

	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
Albania	Yes, provision made for local referendums in the constitution and Electoral Code	No	Regions Communes or municipalities	No rule	Changes to geographical boundaries, Parliament must approve	Regional referendums: councils of municipalities or communes representing at least a third of the region's population
Andorra	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
Armenia	Local Referendum Act	No	Municipalities	No (except for judicial bodies)	No	Calling of the referendum: Council of Elders of the Community (district); where a community is not formed, head of the province
Austria	Ordinary legislation	Yes, Länder (constitutions)	Federate states (Länder) Municipalities	No	Revision of the Land constitution: two Länder	Land: Landtag or a specified number of its members, a specified number of municipalities (Depends on the law of the Land)
Azerbaijan	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
Belgium	Yes, constitution	No	At the level of provinces and municipalities; in the process of being introduced at regional level	No rule	No	Municipal council

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
Albania	10 % of voters or 20 000 (whichever is lower)	Changes to geographical boundaries: government organises the referendum	Local government matters within the remit of the region, district or municipality Changes to geographical boundaries	See II.C.1	No rule
Andorra	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Armenia	5 % of voters	Calling of the referendum: Council of Elders of the district; where there is no district, head of the province	Acts within the remit of local authorities	Any matter within the remit of local authorities, except: - matters for which they have exclusive jurisdiction - matters relating to fundamental rights - matters delegated by national authorities - certain specific subjects (budget, appointments, etc.)	Specifically worded draft
Austria	Yes, Depends on the law of the Land	See II.B.2	Depends on the law of the Land: at Land level: bills passed by the Landtag; at municipal level: matters of fundamental local interest or municipal council decisions Some Länder: recall of mayors Some Länder: changes to municipal boundaries	See II.C.1	Depends on the law of the Land
Azerbaijan	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Belgium	Yes, percentage of the population, varies according to the size of the municipality/ province	Request from part of the population: if the percentage is reached, in principle the municipal or provincial council has to hold the referendum	Acts relating to matters of municipal/ provincial interest	Matters of municipal/ provincial interest except for staffing and financial matters Changes to geographical boundaries: referendum excluded, falls within the jurisdiction of the law	Questions of principle

	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
Albania	No rule	No rule	No rule	Question must be clear, complete and unequivocal	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation (implicit)	No rule
Andorra	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Armenia	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, must be simple	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	The authorities, civil servants and judges (including Constitutional Court judges) cannot campaign No rules on the media
Austria	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Compliance with federal law	See I.F.1
Azerbaijan	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Belgium	Yes	No rule	No rule	Yes	Referendum must relate to a question of municipal or provincial interest	Authority provides the public with a leaflet explaining subject objectively / notice from the voters who requested the referendum, outlining their reasons

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
<b>Albania</b>	No rule	Not applicable	One day	No	No	Particularly important matters: legally binding Changes to geographical boundaries: consultative
<b>Andorra</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Armenia</b>	No	Allowed	One day	No	1/3 of registered voters must approve the draft	Legally binding, suspensive
<b>Austria</b>	Moderate use is allowed, as long as excessive, non-objective information is not disseminated	Depends on the law of the Land	One day	No	Depends on the law of the Land	Usually legally binding Some Länder provide for regional consultative referendums
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Belgium</b>	No rule	No rule	One day	No	Quorum of participation: provincial level: 10 % of inhabitants; municipal level: 10 to 20 % of inhabitants	Consultative, but the municipal or provincial council must give reasons for decisions it takes in relation to matters that have been the subject of popular consultation

	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
<b>Albania</b>	No	No requirement for referendums	None	The 12 members of the group initiating the referendum are authorised to organise the collection of signatures	Central Electoral Commission
<b>Andorra</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Armenia</b>	Yes, for acts (decisions) adopted by referendum; no for acts (decisions) rejected by local referendum	Mandatory referendum only in respect of the constitutional provision allowing referendums	30 days	Initiative group, at least 5 members	Provincial Referendum Commission
<b>Austria</b>	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Belgium</b>	Not applicable, no legally binding referendums	No requirement for referendums	No time-limit	No limit	Municipal or provincial executive

