

4 Annexe: MEDem Preparation and Implementation Phase Working Principles

Purpose, Scope, and General

1. MEDem (for „Monitoring Electoral Democracy“) is an initiative of scholars and institutions involved in research on modern democracies. Its purpose is to establish a permanent organisation that serves as an infrastructure supporting comparative research of the highest possible quality, by enabling connections between, and providing access to, data of the types most relevant for understanding the functioning of contemporary democracies in Europe and beyond.
2. The present MEDem initiative was established in April 2017 at a Special Meeting of the Consortium for European Research with Election Studies (CERES) in Vienna, Austria, with the objective of making a trial application for ESFRI roadmap status in the then current round of applications. This trial was unsuccessful in overcoming bureaucratic hurdles in the way of a new organization, and our revised goal is to make MEDem formally part of the ESFRI roadmap 2020. An initial Steering Committee was elected at a follow-up meeting in Mannheim, Germany, in November 2017 and was tasked with developing these Working Principles and to further develop the infrastructure initiative.
3. The present Working Principles regulate the cooperation among members of the MEDem initiative until that permanent organisation has been installed. They come into force immediately after having been initially confirmed by supporters of the initiative at a meeting held in Gothenburg in June 2018. They can be modified by a normal vote of the MEDem plenary.
4. The MEDem initiative will cease to exist once the permanent organisation has been formally installed, and these Working Principles will be fully replaced by the regulations of that future organisation.

Membership

5. Membership to the MEDem initiative is by invitation and can be acquired by individuals representing national data collections, by relevant institutions, and by existing comparative data collection initiatives.
6. Members commit to fostering the objectives of MEDem.
7. Membership rights include participation and voting at MEDem plenary meetings, and using the name and logo of MEDem when working for its stated objectives.

The MEDem Plenary

8. The Plenary is the ultimate decision-making body of the MEDem initiative and is constituted by all members of MEDem.
9. Plenary meetings can be called by the Steering Committee, or by a quorum of at least 25% of the membership. Outside meetings, members can demand a vote on a particular issue with a quorum of 25%.
10. Decisions in the Plenary are made by simple majority of all valid votes cast. Decision-making outside of plenary meetings can be conducted by electronic communication.
11. The Plenary elects the Steering Committee and assigns one of its members to be its speaker.
12. The Plenary decides about these Working Principles by simple majority.

13. The speaker of the Steering Committee chairs the meetings of the Plenary.

The Steering Committee

14. The Steering Committee can have between 3 and 7 members. Members do not have a fixed term of office.
15. The Steering Committee conducts the day to day business of MEDem. Specifically, this includes:
- a. Organisational and administrative work to run the MEDem initiative, including the organisation of plenary assemblies and voting processes.
 - b. Designing roadmaps for establishing the permanent infrastructure, in interaction with the wider community and the MEDem membership.
 - c. Initiating the development of applications for relevant grants.
 - d. Supporting members in their national efforts to obtain the required funding for participation in the permanent organization.
 - e. Reaching out to existing and potential members in order to collect information about their current status and to encourage their membership in MEDem.
16. The Steering Committee is obliged to inform the membership in an at least semi-annual schedule about its activities and current developments. The plenary will be consulted outside this schedule on issues of foundational importance to MEDem.