

Programmatic Cooperation Framework for
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus

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TOWARDS A MORE EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES: NEW WAYS AND TOOLS

Potential spheres for IMC implementation in Georgia

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Inter-municipal cooperation is a novelty in Georgia.

Due to poor quality of decentralization in the country, local self-governments had a limited degree of independence in decision-making.

However, some real examples of such cooperation have emerged in recent years:

- Some joint services were established - For instance, the city of Zugdidi and Zugdidi community managed to keep a joint service for waste management.
- There were also cases of co-financing of infrastructural projects - In 2013 two municipalities of Imereti region (Tskaltubo and Tkibuli) implemented a project on the rehabilitation of road infrastructure through proportional share (2/3 and 1/3 respectively).

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The new format of issue management, which is discussed at our conference, creates new opportunities – Inter-municipal cooperation can be implemented foreseeing the experience of European countries and according to international standards.

Within CoE/EU Eastern Partnership Programmatic Co-operation Framework (PCF) was conducted a survey in municipalities of Shida Qartli and Kakheti regions, concerning possible spheres and forms of cooperation.

We addressed the question to 18 municipalities of two regions.

We received feedback from 12 municipalities.

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Spheres:

- The majority of them, (8 respondents) declare the first stage of possible cooperation in the field of control of stray animals. They hope, on this stage idea could give us instant results.
- Second place went to creation of joint coordination system together with International organizations.
- There were also suggestions in the field of tourism, joint ventures of social networking and traffic infrastructure.

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Forms:

Local authorities have different opinions concerning project implementation forms.

- Creation of joint Agencies (Municipal Enterprise)
- Coordination of existing municipal structures.
- Form of purchasing services from commercial structures.

It should be noted, that Shida Kartli governor's office and a number of municipalities also expressed their will to participate in joint activities with civil society.

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Since municipalities express desire to cooperate, the next stage can be:

- Fixing this desires in the form of Intent statement;
- Identifying certain common themes by municipal clusters;
- Creating detailed action plan on selected topics (together with experts of Council of Europe).

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Thank you for your attention