

# CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 9, January 2019

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.

## *In this e-newsletter:*

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The CORLEAP community joins in grievance those for whom Pawel Adamowicz, Mayor of Gdansk, was and continues to be an inspiration. In honour of his memory we republish interviews from the CORLEAP Digest of February 2018.

Ahead of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Eastern Partnership policy, the region revolves around political tensions in the Azov Sea and the upcoming parliamentary and presidential elections in Moldova and Ukraine. The first female President of Georgia, early Parliamentary elections in Armenia, the EU-Ukraine Association Council, and the EU-Belarus Coordination Group made headlines in the past months. Meanwhile, the progress in achieving the [20 EaP Deliverables for 2020](#) was assessed by ministers for foreign affairs of the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries in October in Luxembourg, as well as at the annual EaP conference in Vienna on 7 December 2018.

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 wishes for 2019,  
The CORLEAP secretariat

## **In Memoriam**



### **A tragic loss for local democracy**

CORLEAP activities were promoted by Mr Pawel Adamowicz, Mayor of Gdansk, Poland, via EU Neighbours East communication channels. Media from [Belarus](#) and the [Republic of Moldova](#) conducted interviews.

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## Eastern Partnership News



### **EU encourages local and national authorities to improve energy efficiency**

About 400 representatives of local and national authorities from Eastern Partnership countries, as well as EU representatives, took part in a high-level conference entitled “Municipalities for Sustainable Growth” in Kyiv on 22-23 November 2018. Panel discussions focused on a comprehensive overview of and recommendations on how cities and municipalities of the EaP can address adaptation to climate change, the EU4Energy’s Covenant of Mayors East project, and developing and implementing sustainable green energy projects.

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### **Trilateral platform for the integration of non-government controlled regions**

Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova signed a memorandum in view of the creation of a interagency platform for the exchange of experience on the integration of territories not controlled by the governments. The trilateral platform provides for the exchange of experience in the field of human rights, counteraction to information warfare, establishing and maintaining the links with people living in the non-government controlled regions.

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### **Delivering better services to citizens and businesses**

The 15th EaP Panel on Governance and Public Administration Reform, held in Prague on 7-8 November 2018, discussed approaches to deliver better services to citizens and businesses through simplification of administrative procedures and rationalisation of public administration. Participants addressed organisation of public administration and service delivery through citizen-oriented procedures.

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### **International Mayors Summit in Ukraine**

Mayors from all over the world gathered in Kyiv on 9 October 2018 to discuss trends in urban development, innovations, best practices and common challenges and solutions in all areas of city life. The annual event is supported by the Prime Minister of Ukraine and the Mayor of Kyiv. The Summit focused on cooperation as a tool of city transformation.

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### **Gender equality at local level in Ukraine and Georgia**

Local councillors and public officials as well as representatives from the respective national associations, took part in the [World Forum for Democracy 2018 in Strasbourg, France](#). During the subsequent workshop, they discussed gender equality and women's rights and proposed gender-sensitive actions and policies to be implemented at local level in Georgia and Ukraine.

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### **Eastern Partnership Panel on Migration, Mobility and Integrated Border Management**

Representatives from the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries gathered in Odessa to discuss challenges and recent developments in the field of Integrated Border Management. Partners stressed the importance of cooperation at the regional and local levels, for efficient Integrated Border Management, and reflected on the modalities of continued EU support in this area.

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### **Reform of local self-government in Ukraine: towards a common position on the status of local councillors**

The Congress and the Association of Ukrainian Cities gathered together on 13 December 2018 in Kyiv mayors, local councillors and representatives of the Parliament to discuss legislative amendments to the laws on the status of local councillors and local self-government, focusing mainly on the absence of the principle of free mandate and restrictive effects of the proposed recall procedures.

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### **Dilijan and Adjacent Communities Development Initiative**

On 8 December, an Arts and Crafts Centre was opened as part of the "Dilijan and Adjacent Communities Development Initiative" project, funded by the EU and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of Armenia through the Pilot Regional Development Programme.

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### **ENPARD sums up its achievements in Armenia**

The European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development has contributed to the economic growth of Armenia's rural communities and the creation of new and sustainable jobs in Shirak, Lori, Gegharkunik, Aragatsotn, Kotayk, and Vayots Dzor marzes. Project beneficiaries presented success stories and shared their experience during three closing events.

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### **“Entrepreneurship for Youth” kick-off in Azerbaijan**

The kick-off meeting of the “Entrepreneurship for Youth”, funded by the EU as part of its Education Support Program in Azerbaijan, was held on 21 November 2018. The project aims to promote a dialogue among stakeholders and engage local entrepreneurs, business professionals and representatives of CSOs in capacity building, resource development and delivery of entrepreneurship education and financial literacy. Implementation sites will be Baku, Gabala, Gakh, Ganja, Khachmaz, Masally, Mingachevir and Zagatala regions.

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### **EU support for children with special needs in Navapolack, Belarus**

With EU financial assistance within the framework of the "Strengthening strategic interaction with the civil society and local authorities in Belarus" programme, the project "Navapolack – from an inclusive school to an inclusive city" enables the creation of an inclusive environment in schools.