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
Albania	No	No provision made	None	No plans for reform
Andorra	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform
Armenia	Yes, Provincial Referendum Commission	Ordinary courts	None	No plans for reform
Austria	Depends on the law of the Land	Depends on the law of the Land	No reply	<i>Inter alia</i> , the Convention on the revision of the federal constitution deals with the reform of direct democracy, with a view to extending and improving the scope of direct democratic participation in federal legislation
Azerbaijan	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform
Belgium	No rule	Ordinary judicial review, before the Conseil d'Etat; eligibility to appeal: anyone able to demonstrate an interest. Monitoring of supervisory authorities	Only at municipal level	Several reforms are under way, <i>inter alia</i> with a view to introducing referendums at regional level

	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Yes, constitution and Popular Consultation Act	No	Municipalities, regions, local councils, towns	No	No	Municipality: a quarter of the municipal councillors, mayor of the municipality, regional governor Borough: mayor of the borough, mayor of the municipality Local council or town: a quarter of the municipal councillors, mayor of the local council, mayor of the municipality Municipal council decides in the last instance
<b>Croatia</b>	Yes, ordinary legislation	Yes	Municipalities, towns and regions	No rule	No	Municipal, town and regional assemblies
<b>Cyprus</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes, Charter of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms (ranks as constitutional law, implicitly) + national legislation	No	Municipalities	No	Separation of part of a municipality	Yes, municipal council (for example, mergers of municipalities)
<b>Denmark</b>	No, except for consultative referendums on the basis of specific laws or municipal council decisions	No	No rule	No rule	No	Some referendums held on the basis of municipal council decisions

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
<b>Bulgaria</b>	A quarter of registered voters (at all the levels mentioned under II.B.2); municipal council decides in the last instance - if a referendum is requested by half the registered voters, it must take place	Municipal council decides in the last instance, unless the referendum is requested by half the registered voters	Matters of local importance within the remit of the organs of local self-government	Loan contracts Sales, leases etc. representing considerable value or of particular importance Building, investments, etc. that cannot be paid for out of the municipality's ordinary revenue	No rule, must be possible to answer yes or no
<b>Croatia</b>	No	See II.B.2	Matters within the remit of municipal/regional authorities	Matters within the remit of municipal/regional authorities; consultative referendums possible on the boundaries of regions/towns/ municipalities, but come under national law	Must be possible to answer yes or no
<b>Cyprus</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes, a specified number of signatures (30 % of voters in municipalities with up to 3000 inhabitants)	Yes, municipal council (which decides on requests for a referendum from part of the electorate; with the referendum committee's agreement, it can rule on the substance without holding a referendum)	Acts for which municipalities/ towns have exclusive responsibility (specified in the Municipalities Act). Municipal regulations cannot be submitted to referendum.	Matters under the competence of a municipality or statutory town Some matters are excluded, in particular: budget, taxation, elections, dismissal	Questions of principle or generally worded proposals; the text must be clearly formulated so that it can be answered by "yes" or "no"
<b>Denmark</b>	No	No	No rule	No rule	No rule



	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No rule	Yes	Yes	Yes	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	Once the questions put to referendum are defined, the interested institutions and the political parties have the right to express themselves and make propaganda by all means allowed by law, including through mass media
<b>Croatia</b>	No rule	No rule	Yes	Yes, must be possible to answer yes or no	Compliance with national law	Reasons must be given for the decision to hold a referendum
<b>Cyprus</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Czech Republic</b>	No rule, but not specifically worded texts	No rule	Yes	Yes	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	Information about the place and date of the referendum; no rules on the media
<b>Denmark</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule, consultative referendums	No rule

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No	No rule	One day	No	50 % turnout	Legally binding
<b>Croatia</b>	Administrative costs covered by the budget of the unit of government in which the referendum is held	Not applicable	One day	No	50 % turnout	Referendum may be legally binding or consultative
<b>Cyprus</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Czech Republic</b>	The costs of the referendum and the costs of equipping voting centres are paid by the municipality or statutory town from its own budget; the costs of an initiative committee are not covered	Not applicable	Normally one day; two days if held at the same time as elections	No	50 % turnout; separation or merger of municipalities, 50 % of registered voters	Legally binding, unless municipality has only consultative competence
<b>Denmark</b>	No rule	Not applicable	No reply	No	No general rule	Consultative

	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No	No specific rule	No rule	No rule	No rules in the law, but, in practice, the details on the identity card are taken down when signing
<b>Croatia</b>	After one year, a decision taken by referendum can be reversed without a referendum	No specific rule	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Cyprus</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Yes, decision taken by referendum can be changed only by another referendum, after a period of 24 months	No specific rule	No	No rule, but the collection of signatures is initiated by an initiative committee	Municipal council
<b>Denmark</b>	No, consultative referendums	No specific rule	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
<b>Bulgaria</b>	No rule	Yes, county court, at the request of those bodies and groups of voters entitled to propose the holding of referendums	A considerable number, at all levels	No plans for reform
<b>Croatia</b>	Not applicable	Yes, State Electoral Commission and Constitutional Court	A number of consultative referendums on regional boundaries	No plans for reform
<b>Cyprus</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform
<b>Czech Republic</b>	The signatures, the clarity of the question, all requisites of the proposals are examined by the municipal authorities	Referendum committee can appeal to a court against a decision to hold a referendum, or to hold one on a matter on which referendums are not allowed, or against the outcome. Eligibility to appeal: any voter, referendum committee, authorised persons	A number of municipal referendums	There is a draft law on referendums, which has never been adopted; new Local Referendums Act (2004); draft law on referendum on the European Constitution
<b>Denmark</b>	Not applicable	No provision made	A few cases	No plans for reform

	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
<b>Estonia</b>	Local Authorities Act	Yes, each municipality draws up its own rules	Municipalities	Only judicial appeals, <i>inter alia</i> by regional governors	No	Municipal council decides whether to submit a text to referendum
<b>Finland</b>	Municipalities Act	No	Municipality	No rule	No	Yes, municipal council
<b>France</b>	Yes, constitution and implementing legislation Institutional referendums involving a specific territory, relating to its status as a unit of government Local referendums, held by local authorities in areas within their remit	No	Institutional referendums: specific territorial authorities (overseas territories, Corsica) Local referendums: region, <i>département</i> , municipality	Central government representative can request a preliminary or retrospective review of legality	No	Yes, deliberative assembly of the local or regional authority
<b>Georgia</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
<b>Greece</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes, constitution and legislation	National law simply sets the basic rules, other aspects are dealt with in local decrees	Districts and municipalities	No	Mergers or dividing up of municipalities; transfer of a municipality from one district to another; other texts if provided for under local law	Yes, municipal council, a quarter of its members, one of its committees
<b>Ireland</b>	Yes, Local Government Act	No	Municipalities	No	No	Yes, municipal council

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
<b>Estonia</b>	Yes, popular initiative, 1 % of the population, but at least 5 signatures: submission of a draft to the municipal council	See II.B.2	No rule	Any local issue, including the separation or merger of municipalities	No rule
<b>Finland</b>	5 % of voters can submit an initiative to the municipal council, but the initiative is not binding	See II.B.2-3	Any matter within the municipality's remit	Any matter within the municipality's remit	Municipal council decides
<b>France</b>	No	See II.B.2	Local referendums: any act within the remit of the local authority holding the referendum	Institutional referendums: transfer of territory or accession to independence by an overseas territory Local referendums: areas within the remit of the local authority holding the referendum	Specifically worded draft
<b>Georgia</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Greece</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes, between 10 and 25 % of voters (depends on local law)	See II.B.2	Local decrees (within the municipal council's remit)	Any matter, including mergers and dividing up of municipalities, except: budget, taxes, administrative and staffing matters dissolution of the local assembly	Specifically worded drafts Questions of principle, generally worded texts
<b>Ireland</b>	No	See II.B.2	Draft financial schemes	Draft financial schemes	Normally generally worded texts, see II.C.1

