

# ENP roll-out: Strengthening local and regional democracy

## The role of CORLEAP

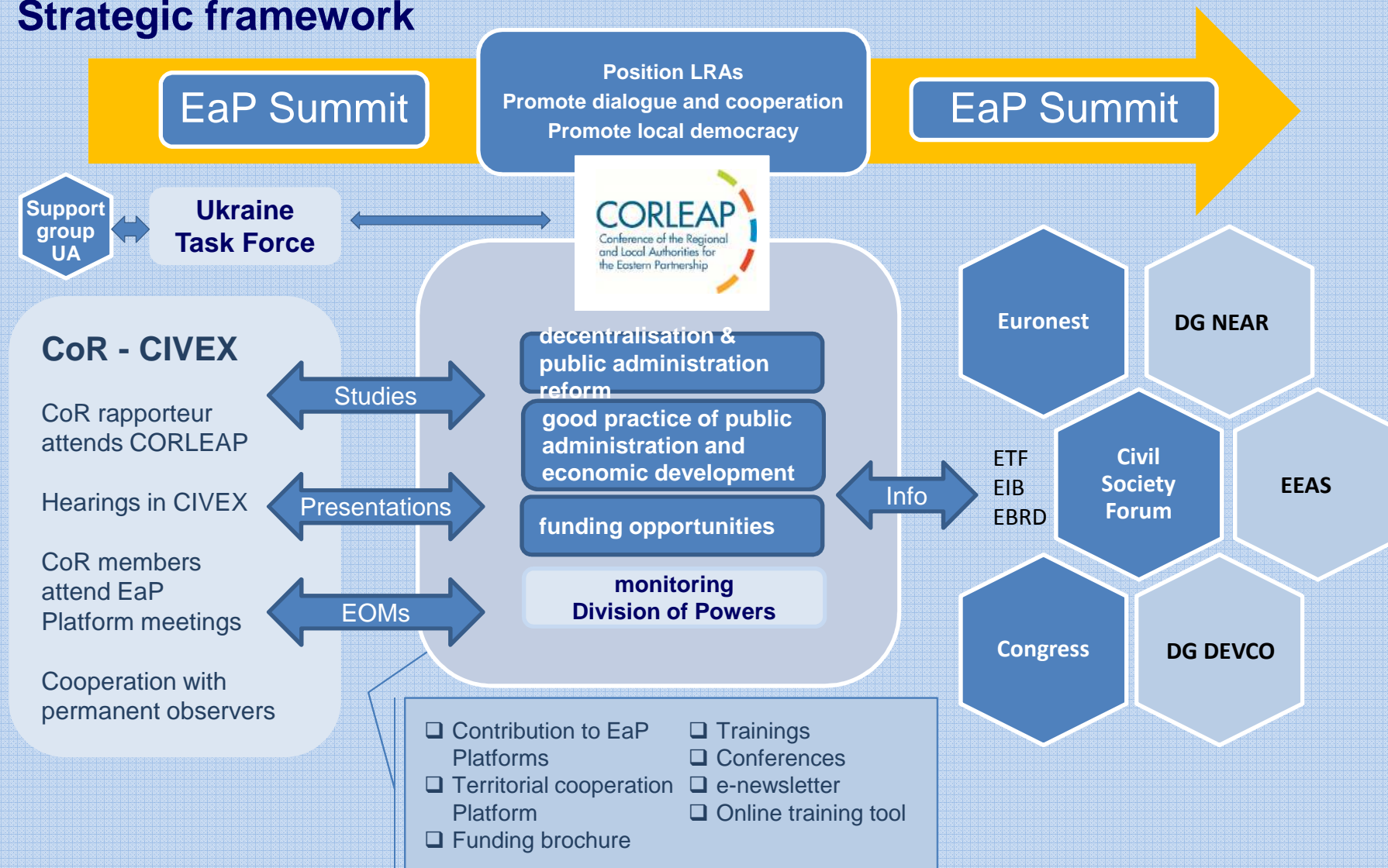


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## Strategic framework



### How we interact



## 1. Conveying political messages/support

*“CORLEAP encourages a multi-stakeholder approach to local and regional development within the ENP policy, based on close cooperation between local and regional authorities, civil society organisations and citizens.*

(CORLEAP Consultation: on ENP review, April 2015)

## 2. Recommendations for the Summit

*“ CALL FOR a greater role for the Associations of Local Authorities in assisting LRAs in participating in the formulation of national/sector policies affecting them and in service provision. “*

(CORLEAP recommendations for the Riga Summit 2015)

