



Strengthening democracy and local governance in the Eastern Partnership countries

Sharing the vision



**Working together
to strengthen
local governance**

<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

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

Funded
by the European Union
and the Council of Europe



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Implemented
by the Council of Europe



*Conference
"Inter-municipal
cooperation: models
for empowering local
self-government"
Kiev, Ukraine
October 2015*

The thematic programme "Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance" is being implemented by the Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Directorate General of Democracy, and the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities.

Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, this thematic programme is implemented by the Council of Europe through the Programmatic Cooperation Framework (PCF) for 2015-2017 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. The total budget of the programme is € 2,570,000.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- ▶ to support the on-going process of reform of local government in participating countries;
- ▶ to promote ethical behaviour by locally elected representatives of the region;
- ▶ to support the improvement of financial and human resources management of local administrations based on European standards and benchmarking processes.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- ▶ to improve the consistency of the legislative framework, streamlining new by-laws in at least three beneficiary countries and to develop targeted recommendations;
- ▶ to foster a more efficient, transparent and ethical governance at the local level in at least three beneficiary countries;
- ▶ to develop and adapt the standard European local finance benchmarking tool to the specific countries so as to improve legislation and local regulations.



*Conference
"Strengthening
democracy and local
governance in the
Eastern Partnership
countries:
sharing the vision",
Tbilisi, Georgia
July 2015*

COUNTRIES

- ▶ Armenia
- ▶ Azerbaijan
- ▶ Georgia
- ▶ Moldova
- ▶ Ukraine
- ▶ Belarus

BENEFICIARIES

- ▶ Local and regional authorities and their respective associations
- ▶ Ministries responsible for local self-government
- ▶ Civil society and citizens

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ▶ regional studies on the role and responsibilities of mayors and councillors, on inter-municipal cooperation and local finance benchmarking;
- ▶ conferences, workshops, bilateral round tables, as well as training sessions;
- ▶ peer-to-peer exchanges and study visits;
- ▶ awareness raising and visibility actions;
- ▶ country-specific studies and publications;
- ▶ development of recommendations for reform and legal expertise.

METHODOLOGY

- ▶ bilateral work as well as multilateral exchange of experience and cross-fertilisation;
- ▶ special emphasis on common issues and comprehensive approach;
- ▶ flexible forum for stakeholders to discuss European standards of local governance;
- ▶ shared use of key findings and applicable European standards;
- ▶ emphasis on expertise, adaptation of approaches to national situations, bilateral assistance;
- ▶ adaptation of tools and methods to each country.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- ▶ **Congress of Regional and Local Authorities of the Council of Europe**
<http://www.coe.int/congress>
- ▶ **Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Directorate General Democracy, Council of Europe**
http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/localdemocracy/Centre_expertise/default_en.asp
- ▶ **Eastern Partnership Programmatic Cooperation Framework website**
<http://eap-pcf-eu.coe.int>

CONTACTS

Headquarters

Council of Europe
Palais de l'Europe
Avenue de l'Europe
67000 Strasbourg, France

Marite Moras

Head of Unit
Cooperation Activities Unit
Congress of Local and Regional
Authorities
marite.moras@coe.int

Daniel Popescu

Head of Division
Centre of Expertise for
Local Government Reform
daniel.popescu@coe.int

Field Office

Council of Europe
63 Vlaicu Pircalab Str, IV Floor
Chisinau MD-2012, Moldova
+373 022 202-304

Ion Beschieru

Programme Manager
ion.beschieru@coe.int

Sergiu Tatarov

Senior Project Officer
sergiu.tatarov@coe.int

Violeta Frunze

Senior Project Officer
violeta.frunze@coe.int

The Council of Europe is the continent's leading human rights organisation. It comprises 47 member states, 28 of which are members of the European Union. All Council of Europe member states have signed up to the European Convention on Human Rights, a treaty designed to protect human rights, democracy and the rule of law. The European Court of Human Rights oversees the implementation of the Convention in the member states.

www.coe.int

The European Union is a unique economic and political partnership between 28 democratic European countries. Its aims are peace, prosperity and freedom for its 500 million citizens – in a fairer, safer world. To make things happen, EU countries set up bodies to run the EU and adopt its legislation. The main ones are the European Parliament (representing the people of Europe), the Council of the European Union (representing national governments) and the European Commission (representing the common EU interest).

<http://europa.eu>



EUROPEAN UNION

COUNCIL OF EUROPE



CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE