

COUNCIL OF EUROPE COMMITTEES

set up by
the Committee of Ministers for 2022-2025
in accordance with Article 17
of the Statute of the Council of Europe

State of play on 1 January 2022

General Overview

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Work in committees lies at the heart of the Council of Europe and allows the direct participation of governmental and independent experts in its work. It significantly contributes to the Organisation's core mission, which is "to achieve a **greater unity between its members** for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress", as stated in Article 1 of its Statute.

This '**intergovernmental structure**' is the main tool to develop **common policy instruments and legal standards**, such as treaties or recommendations, thus supporting member States in building a common pan-European legal space, anticipating and addressing challenges in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law. It enhances **co-operation between member States** through the exchange of knowledge, experiences and good practices and analysis of common and emerging issues.

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A first category includes committees directly answerable to the Committee of Ministers – **steering and ad hoc committees** composed of member State representatives of the highest possible rank in the relevant field. While steering committees have planning and steering functions, ad hoc committees have a more focused task.

A second category includes **subordinate bodies**, in general of steering committees, with specific expertise on selected matters, composed of member States' representatives and/or independent experts.

Intergovernmental committees involve relevant international and regional organisations, civil society and other partners in their work.

For 2022-2025, the structure consists of **21 steering or ad hoc committees and 16 subordinate** bodies for the Ordinary Budget. In addition, it includes five steering committees under the responsibility of the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines and Healthcare (EDQM). The terms of reference of these committees shall be no longer than the Council of Europe programme cycle.



The aim of the Council of Europe is to achieve a greater unity between its members for the purpose of safeguarding and realising the ideals and principles which are their common heritage and facilitating their common heritage and facilitating their economic and social progress.

This aim shall be pursued through the organs of the Council by discussion of questions of common concern and by agreements and common action in economic, social, cultural, scientific, legal and administrative matters and in the maintenance and further realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 1 of the Statute of the Council of Europe

Effective ECHR implementation supports member States in the effective implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights and of the European Court of Human Rights' judgments, including actions to address human rights challenges related to the prevention of torture, new technologies in the bio-medical field, artificial intelligence, freedom of expression and media freedom, and data protection.

● **CDDH Steering Committee for Human Rights**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the human rights field.

■ **DH-SYSC Committee of Experts on the System of the ECHR**

This subordinate body performs tasks relating to enhancing the Convention system, in the light of decisions of the Committee of Ministers.

■ **Ad hoc Group 46 + 1***

This Ad hoc Group finalises the legal instruments setting out the modalities of accession of the European Union to the European Convention on Human Rights.

* The Committee of Ministers approved the continuation of the ad hoc terms of reference of the CDDH in this regard on 15 January 2020.

■ **DH-TET Drafting Committee on Trafficking for the purpose of Labour Exploitation***

This subordinate body prepares a draft recommendation on preventing and combating trafficking for the purpose of labour exploitation.

* The terms of reference of DH-TET have been adopted on 15 April 2021 and will be valid until 30 June 2022.

● **CDBIO Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work on the protection of human rights in the fields of biomedicine and health, including related to the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Dignity of the Human Being with regard to the Application of Biology and Medicine.

● **CDMSI Steering Committee on Media and Information Society**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of freedom of expression, media, information society and data protection.

■ **MSI-RES Committee of Experts on increasing Resilience of Media (for 2022-2023)**

This subordinate body prepares guidelines on the use of digital tools including artificial intelligence for journalism/by journalists (impact assessment and guidance).

■ **MSI-SLP Committee of Experts on Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (for 2022-2023)**

This subordinate body prepares a draft recommendation on strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPPs).

■ **MSHNF Committee of Experts on Integrity of Online Information (for 2022-2023)**

This subordinate body prepares a guidance note on countering the spread of online mis- and disinformation through fact-checking and platform design solutions in a human rights compliant manner.

● **CAI Committee on Artificial Intelligence (for 2022-2024)**

This committee prepares an appropriate legal instrument on the development, design and application of artificial intelligence systems based on the Council of Europe's standards on human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and conducive to innovation, in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Committee of Ministers.

Equality and human dignity ensures the effective protection of women and children's rights, with a particular focus on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and on protecting children from abuse, ensuring equality and human dignity.

● **GEC Gender Equality Commission**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of gender equality and support implementation of the Council of Europe Gender Equality Strategy.

■ **GEC/ADI-AI Committee of Experts on Artificial Intelligence, Equality and Discrimination (for 2024-2025)**

This subordinate body will prepare a possible specific legal instrument on the impact of artificial intelligence systems, their potential for promoting equality – including gender equality – and the risks they may cause in relation to non-discrimination (it has two parent committees, GEC and CDADI).

