

Partnership for Good Governance



4th meeting of the Community of Practice on local democracy in the Eastern Partnership Countries

Hotel President, Kyiv, Ukraine

29 June 2017

Context

The thematic programme “Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance” is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, through the Partnership for Good Governance for 2015-2017 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus. It is implemented by the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe (the Congress), in close co-operation with the Directorate General for Democracy.

The Community of Practice on local democracy in the Eastern Partnership countries was established with the aim to strengthen the capacities of local elected representatives to implement best practices in their communities, and in particular:

- to advise on the potential for implementation of the study recommendations¹;
- to provide a platform for local authorities to share examples of good practices, initiate peer exchange and network between themselves – **(networking)**;
- to support mayors in promoting more ethical and transparent governance, especially using new modalities, tools and techniques which will foster active citizen participation in local decision making processes – **(ethics and participation)**;
- to guide mayors to successfully apply “lessons learnt” through implementation of ‘local initiatives on ethical governance and transparency’, by introducing higher ethical standards and fostering citizen participation – **(coaching)**.

The Community of Practice involves experts and practitioners in the fields of local governance and ethics, representatives of national associations of local authorities and civil society. It aims to ensure regular communication on national developments and contributes to the support provided to the on-going process of reform of local government, and promotion of ethical behaviour by locally elected representatives in the region, whilst fostering citizen-oriented dialogue.

¹ A study on the roles and responsibilities of mayors and local councillors in the Eastern Partnership countries was disseminated in the countries concerned, and serves as a basis for the activities of the programme. It was developed with the aim to strengthen the local leaders in order for them to further contribute to the development of local democratic governance.

The study takes an integral look at the execution of roles and functions of local elected representatives, the division and scope of their responsibilities, the situation of local finances and the quality of local democracy.

Agenda

→ *Welcome lunch (12:00 – 13:30)*

13:30 – 14:30

Developments in the field of local democracy

Brief overview of recent changes in local self-government in Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

14:30 – 15:30

Leading change through local initiatives

Presentation of local initiatives on ethical governance and transparency: steps taken, challenges faced, lessons learnt

Indicators of change and evaluation of results

15:30 – 16:30

Preparation for the second field visits

Discussion on best ways to support mayors (coaching vs. monitoring)

→ *Coffee break (16:30 – 17:00)*

17:00 – 18:00

Dissemination of good practices and experience

Discussions on peer-reviews and the regional seminar on good practice

18:00 – 18:30

Wrap-up session: next steps, date and topics for the future

List of participants

Experts

1. Catherine CURRIE, United Kingdom
2. Sorin IONITA, Romania
3. Giorgi MESKHIDZE, Georgia
4. Aive PEVKUR, Estonia
5. Mel STEVENS, United Kingdom
6. Tigran TSHOROKHYAN, Armenia
7. Tetiana VASYLEVSKA, Ukraine
8. Anthony ZACHARZEWSKI, United Kingdom

Associations of local and regional authorities

9. Natalya LAPAURI, Executive Director, Communities Association of Armenia (CAA)
10. David MELUA, Executive Director, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)
11. Kakha GURGENIDZE, National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia (NALAG)
12. Alexandru OSADCI, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM)
13. Alexandru MORCOV, Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova (CALM)
14. Oleksandr SLOBUZHAN, Executive Director of the Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC)
15. Mykola POIEDYNOK, Executive Director of the Association of Village and Settlement Councils of Ukraine (VASSR)

Secretariat of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

16. Marité MORAS, Head of the Co-operation Activities Unit
17. Svetislav PAUNOVIC, Project Co-ordinator

Council of Europe Office in Moldova

18. Ion BESCHIERU, Programme Manager
19. Violeta FRUNZE, Senior Project Officer
20. Marina TABARNA, Project Assistant