



OECD Global Parliamentary Network

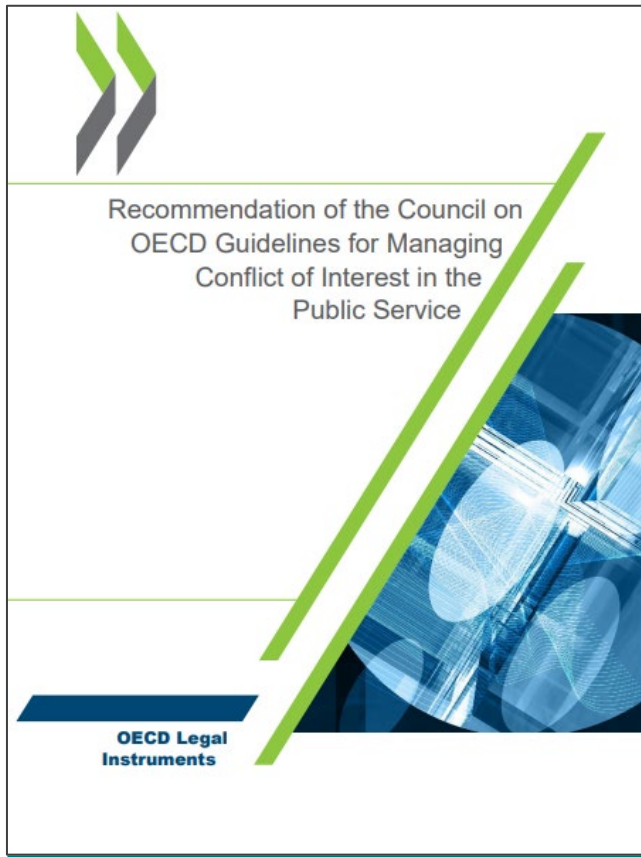
Meeting of the OECD Parliamentary Group on Integrity & Transparency

Session 1: Establishing and promoting political integrity standards for elected officials

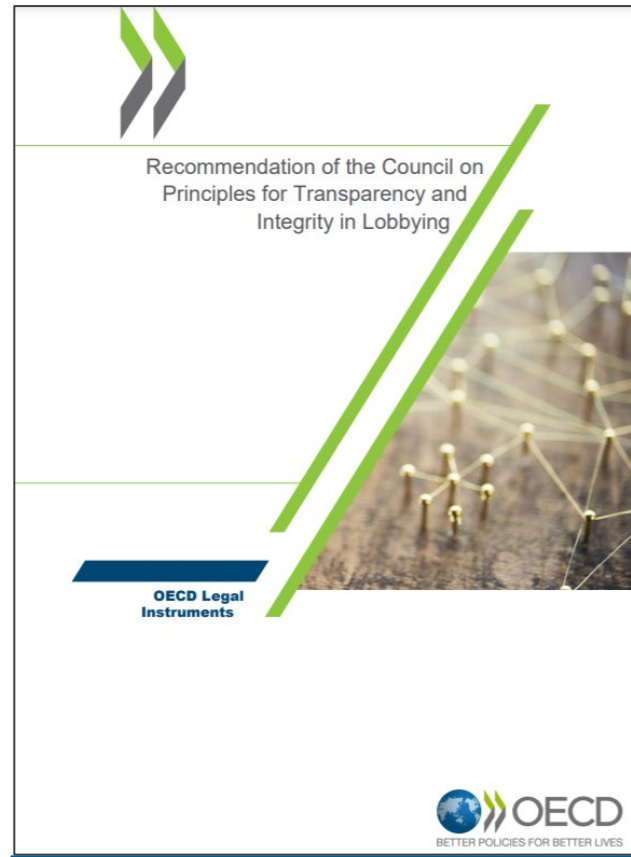


Recommendations of the OECD on managing conflicts of interests (2003), transparency and integrity in lobbying (2010), public Integrity (2017)

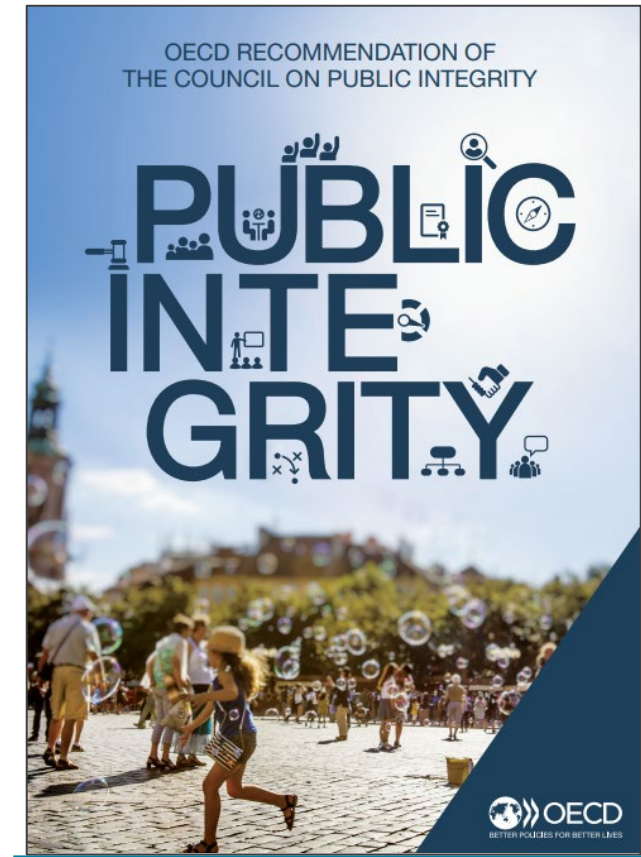
Recommendation of the Council on OECD Guidelines for Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service (2003)



Recommendation of the Council on Principles for Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying (2010)



Recommendation of the Council on Public Integrity (2017)





Declaration on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy

WE RECOGNISE that strong citizen and stakeholder participation, public integrity, inclusive representation, openness, quality evidence and accountability are essential backbones of democratic governance and necessary to support trust in public institutions.

