

The Bureau of the Congress

**CG-BUR(2024)58-25<sup>1</sup>**

18 March 2024

## European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE)

### *Introduction*

This document presents very briefly the European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE), an award granted to local authorities which have achieved a high level of good governance measured against a benchmark of the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance.

Developed by the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance (CEGG), the label is overseen by an Accreditation Platform which previously reported to the European Committee on Democracy and Governance (CDDG).

Following the recent administrative restructuring of the Council of Europe that led to the transfer of the CEGG to the Congress Secretariat and the sunsetting of the CDDG, a new Accreditation Platform could be established to oversee ELoGE, under the exclusive responsibility of the Congress.

The Bureau is invited to discuss the future of ELoGE. Following the discussion on, and possible expression of interest for such a reform, information would be presented at the next meeting of the Ministers' Deputies Rapporteur Group on Democracy (GR-DEM) on 23 April.

If the Bureau expresses interest in assuming oversight of ELoGE it could then invite the Secretariat to prepare revised draft Rules of Procedure for discussion and possible adoption at its next meeting (June 2024) including the methodology and the composition of the new Accreditation Platform for awarding ELoGE. This process would enable the Congress to take ownership and facilitate broader dissemination of good democratic governance practice at local and regional level throughout Europe.

Action required: for information

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<sup>1</sup> This document is classified as confidential until it has been examined by the Bureau of the Congress.

### *Background*

The European Label of Governance Excellence (ELoGE) is awarded to local authorities that have demonstrated their adherence to good democratic governance practice measured against the 12 Principles of good democratic governance. The possibility to enlarge the label to regional authorities is envisaged.

This label was developed as part of the Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at local level, in preparation for the Conference of European Ministers responsible for local and regional democracy, held in Valencia (Spain) on 15-16 October 2007. The Congress endorsed the Strategy in its [Resolution 239\(2007\)](#) on the European Strategy for Innovation and Good Governance at Local Level. The Strategy, which defines the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance at local level, was finally adopted by the Ministers' Deputies at their [1022<sup>nd</sup> meeting of 26 March 2008](#).

A European Stakeholders' Platform (subsequently re-named ELoGE Accreditation Platform) was established to oversee the implementation of the Strategy. The Platform updated its [Regulations](#) governing the procedure for implementing ELoGE at its meeting of 18 May 2016, subsequently further amended at its most recent meeting of 20 October 2023.

### *Management of ELoGE*

The Platform functions in a decentralised manner and grants accreditation to national (in some cases, regional) platforms with substantial know-how, expertise and/or experience in the field of good governance, in particular at local level, for a period of up to three years. These national/regional platforms are existing organisations or ad-hoc panels composed of representatives of both central and local authorities.

National/regional platforms accredited by the Council of Europe are requested to use the tools developed by the Council of Europe to deliver ELoGE to local authorities. Such tools include a European Good Governance Benchmark, based on the 12 Principles of good democratic governance, and questionnaires to local elected officials and citizens to help measure the performance of the local authority.

National or regional platforms in 15 member States and Kosovo\* currently have on-going accreditation to deliver ELoGE. Award ceremonies were organised in 9 member States in 2023 with a total of 90 local authorities being awarded the European Label of Governance Excellence.

### *Awarding the label*

ELoGE is awarded to municipalities which can demonstrate their compliance with [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2023\)5](#) of the Committee of Ministers to member States on the principles of good democratic governance, and further detailed in its explanatory memorandum and the ELoGE benchmark.

In order to be eligible for the label, local authorities from countries which have an accredited platform must provide a self-assessment based on the European benchmark and surveys conducted based on the two questionnaires developed by the Council of Europe. National experts trained by the Council of Europe subsequently evaluate the dossier, conduct, as the case may be, field visits, and make proposals to the national accredited platform which can decide to award – or not – the label in the name of the Council of Europe.

ELoGE is typically awarded during high-level events.

