

DiEM25 Election or Referendum Participation Guidelines

CONTACT

E-mail: info@diem25.org

Website: diem25.org

DiEM25 is a movement that aims to influence European politics at all levels. The following guidelines describe how DiEM25 members and collectives can be involved in electoral bids as per the movement's Organising Principles, Manifesto and the all-member voted [MERA25 - Not Just Another Political Party - Models, Principles and Pathway](#).

How to: DiEM25 groups and an election or referendum?

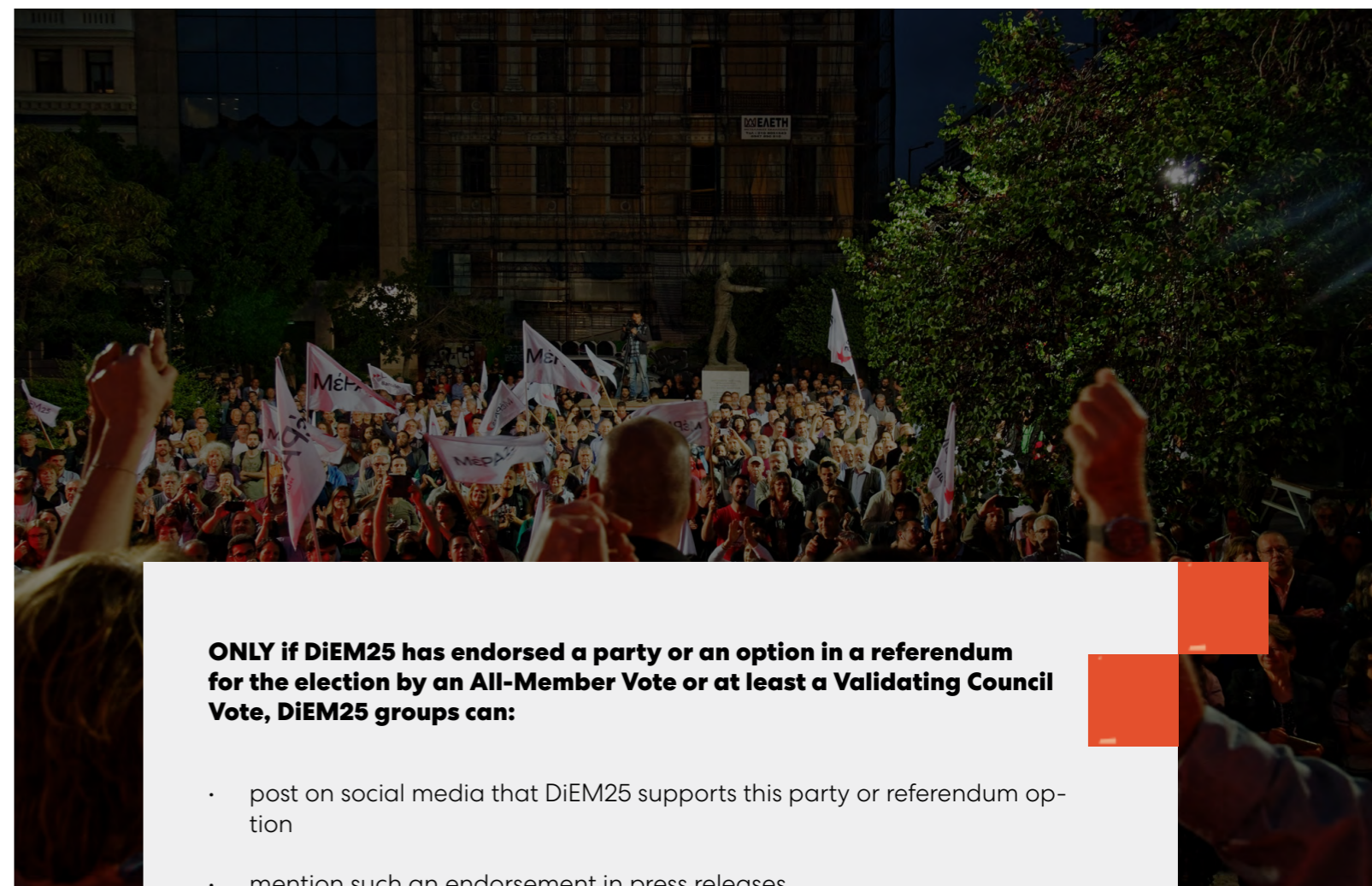
The autonomy of DiEM25 groups does not extend to electoral policies and electoral alliances. All electoral policies and alliances must be developed in coordination with the transnational level and must be approved in an all-member vote. DiEM25 members and its various collectives cannot express any preference in elections except if there has been a movement-wide, transnational vote. If you do want to run in an election or endorse anyone, please immediately inform MERA25 in your country or, where none exists, DiEM25's Coordinating Collective.

