

# Monthly Flash Report

## October 2019



The Purpose of this report is to sum-up the activities, services and products delivered by the Project in October 2019

### Fiscal Decentralisation

- On 23 October, project expert Tony Levitas [presented the report: Subnational Governance Reform and Local Government Finance in Ukraine: 2014-2018](#), during a workshop co-organized with the U-Lead project, and with participation of U-Lead, EU LOGICA and USAID DOBRE projects.
- On 29 October, project expert Jasmina Djikic presented the sub-national finances report to the AATC members through a webinar. 80 OTH were present with over 100 participants.
- On 24 October, project experts had a meeting with Mr. Plis, the Deputy Minister of Finance responsible for local budgets. It was agreed that the project will provide support to Ministry of Finance in work on the equalization system.
- Project expert Igor Gerasymchuk carried out the following activities in October:
  - Range of analyses of the local government financial data (both revenues and expenditures) comparing data for January-August of 2018 and 2019 with key indicators. Analysis was usually coupled with development of graphic materials to showcase the results.
  - Participation in the preparation of the monthly brochure "[Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government](#)" comparing the developments over January-August of 2018 and 2019 including new diagrams and information.
  - Participation in the working group on the development of indicators for a comprehensive assessment of planned and existing Ahs.
- Participation in preparation of proposals for the draft budget for 2020 for the AATC.
- Preparation of information and analytical reports on local budgets execution in five oblasts (Chernivtsi, Luhansk, Donetsk, Sumy, Cherkasy) for January-August of 2018 and 2019, on MinRegion's request.
- Preparation of analytical materials for obtaining excise duty on fuel in 806 AHs for January-August 2019 for the AATC.
- Advising IT-developers for implementation of software: "[Calculation of financial capacity of perspective AHs on new conditions in fiscal year 2019](#)."
- Following the task of the Prime-Minister of Ukraine and the request by MinRegion the Project is supporting a comprehensive exercise including:
  - Mapping of the existing network of public service institutions
  - Design of the methodology and testing of optimization models based on the future administrative-territorial units (capable OTHs and new Rayons)
  - Collection of feedback from all regional state administrations
  - Presentation of the mapping of active and prospective public service delivery network and public service-related infrastructure

### Decentralisation of Education

#### Work on national level

- During October 2019, the work of the education team focused on:
  - Final verification of data to be used in the allocation process for the Education Subvention for 2020 for further submission to MinFin and the Parliament.
  - Finalization of an electronic (MS Excel based) "Simulator" tool for allocation of the Education Subvention from State to local budgets for the 1st reading of the State Budget by the Parliament.
  - On the job training for the team of the Ministry of Education and the Institute of Education Analytics responsible for the performance monitoring of the use of Education subvention by local governments.
- Consulting MES, Minregion and AATC on possible approaches to calculation of "social normatives" and standards.
- On 1 November, project experts participated in the presentation of the World Bank report "Review of the Education Sector in Ukraine".

## Decentralisation of Education

### Work on local and regional level

- [Implementation of the Project's strategy for supporting hromadas with the establishment of effective education management framework continued through the following activities:](#)
- 02 October – meeting with the Ministry of Education and Science Hanna Novosad on issues concerned with design and implementation of the profile education on upper secondary level.
- 03 October – coaching session with the regional team of education managers of Vinnytsya oblast before the study visit to Poland.
- 03 October – meeting with the representatives of MES and MinRegion about the administrative-territorial inventory of education assets, and modelling exercise.
- 7, 29, 30 and 31 October – taking part in the Parliament Committee meeting, contributing to the discussion on the new Law of Secondary Education.
- 08 October – joint press conference with the MES on the profile education; presentation of the methodological recommendations on profile education.
- 08 October – taking part in the World Bank presentation on the plans of work in the sphere of profile education.
- 09-10 October – training on development of education strategy and best practices – based learning event for Merefa and Starosaltiv Hromadas (Kharkiv oblast), in cooperation with DOBRE.
- 11 October – participation in the MES working group meeting on the profile education reform.
- [17-18 October – III Regional Forum on extracurricular education, and education and cultural space in hromadas in Solonians'ka hromada of Dnipropetrovska oblast. Regional forums are organised in cooperation with Solidarity Fund PL.](#)
- 19-25 October - study visit of the regional team of education managers from Vinnytsya oblast to Małopolska Voivodeship of Poland. Study visits are organised in cooperation with the Solidarity Fund PL.
- 29 October – taking part in the meeting of the donor coordination working group on culture and youth issues.
- 29 October – taking part in the meeting of the assessment committee for the Council of Europe and MinRegion competition of best practices in local self-governments.
- By the end of October, the online platform of best practices on education management contained 67 practices on effective management of education on local level. Three new practices were added to the database from Korostyshivska hromada (Zhytomyrska oblast) on selection of the school directors and school autonomy and from Horodotska hromada (Khmelnyska oblast) on teacher motivation. 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 998 831 times. All best practices can be downloaded from [wiki.sklinternational.org.ua](http://wiki.sklinternational.org.ua)

## Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- Project continues to support the activities of the AATC aimed at explaining the AATC mission and mobilizing new members. In order to discuss the topical issues of community development, meetings were held in cooperation with the heads of the Association's regional branches in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts.
- On 9 October, head of the Association Oleksandr Korinniy presented the activities of the ATC's Association at the meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee.
- On 11 October, the Board of the Association met with the Minister of Community Development and territories of Ukraine, Alyona Babak. The number of problematic issues that require special attention from the Government were discussed.
- On 15 October, the AATC signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Khmelnytsky Center for Advanced Training of Employees and the Council of Europe in Ukraine.
- On 23 October, members of the Association's Council and Board participated in public presentation of amendments to the Constitution regarding the reform of local self-government and territorial organization of power in Ukraine.
- On 18 October, the Association, in cooperation with the Despro Project, organized the discussion on the new indicators for determining the hromadas' capacity and the completion of the hromadas' amalgamation process in the Cherkasy oblasts.
- On 29 October, the AATC signed the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Volyn regional center for retraining and advanced training of employees of public authorities and the Council of Europe in Ukraine.
- On 30 October, the Association, in cooperation with the Despro Project, organized the discussion on the new indicators for determining the hromadas' capacity and the completion of the hromadas' amalgamation process in the Zaporizhzhya oblasts.
- The Project supports the work of the following thematic platforms of the Association: legal, budget and finances, and education in hromadas.
- Within the framework of the Association's platform **"Local budgets and finances"**:
  - Letters were prepared and circulated to the Prime Minister of Ukraine on hromadas' financial issues in the 2020; to the Min-Region on the allocation of the additional subsidies and excise tax; to Lymanska hromada (Donetska oblast) on the educational subvention for 2020; to Tomashpilska hromada (Vinnitsa oblast) on the stabilization subsidy; to Gorodotska (Khmelnyska oblast), Limanska (Donetska oblast) and Vakulivska (Dnipropetrovska oblast) hromadas on infrastructure subvention.
  - On 11 and 18 October, the platform moderator took part in the meeting of the Commission on infrastructure subvention (Ministry of Regional Development).
  - On 23 October, the moderator of the platform took part in the presentation of survey on local finances of the "Reform of the management system of the subnational level and finances of local authorities in Ukraine: 2014-2018".
  - On 29 October, the webinar on the topic of Management Reform at the Subnational Level and the Finances of Local Government in Ukraine: 2014-2018 was held.
  - [Financial Bulletin No. 5 was prepared.](#)
  - [The information materials for hromadas were prepared and published on the Association's website.](#)
- In the framework of the **Association's Legal platform**:
  - Letters were prepared and circulated to the Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development on involvement the Association's representatives in the working groups on development of the draft laws concerning local government; Lanovetska ATC (Ternopil oblast) on the representation of local governments in the courts; Merefyanska ATC (Kharkiv oblast) on the conclusion of a contract with a lawyer; Glyvahyvska ATC (Kirovohrad oblast) on the direct intergovernmental relations; Machuzhska ATC (Kirovohrad oblast), Machuhivska ATC (Poltavska oblast) on the communal property.

