



## EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG)

### ***Terms of reference of the Working Group on Principles of Good Democratic Governance<sup>1</sup> (GT-BG)***

#### **Task**

Carry out preliminary work for the CDDG with a view to elaborate a *recommendation* [of the Committee of Ministers to member States] *on Principles of good democratic governance of general application to all levels of government, building on the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance at local level.* (specific task (i) of the terms of reference 2022-2025).

The working group is invited to use the acquis and documents produced so far in relation to the 12 Principles (including ELoGE, the benchmarks, the final country reports), and to complement it with considerations which are specific and particularly relevant for the national level, e.g. separation of powers, independence of the judiciary, national elections, taking into account the work of other Council of Europe bodies and standards already recognised.

**Timeline:** January 2022 to December 2022 (draft available for approval ideally at the 16<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CDDG). The working group may hold a meeting in March 2022 and in September 2022 (with the possibility of an extra meeting in the first half of 2023, if necessary). Written consultations are encouraged, and an additional on-line meeting may be organised in June 2022, as necessary.

#### **Composition**

All member States can nominate representatives and/or independent experts and participate in any of the working groups at their own expense. Institutions and bodies with the status of CDDG participant are also invited to nominate representatives in the working groups.

The Council of Europe will bear the costs for the participation of one expert from each of the following 10 member States: **Austria, Belgium, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Malta, Norway, Poland, Slovak Republic, United-Kingdom.**

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<sup>1</sup> As approved by the CDDG at its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting and complemented by written procedure on 3 February 2022

Experts nominated should have adequate specialisation in the following areas: the functioning of central State institutions and of local and regional administrations including their cooperation; public administration reforms; Council of Europe standards in the field of democracy, human rights and the rule of law; constitutional jurisprudence; elections.

### **Background documents**

The working group should take into account pertinent reports and documents produced under the aegis of the Council of Europe and other organisations, including:

- Those related to the 12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance at local level ([ELoGE benchmark](#) and [country reports](#))
- the Secretary General's periodic reports on the state of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law (see [here](#) and [here](#))
- the [Human Rights Commissioner](#),
- the Parliamentary Assembly (especially findings from the monitoring activities, the observance of elections, specific reports and recommendations of particular significance from the viewpoint of Democracy)
- the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities (especially findings from [monitoring activities](#)),
- the Venice Commission, especially documents in the [Democratic Institutions and Studies](#) series
- [Commission for the Efficiency of Justice - CEPEJ](#) ; [Consultative Council of European Judges - CCJE](#); [Consultative Council of European Prosecutors - CCPE](#)
- the Group of States against Corruption: especially its work concerning the 3<sup>rd</sup> evaluation round (political financing), the 4<sup>th</sup> evaluation round (parliaments, the courts and public prosecution services) and the 5<sup>th</sup> evaluation round (central governments, law enforcement), summarised in the [annual reports](#)

### **Working methods**

The working group may use on-line meetings and written consultations as necessary. It is encouraged to hold consultations with other bodies within and outside the Council of Europe (e.g. EU, OECD, OSCE) including non-governmental organisations. It may rely on contributions from expert consultants. See also Resolution CM/Res(2021)3 on intergovernmental committees and subordinate bodies, their terms of reference and working methods.