● **CDENF Steering Committee for the Rights of the Child**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of the rights of the child, including supporting implementation of the Council of Europe Strategy for the Rights of the Child.

■ **ENF-VAE Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Violence (for 2023-2024)**

This subordinate body will prepare a feasibility study, a non-binding instrument, an implementation review report and a guidance tool in relation to the prevention of violence against children.

Anti-discrimination, diversity and inclusion aims to address increasing inequality, racism, xenophobia, hate speech/crime and discrimination on grounds of religion or belief and other grounds, including sexual orientation or gender identity. It promotes policies that contribute to more inclusive societies that value diversity, free from discrimination and hate, with an emphasis on persons belonging to national minorities, Roma and Travellers, migrants and other exposed groups.

● **CDADI Steering Committee on Anti-discrimination, Diversity and Inclusion**

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of anti-discrimination to promote equality for all and build more inclusive societies free from discrimination and hate and where diversity is respected.

■ **ADI-ROM Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues**

This subordinate body conducts thematic peer review visits and performs other tasks related to intergovernmental work in the field of Roma and Travellers, including supporting implementation of the Council of Europe Strategic Action Plan on Roma and Traveller inclusion.

■ **ADI-HNT Committee of Experts on Intercultural Integration of Migrants**

This subordinate body prepares a capacity-building programme and tools for migrant integration supporting the implementation of a Recommendation on multilevel policies and governance for intercultural integration, and a feasibility study and a possible new legal and/or benchmarking instrument on comprehensive strategies for inclusion.

Social rights promotes the effective implementation of social rights at the national level to protect the most vulnerable groups and create greater cohesion in our societies.

● **CCS European Committee for Social Cohesion**

This *ad hoc* committee ensures the mainstreaming of social cohesion across all Council of Europe activities and fosters the exchange of good practices and innovative approaches in the field of social cohesion.



The Committee of Ministers may set up advisory and technical committees or commissions for such specific purposes as it may deem desirable.

Rule of Law based institutions ensures well-functioning legal and democratic institutions based on the rule of law, with a special emphasis on constitutional and legislative reforms, and on safeguarding independent, impartial and efficient justice systems and consolidating our common legal space by developing new standards and policies to address emerging issues and key challenges.

- **CCJE** Consultative Council of European Judges
This ad hoc committee, consultative body, examines questions concerning independence, impartiality and competence of judges.
- **CCPE** Consultative Council of European Prosecutors
This ad hoc committee, consultative body, examines questions related the specific situation of prosecutors.
- **CDCJ** European Committee on Legal Co-operation
This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of public and private law.
 - **CJ/ENF-ISE** Committee of Experts on the Rights and the Best Interests of the Child in Parental Separation and in Care Proceedings (for 2022-2023)
This subordinate committee prepares legal instruments on protecting the best interests of the child in situations of parental separation and child-care proceedings (it has two parent committees, CDCJ and CDEFN).
 - **CJ-AV** Committee of Experts on the Protection of Lawyers (for 2022-2023)
This subordinate committee prepares a legal instrument aiming at strengthening the protection of the profession of lawyer and the right to practice without prejudice or restraint.
- **CAHDI** Committee of Legal Advisors on Public International Law
This *ad hoc* committee examines questions related to public international law and conducts exchanges and co-ordinates views of member States.

Action against crime, security and protection of citizens supports member States in their fight against terrorism and its financing, corruption including in sport, organised crime and money laundering, cybercrime and trafficking in human beings, with a particular focus on forced labour and effective remedies for victims.

- **CDPC** European Committee on Crime Problems
This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of criminal law and procedure, criminology and penology.
 - **PC-CP** Council for Penological Co-operation
This subordinate body conducts intergovernmental work in the field of prisons and probation, including with regard to radicalisation and violent extremism.
 - **PC-OC** Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions on Co-operation in Criminal Matters
This subordinate body monitors and evaluates the operation of the conventions on international co-operation in criminal matters with a view to facilitating their practical implementation and improve the efficiency of international co-operation in criminal matters.
 - **PC/ADI-CH** Committee of Experts on Hate Crime (for 2022-2023)
This subordinate body prepares a legal instrument on combating hate crime including its investigation and victim support (it has two parent committees, CDPC and CDADI).
- **CDCT** Council of Europe Committee on Counter-Terrorism
This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of terrorism.
- **CAHAMA** Ad hoc European Committee for the World Anti-doping Agency
This ad hoc Committee co-ordinates the positions of all the States Parties to the European Cultural Convention on issues relating to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

EDQM European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines*

- **CD-P-PH** European Committee of Pharmaceuticals and Pharmaceutical Care
 - **CD-P-TO** European Committee on Organ Transplantation
 - **CD-P-TS** European Committee on Blood Transfusion
 - **CD-P-MCA** European Committee for Food Contact Materials and Articles
 - **CD-P-COS** European Committee for Cosmetics and Consumer Health
- These committees oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in their respective field of competence.

