

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 5, September 2017

Dear Reader,

This e-newsletter aims to inform you three times a year about the work of the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership ([CORLEAP](#)), the policy background and the international context in which it operates.

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Preparations for the [5th Eastern Partnership Summit](#) are underway, with the negotiations of the Summit Declaration commencing shortly after the Eastern Partnership foreign affairs ministerial meeting in June and a new visual identity. The European Parliament discussed the role of future Comprehensive Agreements with Armenia and Azerbaijan and the EU-Ukraine Summit in July marked the completion of the ratification of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, entered into force on the 1st of September. Furthermore, the law on the ratification of the framework agreement between Belarus and the European Investment Bank (EIB) was approved in June by the Council of the Republic of Belarus.

Against this background, CORLEAP Digest picks relevant news for local and regional authorities. Please feel free to forward it to colleagues who may be interested. Comments and contributions can be sent to: corleap@cor.europa.eu.

Best regards,
The CORLEAP secretariat

Eastern Partnership News



Task-force calls for capacity-building support for local authorities in Ukraine

The voluntary amalgamation of local communities in Ukraine over the past year has been welcomed by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) as a sign of progress, as Ukraine continues along a process of decentralisation intended to empower local governments and increase their financial autonomy. The Task Force meeting in Khyriv on 30 June was followed by a round table on decentralization of powers and development of local democracy in Ukraine.

[Read more](#)



Ukrainian cities join the EU's Mayors for Economic Growth initiative

By joining “Mayors for Economic Growth” initiative, the first 20 Ukrainian cities and municipalities committed to achieve tangible results in terms of economic growth and employment generation in the three years ahead.

[Read more](#)



Three more Armenian cities join the Covenant of Mayors initiative for climate and energy

In June 2017, the cities of Masis, Gavar and Ijevan became signatories of the Covenant of Mayors and thus voluntarily committed to reducing CO2 emissions by at least 30% by 2030, enhancing energy efficiency and improving the quality of life for people in their communities.

[Read more](#)



Mingachevir becomes the second Azerbaijani signatory of the Covenant of Mayors

Mingachevir, the fourth-largest city of Azerbaijan, is famous for its hydroelectric power station and its rich sources of hydrocarbons. On 18 of July 2017 it joined the European initiative as it prepares for adopting an integrated approach to addressing the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

[Read more](#)



Belarusian Covenant of Mayors signatories meet to exchange experiences

During the conference "Covenant of Mayors Agreement for Climate and Energy: Experience and Cooperation", on 8 June, the representatives of Belarusian Covenant of Mayors signatory cities discussed ways to improve interaction and exchanges of experience.

[Read more](#)



Braslaŭ District to become the first climate neutral municipality in Belarus

Braslaŭ organized a series of thematic events on environment, energy saving and energy efficiency in the framework of the European Sustainable Energy Week (16-23 June 2017).

[Read more](#)



Instruments to engage citizens: towards improvement of Georgia's local governance system

On 15 June 2017, the conference on 'Institutionalized citizen participation: an instrument for democratic governance' served as a platform for analysis of the foundation for local governance in Georgia and the effectiveness of the institutionalized mechanisms for citizen participation. The event was organised by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia with the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

[Read more](#)



Local Finance Benchmarking and Inter-Municipal Co-operation in Armenia

Several pilot activities in the field of local finance benchmarking have been assessed in Yerevan on 4 July 2017. Furthermore, together with grantees' representatives and experts a range of meetings were held to discuss the state of IMC initiatives. The ongoing activities are meant to help Armenian authorities foster the implementation of the upcoming territorial reform.

[Read more](#)



Five initiatives on Inter-Municipal Co-operation to be implemented in Armenia, Georgia and Moldova

Five grants on inter-municipal co-operation have been awarded with the purpose of improving waste management, water supply, road maintenance and tourism development. The envisaged timeframe for project implementation is July - October 2017.

[Read more](#)

CORLEAP in Action



11th CORLEAP Bureau in Minsk

The CORLEAP Bureau met in Minsk on 22 May to discuss about the contribution of local and regional authorities in the field of energy efficiency and to fostering economic growth and job creation. The Bureau further discussed the activities in the run-up to the 5th Eastern Partnership Summit and the strategic message to be conveyed by local and regional authorities on this occasion.

