

Centre Européen de Recherches
et de Documentation Parlementaires



European Centre for Parliamentary
Research and Documentation

Europäisches Zentrum für Parlamentarische
Wissenschaft und Dokumentation

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ECPRD

Priorities and Programme

2020 – 2021

Draft

I. Priorities

The main objective of ECPRD as laid down in its Statutes is to promote the exchange of information, ideas, experience and good practice among the administrations of parliaments in Europe. Since more than 40 years, the ECPRD network of people is at the service of its stakeholders in the member parliaments. The almost daily flow of information and the exchange of best practise at the ECPRD seminars contribute to creating a European public sphere at the level of parliamentary administrations. Active input by all parliaments and services concerned is more than ever essential for the Centre to keep up this momentum.

Each chamber has appointed an ECPRD correspondent and deputy. The ECPRD also has an Executive Committee composed of five elected members, plus coordinators for four areas of interest. In most cases, those persons combine their ECPRD function with other jobs in their Parliament. The functioning of the ECPRD network is therefore dependent on sufficient staff time and resources being available for those roles in each Parliament.

It is essential for the functioning of the ECPRD that the European Parliament continues to provide the necessary technical, financial and human resources for the secretariat and the website of the ECPRD.

Considering the statutory objectives, the ECPRD priorities for the years 2020-2021 are proposed to be defined as follows:

Objectives

1. To encourage further the involvement of all ECPRD Correspondents and their deputies in the full range of the Centre's activities and to improve the understanding of the ECPRD's work in national Parliaments, with the strong support from their respective Secretary General.
2. To encourage and support the ECPRD Coordinators of the Areas of Interest in their work to foster the information exchange on topical issues, in particular by organising seminars.
3. To encourage staff in parliaments to benefit from the opportunities offered by the ECPRD network and its website, in particular to retrieve information and to establish contacts and cooperation with other ECPRD parliaments.
4. To develop further the exchange of information via the procedure of comparative requests, and this in full respect of existing guidelines, and more particularly:
 - i. to maintain a high readiness to respond to requests;
 - ii. to encourage the requesting chambers to produce more final summary reports.
5. To strengthen the exchange of information in the four Areas of Interest where Coordinators have been nominated (Parliamentary Libraries, Research and Archives; Information and Communication Technology in Parliaments; Parliamentary Practice and Procedure; Economic and Budgetary Affairs), in particular via the thematic pages on the ECPRD website.
6. To continue to organise seminars for parliamentary staff on subjects of common interest based on proposals made by national parliaments and to allow staff to participate and contribute to these events.

7. Following the success of the first ECPRD webinar on data protection, to consider putting in place new forms of expert meetings beside the seminars with the requisite resources.
8. To provide regular updates to the recently introduced parliamentary factsheets and the directory.
9. To use and update the ECPRD website as a continuously growing knowledge base, avoiding unnecessary requests and hence reduce the workload for correspondents and staff.
10. To foster contacts with other parliamentary exchange networks (e.g. IPEX, IFLA) with a view to not only avoiding duplication of activities but also identifying potential fields of synergies and the sharing of experiences.

Programme of seminars and meetings 2020-2021

The list below contains the seminars and meeting intended to be organised in the years 2020 and 2021. Some parliament have informally expressed their intention to host an event but they still need to confirm this officially.

Events	Venue	Date
2020		
Seminars		
Seminar (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)	Jerusalem	
Seminar (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)	Vienna (tbc)	
Seminar ICT in Parliaments (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)	Sarajevo	
Seminar 'Parliaments on the Net' (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)	Luxembourg	
Seminar (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)		
Statutory meetings		
Meeting of Executive Committee	NN	March
Meeting of Executive Committee	Helsinki	September
Annual Conference of Correspondents	Skopje	October
2021		
Seminars		
Seminar (Area of Interest Libraries, Research Services and Archives)	Dublin (tbc)	
Seminar (Area of Interest Parliamentary Practice and Procedure)		
Seminar ICT in Parliaments (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)		
Seminar 'Parliaments on the Net' (Area of Interest ICT in Parliaments)		
Seminar (Area of Interest Economic and Budgetary Affairs)		
Statutory meetings		
Meeting of Executive Committee		
Meeting of Executive Committee		
Annual Conference of Correspondents		