## 3. CORLEAP reports

- Developing civic participation as a way to strengthen local democracy in the Eastern Partnership countries
- Energy efficiency: The role of local and regional authorities

### **CORLEAP report**

“Developing civic participation as a way to strengthen local democracy in the Eastern Partnership countries”

### **Identified challenges**

- low level of public trust in political elites
- LRAs' insufficient control of revenue, despite increases
- fragmented local and regional government structure – slow process of consolidation
- implementation of EU inspired solutions/mechanisms at early stage
- low level of information on funding opportunities



Rapporteur Pawel Adamowicz (PL/EPP)  
Mayor of the city of Gdańsk  
*6<sup>th</sup> CORLEAP annual meeting 30  
September 2016*

## **CORLEAP report**

“Developing civic participation as a way to strengthen local democracy in the Eastern Partnership countries”

## **Recommendations**

- increase in EU support for the EaP region
- recognition of the importance of local communities
- thorough reform of local governments
- intensification of cooperation between local and regional authorities
- increased support for local media
- promotion of the shared democratic European heritage



## Civil society development

### Barometer:

- interaction with local authorities
- influence on local decision-making

### Trends:

- influence by geopolitical developments
- NGO-cracy
- religious institutions as hubs of societal activism and involvement
- offering interactivity (media & communication technology) does not guarantee participation

## CORLEAP toolbox

1. Funding opportunities
  - i. Conferences
  - ii. Information material
2. Division of Powers
3. Portal of Decentralised Cooperation
4. Territorial cooperation  
EGTC
5. Peer-to-peer exchange



Conference on sustainable development –  
Covenant of Mayors East  
Yerevan, 26 October 2016



Brochures & studies  
*Financial assistance, CORLEAP, New ENP*





## Interactive site

The screenshot displays the 'Division of Powers' website for Georgia. The browser address bar shows the URL: `portal.cor.europa.eu/divisionpowers/countries/EasternPartnershipcountries/Georgia/Pages/default.aspx`. The page features a header with the 'division of POWERS' logo and the 'Committee of the Regions' logo. A navigation menu includes 'Division of Powers', 'Home', 'Countries', and 'Contact'. A breadcrumb trail indicates the current location: 'You are here: Countries > Eastern Partnership countries > Georgia'. A search bar and social media icons are also present. The main content area is titled 'Division of Powers' and contains text about the 2013 constitutional amendments in Georgia. A right-hand sidebar titled 'Related Information' lists links to various documents and reports.

**division of POWERS**

**Division of Powers**

Division of Powers Home **Countries** Contact

You are here: Countries > Eastern Partnership countries > Georgia

Search this site

**Georgia**

### Division of Powers

In October 2013 amendments were made to the Constitution of **Georgia**, which changed the state system from that of a [strong] presidential to a semi-presidential system. Previously, the president was the head of government and head of the state, and he had the right to initiate laws. Now the president is solely the head of state and does not have the right to initiate laws, and the Prime minister is currently the head of the Government. According to the new amendments the Prime minister is presented by the President to the parliament and is appointed by the parliament.

Article 2.3 of the Constitution of Georgia states: "Constitutional law shall determine the territorial state structure of Georgia on the basis of the principle of delimitation of powers after the complete restoration of jurisdiction of Georgia over the whole territory of the country."

Article 2.4. of the Constitution determines that "the citizens of Georgia registered in a self-governing unit shall regulate matters of local importance through local self-government, without prejudice to state sovereignty, according to the legislation of Georgia. State authorities shall promote the development of local self-government."

Articles 1011, 1012, 1013 of the Georgian Constitution include the definition of self-government and grants independence/autonomy to local self-governments from central government.

The Local Self-Government Code broadly outlines self-government powers, structures, competences, fiscal powers and civil engagement in local self-government.

The Budget Code of Georgia includes a precise definition of local self-government incomes.