[Read more](#)



CORLEAP's message at the EaP Ministerial: The EaP should support the increasingly active local authorities

CORLEAP would like to see the EaP Summit acknowledge that local and regional authorities are well placed to promote democratisation and modernisation and to support them through adjustments to the EU's current economic assistance. CORLEAP is calling for local government to be given a role in developing programmes and for existing EU funding schemes to be more closely tailored to local needs.

[Read more](#)



7th CORLEAP Annual Meeting

The 7th CORLEAP Annual Meeting will look at the future of the Eastern Partnership from the perspective of local and regional authorities (LRAs), at their role in strengthening resilience and their contribution towards the 20 deliverables for 2020. Recommendations and a thematic report on energy efficiency are to be adopted.

[Read more](#)



Implementing 'democracy in action'

Within the framework of the Gdańsk Week of Democracy, an event on enhancing cooperation between civil society and local authorities in Ukraine and Belarus will be organised by the City of Gdańsk with the support of the European Association of Local Democracy (ALDA) on 15-16 September 2017.

[Registration](#)



Improving governance and preventing corruption

What is the role of anticorruption authorities and the prospects for cooperation between national, regional and local public actors from EU and EaP countries in fighting corruption? Find out during the European Week of Regions and Cities, by taking part in the workshop organised by the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly and CORLEAP (workshop 12A127, 12 October, European Committee of the Regions).

[Read more](#)

Partner News

Dear partners,

We would like to encourage you to contribute news items on topics that are of relevance to CORLEAP. We welcome news articles about successful regional and cross-border projects, interesting studies on local governance and regional authorities, calls for project partners and announcements of workshops and informative conferences. Please, submit your proposals to corleap@cor.europa.eu. The next issue will be published in January 2018.



The EU East StratCom Task Force launched a [new website](#). "EU vs Disinfo" raises awareness on disinformation, complementing the two weekly newsletters. Subscribe to [English newsletters here](#) and [Russian versions here](#).



[The EU Neighbours portal](#)



[The Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum \(EaP CSF\)](#)



The Congress continues supporting Moldova in its reforms

The political situation in the Republic of Moldova, as well as the forthcoming reforms of central and local government, have been discussed during the meeting that took place on 26 June 2017 between The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities and the Prime Minister of Moldova.

[Read more](#)

Studies and Publications



East Invest 2 is a regional EU funded programme within the EU4Business initiative. Several publications are highlighting the achievements upon completion of its activities.



The EaP CSF produced a detailed commentary to the Joint Staff Working Document "Eastern Partnership – Focusing on key priorities and deliverables", issued by the European Commission and the European External Action Service in December 2016.

Upcoming Events

12 September	7 th CORLEAP Annual Meeting, Brussels Registration
13 September	Eastern Partnership Media Conference, Kyiv
15-16 September	Gdańsk Week of Democracy
25-26 September	6 th Congress of Initiatives of Eastern Europe, Lublin Registration
5 October	2 nd EaP Ministerial Meeting on the Digital Economy, Tallinn
12 October	CORLEAP/EURONEST conference on Improving governance and preventing corruption in the EU and EaP countries, Brussels Registration
12 October	4 th Meeting of the CoR - Ukraine Task Force, Brussels
25 – 27 October	Eastern Partnership Civil Society Conference, Tallinn
26 – 27 October	Eastern Partnership Business Forum, Tallinn
30 Oct. -1st Nov.	VI Ordinary Session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly, Kyiv
24 November	5 th Eastern Partnership Summit, Brussels

CORLEAP

[The Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership](#) (CORLEAP) was established by the European Committee of the Regions (CoR) in 2011 to bring a regional and local dimension to the EU's Eastern Partnership. CORLEAP brings together 36 regional and local politicians - 18 from the CoR, representing the EU, and 18 from the Eastern Partnership countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine).



More info

<http://cor.europa.eu/en/activities/corleap/Pages/corleap.aspx>

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