Swedish-Ukrainian Project Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine 2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

August 2022

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Experts prepared analysis of the implementation of local budgets for 7 months of 2022
- Law on simplification of the mechanism for using funds from the special fund of local budgets on which
 Project experts worked was adopted
- Experts worked on the Draft of State Budget of Ukraine for 2023
- Experts took part in various ministerial meetings on Excise tax on fuel and on the issue of financing educational, health care and other budgetary institutions in the temporarily occupied territories
- Experts were working on the Draft Law "On the possibility for LSG to create separate joint tax body"
- Experts prepared an article on <u>"Local budgets will receive UAH 14 billion for a sustainable heating season"</u>
- UPDATED Peculiarities of the budget process under the martial law

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

The work of the education decentralisation team focused on:

- Experts are in permanent touch with the Ministry of Education
- Seminar for the Ukrainian specialists of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine was held in Warsaw. As a result preparation of several variants of allocation of 2023 education subvention will be done
- Supporting MES in preparation of the response to the Ministry of Finance regarding the allocation of 2023 education subvention. Additional explanatory documents and simulations were prepared
- Experts supported the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in creation of new statistical forms for collection of personal data of teachers and students
- Experts are working on the proposal on how to use the reserve of allocation subvention during school year
- Finalised the draft report on education budgeting at the local level and shared with stakeholders for comments





Decentralisation of Education (local level)

The work of the expert team of local education component focused on:

- Experts are working on the initiative "School Gardens of Victory". Work is performed with 3 pilot hromadas from Khmelnytska, Ternopilska and Lvivska oblasts. <u>Facebook Page was created</u>. <u>Experts visited hromadas which are taking part in the initiative "Victory Gardens in schools".</u>
- Experts visited hromadas who received grants to monitor the work with equipment in the framework of the initiative "School Victory Gardens" (Khmelnytska and Ternopilska oblast)
- In the framework of the initiative "School Gardens of Victory" 3 quests for participants were organised. Final quest with the winners is planned for September
- Experts are finalising methodology of "Victory Gardens in schools" which will be transferred to the Ministry of Education for future implementation all over Ukraine
- On 25 August meeting with the Vyshneve territorial community of Kyiv oblast on education optimization and memorandum of cooperation was signed
- On 25 August meeting with Yaroslava Trostyanska Acting Director of the Department of Education and Science of the Kviv Regional State Administration on profile education
- Preparation of the series of webinars on education in September
- Draft of the new Optimisation game for profile education on the basis of the previous game was prepared. There is a great demand from hromadas for this new Game. Holding of the first Game is planned in September in Volynska oblast

•

- Preparing new best practice descriptions from hromadas in war times. By the end of August, the online platform of best practices on education management contained 112 practices on effective management of education at local level. Each good practice record contains a description of the practice, analysis of the problem it aims to resolve, approach taken and results achieved, as well as description of risks, relevant regulatory and legal acts developed by the hromadas. Since the launch of the platform it has been visited 1 563 083 times. All best practices can be downloaded at www.wiki.sklinternational.org.ua
- Online repository of the products and resources related to education management in local self-governments. The repository supports the capacity building of the local self-government employees.
 In August the repository had 8,611 unique visitors and 17,745 visits

United for Ukraine

• This is a campaign with the goal to help to establish long-standing partnerships between Ukrainian communities and peer-communities abroad.