	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
<b>Estonia</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule
<b>Finland</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	Yes, must be possible to answer yes or no to the question	Issue must come within the municipality's remit	No rule
<b>France</b>	Specifically worded draft	No rule	No rule	Yes, fairness, clarity and absence of ambiguity (yes or no answer)	General review of compliance with national law	In principle, authorities must supply objective information; provision made for campaigning on radio/television only in respect of institutional referendums
<b>Georgia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Greece</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Hungary</b>	Yes (implicit)	Yes, the parts of a question must not be contradictory, their relationship with one another must be clear and they must flow from one another or be linked by their content	There may be more than one question	Yes	The question must come within the municipality's remit	Application of general rules (see I.F.1)
<b>Ireland</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule, but national legislation on advertising in the media should apply <i>mutatis mutandis</i> (particularly the requirement of fairness in respect of the broadcast media)

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
<b>Estonia</b>	No rule	No rule	No general rule	No rule	No	Consultative
<b>Finland</b>	No rule	No rule; popular initiatives simply lead to a municipal council vote	One day	No	No	Consultative
<b>France</b>	No rule	Not applicable	One day	No	No	Legally binding
<b>Georgia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	Not applicable
<b>Greece</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Hungary</b>	No rule	No rule	One day	No	1/4 of registered voters must have given the same answer	Legally binding; a referendum cannot be held on the same question within one year
<b>Ireland</b>	No rule	Not applicable	One day	No	The draft is rejected only if 1/3 of registered voters vote against it	Consultative



	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
<b>Estonia</b>	No rule	No specific rule	No	No limit	No rule
<b>Finland</b>	No, consultative referendums	No specific rule	No	No limit	No reply
<b>France</b>	No provision made	No specific rule	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Georgia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Greece</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Hungary</b>	Only if the outcome of the referendum was positive (see II.F.3.d and II.G)	No specific rule	One month	No limit	Local Electoral Commission/ District Electoral Commission if referendum at district level
<b>Ireland</b>	No, consultative referendums	No specific rule	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
<b>Estonia</b>	Municipal council simply has to examine the question, can modify it	Governor can appeal the decision to hold a referendum	Several dozen, particularly mergers of municipalities	No plans for reform
<b>Finland</b>	Municipal council simply has to examine the question	Decision to hold a referendum can be the subject of an appeal to an administrative court No appeal against the Central Electoral Commission's decision confirming the result	A great deal of experience, particularly in respect of mergers of municipalities	No plans for reform
<b>France</b>	Not applicable	Local referendum: Administrative Court before a referendum is held, then review of legality; Administrative Court is also responsible for overseeing elections Institutional referendums: usually the Conseil d'Etat	Nine institutional referendums since 1958, including five in 2003 Consultative referendums in a number of municipalities prior to the introduction of legally binding local referendums	No plans for change
<b>Georgia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No reply
<b>Greece</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform
<b>Hungary</b>	No	Local court/district court if referendum at district level, in the first instance; subject: any breach of rules governing form or content; judicial review of outcome is possible; eligibility to appeal: registered voters	Frequent, especially dividing up or mergers of municipalities, or at the initiative of a group of voters	No plans for reform
<b>Ireland</b>	Not applicable	Yes in theory, but it is unlikely that a decision whether or not to hold a referendum could be appealed; there is no mechanism for challenging the result	No	No