Here is a quick guide to what you can do without an all-member vote at election time:

- go to demonstrations and events
- influence the public discourse by distributing DiEM25 flyers. The flyers must not mention any party or candidate. The flyers can be strategically chosen to highlight a topic or a specific policy.
- post equivalent content on social media
- organise a discussion event with representatives of several parties where DiEM25 is the moderator
- working together with MERA25, do a comparative analysis of how well each party meets our programme

And here is a guide of what you cannot do:

- A DiEM25 member or group cannot run in the elections on behalf of the movement. It also follows that they cannot use the official channels, nor the logo or the name of DiEM25, to represent and promote their candidacy
- DiEM25 groups (Collectives, MERA25) cannot endorse other candidates or parties



ONLY if DiEM25 has endorsed a party or an option in a referendum for the election by an All-Member Vote or at least a Validating Council Vote, DiEM25 groups can:

- post on social media that DiEM25 supports this party or referendum option
- mention such an endorsement in press releases
- send a DiEM25 newsletter asking people in the area to vote for this party
- print DiEM25 flyers that include the party logo or candidate name, or party flyers that include the DiEM25 logo (in coordination with DiEM25's Communications in order to ensure consistency of our movement's branding)
- candidates who are members of DiEM25 may in this case (in coordination with DiEM25's Communications in order to ensure consistency of our movement's branding) have campaign posters that display both the party logo and the DiEM25 logo

If you would like to support a party in an election or an option in a referendum, it is crucial that you contact MERA25 in your country at least 2 months prior to the elections; MERA25, on its part, must assess the proposal and provide every relevant information for the possible All-Member Vote to the Coordinating Collective at least 1 month prior to the elections. If there is no MERA25 in the country, you must send your proposal directly to the Coordinating Collective at least 3 months prior to the elections.

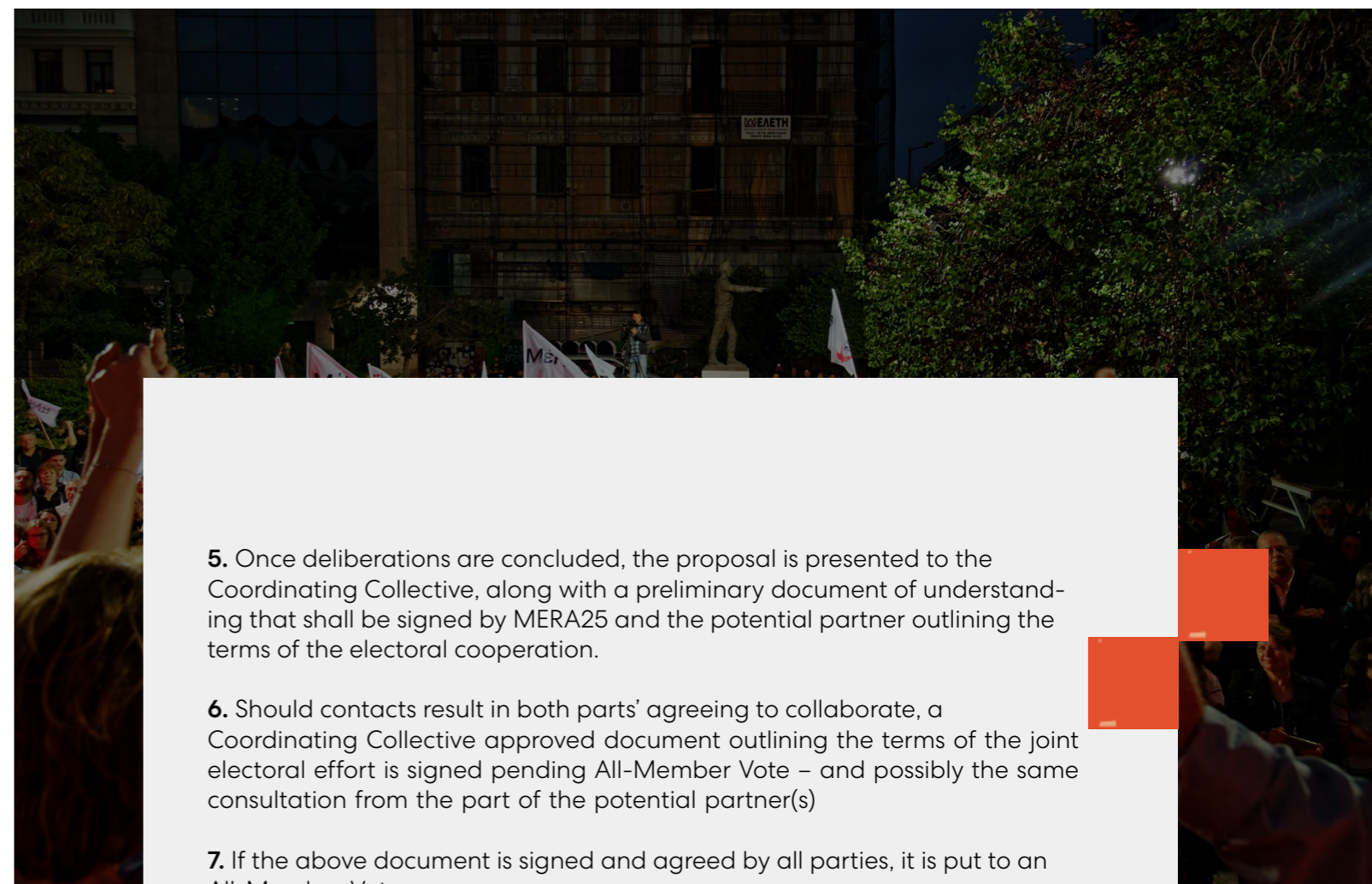
If you have any questions, please contact: volunteer@diem25.org

