

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 7, May 2018

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.

The **streamlined multilateral architecture** endorsed at the Eastern Partnership Summit was launched in March, followed by the series of meetings of the four Platforms, and their Work Programmes for 2018-2019. As mentioned therein, they will strive to ensure **ownership, engagement and exchanges** with relevant stakeholders in Partner Countries and EU Member States at all levels, including with local and regional authorities through CORLEAP.

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

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Eastern Partnership News



Renewed partnership in pursuit of local democracy

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the European Committee of the Regions signed a new Co-operation Agreement on the occasion of the 34th Congress session, on 27 March 2018. The two institutions have built practical synergies in the field through co-operation programmes, notably across the Eastern Partnership, and work together to drive forward decentralisation and to build citizens' confidence in territorial governance.

[Read more](#)



EU and Ukrainian local governments establish partnerships to support decentralisation reform

The EU increased its support for local and regional authorities in Ukraine on 8 March, with the launch of five partnerships between Ukrainian and EU regions and cities. Estonian, German, Hungarian, Lithuanian and Polish partners will share their experience in areas identified as priorities by their Ukrainian counterparts – drawing up economic development plans, supporting rural areas, helping SMEs, boosting tourism, and increasing transparency of the local administration. The initiative is part of a broader effort to support the decentralisation of power in Ukraine.

[Read more](#)



Braslaŭ – first climate neutral municipality in Belarus

Solar collectors are to be installed in a kindergarten in the Belarussian town of Braslaŭ, covering the town's hot water needs. This switch to solar energy is happening thanks to the support of the EU-funded “Braslaŭ district – the first climate neutral municipality in Belarus” project, which is part of the “Covenant of Mayors – Demonstration Projects” programme.

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Photo: ENPARD

Georgia's rural development priorities

Economic, environmental and social challenges referenced in the National Rural Development Strategy 2017-2020 and their relevance to the context of Tetrtskaro municipality was discussed at an event on 17 May 2018, supported by ENPARD. Particular attention was paid to support required for the promotion of sustainable rural tourism and the role that local communities need to play to support local development.

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EU support to Cahul and Ungheni regions in the Republic of Moldova

The EU plans to reinforce its support to Cahul and Ungheni regions to boost local social-economic development and reduce the gap between Chisinau and the rest of the Republic of Moldova. EU support will also focus on creating more employment opportunities for men and women in the regions through small scale investments and bringing more innovation through promoting start-ups.

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Gender equality at local level: challenges and opportunities in Ukraine

Within the project “Strengthening capacity of local elected authorities”, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities organised with the Association of Ukrainian Cities, in Kyiv on 21 - 22 February 2018, a workshop on challenges and opportunities related to gender equality at local level. The project aims to improve the implementation of democratic principles in Ukraine by enhancing the institutional and leadership capacities of local elected representatives, and by disseminating nation-wide good practices of local democracy.

[Read more](#)



Conference on “Women and Local Governance” in Armenia

On the occasion of International Women’s Day, a conference co-organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, the Communities Association of Armenia (CAA) and other partners, highlighted the role women play in local government. On the eve of the conference, the Congress and the CAA organised a workshop for young local leaders, aimed at raising their awareness of principles and policies for promoting women’s representation in local governments.

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Edinet – Economic Growth Pole in North Region of Moldova

A public launching event of the Pioneer Project “Edinet – Economic Growth Pole in North Region of Moldova” funded by the EU under the Mayor for Economic Growth (M4EG) Initiative was held at Edinet municipality on 25 April 2018. To improve local capacities and business infrastructure in Edinet region, a new industrial hall, a business incubator and a business hub will be created.

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CORLEAP in Action



CORLEAP Action Plan 2018 – 2019

CORLEAP remains committed to showcasing the success and potential of territorial cooperation and by increasing the understanding and visibility of the benefits of EaP policy for citizens. For 2018-2019 the core topics of CORLEAP activity are: economic cooperation and local economic development; good governance and local democracy; youth.

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CORLEAP thematic debate: Fostering participatory democracy at local and regional level

The development of local democratic governance and civil society varies considerably in the Eastern Partnership countries. These circumstances present significant challenges to the Eastern Partnership agenda. The aim of the thematic debate was to look at the challenges faced by local and regional authorities and exchange on success stories for overcoming them.

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EEAS Seminar on Public Administration Reform at Local and Regional Level

Emin Yeritsyan, Head of the Armenian delegation to the Congress and of the Armenian delegation to CORLEAP called for coordinated actions of the two institutions in order to support the Eastern Partnership countries in achieving the '20 Deliverables for 2020' at a seminar organised by the EEAS in Yerevan on 16 March 2018.

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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 September 2018.



The Congress adopts a recommendation following the fact-finding mission in the Republic of Moldova
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The [website](#) of the EU East StratCom Task Force "EU vs Disinfo" raises awareness on disinformation, complementing the two weekly newsletters. Subscribe to [English newsletters here](#) and [Russian versions here](#).

Studies and Publications



Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership



CORLEAP at a glance

The CORLEAP presentation leaflet has been updated in line with the current Action Plan 2018-2019.

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Administrative resources and fair elections

The Congress launched a new Practical Guide, for local and regional politicians and public officials. This booklet is based on the Checklist for compliance with international standards and good practices preventing misuse of administrative resources during electoral processes at local and regional level, adopted in 2017. It aims at giving a practical understanding of the phenomenon and contains the Checklist but also a number of practice examples that were reported to the Congress observers during electoral missions.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

29 May	12 th CORLEAP Bureau and thematic debate on fostering participatory democracy at local and regional level, Brussels
29 May	EaP Platform 3 "Connectivity, Energy efficiency, Environment and Climate Change" , Brussels
5 June	EU – Azerbaijan Business Forum, Baku
19 June (tbc)	EaP Platform 4 "Mobility and People-to-People Contacts"
25-27 June	7 th Ordinary Session of the EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels
9 July	EU-Ukraine Summit, Brussels
24 September	8 th CORLEAP Annual meeting, Kyiv
25 September	5 th Meeting of the Committee of the Regions - Ukraine Task Force, Kyiv

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

<https://cor.europa.eu/corleap.go>

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