	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
<b>Italy</b>	Yes, constitution: a region's Statute can provide for referendums on regional legislative acts and administrative decisions; referendum on special regional legislative acts dealing with the organisation of regional government; changes to regional boundaries, establishment of new regions	Statute of the region, see II.A.1-2	Region; municipality	No	Yes, changes to regional boundaries or establishment of new regions	No
<b>Latvia</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No
<b>Lithuania</b>	No, but municipalities can make provision for surveys	Surveys instead, see II.A.1-2	Municipalities	No rule	No	Municipal authorities
<b>Luxembourg</b>	Yes, constitution and municipal law	No	Municipalities	No, except in respect of compliance with the hierarchy of rules	No	Municipal council
<b>Malta</b>	Yes, Local Councils Act	No	Municipalities	The Attorney General can intervene in the event of non-compliance with the law	No	No
<b>Netherlands</b>	Temporary Law applied from 2002 to 2004 to provincial and municipal referendums	Yes, except for those cases in which the Temporary Law provides for, or excluded, referendums	Provinces and municipalities	No	No	Yes, municipal council
<b>Norway</b>	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
Italy	1/5th of the region's voters	No	See II.A.1-2	See I.C.2 <i>mutatis mutandis</i>	Specifically worded draft
Latvia	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Lithuania	No	No rule	No rule	Matters within the remit of municipalities	No rule
Luxembourg	Yes: - a fifth of voters in municipalities with more than 3000 inhabitants - a quarter of voters in other municipalities	No	No rule	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations
Malta	Yes, 10 % of the municipality's voters	No	Municipal regulations	No rule	Municipal regulations
Netherlands	Yes	No	Any text adopted by the provincial or municipal Parliament, including in relation to municipal boundaries (which, however, come under national law in the last instance)	Temporary Law sets out a detailed list of subjects on which referendums can or cannot be held Provincial and municipal rules can add subjects, provided they are not excluded by the Temporary Law	No restrictions, any text adopted by the provincial or municipal Parliament
Norway	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
<b>Italy</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes, each question must be submitted to the electorate separately	Yes	Restrictions: All national legislation	See I.F.1
<b>Latvia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Lithuania</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	Question must come within the municipality's remit	No rule
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	The question must come within the municipality's remit	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations
<b>Malta</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	Yes, it must be possible to answer yes or no to the question	Compliance with national law	No specific rule, a balance must be ensured in the media
<b>Netherlands</b>	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	Compliance with national law	See I.F.1, same rules as for national referendums
<b>Norway</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
<b>Italy</b>	No rule	Allowed	One day	No	No	Establishment of new regions or transfer of a territory from one region to another: consultative, implementing legislation is required Other cases: legally binding, suspensive in respect of special regional legislative acts dealing with the organisation of regional government, otherwise depends on the region's Statute
<b>Latvia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Lithuania</b>	No rule	Not applicable	No rule, more of a survey in nature	No	Not applicable, consultative referendums	Consultative, nature of a survey
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	Yes	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	Consultative
<b>Malta</b>	Allowed for information purposes, but not for campaigning	No rule	One day, unless there is a specific law	No	Abrogative referendum: a majority of the electorate must take part in the vote	Legally binding, abrogative A consultative referendum is conceivable
<b>Netherlands</b>	No rule, in principle supporters and opponents use their own funds	No actual collection, signatories must go to the town hall	One day	No	30 % of registered voters must have voted against the text	Consultative Provincial or municipal Parliament must take a new decision if the outcome of the referendum is negative A decision on the text's entry into force is taken if the outcome of the referendum is positive Referendums are suspensive
<b>Norway</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
<b>Italy</b>	Yes	Complex, as national (see I.H.2) and regional rules coexist	Three months	Promoters of the referendum; signatures must be authenticated	Regional referendums: Local judicial authorities or special regional council bodies; local referendums: local government
<b>Latvia</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Lithuania</b>	No	No specific rule	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
<b>Luxembourg</b>	No rule, arrangements for the organisation of each referendum are specified in Grand-Ducal regulations	No specific rule	No time-limit	No limit	No reply
<b>Malta</b>	Yes in theory	No specific rule	No rule	Any voter	Electoral Commission
<b>Netherlands</b>	A consultative referendum is possible on a question already submitted to a consultative referendum	Could be submitted to referendum, as long as the Temporary Law was in force (2005)	Three weeks for the introductory request, six weeks for the definitive request; no actual collection of signatures, as people register at the town hall	No actual collection of signatures, as people register at the town hall	Town hall
<b>Norway</b>	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
Italy	No	Preliminary review by competent regional judicial authorities or special regional council bodies Changes to regional boundaries, establishment of new regions: preliminary review by special office of the Court of Cassation  Otherwise, see I.J	Frequent referendums	No plans for reform
Latvia	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform
Lithuania	No rule	No provision made	No	The amended law, which entered into force in 2003, extends the scope of direct democracy
Luxembourg	No reply	No reply	No reply	The government: - has tabled a bill relating to popular initiatives and referendums - has decided to submit the European Constitution to referendum
Malta	No rule	Constitutional Court, applications by voters and the Attorney-General	One (removal of the Gozo local council)	No plans for reform
Netherlands	Not applicable, referendums relate to texts that have already been adopted	Appeals to the Administrative Justice Division of the Council of State against: - the holding of a referendum - decisions on the validity of introductory and definitive requests, and on the outcome of the referendum Eligibility to appeal: any interested party	Numerous referendums at municipal level; in three municipalities under the Temporary Law No experience at provincial level	Temporary Law ends on 1 January 2005 The issue should be reviewed
Norway	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform



	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
<b>Poland</b>	Yes, constitution and Local Referendums Act	No	Regions, districts and municipalities	Role of the State Electoral Commission	No	Yes, deliberative assembly of the local or regional authority
<b>Portugal</b>	Constitution; "organic" law (realisation and development)	No	Azores and Madeira autonomous regions: referendums are not yet possible as there is no "organic" law Local communities: municipalities and their constituent districts	No	No	Assemblies of each local community
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Constitution and Federal law	Yes, a considerable number of local and regional entities	Various levels of government	No, except in the event of a breach of federal law	No	Generally as under federal law, see I.B.2; municipalities: agreement of the representative body and its head

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
Poland	Yes, 10 % of the electorate in the case of districts and municipalities and 5 % in the case of regions	See II.B.2; in the case of a referendum at the request of part of the electorate, the deliberative assembly must take the decision to hold a referendum within 30 days, provided that its outcome will not lead to an answer that is against the law	No specific rule; a directly elected body can be dismissed only following a referendum at the request of voters	No specific rule	No rule
Portugal	A specified number of citizens (depending on the size of each local community) can ask the local assembly to organise a referendum, but the assembly decides	See II.B.2	Matters of particular local interest, within the remit of the municipal or local authorities	Exclusion, in particular, of matters for the exclusive jurisdiction of the authorities, budgetary matters and matters that have already been the subject of a final administrative or judicial decision; the possibility of holding a local referendum on a local authority's geographical boundaries is not to be excluded, in the framework of the consultation of local bodies by the legislature	Questions of principle or generally worded proposals, not specifically worded texts
Russian Federation	Yes	No	No limit, a referendum on secession is conceivable	Any matter, except, <i>inter alia</i> , budgetary, fiscal and staffing matters, restrictions on fundamental rights	No rule

	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
<b>Poland</b>	No rule	No rule	Yes	Yes	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	State Electoral Commission is empowered to provide objective information No restriction as to the people who can campaign
<b>Portugal</b>	Yes, see I.D.1	Yes	No more than three questions	Yes	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	National Electoral Commission (CNE) may draw up and supply all necessary objective information on the referendum Public authorities are prohibited from campaigning Use of the (non-broadcast) media free of charge and at the same conditions Private publications: only if they wish to be involved in the campaign
<b>Russian Federation</b>	No rule	No rule	More than one question can be put to the vote, as well as alternative versions of replies	No rule	Compliance with the constitution and federal law; no restriction on universally recognised human and civic rights and personal freedoms and on the constitutional guarantees for their exercise	Draft must be published (electoral commissions of the subjects of the Federation); authorities cannot campaign

