Dear reader,

The purpose of this e-newsletter is to inform you 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.

As the Covid-19 pandemic is sweeping across the world, both the EU and the Eastern partners are facing public health, economic and societal challenges of unprecedented scale. The pandemic further limited the democratic space, notably in the wake of elections. Within the context and aftermath of presidential elections in Belarus in August 2020 and in Moldova in November 2020, parliamentary elections in Georgia in October and a ceasefire agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan, authorities at all levels are under scrutiny. In these difficult times, cross-border and international cooperation and solidarity are as important as ever, in support of all citizens across Europe. The political will to continue building an area of shared democracy, prosperity and stability, through a rules-based international order, was reiterated at the EaP Leader's meeting on 18 June 2020.

CORLEAP Digest picks relevant news for local and regional authorities. Comments and contributions can be sent to: corleap@cor.europa.eu.

Best wishes,

The CORLEAP secretariat

### Eastern Partnership News

**EU support event in Tsalka and Ninotsminda in Georgia to foster tourism potential**

This Media Tour was organized from 6 October to 8 October in the two municipalities by EU4Youth. This event aimed to show to the participants, journalists and general public, the tourism potential of the region.

[Read more](#)

**The EU and the WHO supported the Republic of Moldova with protective equipment**

In August in the Covid context, the EU and the WHO delivered personal protective equipment to health workers in the Transnistrian region in Moldova. The humanitarian aid includes 121,000 surgical masks, 35,000 N95 respirators, 3,600 protective gowns and 1,600 goggles.

[Read more](#)
Empowering local self-governance for the benefit of the citizens of Belarus
Members of the European Committee of the Regions called on the local authorities in Belarus to seize the opportunity to bridge the existing confidence gap between public institutions and citizens, and to help find a political solution to the crisis.
Read more

Fighting sexism against women in politics at local and regional level
On 2nd July 2020, the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress) organised a webinar to release a guide for women and men in local politics in Ukraine. It aimed at equipping local politicians in with the knowledge to recognise sexism in their institutions and administrations, and to take appropriate measures, in accordance with the findings of the Congress report.
Read more

Joint project for skills’ validation
The EU, the United Nations Development Programme, the State Agency on Vocational Education and the Education Quality Assurance Agency joined forces to organise the first ever validation process of skills acquired through non-formal and informal learning in Azerbaijan.
Read more

EU4ResilientRegions to enhance resilience in Ukraine
The programme ‘EU4ResilientRegions’, worth €30 million, aims at enhancing the resilience of eastern and southern Ukraine to the negative impacts of the ongoing conflict, including to hybrid threats and other destabilising factors.
Read more

Supporting accessible tourism for people with disabilities in Belarus
‘Valožyn without barriers’, a project funded by the EU, aims to improve the accessibility of the buildings across Valožyn District.
Read more
New joint project 'Skills for success'
The project “Skills for Success”, which is part of a wider EU programme “Skills4Jobs”, aims to foster the entrepreneurial and employability skills of young people, especially those of Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET). The project will target five regions of Georgia - Guria, Racha-Lechkhumi, Shida Kartli, Kakheti and Tbilisi, by providing access to non-formal education.

Read more

Electoral standards during pandemic in Ukraine
On 6th October 2020, the Community of practice on local democracy in Ukraine held an online meeting on the upcoming local elections. Attended by representatives of four national associations of local and regional authorities, the webinar was organised with the aim of exploring the challenges and good practices in effectively safeguarding the integrity and the principles of free and fair elections during the pandemic.

Read more

Ukrainian local authorities step up for open local government
The Association of Ukrainian Cities is promoting with the support of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress) the engagement of Ukrainian local authorities in the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Local Programme. A couple of related webinars were held in June and July. In addition, the Congress organised a series of webinars addressing thematic areas deemed crucial for the effective and sustainable implementation of local projects. All these are part of the project "Strengthening democracy and building trust at local level in Ukraine”.

Read more

Armenian Community of practice on public ethics in local governance
Between June and September, thematic working groups of the Community of practice on public integrity and ethics in local governance in Armenia, representing 20 selected amalgamated communities and three large cities of Armenia, focused on identifying challenges and designing approaches in specific areas, such as: anti-corruption policies, public integrity, transparency in public procurement, and transparency and open government.

Read more
CORLEAP in Action

Strengthening resilience in the EaP through territorial and parliamentary cooperation

A joint CORLEAP-EURONEST workshop on 'Strengthening resilience in the Eastern Partnership' took place in the margins of the 18th European Week of Regions and Cities. Participants shared experiences and mentioned the specificity of the resilience generated by LRAs, i.e. flexibility, trust, accountability, and direct contact with citizens.

Read more

CORLEAP recommendations to EaP Leaders

CORLEAP recommendations adopted in view of the Eastern Partnership leaders’ video conference on 18 June 2020 reflect the main messages from various reports that CORLEAP has adopted since the last EaP summit. The message is based on a well-documented evaluation of the situation, carried out at the level of governance closest to citizens.

Read more

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, 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 Spring 2021.

European Local Democracy Week

This year’s ELDW was organised under the theme of “Local democracy: building trust”, focusing on co-designing local democracy together with citizens and practicing open government. Flagship events were organised between the 12th and 18th October, building on the 150 activities that have already been organised by municipalities and associations across Europe.

Read more
Strengthening Associations of Local Authorities
In an effort to strengthen human resources and institutional capacity of the Communities Association of Armenia (CAA), the Congress and the association reached an agreement whereby the Congress continues to support the CAA Secretariat’s capacities in responding to the needs of member communities and acquiring necessary communication tools.
Read more

Monitoring local elections in the Republic of Moldova
The Congress acknowledged efforts made by Moldovan authorities to improve the legal framework for elections but regretted that amendments were adopted shortly before the elections. The Congress has since called on Moldovan authorities to improve the legal framework and the practical management of electoral processes.
Read more

Consultation of local authorities is imperative for decentralisation reforms
In September, the Congress’ Monitoring Committee examined the report on the implementation of the Charter of Local Self-Government in Ukraine. It recommended that the decentralisation reform should be pursued through a constitutional review, a clear delimitation of competences between multi-levels of governance and promotion of financial autonomy of local governments.
Read more

Statement on Belarus
The statement of the President of the Congress Anders Knape underlined the urgent need for dialogue between citizens and authorities. The Congress will continue its support for democratisation in Belarus, fostering the creation of an environment based on citizens’ trust and engagement of civil society in decision making.
Read more

EBRD helps to modernise solid waste management in Khmelnytskyi, Ukraine
The EBRD will fund €28.5 million for this project that will focus on collecting, treating and disposing of solid waste. The rest of the funds will come from the EU and the municipality.
Read more
European Partners help Moldova to modernise its locomotive stock

Twelve modern diesel locomotives purchased thanks to joint financing from the European Union (EU), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) arrived in Chisinău in July 2020.

Read more

Publications

The 2030 Agenda through the eyes of local and regional governments’ associations

Discover the progress made by Europe’s municipalities, regions and their national associations in working with and towards achieving the SDGs.

More info

www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go

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