WE COMMIT to strengthening participation, combating undue influence on government policies and improving and promoting inclusion in civic and democratic processes and decision making, as well as within the civil service, including women, youth and other underrepresented groups in society.

[...]

WE WELCOME the [OECD Action Plan on Participation and Representation](#) and its Annex on Gender Equality, approved by the PGC on 5 October 2022 as set out in Annex B, and invite the OECD, through the PGC, to support our efforts towards its implementation in particular by furthering the forthcoming *OECD Open, Participatory and Representative Government Index*.

Action Plan on Participation and Representation

Key Area 2 – Strengthening Democratic Representation

- > Promote integrity in democratic institutions and elected officials by:
 - Strengthening government integrity systems, including in electoral processes by increasing transparency of the financing of political parties and election campaigns and countering foreign interference; and
 - Cultivating a culture of political integrity, in particular by setting clear standards, oversight and accountability mechanisms for elected and appointed officials.



What is integrity for elected and appointed officials and why is it necessary?

Integrity for elected and appointed officials is the expectation that elected and appointed officials will work to pursue policies designed to improve the economic and social well-being of individuals and not pursue policies that further their private interests or the commercial or political interests of groups, whether domestic or foreign, who attempt to influence them.

Public Trust

Strengthening integrity for elected and appointed officials is essential for improving trust, as those who act with integrity will be trusted by citizens.

Economy

Strengthening integrity for elected and appointed officials is essential to ensure that priorities and resources are not wasted due to corruption, fraud or misuse.

Societal well-being

Strengthening integrity for elected and appointed officials helps ensures policy decisions uphold societal well-being.



What are the core elements of integrity for elected and appointed officials?

1. Integrity in political parties and the electoral process

Integrity in political parties

- > Integrity in the **vetting and nomination** of political party candidates
- > **High standards of integrity** for leaders, candidates and members of political parties
- > Investing in **integrity leadership** to demonstrate commitment to political integrity
- > Providing sufficient **information, training, guidance and timely advice** to candidates to uphold political integrity standards
- > Supporting an **open organisational** culture within political parties responsive to integrity concerns

Integrity & transparency in political finance

- > Ensuring integrity and transparency in the **financing of candidates, political parties and election campaigns**
- > Ensuring integrity and transparency in the **activities of candidates, political parties, and third parties** conducting political activities during election campaigns
- > Establishing effective **oversight and prevention mechanisms** for financing of political parties and election campaigns, and conducting of election campaigns
- > Providing **support to political parties** to comply with regulations on political finance and election campaigns



What are the core elements of integrity for elected and appointed officials?

2. Integrity in public office and in policy making

Culture of integrity for elected and appointed officials

- > Setting clear and proportionate standards and procedures to clarify expectations for political integrity, including on **conflict of interest, asset declarations, pre- and post-public employment, and engaging with lobbyists and third parties**, to prevent violations of political integrity standards
- > Applying **merit-based principles** in the appointment of advisors and other private personnel
- > Promoting a culture of integrity amongst elected and appointed officials through **training, awareness raising and guidance**

Responsibilities for overseeing integrity of elected and appointed officials

- > Establishing clear **responsibilities for guiding, overseeing and enforcing** integrity standards for elected and appointed officials

Enforcing integrity of elected and appointed officials

- > Ensuring that **investigative and enforcement mechanisms** provide appropriate responses to all suspected violations of political integrity by elected and appointed officials and all others involved in violations



Where can we go from here?

Areas where OECD could support on strengthening integrity for elected and appointed officials

International declarations

Declaration on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy, adopted 18 November 2022

Action Plans

OECD Action Plan on Participation and Representation

International standards

OECD Recommendation on Public Integrity

OECD Recommendation on Guidelines for Managing Conflict of Interest in the Public Service

OECD draft revised Recommendation on Transparency and Integrity in Lobbying & Influence
(adoption planned for summer 2023)

Guidance

Guidelines specific to supporting elected and appointed officials on upholding integrity

Dialogue

Dialogue with integrity practitioners (integrity bodies, lobbying commissions, electoral finance commissions, etc.)

Dialogue with elected and appointed officials (OECD Meetings of the OECD Parliamentary Group on Integrity & Transparency)



Roundtable discussion

- What standards of conduct or values ensure that elected and appointed officials uphold public integrity? What legal standards are in place in your country for elected and appointed officials (e.g. legal acts, codes of conduct or ethics, etc.)?
- Which institutions in your country are responsible for setting, overseeing and enforcing political integrity standards for elected and appointed officials?
- What are the main challenges in your country when it comes to setting, overseeing and enforcing political integrity?