

Aspects of interest

- pursuing a structured engagement with LRAs and their associations across all four EaP priorities and within the reviewed multilateral architecture;
- contributing to the deliverables for 2020 by promoting territorial cooperation and effective capacity building through exchange of good practice and engaging instruments such as the European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation;
- further strengthening cooperation in the field of sustainable municipal development;
- assessing the role of LRAs in the implementation of Association and Partnership Agreements and how LRAs can act as a driver for local economic development;
- facilitate access to information on EU financial assistance available to LRAs in the partner countries, including as channel of dissemination of call for proposals;
- contribute to achieving good governance at all levels by empowering LRAs and consolidating local democracy, including through the use of e-government tools in performing local self-government tasks;
- better communication about the benefits of EaP policies through people-to-people contacts.

At the 5th Eastern Partnership Summit on 24 November 2017, the Heads of state and government stated that they: “welcome the role played by local and regional authorities through the Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the EaP (CORLEAP) in advancing the objectives of the Partnership at the level of governance that is closest to the people.”



**European Committee
of the Regions**

For further information on CORLEAP,
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Conference of the Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership

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CORLEAP is a joint body of local and regional authorities (LRAs) from the EU and the Eastern Partnership countries. It is a platform for discussing the contribution of cities and regions to the development of the Eastern Partnership (EaP). Involving local and regional levels of government should strengthen local and regional self-government in the partner countries and bring the Eastern Partnership closer to citizens.

CORLEAP has been called upon to strengthen the capacity of partner countries at local and regional level with regard to public administration reform and to support delivering EaP priorities in cooperation with its institutional partners.

Objectives of CORLEAP

- promoting dialogue and cooperation between LRAs in the EU and their counterparts in the EaP countries;
- profiling the role of LRAs in shaping and delivering EaP priorities and channelling their contribution;
- providing the framework for a consistent and stable cooperation between the European Committee of the Regions and representatives of LRAs from partner countries;
- promoting contacts between LRAs from partner countries and other EU institutions and bodies;
- promoting the principles of local democracy and fiscal decentralisation.

CORLEAP priorities

CORLEAP is focusing on three main areas in 2018-2019:

1. Economic cooperation and local economic development
2. Good governance and local democracy
3. Youth

The members of CORLEAP

Aiming at balanced political and geographical representation, CORLEAP brings together 36 regional and local politicians (mayors, members of local and regional assemblies or parliaments), 18 from the six Eastern partner countries and 18 from the European Committee of the Regions (CoR). The EU seats are distributed according to the political composition of the CoR, which is divided between five political groups: European People's Party (EPP), Party of European Socialists (PES), Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE), European Alliance (EA) and the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR).

How does CORLEAP work?

CORLEAP functions as a platform for territorial cooperation. Local and regional associations from the partner countries are contact points for CORLEAP. This enables CORLEAP to collect and share information relevant to the local and regional dimension of the EaP with EU institutions and other stakeholders. By reaching out to local authorities in partner countries, as well as private, public, academic, business and government networks, which are linked by common interests and objectives, the Conference and its members promote multilevel governance, enhance the credibility and acceptance of a closer relationship with the EU, and communicate the benefits of this relationship.

Permanent observers contribute to the work of CORLEAP through their expertise and the wide range of activities they carry out:

- The Civil Society Forum (CSF) - active actors in promoting democratic and market-oriented reforms based on shared values, i.e. respect for democracy and human rights, the rule of law, good governance and sustainable development.
- The EURONEST Parliamentary Assembly contributes to the strengthening, development and visibility of the EaP, as the institution responsible for parliamentary consultation, supervision and monitoring.
- The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe has a role in promoting local and regional democracy, improving governance and strengthening local and regional self-government, in accordance with the principles laid down in the European Charter of Local Self-Government. It encourages devolution and regionalisation processes, as well as cross-border cooperation between cities and regions.

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