

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



Ethics in local policies: local elected representatives from Eastern Partnership join forces

Strasbourg, 27 June 2016 - “Transparency, accountability and citizen participation need our full attention, involvement and timely reaction. Although our situations and expectations may differ, it is precisely through exchanges among peers as those we have shared during these three days that we will be able to implement these objectives,” concluded one of the local elected representatives involved in the regional seminar “Local public ethics: from vision to action”.

Held in Kyiv, Ukraine, the seminar has gathered together about 100 participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus and other European countries - local elected representatives, associations of local and regional authorities, members of Congress and experts. Through a combination of interactive plenary and working group sessions, involving Congress members Robert Biedron (Poland, SOC) and Saša Paunović (Serbia, SOC) extensive exchanges of experience and in-depth discussions have been carried out on how to enhance transparency and develop local public policies with higher ethical standards.

The results of the group discussions prove the determination of mayors to lead the change in their communities and their clear intention to promote higher ethical standards. The Congress heard the comments made by participants on the common needs to be addressed which demonstrate the prevailing will to be more involved and to receive stronger support through the programme for the development of innovative and ethical initiatives in their communities.

The discussions highlighted the effective regional and bilateral approaches taken by the thematic programme “Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance”, implemented in the CoE/EU Programmatic Co-operation Framework 2015-2017, going beyond administrative borders and integrating national policies into a regional perspective.

The seminar is organised by the [Congress of Local and Regional Authorities](#) within the thematic programme “Strengthening institutional frameworks for local governance”, implemented jointly with the Council of Europe Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform, Directorate General of Democracy. This programme is funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe, and implemented by the Council of Europe, through the [Programmatic Co-operation Framework](#) for 2015-2017 for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

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