* These committees are composed of the 39 member States of the Council of Europe having acceded to the Partial Agreement on the European Pharmacopeia, and of the European Union.

Democratic governance ensures democratic governance at all levels of government, promoting the transparency, integrity and accountability that help rebuild trust in democratic institutions, and free and fair elections, and foster an enabling environment conducive to meaningful participation.

● **CDDG** European Committee on Democracy and Governance

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of democracy.

Democratic participation fosters and support the creativity, dynamism, social commitment and competences of young people, helping them to take an active part in democratic life through education programmes and youth initiatives.

● **CDEDU** Steering Committee for Education

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of education.

Youth Co-Management

● **CDEJ** European Steering Committee for Youth

● **CMJ** Joint Council on Youth

● **CCJ** Advisory Council on Youth

These committees compose a co-management structure to establish the priorities of the youth sector and to oversee and co-ordinate intergovernmental work in the field of youth.

■ **CPJ** Programming Committee on Youth

This subordinate body establishes the programme of activities of the European Youth Centres and the European Youth Foundation, in accordance with decisions of the Joint Council on priorities and immediate outcomes.

● **CDCPP** Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape

This steering committee oversees and co-ordinates intergovernmental work in the field of culture, heritage and landscape.

Legend:

Equality and Human dignity Name of the Programme in the Council of Europe Programme & Budget

● Steering or Ad hoc committee

■ Subordinate body of a steering committee

HUMAN RIGHTS

Effective ECHR implementation

- CDDH Human Rights
 - DH-SYSC ECHR System
 - "46+1"
 - DH-TET Labour exploitation
- CDBIO Biomedicine & health
- CDMSI Media & Information society
 - MSI-RES Resilience of Media (2022-23)
 - MSI-SLP Strategic Lawsuits against Public Participation (2022-23)
 - MSH-INF Integrity of Online Information (2022-23)
- CAI Artificial intelligence (2022-2024)

Equality & human dignity

- GEC Gender Equality
 - GEC/ADI-AI Artificial Intelligence, Equality & Discrimination (2024-25)
- CDENF Rights of the Child
 - ENF-VAE Prevention of violence (2023-24)

Anti-discrimination, diversity & inclusion

- CDADI Anti-discrimination, diversity & inclusion
 - ADI-ROM Roma & Travellers
 - ADI-INT Intercultural Integration of migrants

Social rights

- CCS Social cohesion

RULE OF LAW

Rule of law based institutions

- CCJE Council of European Judges
- CCPE Council of European Prosecutors
- CAHDI Public international law
- CDCJ Legal Co-operation
 - CI/ENF-ISE Best interest of the Child (Parental Separation & Care Proceedings) (2022-2023)
 - CI-AV Protection of lawyers (2022-23)

Action against crime, security & protection of citizens

- CDPC Crime Problems
 - PC-CP Penological Co-operation
 - PC-OC Co-operation in criminal matters
 - PC/ADI-CH Hate Crime (2022-23)
- CDCT Counter-terrorism
- CAHAMA Anti-doping

EDQM

- CD-P-PH Pharmaceuticals & pharmaceutical care
- CD-P-TO Organ transplantation
- CD-P-TS Blood transfusion
- CD-P-MCA Food Contact Materials & Articles
- CD-P-COS Cosmetics & Consumer Health

DEMOCRACY

Democratic Governance

- CDDG Democracy & Governance

Democratic Participation

- CDEDU Education *

Youth Co-Management

- CDEJ Steering Committee
- CCJ Advisory Council
- CMJ Joint Council
 - CPJ Programming Committee

- CDCPP Culture, Heritage and Landscape

The Council of Europe counts **two main categories of committees**.

One consists of **committees set up by the Committee of Ministers, by virtue of Article 17 of the Council of Europe Statute**, and with a mandate no longer than the current programming cycle. This first category is exclusively composed of intergovernmental committees, i.e. committees whose members represent the States' governments.

Another is composed of all the **committees that have been established over time in Council of Europe Conventions and in Committee of Ministers resolutions**, including for the establishment of partial and enlarged agreements. These committees may be intergovernmental, or may have been given specific tasks and compositions, such as independent monitoring mechanisms or committees managing partial and enlarged agreements.

This brochure is aimed at providing a general overview of **committees set up by the Committee of Ministers, by virtue of Article 17 of the Council of Europe Statute, for the programming cycle 2022-2025**.

CONTACT & INFORMATION

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The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human Rights organisation. It comprises 46 member states, including all members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.