

# CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 4, May 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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Visa liberalisation with Georgia entered into force in March and the first Local Democracy Agency was opened in the Republic of Moldova. Negotiations have completed of the framework agreement between the EU and Armenia and negotiations have started on a comprehensive agreement with the Republic of Azerbaijan. A meeting of the Coordination Group with Belarus took place in April. The first implementation report of the reviewed European Neighbourhood Policy has just been published.

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](mailto:corleap@cor.europa.eu).

Best regards,  
The CORLEAP secretariat

## Eastern Partnership News



### Mayors for Economic Growth: Call for proposals

Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) is a new EU initiative that supports local authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries. Launched during a high level conference, co-organised by CORLEAP and the European Commission, in Yerevan last October, the M4EG initiative aims at strengthening local authorities' capacity to implement smart local economic development through enhanced local governance, better planning and more efficient municipal management. Local authorities can apply for grants until 31 May.

[Read more](#)



### Supporting capacity building and partnerships of civil society and local authorities in Belarus

The EU Delegation to Belarus has launched a call for proposals to support capacity building and partnerships of civil society and local authorities in Belarus. The call for proposals is being financed through two thematic instruments, one of which is designed to strengthen civil society organisations and local authorities.

[Read more](#)



### **EU to support local sport, culture, education and tourism in Armenia**

A new EUR 2.9 million grant scheme will facilitate the participation of civil society and local authorities in poverty reduction and sustainable development in Armenia. The call for proposals aims to enhance people-to-people contact and local community development.

[Read more](#)



### **Georgia and Azerbaijan building regional capacity through culture, education and sports**

The joint committee under the Azerbaijan – Georgia Eastern Partnership Territorial Cooperation Programme (EaPTC) met on 10 April in Tbilisi to discuss the evaluation results of a call for proposals launched by the EU in 2015.

[Read more](#)



### **Young leaders from Eastern Ukraine engaged for change at local level**

Young representatives from local authorities, civil society organisations and media gathered in Dnipro to share their views on local democracy and on the reforms in Ukraine. The event was organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

[Read more](#)



### **New Charter for the Communities Association of Armenia**

More than 400 Armenian mayors, members of the Communities Association of Armenia (CAA), gathered for a General Assembly on 24 February 2017 to adopt a new Charter (statute), and to elect the Association's President and governing bodies. Emin Yeritsyan, who is also the head of the Armenian Delegation to CORLEAP, was re-elected for a new five-year term.

[Read more](#)



### **Promoting best rural development practices in Georgia**

The European Union has finalised a series of study tours to the regions of Georgia for representatives of local governance, business and civil society. The study tours aimed to share experience of the Local Action Groups that work to engage local residents in rural development.

[Read more](#)



### **Local communities in Ukraine benefit from decentralisation**

A centre for the development of local self-government is set to open in Dnipro this May. The project is implemented by the EU Delegation to Ukraine, the Dnipropetrovsk Regional State Administration and the country's Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Utility Services. Such centres will appear in all regions of Ukraine.

[Read more](#)

## CORLEAP in Action

**CORLEAP**  
Conference of the Regional  
and Local Authorities for  
the Eastern Partnership



### 11<sup>th</sup> CORLEAP Bureau in Minsk

The CORLEAP Bureau will meet 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 will further discuss the activities in the run-up to the 5<sup>th</sup> Eastern Partnership Summit and the strategic message to be conveyed by local and regional authorities on this occasion.

[CORLEAP at a glance](#)

### Upcoming CORLEAP conference in Yerevan

Mr Markkul Markkula, CORLEAP Co-chair met Mr Vache Terteryan, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of the Republic of Armenia, on 5 May in Brussels. They exchanged on the close cooperation within the framework of CORLEAP. Another joint event is planned in Yerevan in October, building on the success of last year's conference.

[Read more](#)



### VET and Skills: Contributing to socioeconomic and regional development of Ukraine

The cooperation between CORLEAP and the European Training Foundation in support of decentralised Vocational Education and Training was presented at a conference in Kyiv on 4 April 2017.

[Read more](#)



### Opening of a Local Democracy Agency in Cimişlia

Ms Tatiana Bădan, Mayor of Selement, Cimişlia Raion, President of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, conveyed a message of support on behalf of CORLEAP at the inaugural event of the first Local Democracy Agency (LDA) established in the Republic of Moldova.

[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](mailto:corleap@cor.europa.eu). The next issue will be published in September 2017.



The EU East StratCom Task Force recently launched in Armenia the [campaign 'A year against corruption'](#). Its ["EU vs Disinformation" page on Facebook](#) page brings stories, videos and fun facts to raise awareness on disinformation, complementing the two weekly newsletters. Subscribe to [English newsletters here](#) and [Russian versions here](#).



**Continued EU support for the Republic of Moldova**  
Qualitative implementation of the EU-RM Association Agreement is a prerequisite for getting closer to the European model of development. This was the message to North Regional Development Agency Director, Ion Bodrug, during a study visit to Brussels, within European Union Visitors Programme. Mr Bodrug visited also the European Committee of the Regions, where he received a presentation of CORLEAP.

[Read more](#)

**EU NEIGHBOURS**  
south east

[The EU Neighbours portal](#)



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



**Preventing corruption and successful territorial reform**  
Debates on reports currently being prepared in the context of the Congress' package of measures to prevent corruption at local and regional level were at the centre of a meeting of the Governance Committee held in Eupen, Belgium, on 4 May 2017, followed the next day by the Conference "Successful territorial reform", bringing together some 100 politicians, practitioners and academic experts.

[Read more](#)

## Studies and Publications



**Preventing Corruption and Promoting Public Ethics at the Local and Regional Level in Eastern Partnership Countries**



This study identifies the main current vulnerabilities of local and regional authorities in Eastern Partnership countries regarding public procurement and public services, and provides a systematic assessment of priority avenues of intervention.

## Education, Training and Employment Developments 2016



ARMENIA  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

AZERBAIJAN  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

BELARUS  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

GEORGIA  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

UKRAINE  
EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT  
DEVELOPMENT 2016

## Upcoming Events

<b>25-26 May</b>	Balkans & Black Sea Cooperation Forum, Serres, Greece, preceded by the CPMR BBSC General Assembly <a href="#">Registration</a>
<b>30 June</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Ukraine Task Force, Khyriv, Ukraine
<b>12 September</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> CORLEAP Annual Meeting, Brussels
<b>12 October</b>	CORLEAP/EURONEST conference on Improving governance and preventing corruption in the EU and EaP countries, Brussels
<b>12 October</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Ukraine Task Force, 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>

Contact: [corleap@cor.europa.eu](mailto:corleap@cor.europa.eu)



European Committee  
of the Regions