

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 11, October 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.

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In July, the EU launched a structured consultation process on the strategic direction of the Eastern Partnership for the next decade. Related events took place in Baku and Kyiv in October and a debate was organised at the 9th CORLEAP annual meeting in September. The electoral calendar featured parliamentary elections in Ukraine in July, just a couple of weeks after the 21st EU-Ukraine Summit, as well as local elections in the Republic of Moldova on 20 October. HR/VP Mogherini visited Chisinau at the beginning of the month, ahead of the release of the first tranche of Macro-Financial Assistance. Parliamentary elections will follow in Belarus on 17 November. The EU and the Government of Georgia launched the first European School outside EU borders, and the second EU-Armenia Strategic Policy Dialogue on Justice Reforms was devoted to the discussion on the recently published draft Judicial Strategy and the Anti-Corruption Strategy.

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

Eastern Partnership News



Moldovan and Belarusian municipalities cooperate on the implementation of local economic initiatives

Representatives of the Gaguzia region of Moldova conducted a study visit in Belarus, aimed at providing a comprehensive overview of good practice to support SMEs and start-ups, including attracting investments and promoting job-creation at regional and local level. The visit was initiated by the Mayors for Economic Growth project.

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Guria, Georgia – one of the four pilot regions for focused EU support

In Guria, various successful EU projects are helping to create local jobs, support vulnerable people, and launching great initiatives such as Guria's Tourism Strategy and the Tea Road.

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New biogas plant in Gegharkunik, Armenia

Within the framework of the EU-supported "Integrated Support for Sustainable Economic Development in Rural Mountainous Areas of Armenia" project, the opening ceremony of a large biogas plant and a greenhouse was held in Geghamasar community of Gegharkunik region during the EU sustainable Energy Week. The project aims at contributing to local economic growth by increasing regional competitiveness and creating sustainable jobs in six beneficiary villages.

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Regional event on tourism development in Lviv, Ukraine

Lviv, hosted a regional networking event on tourism development, with the supported of the EU's Mayors for Economic Growth project. Representatives from all six Eastern Partnership countries discussed the challenges of promoting tourism at the local level and shared tips and best practices in this field.

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Azerbaijani students becoming more aware of energy efficiency and sustainable energy

The interest in effective management of the energy sector is becoming increasingly tangible among the younger generation. Energy training courses are a part of the summer EuroSchool programme in Azerbaijan, organised by the Delegation of the EU in Azerbaijan, and supported by communication projects EU Neighbours and EU4Energy.

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XV Ukrainian Municipal Forum, Odesa

Over 400 mayors, members of the Association of Ukrainian Cities from all regions of Ukraine, shared their knowledge and experiences in building inclusive, open and transparent societies. The Forum's "Day of the Congress" allowed for peer exchanges between Ukrainian local elected representatives, experts and members of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe on public ethics, open government and gender equality.

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Upcoming opinion of the European Committee of the Regions on the future of the Eastern Partnership

The European Committee of the Region (CoR) will adopt an opinion on the future of the Eastern Partnership at its next plenary session in December 2019. Rapporteur Tadeuš Andžejevski, member of the Vilnius District Municipal Council, met representatives of EU institutions, CORLEAP members and other key stakeholders. A debate with the rapporteur will take place at the CoR on 14 November.

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Promotion of local democracy in Georgia

The conference "The role of the Council of Europe Congress in the Promotion of local democracy in Georgia" was organised on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of Georgia's accession to the Council of Europe. The event also coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Council of Europe and the 25th anniversary of the Congress.

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CORLEAP in Action



9th CORLEAP annual meeting

The EU should deepen relations with neighbours on its eastern borders through more localised and targeted engagement, local and regional leaders from the EU and its partner countries have said. These and other recommendations were discussed by CORLEAP at its annual meeting in Turku, Finland and were later sent to the European Commission and the European External Action Service to feed into the structured consultation process on the future of the Eastern Partnership.

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Promoting people-to people contacts through cross-border cooperation programmes

The 9th annual CORLEAP meeting in Turku adopted a report prepared by Pavel Branda, deputy mayor of the rural border community of Radlo, Czech Republic. The report calls for a significant increase of EU financial support for small cross-border projects designed to initiate and promote grassroots contacts and interaction between people on different sides of the border.

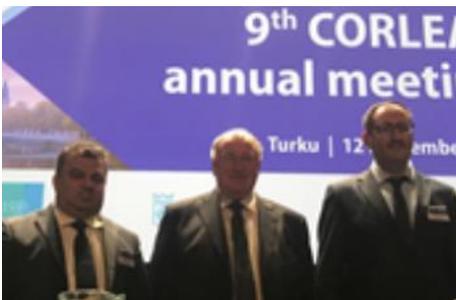
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Capacity building of local and regional government in Eastern Partnership countries

A second report adopted at the annual CORLEAP meeting in Turku was prepared by Sergii Chernov, Chairman of Kharkiv Regional Council. The report highlights the importance of the shift towards e-governance, of training and development programmes, and advocates for the establishment of an Eastern Partnership Academy of Public Administration.

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Azerbaijan takes over CORLEAP co-chairmanship

On 1st October 2019, Mr Anar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Committee of Human Rights and International Relation of the Ali majlis (Parliament) of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, Azerbaijan, started his mandate as CORLEAP Co-chair, taking over from Emin Yeritsyan, President of the Union of Communities of Armenia. Mr Ibrahimov has also been appointed CORLEAP rapporteur on "Fiscal decentralisation policies and financial autonomy of local and regional authorities in the Eastern Partnership countries". The report will be presented for adoption at the 10th CORLEAP annual meeting in 2020.

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 February 2020.



The Congress launched a new project on local governance and open government in Armenia

The Congress will be working with mayors, councillors and municipal servants for the next three years to raise their awareness of the Council of Europe standards on political integrity, ethics and transparency, and will support local authorities in implementing measures to prevent corruption and improve citizens' trust in local institutions.

[Read more](#)



Training on participative democracy in Mariupol

The project "Empowering local authorities and civil society to deliver solutions with participative democracy" supported by the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung programme, entered a new phase. The first cycle of the training has been delivered, starting with the city of Mariupol.

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Upcoming Events

21-23 October	3 rd EaP Reflection Forum: "The EaP in the next ten years-What Strategy for the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood", Chisinau, Moldova
24-25 October	Localising Sustainable Development Goals in the Eastern Partnership
12-15 November	"E-governance as a tool in regional and local governance – trends, advantages/drawbacks, cost/benefit" workshop, Prague, Czech Republic
21-22 November	EaP Transport Panel, Vilnius, Lithuania

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).



More info

www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go

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