

Swedish-Ukrainian Project Support To Decentralisation In Ukraine 2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

March, 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

- Project experts Anthony Levitas and Jasmina Djikic produced analysis and comments for MinFin on the 20 options for changes of the equalisation system, upon request of MinFin.

Experts of the Reform Support Office, carried out the following activities in March:

- Range of analyses of the local government financial data (both revenues and expenditures) comparing data for first two months of 2019 and 2020 with key indicators. Analysis was usually coupled with development of graphic materials to showcase the results.
- Preparation of analytical materials on the distribution of powers between different levels of government in accordance with the concept of reforming the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine, upon request of MinRegion.
- Participation in the preparation of the monthly brochure "[Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government](#)" with indicators for the first 2 months of 2019 and 2020 including new diagrams and information.
- [Preparation of materials on certain indicators of implementation of local budgets of 806 AHs for the 2019, presented by each oblast.](#)
- [Amalgamated hromada Capacity Assessment Tool was finalised and published.](#)

Decentralisation of Education

During March 2020, the work of the education decentralisation team focused on:

- Guidance, support and coaching for Ministry of Education and Science (MES) staff responsible for the education subvention allocation mechanism in providing analytically grounded responses to complaints and appeals of local governments and further introduction of changes to the allocation.
 - Redistribution of Educational subvention for 2020 after correcting errors in the source data.

- Introduction of the calculations of full time teacher salary equivalent in the allocation software.
- Continuation of analytical support to MES in design of the structure, composition and approaches to the reform of pedagogical staff salaries.
- Analysis of salary reform models. Assessment of the reform costs.
- Organisation and management of the process of preparation of three case studies on the reform of teacher salaries in selected EU member-states (Poland, Lithuania, Estonia).
- Support to MES and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of additional statistical collection modules - Individual Teacher Data, Individual Student Data.

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- In March, AATC issued its opinion on the draft resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of perspective plans for the formation of hromadas" of seven oblasts: Kyiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kherson, Donetsk, Vinnytsia, Luhansk, Khmelnytsky, and provided comments and proposals.
- On 6 March, AATC signed a memorandum of cooperation with the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service and the Centre of Expertise for Good Governance of the *Council of Europe - Directorate General Democracy*.
- [On 26 March, Oleksandr Korynnyi, Head of the All-Ukrainian AATC and Valentina Poltavets, Executive Director of the AATC, took part in the online conference "Hromadas under the quarantine conditions: how to function and be safe and secure" organised by DOBRE project.](#)
- In March, AATC staff took part in several online meetings organised by the MinRegion on "Reforming the subregional level of the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine".
- On 27 March, online meeting of AATC Board was held. Based on the results of the discussion, proposals on amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2020" were prepared. AATC also issued statement regarding quarantine induced challenges for local budgets and submitted it to the Government, Verkhovna Rada, and the President.
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - ➔ Draft proposals to the Budget Declaration 2021-2023 were prepared and submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.
 - ➔ Number of draft and adopted regulatory acts regarding Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) were analysed from the perspective of their effect on local self-governments.
 - ➔ [Detailed analysis of tax and budget legislation was carried out and the proposals to the 2020 Budget were sent to the relevant government authorities.](#)
- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
 - ➔ Draft proposals to the Law of Ukraine from 17 March 2020 No. 530-IX "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine aimed at Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)" were prepared and submitted to the Government, Verkhovna Rada, and the President.

- On 25 March, a webinar on "Local Self-Government and Legislation on Prevention of the Spreading of Coronavirus Disease" was held. The explanations regarding the actions of local self-government during the state of emergency were provided.

Within the framework of the Association's platform "HRM, Administrative services and e-governance":

- On 3 March, the meeting of the thematic platform was held to discuss the issues regarding professional development and identifying the training needs of local government officials and members of local councils.

Within the framework of the Association's platform "Youth, Sport and Culture":

- On 11 March, the webinar on "The Best Practices for Modernization of Cultural Infrastructure in Hromadas" was held.

Analytical work:

- [The surveys on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine regarding decentralisation were carried out.](#)
- [The surveys on the draft of the standards and KPIs for cultural institutions in hromadas were held](#) (at the request of the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports of Ukraine (№3529 / 9.4 dated 03.03.2020)).

Communication:

- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in March was released.](#)
- Facebook page, Association's official web-site, the "The best practices" web-site are continuously updated <https://wiki.hromady.org>.

The AATC experts took part in the following events and meetings:

- On 10 March, Deputy Head of the AATC Hryhoriy Rudyuk and Valentina Poltavets, Executive Director of the AATC, took part in the roundtable on "Reforming Legislation that regulates Local Elections" organised by the Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development.
- On 13 March, Valentina Poltavets, Executive Director of the AATC and Serhiy Shevel, Coordinator of the AATC Legal Platform, took part in the discussion of scientists, constitution law specialists, members of the Parliament of Ukraine, experts and linguists on the scientific dimension of decentralisation-related constitutional amendments. The event was organised by the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Organisation of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning, Office of the President of Ukraine and the MinRegion.
- On 24 March, AATC staff took part in the online conference "COVID-19 Caused Economic Challenges for the Amalgamated Territorial Communities" organised by the Aspen Institute's Good Governance Program.

Support provided by Project's experts:

- On 25 March, Project experts, in cooperation with the Institute of Economics and Forecasting, held an online discussion of the crisis objectives of the AATC Rural Development Platform. As a result of the discussion, the Rural Development Platform action plan was updated.
- Project experts prepared guidance on how to conduct surveys of the heads of hromadas and focus groups, and on the development and introduction of a system for collecting reliable statistical information from hromadas.

- Project experts supported AATC to prepare and carry out a survey: "Access to distance learning for pupils in rural areas". The results of the survey are used to prepare an online forum on distance learning for pupils in rural areas.

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

- Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:
 - Administration of the Facebook group for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers.
 - Communication campaign on finalisation of the education work in regions.
 - Design of the branding package of the Project (folders, one-pagers, business cards etc.).
 - Preparation of the article on gender Issues for the decentralisation.gov.ua.
 - Proposals for improvement of the AATC communication.
 - Preparation of the article "A Swedish perspective on supervision of the local level".
 - [Article about the Changes in Networks of Secondary Schools in Ukraine for the Decentralisation.gov.ua.](#)
 - [Sharing experience of the Swedish, Polish and Latvian LSG response to COVID-19 during DOBRE online conference "Hromadas under the quarantine conditions: how to function and be safe and secure".](#)

Project communication

- Continuous updates to the Project's website (<http://sklinternational.org.ua/ua/library/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SKLInternational.org.ua/>).