



Strasbourg, 1st August 2019

DG-SP(2019)3

**EUROPEAN STAKEHOLDERS' PLATFORM OF THE
STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE
AT LOCAL LEVEL**

**Report of the European Stakeholders' Platform meeting
Strasbourg, 24 May 2019**

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair

The Chair of the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG) opened the meeting of the Enlarged Bureau of the CDDG in its capacity as European Stakeholders' Platform ('the Platform') of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance. He welcomed the members and in particular the new members of the Bureau.

The list of participants appears in Appendix I.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted as set out in Appendix II.

**3. Report of the second meeting of the Enlarged Bureau
(6 September 2017, Strasbourg)**

The participants took note of the report of the second meeting of the European Stakeholders' Platform held on 6 September 2017 (document DG-SP(2019)7rev).

Outstanding issues such as information requested by the European Stakeholders' Platform in relation to accreditation granted would be discussed under the relevant items on the agenda.

4. European Stakeholders' Platform

The Chair and the Secretariat recalled the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance, the Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy and granting of the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) as well as the Rules of procedure of the Enlarged Bureau acting as European Stakeholders' Platform and the ELoGE Benchmark (documents DG-SP(2017)2, 3 and 4).

5. Election of a second Vice-Chairperson

Following the nomination of Mr Gerhard Ermischer for the post of second vice-chairperson, the Enlarged Bureau elected him by acclamation.

6. New applications for accreditation of Stakeholders' Platforms

The European Stakeholders' Platform welcomed the new applications and expressed appreciation for the on-going efforts by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance to promote ELoGE. The Head of the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance, Ms Alina Tatarenko, presented background information to the requests for accreditation.

The European Stakeholders' Platform first examined the applications presented under Article 5.ii of the Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy for Good Governance at Local Level and granting of the European Label of Governance Excellence.

As regards the application by France

The Chair welcomed Mr Benoit Cathala from *Centre national de la fonction publique territoriale* (CNFPT) and Mr Berthelot from the French Permanent Representation to the Council of Europe who had been invited to present the application submitted by CNFPT.

Mr Berthelot confirmed the French authorities' support for the application by CNFPT and provided a brief outline of the ELoGE Conference and Awards Ceremony that would be held on 28 October 2019 in Strasbourg under the French Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe.

Mr Cathala presented the application and outlined the ELoGE programme as envisaged until December 2020. This included a pilot-phase until end 2019 with CNFPT piloting the first phase of ELoGE while the body to be set up in cooperation with AMF (association of French mayors), SNDGCT (National Union of city managers) and other partner institutions such as the *Société Française d'Évaluation* (French Evaluation Society) would be responsible for evaluating the municipalities and awarding the label.

The Platform welcomed the interest by the French authorities in the Strategy and ELoGE and their initiative to organise an ELoGE conference. This would give visibility to the Label, promote the 12 Principles of Good Governance in all member States and provide an opportunity to share experience and best practices in implementing ELoGE.

Having examined the supporting documents and following clarifications as regards the composition and functioning of the body responsible for evaluating and awarding ELoGE, the European Stakeholders' Platform granted accreditation to the CNFPT until December 2020. In 2019, the CNFPT would conduct an ELoGE pilot phase, with the Centre of Expertise exceptionally awarding the Label. Accreditation was granted on condition that the Platform be kept informed as regards changes to the body responsible for evaluating ELoGE applications and awarding the label, its functioning and composition.

As regards the application by Romania

The Platform examined the request and supporting documents for accreditation by the National Institute of Administration (INA) of Romania.

It took note of the role of INA as a professional civil service institution providing specialised training, research and innovation in public administrations as well as its role in sharing knowledge and information in public administration. Furthermore, in 2018, INA had implemented the Council of Europe's Leadership Academy Programme in Romania for several municipalities, towns and communities and had previously participated in the Centre of Expertise's Training of Trainers Programme.

The Platform decided to grant INA accreditation to award ELoGE until 31 December 2020 in accordance with the applicable Regulations and the structures and procedures as set out in the application.

In approving the accreditation requests submitted by CNFPT and INA, the European Stakeholders' Platform recalled the need for implementing institutions and bodies to strive to ensure balanced representation of women and men in the body responsible for evaluating ELoGE applications and awarding the label and to keep it informed in the event of changes to its functioning or composition of the as well as about their action in regard of ELoGE.

As regards the requests presented by the Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA) and the European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives (UDiTE)

The European Stakeholders' Platform took note of the results of the pilot-project conducted by UDiTE and the Centre of Expertise following the application presented in September 2017.

Having examined the requests by ALDA and UDiTE, the European Stakeholders' Platform considered that both organisations had know-how, expertise and experience in the field of local governance and, in cooperation with the Centre of Expertise, could well identify municipalities that would merit the Label of Governance Excellence. In the light of the applicable Regulations however, the European Stakeholders' Platform could not grant them accreditation.