For further clarity as to DiEM25's principles of internal-democracy, transparency and necessary checks and balances guiding MERA25, please note:

MERA25 is to constantly assess the political situation in their country and to make recommendations to the Coordinating Collective on how the movement's policies and principles can be best represented electorally. Thus, MERA25's mandate is to, based on DiEM25's policy proposals and political positioning, explore whether to run on our own, join a party or parties, support a party or specific candidates, or not participate at all in any given electoral contest.

To better illustrate the above mechanics, here is an example of how MERA25 would proceed in case of recommending collaborating with another political force in a particular electoral contest:

1. Before any discussion of electoral participation is entertained, MERA25 needs to have developed a political programme for DiEM25 in the country, which needs to be approved by the Coordinating Collective and the membership of the movement through an All-Member Vote (in this order).
2. In order for any discussion of electoral participation to be credible, the movement in the country needs to have demonstrated signs of growth in terms of membership increase and participation.
3. MERA25 presents an overview of the state of play ahead of a given electoral contest to DiEM25's Coordinating Collective. Based on the political analysis (how our policies will be best represented either by us running on our own, or with others), as well as the technical and legal requirements to participate, MERA25 makes a proposal to either:
 - a) run on our own
 - b) join a political force that shares our aims and is potentially willing to prominently carry our country Manifesto to the ballots
 - c) support another political force without engaging with them officially
 - d) enter our candidates through another alliance or party in which DiEM25 does not get involved institutionally
 - e) do not contest the elections but continue our political campaigning as party and movement
4. Should the Coordinating Collective deliberations with MERA25 result in approving the proposal, a member (or members) of MERA25 will be authorised to conduct exploratory meetings with the potential electoral partner(s) in question, often with the participation of the Coordinating Collective. Minutes and reporting of these meetings will always be forwarded by the MERA25 representative to the Coordinating Collective.



5. Once deliberations are concluded, the proposal is presented to the Coordinating Collective, along with a preliminary document of understanding that shall be signed by MERA25 and the potential partner outlining the terms of the electoral cooperation.
6. Should contacts result in both parts' agreeing to collaborate, a Coordinating Collective approved document outlining the terms of the joint electoral effort is signed pending All-Member Vote – and possibly the same consultation from the part of the potential partner(s)
7. If the above document is signed and agreed by all parties, it is put to an All-Member Vote
8. If the All-Member Vote approves the cooperation, then it is official and electoral participation can begin

The above example illustrates only one of the options MERA25 could propose for us in the future. Steps 4-6 only relate to cases where the proposal involves our collaboration with other parties. When the recommendation is to run on our own, if the Coordinating Collective approves, then it is put to an All-Member Vote as per step 7.

However, the main takeaway is the programmatic approach – i.e., materialising our policy proposals and values are the single-most important condition in any electoral bid. The merit of the proposal will be primarily assessed on whether:

- i) it gives the best chance to our political programme to become better known
- ii) it gives DiEM25 an opportunity to grow and become stronger
- iii) it offers our political ideas a fair chance at being implemented