

European Capital of Democracy 2028

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/eloge>).

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. Democratic participation

In this municipality people can participate in politics in various ways and all forms of participation, particularly elections, are conducted freely, fairly, and transparently.

2. Human Rights

The municipality aims to strengthen social cohesion and uphold the human rights of all residents by promoting dialogue, equitable participation, and respect for diversity, including vulnerable and marginalised groups.

3. Rule of Law

The municipality upholds the rule of law, ensuring legal certainty, equality before the law, and protection against arbitrariness, with transparent, motivated decisions and independent judicial oversight.

4. Public Ethics

Public officials uphold the highest ethical standards through clear codes of conduct, regular training, and robust mechanisms for complaints, whistle-blower protection, and anti-corruption measures.

5. 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.

6. Openness and Transparency

Decision-making processes are publicly accessible and transparently communicated, helping residents follow, understand, and engage with local governance.

7. Efficient, Effective and Sound Administration

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.

8. Leadership, Capability and Capacity

The municipality promotes effective democratic governance by strengthening institutional leadership, enhancing the skills and capacities of public officials, and ensuring structured, merit-based systems for training, performance management, and organisational development.

9. Responsiveness

The municipality systematically identifies and responds to residents' needs through community assessments, public consultations, accessible complaint mechanisms, and regular progress reports informing policy decisions.

10. Sound Financial and Economic Management

Public resources are managed through transparent economic strategies, regular audits, and impact assessments to ensure their optimal use and implement policies that promote the well-being and prosperity of the residents.

11. 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.

12. 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.

13. Civil Society Involvement

- 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.
- 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 at least one of these organisations should not have received any direct funding from the City in the past two years.