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
<b>Poland</b>	Costs of the referendum are covered by the local budget	No rule	No reply	No	Turnout of 30 % of registered voters	Legally binding
<b>Portugal</b>	No	No rule	One day	No	A referendum is legally binding only if more than 50% of the citizens registered in the census participate	Legally binding effect if quorum reached (II.F.3.d) In this case, if the answer to the question requires an act to be adopted by the competent local body, the latter must do so within 60 days
<b>Russian Federation</b>	No	Allowed for persons who collect signatures	One day; early voting in inaccessible locations, on boats, and abroad; announcement of results after all polling stations have closed	No	Participation by a majority of the electorate	Legally binding; follow-up decisions must be taken within three months Abrogative

	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
<b>Poland</b>	No	No specific rule	Sixty days	Initiators of the referendum (15 citizens entitled to vote and 5 eligible citizens; local branch of a political party; other organisations)	State Electoral Commission
<b>Portugal</b>	The outcome of a legally binding referendum and the ensuing act by the local body can be revoked only after new local body elections, even by referendum	No specific rule	No time-limit	No rule	Can be requested by the local assembly concerned, by means of sampling
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Yes, unless another procedure has been established by the provision submitted to referendum. No new referendum for two or five years	Adoption of a new constitution	45 days	Action group, which must not exceed 3 % of voters (number set by the legislation of the territorial authority in question)	Central Electoral Commission verifies at least 40 % of the signatures

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
Poland	No	Appeal to the Administrative Court against a refusal to put a voter-initiated request for a referendum to the vote	A number of referendums, at various levels, concerning the dismissal of directly elected authorities	The issue of quorums is under debate
Portugal	No	The Constitutional Court rules: - on the formal and substantive validity of the referendum, in all cases - on the conduct and outcome of the vote, at the request of parties or groups having taken part in the campaign, or even of a voter	Two (a local district and a municipality), the others failed before the Constitutional Court	No plans for reform
Russian Federation	No	Yes, in the event of a breach of the constitution or the law	More than 130 cases	New Act of 28 June 2004, entered into force: in particular, it - increases the number of persons entitled to initiate referendums - makes the rules governing popular initiatives more complicated - introduces more specific regulations dealing with campaigning

	II.A.1-2	II.A.3	II.A1.1-5	II.A1.6	II.B.1	II.B.2
II. Local and regional referendums	Provision made for referendums under national law	Provision made for referendums under sub-national law	Level at which referendums are held	Intervention by national authorities	Mandatory referendums	Referendums called by an authority
Spain	Yes Constitution: Statutes of Autonomy and amendments to them Legislation: municipal referendums	Yes, implementing provisions	Autonomous community (Statute of Autonomy adopted in accordance with a special procedure, and amendments to it) Province Municipality	See II.B.2	Statute of Autonomy adopted in accordance with a special procedure, and amendments to it	Municipal referendum: mayor, with the agreement of a majority of the local councillors and the authorisation of the national government
Sweden	Yes, ordinary legislation	No	Local and regional levels	No	No	Local and regional assemblies, consultative referendums
Switzerland	Yes, only for cantonal constitutions	Yes, all cantons	Cantons, municipalities	No	Depends on cantonal law	Depends on cantonal law
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Yes, ordinary legislation	Yes, implementing provisions	Municipal level	The Minister of Local Self-Government can suspend the application of any municipal regulation on grounds of unconstitutionality or illegality; he or she must then refer the matter to the Constitutional Court	No	Municipal council
Turkey	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No