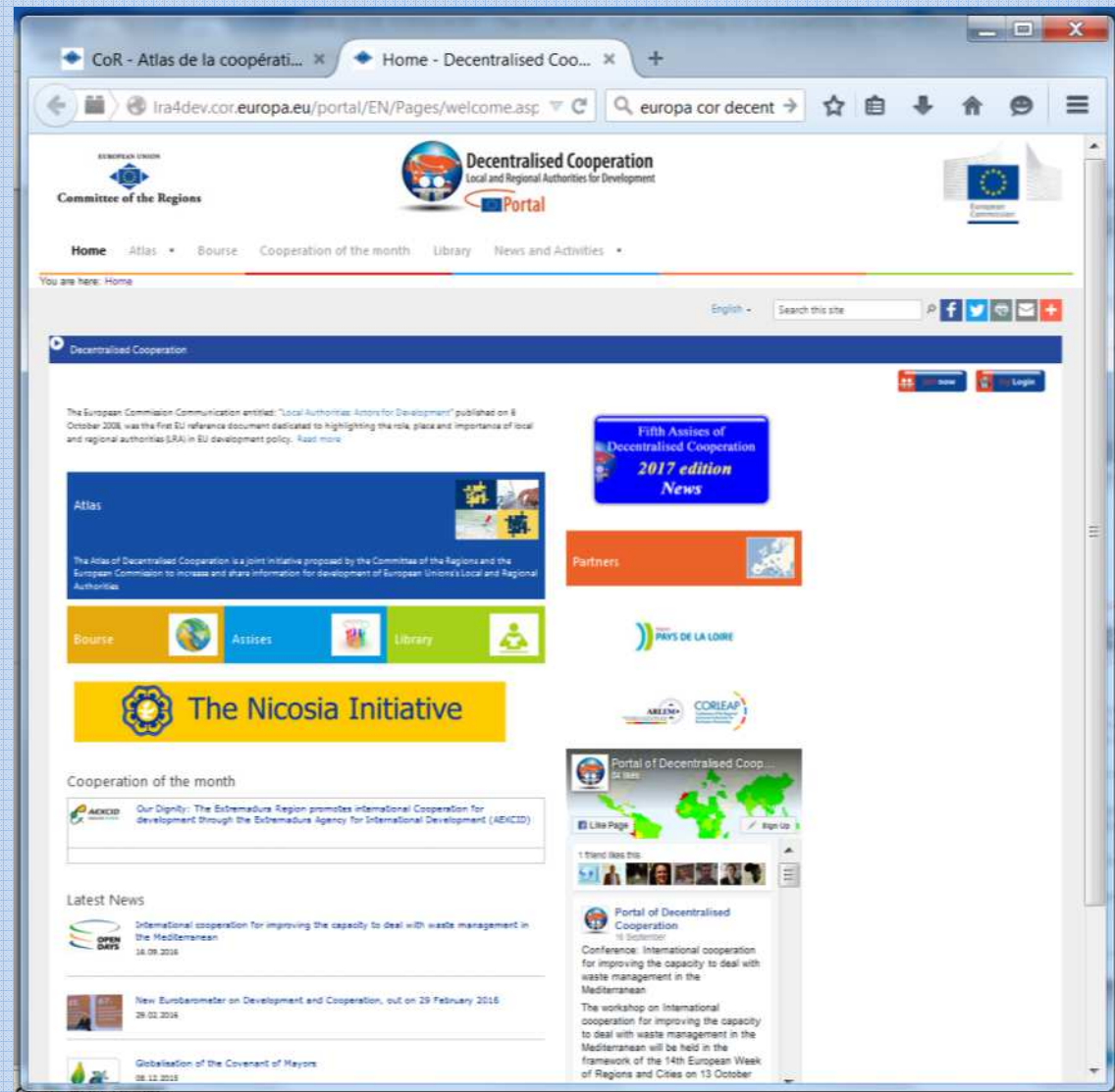
The Law on State Property determines the rules and procedures related to the ownership and exercise of power over state property, including the property owned by the local governments.

**Related Information**

Georgia

- Latest monitoring report from the Congress of the CoE
- Systems of multilevel governance
- Relations with the EU/Representation at EU level
- Subsidiarity
- Fiscal Powers
- Bibliography

## Portal of decentralised cooperation



### The Platform of European Groupings of Territorial Cooperation (EGTC)

- **European register of EGTC in the CoR**
  - 64 EGTCs registered in 20 MS
  - Open to non-EU countries
    - ➔ **EGTC Tisza** between HU and UA (Zakarpattia oblast)
- The **Platform** groups all players in EGTC and cross-border cooperation
  - Assistance and support
  - Political input on cross-border issues
  - Annual monitoring report and studies
- Thematic

portal:

[www.cor.europa.eu/egtc](http://www.cor.europa.eu/egtc)



Annual meeting 2016  
Award to the cross-border Cerdanya  
Hospital

## Take away





### Why?

- promoting cooperation at local and regional level
- supporting the transformation process at local and regional level

### How?

- showcase success and potential
- increase the understanding and visibility of the benefits of EaP policy to citizens
- communicate about the ENP in both EU and partner countries

### What's next?

- translating the policy developments into a new impetus for the EaP in a bottom-up approach



# Thank you for your attention

## European Committee of the Regions

Directorate B – Legislative works

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Commission for Citizenship, Governance,  
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EUROPEAN UNION



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