



Strasbourg, 14 April 2022

DG-AP(2022)3

## **ELOGE ACCREDITATION PLATFORM**

### **REPORT OF THE 7th MEETING 25 March 2022, Strasbourg and by videoconference**

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened with Mr Paul Rowsell (United Kingdom, Chair of the CDDG) in the Chair. He welcomed the participants, whose list appears in Appendix I.

#### **2. Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda was adopted, as it appears in Appendix II.

#### **3. Report of the 6th meeting (15 October 2021)**

The Chair recalled the main decisions that had been taken by the European Stakeholder' Platform at its last meeting, as outlined in the meeting report [\[DG-SP\(2021\)6\]](#)

#### **4. Information on [ELOGE](#) progress and implementation in 2021-2022**

The Secretariat presented the ELOGE progress and implementation in 2022, referring to document *DG-AP(2022)1*.

It informed the Platform members about the most recent and on-going ELOGE projects, stressing that the process had accelerated in recent times. Overall, 20 member states had been running the ELOGE label mechanism over the past 10 years, with the support of the Centre of Expertise. Many of them had completed several rounds and had reported improvements in local administrations, as a result. The next challenges include promoting ELOGE in a greater number of member states, including in Germany, Austria, Scandinavian countries and the United Kingdom. The Platform members were encouraged to support those efforts to introduce ELOGE in more member states.

It had been noted that feedback from the municipalities, ministries, NGOs, and civil societies involved had been very positive so far. Several examples were mentioned, such as the preparations for the second rounds of ELoGE in France and in Hungary; ongoing projects in the Balkans, and in the Spanish regions of Murcia and the Basque country; preparations for the launch of ELoGE in Italy on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 under the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe. New requests for accreditations had been received from Latvia, Romania, and Turkey. The Centre of Expertise was discussing possible new requests from Estonia and Finland.

## 5. Renewal and new requests of accreditations

The Platform examined new accreditation requests presented by the Secretariat, as set out in document [DG-AP(2022)2]:

- The *Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale* (CNFPT) from **France** had requested the renewal of the accreditation.

Members discussed the request and heard that the benchmarks would need some adaptation in order to be applicable to inter-municipal associations in the French context, with the participation of the Centre of Expertise. The CNFPT was also planning to set-up a platform in order to run the process in France. At the closure of discussions, the accreditation was granted for **three years**, under the proviso that an adapted version of the benchmarks is prepared to apply to inter-municipal associations, and that the platform for implementation is established, as intended.

- The Mostar Local Democracy Agency from **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, partner of ALDA, had submitted an accreditation request to implement ELoGE in Bosnia and Herzegovina through an EU-funded project.

After examining the request, the Platform agreed to grant the accreditation for **three years**, noting that support was available from the Centre of Expertise and through strong involvement of civil society. When responding to the request, it should be highlighted that the 12 Principles of good democratic governance being equally important, including respect for cultural diversity (principle 11), they should all be addressed in the ELoGE process.

- The Public Policy Centre (Sabiedriskas Politikas Centrs, PROVIDUS) had requested accreditation to implement ELoGE and promote the 12 Principles in **Latvia**.

The request was discussed and Platform members noted that the project would be implemented with support from the Centre of Expertise throughout the process. There was in particular a need to revise the benchmarks to ensure consistent vocabulary. The attribution of awards would possibly be organised in cooperation with the future Latvian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers. The accreditation was subsequently granted for **three years**, subject to the final approval of a revised wording for the benchmarks.

- The General Secretariat of the Government of **Romania** requested a new accreditation (the previously accredited body no longer existed).

In the discussion of the request, Platform members praised the level of detail and progress in the preparation of the intended process. The accreditation was granted for **three years**, subject to final approval of the benchmarks, when they are revised.

The Platform also recommended to include a body/person responsible for each action in the implementation table and that the Centre of Expertise - drawing inspiration from this good practice – work out a standardised template and implementation table for all accreditation requests.

- The Arguden Governance Academy Foundation in **Turkey** had requested accreditation to pilot ELoGE in several municipalities, as part of a project supported and funded by the government of the Netherlands under the MATRA Programme.

The Platform discussed and granted accreditation to the Arguden Governance Academy Foundation for **one year**, in recognition that this would be seen as a pilot project and that its outcome, to be presented in a report, would decide whether the accreditation is extended to three years.

## **6. Any other business**

The Platform discussed the need for a revision of the [ELoGE benchmark](#) and the role of the CDDG in promoting ELoGE.

It was recalled that the CDDG was working on a draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers on principles of good democratic governance which would be applicable to all levels of governance. The Platform therefore considered it preferable to wait for the finalisation of such a new recommendation before proceeding with the revision of the benchmark.

As for the promotion of ELoGE, at the closure of the discussion, the Platform agreed that: a) the CDDG meeting agenda could include an item giving the opportunity to two or more delegations to report about their countries' experience with the implementation of ELoGE; b) a discussion could be held in parallel on what members can do to promote ELoGE when returning back to their country.

## **7. Next meeting**

The Platform agreed to hold the next meeting tentatively after the Bureau meeting in the Autumn, i.e on 14 October 2022.

**APPENDIX I**  
**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**

**CHAIR / PRESIDENT**

Mr Paul ROWSELL, Head of Governance Reform and Democracy Unit, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Local Government & Communities Directorate, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, LONDON

**OTHER CDDG BUREAU MEMBERS / AUTRES MEMBRES DU BUREAU DU CDDG**

Mr Peter ANDRE, Ministry of Interior, Senior Expert for Legal Affairs, WIEN

Ms Gordana GAPIKJ-DIMITROVSKA, State Advisor, the Ministry of Information Society and Administration, SKOPJE

Ms Monika KURIAN, Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, Public Administration Section, Head of Local Self-Government and Foreign Affairs Unit, BRATISLAVA

Mr Edwin LEFEBRE, Deputy Director, Ministry of the Flemish Community, Agency for Home Affairs, BRUSSELS

Mr Markku MÖLLÄRI, Ministerial adviser, Department for Local Affairs and Regional Administration, Ministry of Finance, HELSINKI

Ms Stefanía TRAUSTADÓTTIR, Senior Advisor, Local Government, Department of Local Government and Regional Policy, Ministry of Transport and Local Government, REYKJAVÍK

**CONFERENCE OF INGOS OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / CONFERENCE DES OING DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Christoph SPRENG, Representative of the INGOs Conference to the CDDG, Initiatives of Change-International

**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE / ASSEMBLEE PARLEMENTAIRE DU CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE**

Mr Jean-Pierre GRIN, member of PACE (Switzerland, ALDE)

**SECRETARIAT**

Mr Daniel POPESCU, Head of Democracy and Governance Department / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Ms Alina TATARENKO – Head of the Democratic Governance Division / Secretary of the CDDG / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Mr Christophe SPECKBACHER, Administrator – Democratic Governance Division / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Mr Niall SHEERIN, Administrator – Democratic Governance Division / Directorate of Human Dignity, Equality and Governance / Directorate General of Democracy

Ms Isabelle ETTER, Assistant

**APPENDIX II****AGENDA**

- 1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair**
- 2. Adoption of the agenda** [DG-AP(2022)OJ1]
- 3. Report of the 6th meeting of the Enlarged Bureau (15 October 2021)** [\[DG-SP\(2021\)6\]](#)
- 4. Information on [ELoGE](#) progress and implementation in 2022** [DG-AP(2022)1]
- 5. Renewal and new requests of accreditations** [DG-AP(2022)2]
  - A. Renewal of accreditation*
    - France (CNFPT)
  - B. New requests for accreditation*
    - Bosnia and Herzgovina
    - Latvia
    - Romania
    - Turkey
- 6. Any other business:** e.g. articulation of 12P and benchmarks with future Recommendation on principles of good democratic governance; need for updating of ELoGE benchmarks; need for updating of Platform rules
- 7. Next meeting** (depending on accreditations: pm: CDDG Bureau 13-14 October)