

CORLEAP Digest - The local voice of the Eastern Partnership

Issue 12, April 2020

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.

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During times of the coronavirus pandemic, most attention is directed towards immediate relief. The EU stands by Eastern partner countries and has reallocated [€140 million for the most immediate needs](#). Furthermore, it will redirect the use of existing instruments worth up to €700 million to help mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis, while the suggested long-term priorities of the Eastern Partnership revolve around strengthening resilience. At the beginning of a new decade, a structured consultations about the Eastern Partnership's future resulted in the recently published "[Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020 - Reinforcing Resilience- an Eastern Partnership that delivers for all](#)". The first EaP country visited by Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi was Ukraine, in February, following the EU-Ukraine Association Council held in January in Brussels.

Against this background, 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



New school for business, entrepreneurship and innovation in Hlybokaje, Belarus

As part of the EU initiative Mayors for Economic Growth, the new 'Centre for Entrepreneurship and Innovations Promotion and Support' was recently opened in the Viciebsk Region of Belarus. The new development project in the field of self-employment and small business will support the launch of ten start-up local projects.

[Read more](#)



Cahul and Ungheni benefit from "EU4Moldova"

Regions of Ungheni and Cahul are beneficiaries of the project "EU Focal Regions", funded by the EU. The total budget is 23,5 mil. EUR, with a duration of seven years, from 2019 to 2025. The aim is to strengthen the economic, territorial and social cohesion in Ungheni and Cahul.

[Read more](#)



Cross-border education campaign for schools in Belarus, Poland and Ukraine

The EU cross-border education campaign has been launched. 24 teams of schoolchildren from Belarus, Poland and Ukraine will work together on environmental projects.

[Read more](#)



Ukrainian start-up develops a wind turbine for cities with EU support

Thanks to the EU funded programme FINTECC, Ukrainian companies bring new energy and climate-friendly technologies to the European and global market. Wind-power turns into energy within the cities themselves, to bring the country closer to clean energy and green future.

[Read more](#)



Azerbaijan trains teachers the principle of “inclusive education”

EU funds support the training of Azerbaijani teachers to foster the principles of inclusive education and to protect the human rights of people with disabilities. The principal objective is to provide teachers with the necessary resources and contribute to the establishment of a high standard of education for all children.

[Read more](#)



Improved water and sanitation in Georgia

The ‘Water to Eliminate Poverty’ project has been implemented in Kvemo Kartli and Kakheti regions, in order to alleviate health and living conditions in socially vulnerable multiethnic communities in Georgia. The project will be completed in June 2020.

[Read more](#)



EU-funded agriculture project launched in Armenia

On 4 March 2020, the EU launched the ‘EU Green Agriculture Initiative in Armenia’ (EU-GAIA). It will support sustainable, inclusive, innovative and market-based agribusiness, focusing on the northern provinces – Shirak, Lori and Tavush. The project has a budget of €11.7 million and will be implemented over the course of three years.

[Read more](#)



Human rights at local level in Georgia

During a workshop organised by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe and the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, in November 2019, representatives of local authorities discussed the implementation of human rights obligations and standards at local level, with a focus on gender equality, non-discrimination, inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups.

[Read more](#)



Conference on political integrity of local elected representatives in Armenia

The event was held in Yerevan, Armenia on 4 March 2020. The exchanges led to the establishment of the Community of Practice on Public Integrity and Ethics in Local Governance in Armenia, which will act as a co-ordinating group for the localisation of national anti-corruption policies and their implementation by local authorities in Armenia.

[Read more](#)



Georgia ratified the Additional Protocol to the European Charter of Local Self-Government on the right to participate in the affairs of a local authority

This ratification is part of the Congress' post-monitoring dialogue with the Georgian authorities and follows the adoption by the Congress of a recommendation on the situation of local and regional democracy in Georgia.

[Read more](#)



Community of practice on local democracy in Ukraine

Representatives of all five national associations of local and regional authorities of Ukraine gathered together for the first time in years in December 2019 to explore venues for co-operation and establishing an effective consultative mechanism with national authorities.

[Read more](#)



Future of Eastern Partnership discussed at the European Committee of the Regions

In November, the CoR's Commission for Citizenship, Governance, Institutional and External Affairs discussed the future of Eastern Partnership with representatives of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly and local authorities from Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova.

[Read more](#)

CORLEAP in Action



Message of local and regional authorities delivered at the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly

The rapporteur of the European Committee of the Regions on the future of Eastern Partnership, Mr Tadeuš Andžejevski (LT/ECR), and Ms Ketevan Mamulashvili, member of Tbilisi City Council and member of CORLEAP, presented their views on the Eastern Partnership's future at the 8th Ordinary Session of the EuroNest Parliamentary Assembly, which took place in December 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

[Read more](#)



CORLEAP proposal included in the communication on Eastern Partnership deliverables beyond 2020

CORLEAP advocates for the establishment of an EaP Academy for the Public Administration, tailored to the specific needs of public administration at sub-national level. This proposal was submitted as contribution to the consultation on the future of the Eastern Partnership and has been taken up in the EU documents prepared for the summit.

[Read more](#)



Call for proposals - Partnership for Sustainable Cities

The distribution of the call through the CORLEAP network caught the interest of Armenian communities, such as the Aparan, Vanadzor, Alaverdi and Ashtarak communities, Tashir, Gyumri and Martuni municipalities. They have contacted partners cities in Italy, France, Poland, Greece and Georgia in view of developing grant applications.

[Read more](#)



Upcoming CORLEAP report on fiscal decentralisation

A report on "Fiscal Decentralisation Policies and Financial Autonomy of Local and Regional Authorities in the EaP Countries" by Mr Anar Ibrahimov, Chairman of the Committee of Human Rights and International Relation of the Parliament of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Azerbaijan) and Co-chair of CORLEAP, is planned for adoption at the 10th CORLEAP annual meeting. The event scheduled for 6 April, in Budapest, had to be postponed.

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 October 2020.



Recent monitoring visits

The Congress carried out a [monitoring visit to Ukraine](#) from 4 to 6 March 2020, to assess the implementation of the provisions of the European Charter of Local Self-Government. It also carried out a post-monitoring visit to the Republic of Moldova on 21 November 2019.

[Read more](#)

Georgian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe

The President of the Congress, Anders Knape, paid an official visit to Georgia from 22 to 25 February 2020, organised in the framework of the [Georgian chairmanship of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe](#). He welcomed the continued commitment of Georgia to decentralisation, in particular the recent adoption of the Strategy for decentralisation and good governance by the Georgian government.

[Read more](#)



Ethical, innovative and inclusive policies and practices at local level in Ukraine

The Congress signed agreements with 13 Ukrainian local authorities on 12 December 2019 to implement local initiatives on ethical, transparent and participatory decision-making; engagement of under-represented groups; and equal opportunities for women and men to participate in local political life.

[Read more](#)



EaP4EU: Joining forces for a win-win partnership

The 11th Annual Assembly of the EaP CSF was held in December 2019 in Brussels. The Forum's 11th [Annual Assembly Declaration \(ENG, RU\)](#) was adopted, with recommendations aimed at the future of the EaP policy and preparations of the sixth Eastern Partnership Summit coming up in 2020.

[Read more](#)



EU NEIGHBOURS
south east



[The EU Neighbours portal](#) raises awareness, increases knowledge and understanding of the European Neighbourhood Policy.



Reinforcing dialogue on gender equality and informed local government reform in Georgia

The EaP Coordination Seminar created an excellent opportunity for exchanges and dialogue between Georgian, Ukrainian and Moldovan representatives regarding gender equality activities, decentralisation strategy and ongoing local government reforms in the three countries.

[Read more](#)

Publications



More info

www.cor.europa.eu/corleap.go

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The Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership was established by the European Committee of the Regions 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.



European Committee of the Regions