

Monthly Flash Report

November 2016

The Purpose of this report is to sum-up the activities, services and products Project delivered in November 2016



Decentralisation of Education

On 15 November 2016, the Ministry of Education and Science, together with the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction, Housing and Municipal Economy, and with the support of the Project organised a [Conference](#) "UKRAINE ON THE PATH TOWARDS EDUCATION DECENTRALIZATION". The main aim of the Conference was to bring together key stakeholders of Ukrainian education sector concerned with the decentralisation, and launch dialogue on all things related to the education decentralisation reform, its progress, challenges and next steps. Altogether around 300 participants representing national, regional and local level education management bodies, civil society, schools, donor projects, media, etc, from all oblasts of Ukraine, attended the Conference. It is planned that the Conference could become a tradition and be organised once a year, to monitor the progress of the reform and jointly discuss achievements, solutions to the problems and tasks for the coming year. Full [video recording](#) of the Conference. [Video recording](#) of the session on Hub Schools.

Work on national level

- Senior Expert on Education, Jan Herczynski, conducted number of practical on-the-job coaching sessions for the Institute of Education Analytics:
 - Two sessions on education indicators
 - Two sessions on State Information System on Education (DISO)
 - One session on simulations of education subvention allocation
- Senior Expert on Education participated in a series of working meeting with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, civil society representatives, and gave advice on possible approaches to distribution of a newly introduced subvention for inclusive education
- Senior Expert on Education participated in a press briefing on education decentralisation organised by the Ukraine's Crisis Media Centre on 14 November. Link to video recording of the briefing – [here](#)
- Senior Expert on Education participated in the Panel devoted to decentralisation of education at the Local Self-Government [Forum organised by the Association of Ukrainian Cities](#). The Forum took place on 22 November in Ivano-Frankiivsk
- Senior Expert on Education prepared two analytical notes:
 - On 2018 Allocation Formula for education subvention: how to organise the work in collaboration between Ministry of Education and Ministry of Finance
 - On use of budget funds for inclusive education
- Senior Expert on Education also continued to work on a publication summing up the analytical inputs produced in relation to the financing of education in Ukraine
- Education Experts of the Khmelnytsk team worked on updates to the Methodological Guidelines for new hromadas. The new chapters in the pipeline are: Situation Analysis of the Education Sector in hromada, Education Strategy Design and Public Communication. Experts have also been collecting the case studies and good practices to be used as examples
- Education Experts of the Khmelnytsk team participated in the launch event of the USAID DOBRE project, on 14 November in Kyiv, and facilitated working group discussions on education decentralisation with the DOBRE project pilot hromadas

Work on local and regional level

- Project experts carried out one regional seminar for the new hromadas: on 16 November in Chernihiv, with 26 participants. The workshop brought together the representatives of the new and future amalgamated hromadas, the Education Departments of the Oblast State Administrations, the Regional Education Training Institute, the Regional Reform Offices etc.
- Project experts planned, prepared and executed a study visit to Poland for the Khmelnytsk colleagues. The study visit was organised and carried through in collaboration with the Polish Solidarity Foundation and the Social Economic Initiative Foundation (Poland). It took place from 21 to 25 November.



Altogether 14 representatives from Khmelnytsk hromadas and Khmelnytsk Oblast State Administration participated. [More details about the study visit have been summed up in a separate report](#)

- Project experts, together with the colleagues from Dunayevetska hromada, prepared a concept of the Knowledge Centre on education decentralisation. The Knowledge Centre shall facilitate peer-to-peer learning among hromadas. Its task will be to collect good practices from across Ukraine, promote them, carry out activities promoting exchange of experiences
- Project experts met with colleagues from the Civil Society Institute and the EU-financed U-LEAD project to discuss cooperation in the field of education decentralisation. In particular, the following activities were outlined:
 - A possibility to co-organise additional regional workshops for amalgamated hromadas in December 2016 – January 2017 (in collaboration with the Civil Society Institute)
 - A possibility to organise a study visit to Khmelnytsk for the employees of the Regional Resource Centres established under the U-LEAD project
- Local Education Expert prepared an article “New Schools in New Hromadas. Challenges and Solutions” for the Ukraine Crisis Media Centre publication for regional media.

Fiscal Decentralisation

- Project’s team of Fiscal Decentralisation Experts were working on systematisation of 2014 and 2015 revenue and expenditure data of sub-national authorities: hromadas, villages and small towns, rayons, oblasts. This work is done in preparation of a thorough analysis of the sub-national financial developments in a three-year period, i.e. for 2014-2016. As soon as the 2016 data will be available, the experts, together with the Ministry of Finance colleagues, will look at how the sub-national budgets have changed over this period, and also at the effects of the 2015 budget decentralisation.
- Project’s Local Fiscal Decentralisation Experts were involved in the two final rounds of consultations and adjustments to the draft regulations composing the health care reform package. This included collecting, analysing and incorporating (or rejecting) comments and proposals from the key ministries, government agencies and professional unions.
- Local Fiscal decentralisation experts took part in specific meetings with some of the stakeholders to discuss their concerns and comments. In particular, further in-depth consultations were held

with the Ministry of Finance (which was concerned over the financial implications of the reform) and the State Treasury (which was concerned about the proposal to release budgeting procedures for medical facilities).

- Local Fiscal Decentralisation Experts prepared a range of supporting documents on the reform, including briefings to the sector Ministers and Prime-Minister on key reform issues and particular draft documents, press releases etc.
- Local Fiscal Decentralisation Experts ran trainings on health decentralisation, including key points of planned reform, for the members of local councils representing key political factions: Samopomich, Block Petra Poroshenko, and Block Yuli Tymoshenko.
- Preparation of the [health financing reform package](#), which lasted throughout 2016, culminated in November, and was approved by the Government on 30 November. This critical moment begins a new era for health service providers, local governments and communities in how they participate in the health care system.



Reform Communication

Work on promoting decentralisation reform

- Communication Expert participated in the study visit to Poland, and produced daily Facebook updates from the meetings, discussions and visited sites
- Communication Expert worked on collecting and preparing inputs, and producing reports from the 15 November Conference and the Polish study visit
- Project Manager and Team Leader participated in the donor coordination meeting to discuss the overall branding strategy of the decentralisation reform
- Project experts participated in the meeting organised by Sida to discuss the communication strategy, coordination and actions undertaken by all Swedish-financed decentralisation projects
- Communication Expert participated in the meeting of the Reform

Communication Working Group to discuss the preparation for the 14 November press briefing on education decentralisation at the UCMC

Project communication

- Quarterly project newsletter was prepared and published in [Ukrainian](#) and in [English](#)
- Electronic leaflets on project activities and results were prepared in Ukrainian and in English, for circulation to the Minister of Regional Development and Prime Minister’s Office
- An article showcasing project results in Khmelnytsk oblast was prepared for the Swedish Embassy’s website and Sida, in [Ukrainian](#) and in [English](#)
- Communication Expert worked on continuous updates of the [project’s website](#)