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Sixth Evaluation Round

National delegations, evaluators and on-site visits

Adopted by GRECO
at its 96th Plenary Meeting
(Strasbourg, 18-22 March 2024)

I. Composition of GRECO delegations

1. Under Article 6 of the [Statute of GRECO](#), the delegation of a member State may consist of up to two representatives, one of whom acts as the head of delegation. According to Rule 3.2 of the [Rules of Procedure](#), each member State appoints delegations on a permanent basis and each member may designate one substitute per representative. Consequently, delegations consist of up to four members, namely two representatives and two substitutes.
2. GRECO delegations are invited to consider including persons familiar with and knowledgeable about anti-corruption and integrity mechanisms at sub-national level in their composition.

II. Designation and selection of evaluators

A. Experts (evaluators) provided by member States

3. Article 10.4 of the [Statute of GRECO](#) provides that each member will identify up to five experts to be included on the list of evaluators drawn up and maintained by the GRECO Secretariat.

4. Similar to the composition of GRECO delegations, it is essential that evaluators (experts) possess adequate expertise in the field of the organisation, functioning and management of sub-national authorities as well as the promotion of integrity, transparency and accountability. Evaluators (experts) ought to be nominated based on competence, striving also for gender balance.

5. It would be highly desirable to include competent experts with a proven track record in one or several of the following areas:

- organisation, functioning and management of sub-national authorities;
- anti-corruption policies and risk assessments;
- access to information, transparency of and public participation in policy/decision-making;
- integrity rules relating to conflicts of interest, incompatibilities, restrictions/limitations, prohibitions, declaration of assets and interests;
- internal, external or social audit;
- disciplinary (non-criminal) proceedings and sanctions related to integrity violations;
- investigation and/or prosecution of corruption and other similar crimes.

6. Moreover, evaluators need to be proficient in English and/or French, be able to conduct interviews and discussions in technical administrative areas with a broad variety of interlocutors, and have adequate analytical and drafting skills.

7. Evaluators should be willing and able to dedicate time to the evaluation work. This includes preparation in advance of the on-site visit, active participation in meetings in the country undergoing the evaluation (five days), the subsequent preparation of written conclusions after the on-site visit and participation in the adoption process of the evaluation report, supporting their findings before the GRECO plenary.

8. The authorities of member States should facilitate the participation of their evaluators in the evaluation process.

9. National delegations are requested to send to the GRECO Secretariat, by 1 September 2024, the names, contact details, working language(s) and CVs of the evaluators nominated (including information on their professional background, current position(s), relevant offices held, with a description of the activities carried out, and their areas of expertise as required by the themes of the evaluation round).

10. It is recalled that it is possible to include in the evaluation teams additional experts, such as scientific experts, in accordance with Rule 26.2 of the [Rules of Procedure](#). This possibility could be particularly useful in the early stages of the 6th Round.

B. Selection of Evaluators by GRECO

11. Evaluation teams should comprise four evaluators with expertise in as many of the areas identified in paragraph 5 above as possible, and will be constituted in accordance with Rule 26 of the [Rules of Procedure](#).

III. On-site visits

12. Where feasible, the Secretariat will give up to 18-month advance notice to member States prior to the on-site visit to allow for identifying appropriate sub-national authorities for the evaluation. Member States should pre-select the sub-national authorities to be proposed for evaluation, on a voluntary basis, bearing in mind the selection criteria identified and approved by GRECO. Member States should provide the Secretariat, within a maximum period of six months from receiving the advance notice, with a list of volunteering sub-national authorities, wherefrom the Secretariat, in consultation with the member States, will select the sub-national authorities subject to evaluation. Where agreement could not be reached with member States, the final decision will be delegated to and taken by the Bureau. On notification of the Bureau's final decision, member States should submit the completed Questionnaire to the Executive Secretary (secretariat) preferably four months before the visit to allow for timely assessment of information.

13. On-site visits are indispensable to an adequate evaluation of the legal framework and practice regarding the prevention of corruption and promotion of integrity at sub-national level. Building on prior experience, such visits should last approximately five working days in order to allow for sufficient time to be devoted to assessing in detail each of the items included in the Questionnaire in respect of sub-national authorities subject to evaluation. On-site visits should as a minimum include meetings with representatives of the following institutions:

- a) Central and sub-national government, appropriate ministries, other relevant departments or special bodies dealing with or responsible for sub-national authorities;
- b) Executive and representative bodies as well as public officials of selected sub-national authorities;
- c) Relevant bodies such as independent agencies, committees and administrative services which deal with regulatory aspects and professional standards including ethics, the centralising and supervision of declarations of assets and interests, lobbying, access to information, protection of whistleblowers, etc.
- d) Bodies competent for the internal and external audit/oversight of sub-national authorities, including the central public audit body, if applicable;
- e) Anti-corruption agencies dealing with prevention of corruption, monitoring of anti-corruption policies or risk prevention/assessment plans involving the selected sub-national authorities;
- f) Representatives of the prosecution service responsible for investigation and prosecuting corruption and corruption-related offenses committed by members of the constituent bodies of sub-national authorities, including public officials;
- g) Where relevant: Council of Europe Office, EU delegation, international organisations and other agencies present in the country;
- h) Preferably at an early stage of the visit: Civil society, including NGOs, lobbying organisations and associations of sub-national authorities; research / academia; and the media;
- i) Other interlocutors, depending on the views of the evaluation team.

14. It may be necessary to organise one or more hands-on, practical training event(s) during the 6th Round, starting in 2025, to give evaluators (experts) the opportunity to become familiar with GRECO's working methods and procedures, the modus operandi of on-site visits and the contribution expected from them, and to discuss the key issues at stake, as well as relevant reference materials. The programme and schedule for such training event(s) will be communicated on a later date.