



Project co-funded
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European Union – Eastern Partnership Local Leaders' Forum "Solidarity and cooperation: how to be stronger together in the coming years?"

Working languages: Latvian, English, Russian (simultaneous interpretation)

12 November 2020
9:00 – 14:30 (CET)

Online event. Zoom platform

The European Union – Eastern Partnership Local Leaders' Forum is taking place already the second year in a row. 2020 is a crucial year to give strong platform for the municipalities to inform about their interests regarding the Eastern Partnership policy after the publication of the European Commission publication on the Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020.

The discussions and best practice exchange is of high importance for the European Union and Eastern Partnership countries' municipalities to succeed their bilateral cooperation activities and possibilities to take part in the development cooperation projects co-funded by the European Union. Likewise, the European Union – Eastern Partnership Local Leaders' Forum will take place at the crucial moment to prepare the common Declaration on the interests and needs of local and regional municipalities active in Eastern Partnership to be submitted for the political leaders before the Eastern Partnership summit of March 2021.

The discussions and best practice exchange among participants and speakers from the European Commission, European Union and Eastern Partnership countries' municipalities will be the central element of the Forum. Acting locally involving citizens and cooperation are essential ingredients of extended networks to deepen collaboration in Europe, so that no one is left behind!

Agenda

09:00 – 09:10	<p>Welcome speech by Mr Gints Kaminskis, Chairman, the Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments, CoR CORLEAP Member</p> <p>Moderated by Ms Iveta Reinholde, Professor, Department of Political Science, the University of Latvia</p>
09:10 – 09:30	<p>Opening of the discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr Edgars Rinkēvičs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia - Mr Frédéric Vallier, Secretary General of Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) on behalf of PLATFORMA - Mr Mārtiņš Staķis, Mayor of Riga City - Ms Marika Chkhikvishvili Member of Ozurgeti Municipal Council, Georgia

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09:30 - 09:50	<p>Eastern Partnership policy beyond 2020: how can we advance from partnership to the association?</p> <p>- Mr Jeroen Willems, Deputy Head of Unit EaP, DG NEAR</p>
09:50 – 10:30	<p>1st Panel discussion</p> <p>Together towards environmental and climate resilience – Local and regional governments’ contribution to the European Green Deal</p> <p>- Mr Markku Markkula, Vice President, European Committee of the Regions, Finland</p> <p>- Mr Gunārs Anšņš, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, rapporteur on the opinion on the EU Strategy for Energy System Integration, Latvia</p> <p>Green Deal’s external action:</p> <p>-Mr Alexandru Osadci, Coordinator of international relations, Congress of Local Authorities, Moldova</p> <p>-Mr Sandro Sordia, Member of Zugdidi Municipal Council, Georgia</p>
10:30 – 10:50	Questions and answers session
10:50-11:00	Break
11:00 – 11:40	<p>2nd Panel discussion</p> <p>Public reforms and SDGs’ implementation</p> <p>Moderated by Ms Mudite Priede, Secretary General, Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments</p> <p>- A holistic approach to the SDGs and experiences from Viken County Government, Norway by Ms Line Begby, Special Adviser for the Sustainable Development Goals, Viken County, Norway</p> <p>- Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals: City of Riga Practical Experience by Mr Jurijs Grizāns, chief project manager of City Development Department, Riga City Council</p> <p>- Mr Viorel Furdui Councillor of the Straseni municipality, Executive director of Congress of Local Authorities, Moldova</p> <p>- Study on public administration reforms: Network of Associations of Local Authorities of South-East Europe (NALAS) by Mr Elton Stafa, Fiscal Decentralisation Expert, NALAS and Ms Alexandra Schantl, Senior Expert at Center for Public Administration Research (KDZ), Austria</p>

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11:40 – 11:50	Questions and answers session
11:50 - 12:00	Closing remarks by Mr Axel Kuechle , Counselor, COEST Delegate, Permanent Representation of Germany to the European Union Representative of German presidency
12:00 – 13:00	Break
13:00 – 14:30	
	Session “The role of youth in policy and civic participation” <i>organised in cooperation with the CEMR</i>
	« Upgrading local democracy through technology : is politics more responsive to citizens in the digital era ? »
	Moderated by Ms Tamsin Rose , Senior Fellow, Friends of Europe
12.45 – 13.00	Connection to virtual meeting and arrival of participants
13.00 – 13.05	Introduction by moderator
13.05 – 13.10	Words of welcome by Ms Marlène Simeon , Director of PLATFORMA
13.10 – 13.15	Keynote speech by Ms Katarzyna Smetek , President of Polish Youth Climate Council at the Ministry of Climate in Warsaw, Poland
13.15 – 13.25	Presentation of platforms that enhance the role of youth in local public policy making Mr Wietse Van Ransbeeck , Co-founder & CEO of CitizenLab Digital Democracy (Belgium) Mr Mikalai (Nikolai) Kvantaliani , Eap Civil Society Forum Steering Committee member, representative of the Association “New Group” (Belarus)
13.25 – 13.35	The role of new technologies during COVID-19 : the example of online schooling Dr. Vladimir Prebilič , Mayor of Kočevje, Slovenia Mayor of Kocevje (Slovenia)
13.35 – 13.50	1st round of exchange: How has digitalisation affected my municipality and citizens ? Mr Harijs Rokpelnis , Mayor of Mazsalaca municipality Ms Salome Ghonghadze , National Association of Local Authorities of Georgia NALAG, Member of Lagodekhi Municipal Council

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13.50 – 14.05	<p>2nd round of exchange: How can this new form of e-governance help enhance civic participation in local policy making?</p> <p>Ms Irina Yarmolenko, City council member of Zhytomyr, AUC, Association of Ukrainian Cities, Member of the CEMR Standing Committee for Equality</p> <p>Mr Eduard Rivas Mateo, Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces, CEMR Spokesperson – Civic engagement and citizens participation, Mayor of Esparraguera (Barcelona)</p>
14.05 – 14.30	<p><i>Q&A, recommendations & closing remarks by moderator</i></p>