

THE REYKJAVIK PARAMETERS FOR DEMOCRACY

A Council of Europe framework to enhance democratic systems



WHAT ARE THEY?

— To help strengthen democracy and address democratic backsliding, the Council of Europe has developed the Reykjavik Parameters for Democracy.

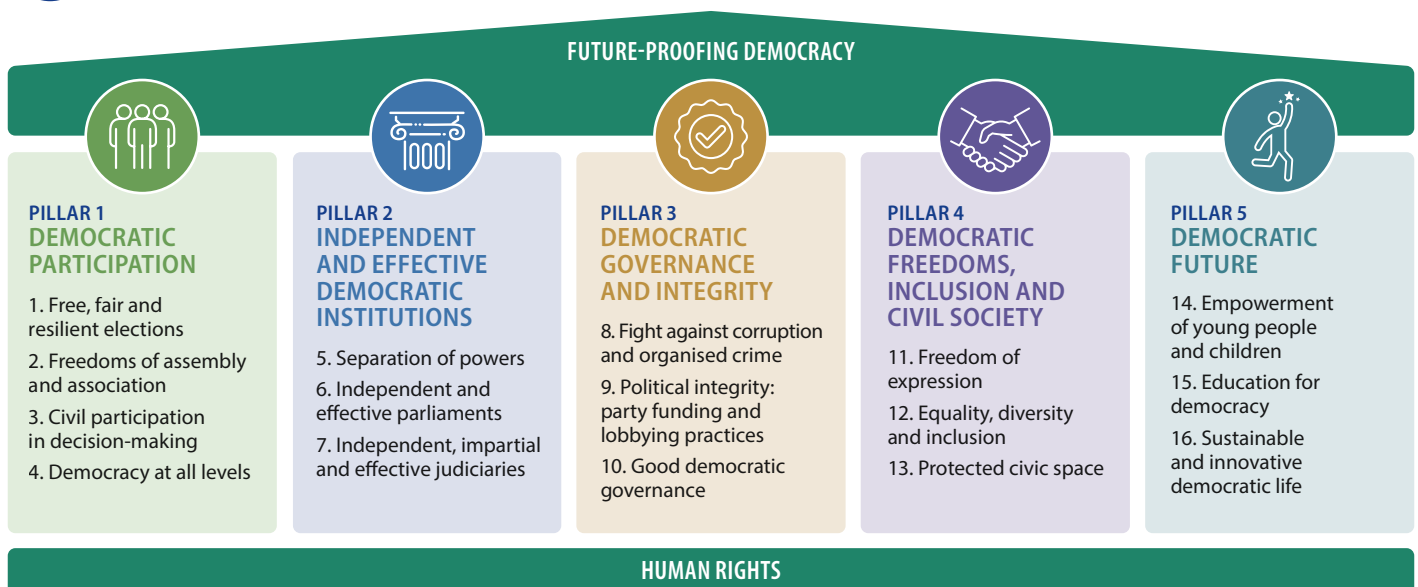
They set out **46 basic practical democratic requirements** for democracy to work well.

They are based on Council of Europe **treaties, recommendations and other instruments** and should be applied in line with human rights.

Member states can use them as a **guide to self-assess their democratic systems**.



PILLARS COVERING 16 VITAL AREAS OF DEMOCRATIC LIFE



HOW TO USE THE PARAMETERS



SELF-ASSESS

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



IDENTIFY

Strengths, gaps and challenges are identified



SET PRIORITIES

National authorities focus on areas where reforms are needed



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