

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 8, September 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.

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New Prime Ministers and governments in Armenia, Belarus and Georgia, local elections in the Republic of Moldova, the EU-Ukraine Summit and the EU-Azerbaijan Business Forum made the headlines in the past months. Meanwhile EU institutions are looking at the proposal for a new [Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument for 2021-2027](#), aimed at increasing the budget for the European Union's external action and its effectiveness, by means of a simplified financial architecture and performance based funding allocation.

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

Eastern Partnership News



Eastern Partnership needs more grassroots work

In July, the European Committee of the Regions adopted an opinion on 'Eastern Partnership deliverables for 2020: The contribution of local and regional authorities'. The rapporteur, Mr Sören Herbst, member of Magdeburg City Council, appreciated that the EU could do more to promote a bottom-up approach and it could usefully apply in the Eastern Partnership the same 'think small first' principle that it uses to support small businesses in the EU.

[Read more](#)



High level meetings and round table on local self-government in Belarus

The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (Congress) held a round table and several high-level meetings with the Belarusian authorities in Minsk on 11 and 12 September 2018. A round table was devoted to examining how the principles of the Charter are taken into account in Belarus' local government system, as well as their practical implementation and future prospects.

[Read more](#)



Armenia: Workshop on consultation mechanisms between local and national authorities

The right of local authorities to be consulted by other levels of government as a key principle of the European Charter of Local Self-Government was stressed by Congress Secretary General Andreas Kiefer addressing participants on 12 September 2018, in Yerevan. Consultation needed to be conducted both “in due time” and “in an appropriate manner” for all decision-making that directly concerns local authorities. Emin Yeritsyan, President of the Communities Association of Armenia and Head of the Armenian Delegation to the Congress and to CORLEAP also spoke in the opening.

[Read more](#)



'Club of the Covenant of Mayors' in Belarus

The Belarusian signatory cities of the EU-funded Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy have opened a club in August 2018, that will encourage exchanges of experience and know-how in the areas of energy efficiency and sustainable energy.

[Read more](#)



Georgian and Ukrainian mayors for open governance at local level

Representatives of ten Ukrainian municipalities and the Association of Ukrainian Cities participated in the 5th Open Government Partnership Global Summit held on 18-19 July 2018 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Ukrainian examples of good practice were chosen to be presented during the ‘[Local Open Government Innovation Exchange](#)’ event organised on the eve of the summit and a workshop on ‘[Open Governance at Local level: Cities Take Action](#)’ was organised by the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG) and the Congress as side event.

[Read more](#)



Boosting rural and regional competitiveness in Azerbaijan

The EU plans to continue its support to Azerbaijan’s economic diversification by boosting its support to the Lankaran Economic Region. The EU will provide over €13 million to boost local social-economic development and reduce the gap between Baku and the rest of the country. The EU programme will focus on enhancing the competitiveness and value-added of the fruit and vegetable sector of the region in a sustainable manner.

[Read more](#)



Institutional partnerships for advancing local and regional democracy across Europe

The importance of institutional partnerships and the long-standing relationship of co-operation between the Congress and CORLEAP were highlighted by Congress Secretary General Andreas Kiefer at the workshop organised by NALAG, held on 29 June in Tbilisi, Georgia.

[Read more](#)

CORLEAP in Action



CORLEAP website revisited

CORLEAP presents itself in a new format, allowing a quick and comprehensive overview of its activities. Visit the new website:

www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go

7th Ordinary Session of the Euronest Parliamentary Assembly

Several resolutions were adopted in June by the Parliamentary Assembly, meeting in Brussels, amongst which a [resolution on the EU Multiannual Financial Framework beyond 2020 and development of the Eastern Partnership plus model](#), urging to maintain the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) as a separate financing instrument. On the occasion, Mr Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the European Committee of the Regions and CORLEAP Co-chair, presented ongoing work and spoke in support of complementarity and further reinforcing the respective institutional roles in the streamlined multilateral EaP architecture.

[Read more](#)



8th CORLEAP annual meeting in Kyiv

CORLEAP members will meet 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 will be accompanied by a workshop for young representatives from EaP countries, aimed at raising awareness on disinformation.

[Read more](#)



Freedom, independence and plurality of media

The joint CORLEAP - EURONEST workshop during the European Week of Regions and Cities will be looking 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 and register by 28 September](#)

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 January 2019.



Monitoring visit by the Congress to the Republic of Moldova

A delegation from the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe carried out a monitoring visit to the Republic of Moldova from 13 to 15 June 2018. The delegation examined the situation of local and regional democracy in the light of the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, ratified by the country in 1997.

[Read more](#)



[Fake news in Eastern Europe: 4 narratives undermining trust in the EU](#)

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](#).



In July, the Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum held the launch event of the [Disinformation Resilience Index](#) in Brussels. The report for the Eastern Partnership Region was presented. Participants discussed EaP countries vulnerabilities and preparedness to counter foreign-led disinformation and debated best practices and recommendations to fight disinformation, such as strengthening the media environment, investing in media literacy programmes, promoting better cooperation between governments and civil society as well as working with diasporas.

Studies and Publications



EU financial assistance available to local and regional authorities from EaP countries

Now available on the CORLEAP website: a compilation of information on EU funds, listing programs open to applications from local and regional authorities from the region.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming Events

24 September	8 th CORLEAP Annual meeting, Kyiv
25 September	5 th Meeting of the Committee of the Regions - Ukraine Task Force, Kyiv
9 October	2 nd Joint EU-EaP Ministerial on Environment, Luxembourg
11 October	CORLEAP-EURONEST workshop on media freedom, independence and plurality, Square Brussels Meeting Centre
15 October	EaP Foreign Affairs Ministerial meeting, Luxembourg
8-9 November	Eastern Partnership Youth Conference "Youth for Entrepreneurship", Vienna
12 November	Forum on Local Democracy - "Economic Cooperation and Economic Development at Local Level", Yerevan
11 – 12 December	10 th Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF, Tbilisi
12 December	EURONEST Bureau, Strasbourg

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](#) | [/european.committee.of.the.regions](#) | [/european-committee-of-the-regions](#)