for the participation of the representatives of the Congress and/or the Assembly will be borne by these respective bodies.

Other provisions

These Rules of procedure can be amended at any time by the entity entrusted with responsibility for the Accreditation Platform⁴.

For all cases not explicitly regulated by these Rules of procedure, the rules appended to [Resolution CM/Res\(2021\)3](#) on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods shall apply *mutatis mutandis*.

⁴ Currently, the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG), in accordance with its terms of reference.