	II.B.3	II.B.4-5	II.C.1	II.C.2	II.D.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Referendums at the request of part of the electorate	Procedure involving more than one authority/role of Parliament	Types of act submitted to referendum	Matters to which referendums may relate	Form of texts submitted to referendum
Spain	No	See II.B.2	Matters of particular importance	Only exception: fiscal/budgetary matters	No rule
Sweden	No	See II.B.2	Any matter within the remit of the local or regional assembly	Any matter within the remit of the local or regional assembly, including regional/municipal boundaries	No rule
Switzerland	Yes, referendums and popular initiatives, depends on cantonal law	Depends on cantonal law	Constitution Laws Certain items of expenditure (financial referendums)	Depends on cantonal law, very wide range, see II.C.1 Federal constitution provides for approval by the electorate of any changes to a canton's boundaries	Depends on cantonal law
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Yes, the referendum must take place at the request of 20 % of the municipality's voters	Municipal council holds referendum; must do so if request from 20 % of voters	Matters within the remit of municipalities	See II.C.1	No rule
Turkey	No	No	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable



	II.D.2.a	II.D.2.b	II.D.2.d	II.D.2.e	II.E	II.F.1
II. Local and regional referendums	Unity of form	Unity of content	Number of possible questions	Clear/non-leading questions	Substantive validity	Campaigning
Spain	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule; general principle of compliance with higher-ranking legislation	No restrictions, but only those parties, coalitions and electoral groupings represented in the regional/provincial Parliament have the right to free campaigning in the public media, in proportion to their electoral strength; private media: see I.F.1.e
Sweden	No rule	No rule	No rule	No rule	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	Decision taken by the assembly when it decides to hold a referendum
Switzerland	Yes	Yes	Yes, each one must be put to the vote separately	Yes	All higher-ranking legislation: federal and international law	See I.F.1
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	No rule	No rule	No rule	Yes	Compliance with higher-ranking legislation	See I.F.1
Turkey	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.F.2.a	II.F.2.b	II.F.3.a-b	II.F.3.c	II.F.3.d	II.G
II. Local and regional referendums	Use of public funds	Payment for the collection of signatures	Voting period	Compulsory voting	Quorum	Effects of referendum
Spain	No, but special rates for campaign mailing and access to the public media free of charge (II.F.1)	Not applicable	One day	No	No	Legally binding, suspensive
Sweden	See II.F.1	Not applicable	One day, postal voting (see I.F.3.a)	No	No	Consultative
Switzerland	Prohibited	Not prohibited	One day, but widespread postal voting, and electronic voting is becoming established	No, except in one canton	No	Usually legally binding Usually suspensive Parliament usually has to draw up provisions if a generally worded text initiated by the people is adopted Consultative referendums exist in some cantons
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Municipal budget, for administrative expenses	No rule	One day	No	No reply	Legally binding
Turkey	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.H.1	II.H.2	II.I.1	II.I.2	II.I.3
II. Local and regional referendums	Parallelism in procedures	Revision of rules providing for a referendum	Time-limit for collection of signatures	Persons authorised to collect signatures	Checking of signatures
Spain	No	Referendums are not automatically imposed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Sweden	No, at least from the legal point of view	No requirement for referendums	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Switzerland	Yes	Submitted to mandatory or optional referendum	Depends on cantonal law	Citizens, in practice political parties	Depends on cantonal law
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	Yes	No requirement for referendums	No reply	No rule	No reply
Turkey	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

	II.I.4	II.J	II.K	III. Future of referendums
II. Local and regional referendums	Correction of irregularities in the content of the question	Judicial review	Experience of referendums	
Spain	Not applicable	See I.J	Five: approval of Statutes of Autonomy	No proposed amendments
Sweden	Not applicable	Yes, administrative courts: questions of procedure, jurisdiction and legality	Numerous referendums, especially at municipal level	No proposed amendments to legal provisions, but discussion of circumstances in which a referendum can be appealed
Switzerland	Yes, but before the collection of signatures has begun	Yes, Federal Court in the last instance	Very considerable number, at the level of cantons and municipalities	Reform of all popular rights under discussion
"The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia"	No	See I.J	Yes, particularly of a suspensive nature, on texts adopted by municipal councils	Draft legislation dealing with all types of referendum
Turkey	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No plans for reform