

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

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### STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY AND LOCAL GOVERNANCE IN THE EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES: SHARING THE VISION

10 - 11 July 2015  
Hualing Hotel, Tbilisi, Georgia

#### Context

The Council of Europe and the European Union signed in December 2014 a Programmatic Cooperation Framework for the Eastern Partnership region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and Belarus), for the period covering 2015-2017. The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, in close co-operation with the Directorate General for Democracy, is responsible for the implementation of the thematic component "Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance".

The Conference is the first major regional event of the programme, and will bring together local elected representatives, national associations of local authorities, civil society organisations and experts from the local governance and democracy sectors.

During this two-day event, the participants will discuss the findings of a study on the roles and responsibilities of mayors and councillors in the Eastern Partnership countries. Each formal presentation will be followed by an interactive discussion. The participants will be invited to reflect on the following questions: how to lead for change as a local elected representative, how to enhance trust in local authorities and citizen participation in an ethical decision-making process, and how to define effective means to strengthen institutional frameworks for local governance.

This event is organised by the Congress of Local and Regional authorities in co-operation with the National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia. The working languages are English, Russian and Georgian and interpretation will be provided in these three languages only.

*The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe represents local and regional authorities and promotes grassroots democracy. It has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions, and brings together 324 full and 324 substitute members representing more than 200,000 European territorial communities*  
<http://www.coe.int/t/congress>

## Preliminary Draft Programme

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### Friday 10 July 2015

- 09:15 Registration of participants
- 10:00 **Opening and welcome**
- David Narmania, *Mayor of Tbilisi, Head of the delegation of Georgia to the Congress*  
Nodar Javakhishvili, *Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia*  
Janos Herman, *Ambassador of the European Union to Georgia*  
Nataliya Romanova, *Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*
- 10:45 **Roundtable on Democracy and local governance: prospects and challenges**
- Presentation of the study on roles and responsibilities of mayors and local councillors followed by a plenary discussion*
- Moderator: Marité Moras, *Head of the Cooperation activities Unit, Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe*
- Panel:
- Juraj Nemec, *International expert, lead expert of the study on roles and responsibilities of local elected representatives*  
Davit Jikia, *President of National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia, Mayor of Rustavi, Deputy-Head of the delegation of Georgia to the Congress*  
Emin Yeritsyan, *Co-Chair of CORLEAP, President of the Communities Association of Armenia, Head of the delegation of Armenia to the Congress*  
Nina Costiuc, *Mayor of Budesti, Member of the Executive Bureau of the Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova, Member of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova to the Congress*  
Volodymyr Myagkokhod, *Association of Ukrainian Cities, Analytical centre for the sphere of good governance, administrative services and citizens participation*
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30 **Sharing of experiences: my role and responsibilities as an elected representative**
- Work in groups and discussion on the themes of the study*
- Moderator: Ion Beschieru, *Programme manager*
- 17:30 Closing statements of the day
- 19:30 *Dinner hosted by David Narmania, Mayor of the City of Tbilisi*

## Saturday 11 July 2015

- 09:00 Introduction to the thematic sessions
- Thematic sessions**
1. Mayors for change: leading successful local initiatives  
Moderators: Paolo Crugnola, *International expert, Italy*,  
and Ivanna Ibragimova, *International expert, Ukraine*
  2. Trust in local authorities: promoting an efficient, transparent and  
accountable decision-making process  
Moderators: Matej Gomboši, *International expert, Slovenia*,  
and Aive Pevkur, *International expert, Estonia*
  3. Dialogue with citizens: building effective and inclusive local democracy  
Moderators: Miroslav Kobasa, *Local expert, Belarus*,  
and Nino Tvaltvadze, *Local expert, Georgia*
- 12:30 *Lunch*
- 14:30 **Strengthening democracy and local governance in the Eastern  
Partnership countries**  
*Presentation of the results of the thematic sessions and discussion on the  
way forward*
- 15:00 Closing statements