An exchange of views on how to handle, applications by transnational associations and organisations ensued, during which the following issues were raised:

- ELoGE programmes by national stakeholder Platforms or institutions in member States and those conducted by transnational institutions or organisations should be mutually exclusive and not overlap;
- Accreditation for awarding ELoGE should be granted for a clearly defined geographical scope and be limited in time;
- In member States implementing ELoGE, municipalities should be eligible for applying under the national programme only;
- there should be no objection from member State in which ELoGE would be run;
- a certain degree of flexibility was needed, in the full respect of the Regulations;
- transnational associations and organisations would be important partners in promoting of ELoGE and good governance at local levels, especially in countries which had not joined the Strategy.

In order to advise the CDDG in time for its December meeting on a possible revision of the Regulations, including conditions for possible accreditation of intermunicipal structures and transregional and/or transnational associations or organisations, the European Stakeholders' Platform instructed the Secretariat to prepare draft revised Regulations for consideration by the Platform either at its next meeting or by written procedure.

The revision should include the clarifications and improvement of the points in the Regulations and Rules of procedure as discussed at the second meeting of the Platform.

ALDA and UDiTE should be kept informed on possible modification of the Regulations and encouraged to submit a request for accreditation in accordance with the revised regulations as and when applicable.

As regards the application by Betean (Spain – Basque Country)

The European Stakeholders' Platform took note of the application by Betean for accreditation to award ELoGE. Whilst all initiatives promoting good governance and the 12 Principles should be promoted, it was recalled that ELoGE was a quality label awarded by the Council of Europe to municipalities which met specific standards in terms of good governance.

In the light of the applicable Regulations, it was not possible for the European Stakeholders' Platform to grant accreditation to Betean. In addition, the Platform considered that the ELoGE Label should be reserved for excellence in governance at local and regional level as intended.

Given Betean's involvement and experience with EUDEL (which was granted accreditation in 2017), the Centre of Expertise and the Secretariat should encourage Betean to promote good governance in semi-public and semi-state organisations.

7. Information requested by the European Stakeholders' Platform at its last meeting

The European Stakeholders' Platform took note of the information set out in document DG-SP(2019)2.

It was recalled that under Article 16 of the Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance "National platforms, institutions or bodies and municipalities shall keep the European platform informed about their action in regard of ELoGE and respond to requests from the European platform in a spirit of cooperation."

This included the presentations of reports on the implementation of the Strategy at the end of accreditation periods.

Renewal of the application by Bulgaria

The Platform reiterated its appreciation for the achievements by the Bulgarian authorities and the National Stakeholders' Platform. It looks forward to receiving the report on the fourth round of ELoGE and underlined the value of Bulgaria's participation in the Conference on Good Governance and ELoGE to be organised under the French Presidency on 28 October 2019.

Application for by Malta

Having recalled the terms of the conditional accreditation granted to the National Stakeholders' Platform of Malta, the Secretariat was instructed to pursue the dialogue with the Maltese authorities with a view to obtaining the information sought by the European Stakeholders' Platform.

The European Stakeholders' Platform agreed that, in light of the time which had elapsed since accreditation, Malta should reapply before organising a ceremony to award ELoGE under the pilot project.

As regards the application by 'Fundacja Rozwoju Demokracji Lokalnej' (Foundation in Support of Local Democracy) (Poland)

The Platform noted that the adjusted benchmark and questionnaire had been presented to the Centre of Expertise in Polish and not in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe as requested by the Regulations.

8. Other business

None.

9. Date of the next meeting

The next meeting would be held in conjunction with a meeting of the CDDG Bureau or plenary session in 2019, as the necessity to examine new applications arises.

APPENDIX I**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE /
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APPENDIX II

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting by the Chair
2. Adoption of the agenda [DG-SP(2019)0J1]
3. Report of the second meeting of the Enlarged Bureau
(6 September 2017, Strasbourg) [DG-SP(2017)7rev]
4. Election of a second Vice-Chairperson
5. European Stakeholder's Platform
 - Regulations for the promotion of the Strategy and granting of
the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) [DG-SP(2017)2]
 - Rules of Procedure of the Enlarged Bureau [DG-SP(2017)3]
 - ELoGE Benchmark [DG-SP(2017)4]
6. New applications for accreditation of Stakeholders' Platforms [DG-SP(2019)1 +
Addendum]
 - France
 - Romania
 - European Federation of Local Government Chief Executives
(UDiTE)
 - ALDA, European Association for Local Democracy
 - Betean, Spain (Basque Country)
7. Review of previous accreditation requests [DG-SP(2019)2]
 - Information requested by the European Stakeholders' Platform
8. Other business
9. Date of the next meeting