What has been already done by the end of August:

- 36 community profiles are on the website https://unitedforua.org/
- 51 community profile is under preparation
- The initiative was presented:
 - o At 31st Economic Forum in Karpacz, Poland
- Meeting with the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic where experts presented the initiative https://unitedforua.org/
- Presentation is planned during the <u>Conference of Regional and Local Authorities for the Eastern Partnership (CORLEAP)</u>
- German non-profit organisation Engagement Global helped to establish 2 partnerships of Bilohorodska community and Lomen, and Radomyshelska community with Linder community

- Preparation of the online residence for hromadas to show the peculiarities of future partnerships with practical cases
- There is a plan to organise an international event branded by the Chamber of Local Self-Governments under the President's Regional Development Council to invite LSGs Associations from Europe to share the information about the initiative

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- AATC continues working on the initiative "Hromada-Hromada support". Besides the Project this initiative could be supported by the USAid Dobre Project
- AATC joined the initiative of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union "European Alliance of
 Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine" and preparing comments to the document. The
 purpose of the Alliance is to unite the efforts of the Committee of the Regions, European and Ukrainian
 associations of local self-government, cities and communities of the European Union and Ukraine, aimed
 at rebuilding of Ukraine. A separate role will be assigned to the "Platform for Reconstruction of Ukraine",
 which is currently being formed by the European Union
- AATC is preparing weekly digest on work of local governments under martial law
- AATC prepared information on Improvement and simplification of budget procedures under martial law: innovations in the Budget Code of Ukraine
- AATC prepared materials on "Conducting meetings of local government in remote mode"
- AATC took part in a public discussion about community food security
- AATC prepared material on Amendments to the Procedure for the exercise of powers by the State
 <u>Treasury Service in a special regime under martial law (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine</u>
 dated June 9, 2021 No. 590)
- AATC is working on collecting information for restoration and development of the infrastructure of territorial communities affected by the armed aggression of the RussianFederation
- AATC is working on preparation for the webinar on how to track humanitarian aid
- On August 17, AATC held a webinar "Development of agricultural cooperation to create infrastructure for product sales"
- On 18 August AATC held webinar "Do we need to talk about agricultural cooperatives during the war?"
- On 19 August AATC presented of the all-Ukrainian project "Move to the victory of Ukraine! Games of the brave!"
- Experts are working on the renewal of the work with regional branches of the AATC
- An initiative called "Strong hromadas bringing Victory Closer" is called upon to stimulate cooperation, social and humanitarian support to IDPs and war affected population and the development of the local economy during wartime. As part of the initiative, the hromadas can receive support, including funding, to develop and implement one socially-oriented micro-project. 9 (nine) hromadas in Khmelnytsky, Ternopil and Lviv regions have been selected.
 - Main activities under the component:
 - Partnership Agreements were signed with 9 pilot hromadas. Project completed deliveries equipment. 100% of the cost of the goods has been paid. Experts visited hromadas for verification of received equipment in Khmelnytska and Ternopilska oblasts
 - Experts are working with the 5 communities supporting them in preparation projects to apply for the international support on economic development. Presentation of the projects will be in September. There are 2 hromadas who have 5 drafts of the ToR of the projects, 2 – with 4 ToR and 1 has 2 ToR

Gender Component:

- On 17 August online discussion <u>"Solving the problems of employment of women, including internally displaced persons"</u> organized by the UN Women was held
- Experts are involved in preparation of the seminar of UN Women on the Role of the Women in LSG
- Global Gender Gap report
- Participation in the Donor meeting on Gender issues
- Searching and preparing best practices on Gender in municipalities

Communication:

- Preparation of the digest of AATC events
- <u>Facebook page</u>, <u>Association's official web-site</u>, <u>the "The best practices" web-site</u> were continuously updated
- Ongoing support and maintenance of the AATC's <u>Telegram channel</u> and <u>Viber channel</u>
- Creating and distributing a digest of relevant grants to communities
- Information and communication support of the Association's activities, creation of visualisations, content distribution
- Personalised distribution of birthday greetings to the heads of the AATC member communities

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- Preparation of the Monthly newsletter
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Working on the info campaign regarding the new branding of the Project
- Support the colleagues in preparation of the events (announcements, invitations, infographics, translation etc.)
- Support colleagues in preparation of the infographics for the reports and design of the documents
- Updating Project's web page
- Interviews, videos, streams from the events
- Continuous updates to the <u>Project's website</u> and <u>Facebook page</u>