[Read more](#)



### **LDA Dnipro to enhance public e-services in Ukrainian communities**

The Local Democracy Agency Dnipro was awarded by the East-Europe Foundation Ukraine with a grant for the project “We are the e-community of Dnipro”. The project will aim at building skills and knowledge of 100 condominiums’ administrators for using e-services. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Dnipro city council.

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### **24 Municipalities awarded with excellence on their local economic development plans**

In November 2018 the Mayors for Economic Growth Initiative has moved to a new level, as those signatories who received positive assessment of their Local Economic Development Plans were promoted to the status of M4EG Acting members.

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## CORLEAP in Action



### **8<sup>th</sup> CORLEAP annual meeting in Kyiv**

CORLEAP members met in Kyiv on 24 September to adopt thematic reports about municipal cooperation and local economic development, and assess EU financing available to local and regional authorities. The event was accompanied by a workshop for young representatives from EaP countries, aimed at raising awareness on disinformation.

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### **Media literacy is critical antidote to disinformation, winners of Kyiv workshop say**

Twenty-eight students and young professionals won strong praise on 24 September from local leaders for proposals intended to counter disinformation, using scenarios of election fraud and false claims about diseases and secret deals to develop their ideas.

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### **Partnerships with Ukrainian cities and regions showcase first results**

A pilot project that aims to forge deep working partnerships between cities and regions in Ukraine and the EU has won strong praise. The partnerships, which began in March 2018, aim to help Ukraine's newly empowered local and regional authorities to develop effective local projects in areas ranging from energy efficiency and rural tourism to projects to boost civic engagement.

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### **CORLEAP members joined ministers at EaP meeting**

The [Eastern Partnership Foreign Ministers meeting](#) in Luxembourg took stock of progress towards achieving 20 deliverables intended to strengthen the economies, governance, connectivity and societies of EaP countries. CORLEAP was represented by the co-chair, Mr Emin Yeritsyan, president of the Association of Communities of Armenia, and by Mr Pavel Branda, deputy mayor of Rádlo (Czech Republic) and CORLEAP rapporteur on people-to-people contacts through cross-border cooperation.

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### **Yerevan Forum on Local Democracy**

CORLEAP activities in the field of local economic development and decentralisation were presented to a vast audience of mayors, councillors, associations, representatives of the national government and the parliament, as well international agencies and experts gathering on 12 November 2018 in Yerevan. The event was co-organised with the Armenian Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, the Association of Communities of Armenia, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.

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### **Freedom, independence and plurality of media**

The joint CORLEAP - EURONEST workshop during the European Week of Regions and Cities looked at good practice and innovative perspectives in terms of overcoming through territorial and parliamentary cooperation some of the challenges to media freedom policies.

[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 May 2019.



### **Local governance reforms in Armenia**

During the closing conference organised in Yerevan on 4 December 2018, the results of the Local Governance Programme implemented in Armenia, and in particular the achievements of the “Institutional support to the Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)” project implemented by the Congress. The presentation was focused on the recognition of the Association as an important and respected stakeholder in the field of local democracy in Armenia

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### **Co-operation between the Congress and the Association of Ukrainian Cities**

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed to define areas of the Congress support to the Association in advocating for the interest of local authorities, in the spirit of multi-level governance and partnership culture, and in providing enhanced services to its members.

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### **Anders KNAPE elected president of the Congress**

Congress members have elected Anders KNAPE (Sweden, EPP/CCE) president of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities, on 6 November 2018, for a two-year term. During the Congress session, reports on [Moldova](#) and [Georgia](#) were adopted.

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### **Year in review: 1001 messages of pro-Kremlin disinformation**

Out of over 1000 cases collected in 2018, Ukraine emerged again as a primary target. Further reading available on the [website](#) of the EU East StratCom Task Force "EU vs Disinfo", which raises awareness on disinformation, complementing the two weekly newsletters. Subscribe to [English newsletters here](#) and [Russian versions here](#).



### **The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly has crowned the activities of the EaP CSF in 2018 bringing together almost 300 CSOs from the EU and EaP member-states. Together with civil society partners from the region, the Annual Assembly addressed the question of how to further sustainable, democratic development and support European Union's commitment to the Eastern Partnership policy initiative.

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### **ALDA support for good governance and local development in Belarus**

Currently, there are over 10 projects implemented in Belarus with the support of ALDA. The main objective is to engage citizens in local processes in order to improve and develop their communities and establish a constructive dialogue with local and regional authorities.

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## Upcoming Events

<b>4-5 February</b>	Forum "Cities and Regions for Development Cooperation", Brussels
<b>13 February</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Committee of the Regions - Ukraine Task Force, Brussels
<b>19 February</b>	EaP Platform 1 meeting, Brussels
<b>28 February</b>	EaP Ministerial on Digital Economy, Bucharest
<b>9 March</b>	EaP Platform 4 meeting, Brussels
<b>13 March</b>	EaP Platform 3 meeting, Brussels
<b>28 March</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> CORLEAP Bureau meeting and conference, Yerevan
<b>2 April</b>	EaP Ministerial on Energy, Bucharest
<b>10 April</b>	EaP Platform 2 meeting, Brussels
<b>14 May</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the EaP High level conference, 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 EaP countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine).

**CORLEAP**

Conference of the Regional  
and Local Authorities for  
the Eastern Partnership



**More info**

[www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go](http://www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go)

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