

# European Capital of Democracy 2026

## Democracy self-evaluation

The following questions are part of an online self-assessment of the state of democracy in your City. They are based on ELoGE, the European Label of Governance Excellence by the Council of Europe (<https://www.coe.int/en/web/centre-of-expertise-for-multilevel-governance/elope>).

The terms used in this document shall have the meaning as defined in the Glossary in the section “Glossary” of the Call.

Explanation of the response items	
The municipality level of maturity to the principle is assessed as:	
Outstanding	We can show clear evidence of good practice which can be shared and are further developing our approach to ensure long-term and sustainable improvement.
Excellent	We have well developed plans and activities to address key issues with significant examples of implementation.
Good	We recognise key issues and are developing approaches or activities to address them, although there has been limited practical implementation so far.
Standard	We are aware of the key issues to be addressed but currently have no or very few approaches or activities developed to address them.
Not applicable	Not applicable, don't know, no opinion.

### 1. Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections

In this municipality people can participate in politics in various ways and they are satisfied with the opportunities they have to influence municipal decisions which are of interest to them.

### 2. Responsiveness

Clear guidelines and procedures for officials and elected representatives exist in all decision-making processes.

### 3. Efficiency and Effectiveness

The municipality develops and implements a performance management framework that covers all of its objectives, services and functions including appropriate indicators and reports regularly on its performance and its progress.

### 4. Openness and Transparency

Municipalities ensure regular and easy contact between citizens with elected representatives and actively inform the public and media.

### 5. Ethical Conduct

Elected representatives and staff are required to declare any potential conflict of interest that could impact on decision taking and to abstain from taking part in relevant decisions making.

## **6. Innovation and Openness to Change**

The municipality has a structured approach to innovation, research and development. It takes action to identify and implement examples of good practice and new solutions.

## **7. Sustainability and Long-term Orientation**

The municipality has a structured approach to long term development and takes the needs of the future generation into account routinely in the planning process.

## **8. Sound Financial Management**

Regular reports are presented to officials and elected representatives comparing actual income and expenditure with the budget. A summary of the budget and taxes is made available to all citizens.

## **9. Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion**

The municipality has set clear objectives to improve social cohesion and maximise the potential of cultural diversity by promoting dialogue and encouraging partnerships between various key social actors.

## **10. Accountability**

All decision makers are clear about their collective and individual responsibilities for the decisions they take and these are clearly set out in a legal framework and in their job descriptions.

## **Showcasing**

Please select one project by the City not older than five years that you consider the greatest success to improve the state of democracy in your City. Please describe it briefly and tell us how it fostered democracy in your City (max 500 words). Optionally, you can also provide links to websites that underpin the success of the project.

## **Civil Society Involvement**

1. Please provide three examples of how the City successfully cooperates with local Civil Society Organisations (CSOs)-any non-profit, voluntary citizens' group which is organised on a local level, independent of the municipal administration. Describe the cooperation briefly (max 200 words for each cooperation). Optionally, you can also provide links to websites that underpin the success of the project.
2. Please provide approachable, current contacts to representatives of these three local Civil Society Organisations. The organisers of the ECoD Initiative might get in touch with those CSOs in your City for a brief interview to get to know more about the local civil society environment and the relationship between civil society and the City. The CSOs should come from different sectors (e.g. education, social or environmental sector) and if possible, one of these organisations has not received any direct funding from the City in the past two years.