Questions affecting the work of the CDDG working group on public ethics

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (CDDG) WORKING GROUP ON PUBLIC ETHICS (GT-EP)

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Main concepts

- **Trust** - fundamental to good governance and public service

- **Ethical conduct** can be achieved by
  - using effective measures (compliance approach)
  - adherence to shared ethical values, principles and norms (integrity approach)
Challenges

• due to changes at the political and societal levels
  - changes in social beliefs; Blurring of boundaries between public and private

• internal to governance
  - capture of public policies by narrow interests; Retaining the attractiveness of public sector employment; Citizens engagement

• policy implementation
  - the whole-of society approach; Effectiveness of means; No “one-size-fits-all”, Behavioural studies
Scope

• Scope of the Handbook 2004 is quite wide

• Benchmark Toolkit and Score Card are practical and useful

  - Updating the Handbook

    - Improve the current text or complete revision?

    - Relation between public ethics and good governance?

    - Specificity of local, regional and national or not?
Basic principles or values form the core of every ethics and integrity system

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 Principles of Good Democratic Governance</th>
<th>Relevance for public ethics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections</td>
<td>• Rule of law including fairness;</td>
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<td>2. Responsiveness</td>
<td>• Responsiveness including user orientation and government’s empathy;</td>
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<td>3. Efficiency and Effectiveness</td>
<td>• Ethical conduct or integrity including avoiding conflicts of interest;</td>
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<td>4. Openness and Transparency</td>
<td>• Openness and transparency;</td>
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<td>5. Rule of Law</td>
<td>• Accountability</td>
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<td>6. Ethical Conduct</td>
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<td>7. Competence and Capacity</td>
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<td>8. Innovation and Openness to Change</td>
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<td>9. Sustainability and Long-term Orientation</td>
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<td>10. Sound Financial Management</td>
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<td>11. Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion</td>
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<td>12. Accountability</td>
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Target groups

• In 2004 Handbook: civil servants and government members at all levels of the state, elected officials at the local level, business, civil society and citizens

• Updating the Handbook, to whom?
  • Local, regional and national government
  • Organisations as institutions or particular actors?
  • Members of parliaments?
Means, OECD 1996, 2017

Commitment
- Political Leadership

Control
- Legislative Framework
- Accountability & Control

Guidance
- Codes of Conduct
- Professional Socialisation

Management
- Coordinating Body
- Public Service Conditions

Public Involvement & Scrutiny

Strategic Framework for Public Integrity
OECD Recommendation

The Recommendation on Public Integrity provides guidance to public authorities with a vision for a public integrity strategy. It focuses on four key integrity policies: institutional, behavioural, risk-based, and with an emphasis on cultivating a culture of integrity throughout the whole system.
Issues to be addressed

• Avoiding conflicts of interest and preventing corruption

• Professional – ethical behaviour in public governance

• Institutional and management tools to ensure ethical behaviour including involvement of citizens and society
Thank you for your attention!

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