

THE REYKJAVIK PARAMETERS FOR DEMOCRACY

A Council of Europe framework to enhance democratic systems



WHAT ARE THEY?

The Reykjavik Parameters for Democracy turn democratic commitments into actionable guides that member states can use to self-assess their democratic systems

5 PILLARS COVERING VITAL AREAS OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE



DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

- ▶ ensuring free, fair and resilient elections
- ▶ empowering civil involvement
- ▶ guaranteeing democracy at regional and local level



DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS

- ▶ fostering independent, effective parliaments and judiciaries
- ▶ upholding the separation of powers



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND INTEGRITY

- ▶ fighting corruption
- ▶ promoting good governance
- ▶ ensuring political integrity and transparent party funding and lobbying



DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS AND CIVIL SOCIETY

- ▶ safeguarding freedoms of expression, assembly, association and the space for civil society
- ▶ promoting inclusion, diversity and equality



DEMOCRATIC FUTURE

- ▶ empowering young people and children
- ▶ promoting education for democratic citizenship
- ▶ fostering sustainable, innovative democratic lives at all levels of society

HOW TO USE THE PARAMETERS?



1. SELF-ASSESS

Countries use the Parameters as a guide to look at the functioning of their democracies



2. IDENTIFY

Strengths, gaps and challenges are identified



3. SET PRIORITIES

National authorities focus on areas where reforms are needed



4. LEARN AND IMPROVE

Good practices are identified and shared supporting mutual learning

EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS TO APPLY THE PARAMETERS

- ▶ Do national laws and practice guarantee judicial independence?
- ▶ Do citizens have accessible, inclusive and effective opportunities to participate in public decision-making?
- ▶ Are journalists and media organisations effectively protected from attacks, intimidation and unlawful pressure?

WHO CAN USE THE PARAMETERS?



GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AUTHORITIES

To review national legislations, policies and practices and identify shortfalls



CIVIL SOCIETY AND ACADEMIA

To identify shortfalls and trends and promote debate and accountability of reforms



CITIZENS

To better understand how democracy works



Contribution to the
New Democratic Pact for Europe