- On 3-4, 10-11, 15-16 and 30-31 October, the regional meetings were held with lawyers from Kharkiv, Donetsk, Lugansk, Sumy, Khmelnytsky, Rivne, Ternopil, Chernivtsi, Vinnitsa, Dnepropetrovsk, Kirovograd, Zaporizka oblasts on cooperation through Association's online platform (Forums).
- On 7 October, head and moderator of the platform presented Association's position at the meeting MinRegion's working group on the draft law on local elections.
- On 28 October, moderator of the platform presented Association's position at Parliamentary subcommittee on administrative services regarding the draft law on the development of the Administrative Services Center network.
- **The Education platform:**
  - Ten individual consultations were provided to the AATC members on the following issues: selection of the school directors, formation of a capable school network, establishment of the education department, transferring communal property to hromadas.
  - On 17-18 October, the Forum "Out-of-school education and cultural and educational space in the hromada" was organized and held in Solonianska ATC. During event moderator of the Platform presented the survey on creation of the unified educational, cultural space in hromadas.
  - On 21-24 October, a study tour of a team of teachers from the Vinnitsa region to Poland took place. The visit was organized by the ATC Association, Swedish-Ukrainian project "Support to Decentralization in Ukraine" and Solidarity Fund PL.
  - On 24-25 November Platform moderator took part in the meetings of Association's regional branches in Luhansk and Donetsk oblasts and discussed challenges and perspectives of creation of the capable school network in hromadas. Besides there was presented Association's experience of the expert support on this issues.
  - On 31 October, moderator of the platform took part in the ULEAD with Europe Programme Forum "Successful Education Management in amalgamated communities".
- **Analytical work:**
  - The examination modeling changes in the administrative-territorial structure of Lugansk, Donetsk, Zaporizhyya oblasts was conducted. On 31 October, the results were presented in Zaporizhyya.
  - The survey on the organization of medical services in hromadas was published.
  - The survey on the Budget regulations for passing the budget process was conducted.
- **Communication:**
  - [The digest covering the activities of the Association in October was released.](#)
  - [Digest on actual competitions and grant projects were disseminated among hromadas.](#)
  - [The Facebook page, Association's official web-site, the "The best practices" web-site are continuously updated.](#)
  - The information support was provided to the Association's Council and Board meeting with the Minister of Community Development and territories of Ukraine Alyona Babak (the photo-report and the article were prepared and published on the Association's media resources).
- **The AATC experts took part in the following events and meetings:**
  - On 8 October, working group on the development of the perspective plan for the formation of hromadas in the Kiev region.
  - On 9 October, working meeting between the Swedish Ambassador and the AATC's management.
  - On 15 October, Hromadas' Social Services Forum.
  - On 29 October, meeting of competition commission of the contest "Best Practices" in the MinRegion.
  - On 30 October, information and discussion event "Rural Development in Ukraine - Status and Prospects".
  - On 31 October, presentation of the results of the project "Transparency and accountability of road works on local roads".

## COMMUNICATION

### Promoting decentralisation reform

- Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:
  - Administration of the [Facebook group for education practitioners.](#)
  - [Communication support of the III Regional Forum on Extracurricular education and educational and cultural space in hromadas in Solonians'ka hromada of Dnipropetrovska oblast.](#)
  - Organisation of the [press conference in the Ukrainian Crisis Media Center on the challenges of the Profile education reform jointly with MES and presentation of the methodological recommendations on Profile education.](#)
  - Proofreading and designing of the manual on Profile education.
  - Preparation of the article on Profile education for the <https://decentralization.gov.ua/>.
  - [Communication support of the presentation of the report: Sub-national Governance Reform and Local Government Finance in Ukraine: 2014-2018.](#)
  - [Videos on best practices and success stories from hromadas.](#)
  - Working on the design of the policy brief and the report „Sub-

### Project communication

- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page.](#)
- On 22 October, Project experts met with the Swedish embassy

- national Governance Reform and Local Government Finance in Ukraine: 2014-2018".
- Working on the banner and the new section of the Project's web site which now contains all materials from the Fiscal report presentation.
- Preparation to the IV Regional Forum on Professional Development of teachers and education managers.
- Project's communication expert took part in the regular meetings of the communication working group, and in the donor coordination task force responsible for communication of the decentralisation reform. As a result of meetings, it was decided to elaborate new Communication Strategy and action plan for the decentralisation reform covering 2020-2022.
- On 17 October, Project management took part in the Donor Board meeting in the Parliament. The future steps and timeframe for the completion of the administrative-territorial reform were outlined by the leadership of Sluga Narodu party and Minister of Territorial Development.

- team to discuss latest decentralisation-related developments and project's progress so far
- [Quarterly newsletter](#)