## List of current accreditations

| Member State           | Accredited Entity  | Accreditation Period |
|------------------------|--|----------------------|
| Bosnia and Herzegovina | LDA Mostar   | 2022-2025            |
| Bulgaria               | Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works  | 2024-2026            |
| Croatia                | Association of Cities of the Republic of Croatia   | 2024-2026            |
| Cyprus                 | Union of Cyprus Municipalities   | 2024-2026            |
| Finland                | HAUS – Finnish Institute of Public Management  | 2023-2026            |
| France                 | CNFPT – Centre National de la Fonction Publique Territoriale   | 2019-2025            |
| Hungary                | TÓOSZ - Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities  | 2021-2026            |
| Italy                  | AICCRE-FVG – Associazione Italiana Per Il Consiglio Dei Comuni e Delle Regioni d'Europa                | 2017-2026            |
| Latvia                 | Centre for Public Policy - PROVIDUS  | 2022-2025            |
| Lithuania              | Ministry of the Interior   | 2020-2026            |
| North Macedonia        | ALDA Skopje  | 2021-2026            |
| Poland                 | <a href="#">Fundacja Rozwoju Demokracji Lokalnej</a> (Foundation in Support of Local Democracy - FSLD) | 2018-2026            |
| Romania                | General Secretariat of the Government of Romania   | 2022-2025            |
| Spain (Basque Country) | Association of Basque Municipalities (EUDEL)   | 2018-2026            |
| Spain (Murcia region)  | Chair for Good Government and Public Integrity, University of Murcia                                   | 2022-2025            |
| Türkiye                | Arguden Governance Academy   | 2022-2026            |
| Kosovo* <sup>2</sup>   | ALDA – European Association for Local Democracy  | 2021-2026            |

## List of local authorities awarded ELoGE in 2023

| Member State                  | Names of local authorities awarded ELoGE   |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b> | <b>City:</b> Prijedor<br><b>Municipalities:</b> Jabalinca, Žepče   |
| <b>France</b>                 | Communauté de Communes des Lisières de l'Oise<br>Eurométropole de Strasbourg<br>Haute Corrèze Communauté<br>Morne-à-l'Eau;<br>Sceaux   |
| <b>Hungary</b>                | Budapest Capital District XIII<br>Szarvas, Zalaszentgrót, Hernád, Vép, Rigács  |
| <b>Latvia</b>                 | <b>Municipalities:</b> Bauska, Cēsis, Jelgava, Valmiera<br><b>State City:</b> Liepāja  |
| <b>Lithuania</b>              | <b>City Municipalities:</b> Alytus, Kaunas, Palanga, Panevėžys, Šiauliai, Vilnius<br><b>District Municipalities:</b> Akmenė, Biržai, Jonava, Joniškis, Kaišiadorys, Kėdianiai, Klaipėda, Lazdijai, Mažeikiai, Panevėžys, Prienai, Skuodas, Šilalė, Švenčionys, Tauragė, Trakai, Vilkaviškis, Vilnius<br><b>Municipalities:</b> Birštonas, Druskininkai, Elektrėnai, Kalvarija, Visaginas |
| <b>Poland</b>                 | <b>City:</b> Tarnowskie Góry,<br><b>County:</b> Tarnowskie Góry,<br><b>Municipalities:</b> Andrychów, Strawczyn  |
| <b>Portugal</b>               | Vila Pouca de Aguiar<br>Albergaria-a-Velha   |
| <b>Romania</b>                | <b>Counties:</b> Botoșani, Ialomița, Ilfov, Timiș<br><b>Municipalities:</b> Buzău, Câmpina, Galați, Moinești, Râmnicu, Vâlcea, Roman<br><b>Cities:</b> Abrud, Bolintin-Vale, Măgurele, Sărmașu, Seini Uricani<br><b>Communes:</b> Băiuț, Bălțați, Căbești, Coșula, Cumpăna, Drăgotești, Florești, Grintieș, Măgurele, Mărăcineni, Negriștești, Sadu, Săveni, Șcheia                      |
| <b>Türkiye</b>                | <b>Metropolitan municipalities :</b> Ankara, Eskişehir,<br><b>District municipalities :</b> Bağcılar, Gebze, Sultanbeyli, Şişli  |

<sup>2</sup> \*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.