

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 10, June 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.

Electoral processes marked the first half of 2019: parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova on 13 February, presidential elections in Ukraine on 31 March and 21 April, and the upcoming rounds of parliamentary elections in Belarus, Ukraine, as well as possible snap elections in Moldova. As political change is unfolding in the region, both the EU and partner countries are reflecting upon the Eastern Partnership policy, its successes and flaws in the past 10 years, and on the next decade of cooperation. Heads of State or Government of the partner countries, Presidents of EU institutions, foreign ministers, civil society representatives, and other key stakeholders from across the 34 countries celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Eastern Partnership during a series of events in Brussels on 13-14 May.

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 wishes,
The CORLEAP secretariat

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Eastern Partnership News



EU concluded the ‘Dilijan and Adjacent Communities Development Initiative’ PRDP project

On 30 April, the EU technically reported the end of the PRDP project. It was funded by the EU and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development of Armenia through a Pilot Regional Development Programme. The total project budget was €1,195,000, of which the EU contribution was €780,000. The two-year grant project was aimed at boosting Dilijan’s tourism appeal and that of adjacent communities, thus supporting the development of local economies.

[Read more](#)



EU4Energy : Covenant of Mayors East

The EU-funded Covenant of Mayors gathered 45 Belarusian cities and districts in Polack on 25-26 April. Within this EU initiative, local and regional authorities agree to reduce greenhouse emissions across their territory by at least 30% by 2030. The conference was held under the EU-funded project “Strengthening the Covenant of Mayors Movement in Belarus”.

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Solar-powered street lighting to arrive in Chernivtsi thanks to EU support

As part of the EU-supported “Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects” programme, the Ukrainian city of Chernivtsi will modernise its street lighting. Through the plans, 4,170 street lamps will be replaced with energy-efficient alternatives. This will help the city to be more energy efficient.

[Read more](#)



Lviv to introduce new energy-efficient trolleybuses thanks to EU assistance

The city of Lviv, the largest municipality in Western Ukraine, will introduce 50 new energy-efficient and ecologically-friendly trolleybuses to its transport network. In order to do this, the Lviv municipality’s authorities received a 13-year loan of up to €15 million from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and a loan of up to €2.5 million provided by the Clean Technology Fund.

[Read more](#)



Mayors from the Republic of Moldova exchanged experiences in the area of local economic development and planning

On 31 January – 1 February, 50 representatives of the local authorities from the Republic of Moldova, who are signatories of the EU Initiative "Mayors for Economic Growth" (M4EG), the representatives of the EU Delegation to Moldova, and other partner organisations gathered in Chisinau to share their experience in local economic development planning.

[Read more](#)



EU consults stakeholders on ENPARD IV programme priorities

Over 100 representatives of EU partners, civil society organizations, private sector, academia and experts gathered at a conference in Tbilisi to discuss the upcoming fourth phase of the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD). ENPARD IV will further support rural development and will continue to enhance civic participation in the regions of Georgia through increased civil society involvement in local decision-making processes and will continue to actively promote and encourage participation of youth and women, noting the specific needs and constraints of these groups.

[Read more](#)



EU helps Shirak region become IT centre of Armenia

The EU supports Armenia in the development of its IT sector through various projects and grants. One such project is "Boosting Technological Developments in Shirak Marz", which is being implemented in Shirak, the poorest province of Armenia. In the framework of the project, some 246 unemployed people and students aged 17-35 passed a six-month training programme on various programming languages, followed by a coding "boot camp".

[Read more](#)



Training of trainers on local democracy and human rights in Ukraine

This needs-tailored training was organised by the Congress from 15 to 18 April 2019 in Kharkiv, Ukraine with the aim to promote active youth participation in local political life, as well as development of policies and plans that will anchor local democracy based on respect for human rights.

[Read more](#)

CORLEAP in Action



10th Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership

On 13-14 May a series of events took place in Brussels to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Eastern Partnership. Karl-Heinz Lambertz, the president of the European Committee of the Regions and co-chair of CORLEAP spoke in favour of greater support for decentralisation, greater attention to governance, increased funding for people-to-people projects and cooperation between local and regional authorities. He made a specific call for the creation of a 'Eastern Partnership Academy for Public Administration', to support the empowerment of local authorities

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CORLEAP bureau meeting in Yerevan

Extra support for cooperation between border communities and for the developments of local administrations would add significantly to the value of the European Union's maturing relationship with countries on its eastern borders, CORLEAP Bureau members said when they met in Yerevan on 28 March. The bureau's exchange of views will also contribute to two reports that CORLEAP will adopt on 12 September, at its annual plenary session.

[Read more](#)



CoR - Ukraine Task Force meeting

At the meeting of the CoR-Ukraine Task Force on 13 February, the Ukrainian government and members of the CoR called on the European Union to support cooperation between cities and regions as a means to help Ukraine's decentralisation. A one-year Peer-to-Peer pilot project between ten EU and Ukrainian communities came at the end on this occasion and was deemed successful.

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Partner News

Dear partners,

We would like to encourage you to contribute to this digest with 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 October 2019.



Ukrainian local authorities step up their commitment to “open government”

The Congress and the Association of Ukrainian Cities co-organised on 29-30 January 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine a round table “Open Government Partnership: A way forward to enhance local self-governance”. Ukrainian local authorities showcased successful practices and declared their willingness to take part in the implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) 2018-2020 as fully-fledged partners to boost its achievements in Ukraine.

[Read more](#)



Gender Equality and Open Government for Stronger Local Democracy

As part of the global Open Government Week ([Open Gov Week](#), 11-17 March 2019) and collective efforts to ensure gender equality at local level, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC) co-organised on 14-15 March 2019 in Kyiv, Ukraine, a round table to streamline gender equality in the implementation of open government and promote gender-sensitive policymaking at local level.

[Read more](#)



High level meetings and round table discussions in Belarus

[Congress President Anders Knappe met with the President of the Republic of Belarus Alexander Lukashenko](#) on 29 April 2019, in Minsk to discuss the Congress support to the Belarusian authorities in improving local self-government. The meeting was followed with the round table where participants discussed the situation of local self-government in Belarus, in the light of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, and the functioning of associations of local and regional authorities.

[Read more](#).



10 Years of EaP Policy: “Advancing Eastern Partnership: 23 Civil Society Ideas for the Policy beyond 2020”

This CSF policy paper came out of six focus groups, coordinated by Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (EaP CSF) – bringing together experts and members from both EaP and EU countries. The aim of the paper is to provide an objective assessment of 10 years of EaP policy, as well as a set of recommendations that should guide policy dialogue for the years to come. [Read more](#)



Working to support participative democracy in Eastern Europe

The new project “Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with Participative Democracy” will address the countries of Ukraine and Moldova, thanks to the support of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) programme. For its successful implementation ALDA is working together with the Local Democracy Agencies of the targeted areas: LDA Mariupol, LDA of the Dnipropetrovsk Region and the LDA Moldova in Cimislia.

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First Steering Committee meeting of the AGREED project in Moldova

A first steering committee meeting on the new AGREED - Activating Governance Reform for Enhancing Development project was organized on the 26 March in Chisinau. The project aims at strengthening the capacity of Moldovan local authorities to perform transparent and participatory governance in their Communities, with a specific reference to the policy-making process related to the upcoming Decentralisation reform.

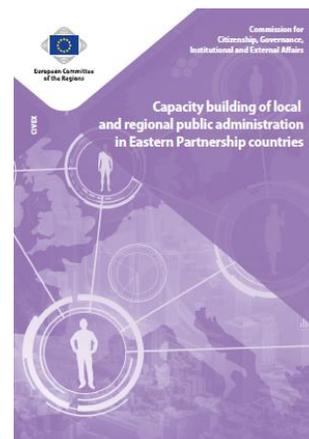
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Studies and Publications

Capacity building of local and regional public administration in Eastern Partnership countries

This study was commissioned in support of a non-paper issued by CORLEAP as contribution to the reflection on EaP deliverables beyond 2020. It presents an overview of capacity building programmes and technical assistance currently offered to local and regional authorities (LRAs) in the Eastern Partnership countries.

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Upcoming Events

18-20 June	4 th EaP Youth Forum, Vilnius, Lithuania
10-11 September	Rule of law and fundamental rights event, Helsinki, Finland
12 September	9 th CORLEAP Annual meeting, Turku, Finland

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

Contact: corleap@cor.europa.eu



**European Committee
of the Regions**

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 101 | 1040 Bruxelles/Brussel | BELGIQUE/BELGIË | Tel. +32 22822211
www.cor.europa.eu | [@EU_CoR](https://twitter.com/EU_CoR) | [/european.committee.of.the.regions](https://www.facebook.com/european.committee.of.the.regions) | [/european-committee-of-the-regions](https://www.linkedin.com/company/european-committee-of-the-regions)