

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



Monthly Flash Report

April 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

- The Fiscal team participated in commenting and discussions on the Concepts on Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and "On Local State Administrations"

Project experts placed in the Reform Support Office carried out the following activities in April:

- Preparation of analytical working 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
- Preparation of analytical and graphic materials for the analytical note on the dynamics of deposits in local government accounts of Ukraine (2017 - 2020), at the request of Minregion
- Analysis and suggestions of amendments to the draft Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine"
- Preparation of working materials for the analysis of the main trends of financial development of amalgamated hromadas (AHs) for 2016 - 2019
- Preparation of proposals to the draft Law on Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine in accordance with the concept of reforming the administrative-territorial structure of Ukraine

Decentralisation of Education

During April 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 to the allocation software

- Preparation of a policy solution for introduction of transparent “subvention calculation statements” for individual local governments - school founders
- Continuation of analytical support to MES in design of the structure, composition and approaches to the reform of pedagogical staff salaries:
 - Preparation of the case study on teacher salaries in Poland
- Analysis of salary reform models. Assessment of the reform costs
- 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.
- Senior expert on Education prepared and submitted to MES leadership the following analytical papers:
 - SN 117 - Subvention Statements: Proposal for the Ministry

Support to Parliamentary Committees

- At the request of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government the Project started the preparation of a number of information materials on the practices of the Scandinavian countries on the implementation of e-democracy tools at the national and local levels.

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- The Project continues to support regional activities of the AATC, in particular holding online meetings regarding the situation with the Covid-19 and local self-government bodies under the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic and preventing the spread of Coronavirus disease. [Online meetings of the AATC's regional branches in Khmelnytsky, Kirovohrad, Chernivtsi oblasts were held. Members discussed the functioning and challenges of local self-government under the quarantine conditions and preventing the spread of Coronavirus disease](#)
- The Project's support to AATC leadership: On 6 and [24 April, online meetings of the Board and the Council of the AATC](#) were held to discuss how hromadas address the pandemic, as well as the main developments and problems under quarantine conditions
- Representatives of the AATC took part in online meetings of the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine regarding the work on the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on approval of the perspective plans of Zakarpatska, Zaporiz'ka, Kyivska, Chernihivska, Cherkaska, Khersonska, Poltavaska, Lvivska, Odeska, Kirovohradska, Dnipropetrovska oblasts
- [On 10 April, the AATC presented a special web-page “Hromady against Covid-19”, created with the support of the Swedish-Ukrainian project “Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine”. “Hromadas against COVID-19” is a collection of practices and guidance to support hromadas during the coronavirus pandemic.](#)
- By the end of April, the online platform <https://razom.hromady.org/> contained 25 practices on actions on local level to prevent and tackle the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the launch of the platform it has been visited 6289 times

- Project experts held coaching sessions with the moderators of the Education and Rural Development Platforms and, together with the USAID DOBRE project experts worked on the preparation of the training programme for all platform moderators

The Project supports the work of the legal, budget and finances, education and rural development thematic platforms of the Association:

- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
 - Eight express letters were prepared for the ATCs informing about the changes in legislation regarding the work under quarantine conditions and preventing the spread of Coronavirus disease
 - Materials for the special internet page of the AATC <https://razom.hromady.org/> were prepared regarding general info about Covid-19, limitations of work due to the Covid-19, organization of work of local self-government executive bodies during the quarantine period; regulatory acts
 - Individual consultations to hromadas were provided on range of legal issues
 - A [letter was sent to the Antimonopoly Committee to take measures to regulate the prices of food and other goods needed to prevent the spreading of Coronavirus Disease in Ukraine](#)
 - Preparation of the webinar regarding "[Procedure for acquiring ownership of the deceased's property, ownerless property and property transferred on the balance sheet without registration of ownership](#)"
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Detailed analysis of the draft law "On amendments to the Law of Ukraine on the State Budget of Ukraine for 2020" (Reg. No. 3279) in the part of ATC budgets. Formulation of the ATC Association's position regarding the prevention of the adoption of the draft law "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2020" in terms of reducing funds allocated in the state budget to local budgets for programmes and regional development projects
 - Detailed analysis of the draft law "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine on state support for people affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)" (Reg. No. 3311)
 - Materials for the special internet page of the AATC <https://razom.hromady.org/> were prepared regarding the part of financial legislation, adopted to prevent the spread of COVID-19
 - Preparation of the best practice for the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/> on equipping a city hospital to combat COVID-2019 (based on the example of the Trostyanets City Hospital)
 - Preparation of comments to the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Amendments to point 4 of the Procedure and Conditions for submission of State Budget subvention to Local Budgets to support the development of amalgamated territorial communities"
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Education":**
 - [On 28 April, the meeting of the thematic platform was held to discuss the challenges caused by the pandemic and the issues regarding distance learning and its implementation](#)
 - [Collecting and preparation of six practices on education in times of pandemic](#) for the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/>
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Rural Development":**
 - [On 20 April, the meeting of the thematic platform was held to discuss the issues regarding stabilisation of food prices in rural shops, regulatory and methodological support of local self-government in the process of utilization of used sanitary protective means, as well as simplification of certification procedures for sanitary protective means production in non-industrial conditions under the quarantine](#)

- Preparation of the best practices for the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/> on the [topic of rural development](#)

Analytical work:

- Analysis of the ATC's perspective plans and preparing corresponding letters of approval for Dnipropetrovsk, Zakarpattia, Zaporizhia, Kirovohrad, Lviv, Poltava, Odesa, Sumy, Ternopil, Cherkasy and Chernivtsi Oblast
- Administration of the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/>
- Administration of express surveys on emergency communication with amalgamated territorial communities under the conditions of the coronavirus pandemic and preventing the spread of Coronavirus disease

Communication:

- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in April was released](#)
- Facebook page, Association's official web-site, [the "The best practices" web-site](#) were continuously updated
- [Special web-page "Hromady against Covid-19" are continuously updated with the new practices](#)

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

- On 14 April, online meeting: "Economic challenges for the amalgamated territorial communities in the context of the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the global economic crisis" (organised by: Aspen Institute)
- On 15 April, seminar "Good Governance and Dialogues with Stakeholders" of the Good Governance Program of the Aspen Institute Kyiv
- On 22 April, online forum of the U-Lead programme "Bridges of Trust": LSG associations at the forefront for communities to help during a pandemic
- On 27 April, online discussion of the draft amendments to the Constitution regarding decentralisation organised jointly by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the Ministry for Communities and Territories of Ukraine

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
- Preparation of the visual report of the work of the education component
- Drafting proposals for improvement of the AATC communication
- [Dobre Project in cooperation with the Project held Online International Conference "Reviving Local Economies". In the framework of the event Latvian mayor of the Liepaja city Jānis Vilnītis presented "How the COVID-19 pandemic affected business and local cooperation. The experience of the Latvian city of Liepaja"](#)
- Strategy prepared for a PR campaign regarding the launch of the AATC's web-page "Razom.hromady.org"

- Support in holding the online event regarding the starting of the AATC's web-page "Razom.hromady.org" (preparation of the draft of announcement, preparation of the banners, communicating with other donors for sharing the announcement etc.)
- Preparation of the article on gender Issues for the decentralisation.gov.ua
- [Preparation of the article "A Swedish perspective on supervision of the local level"](#)
- Support to AATC in preparation of communication products (video editing, banners drafting)

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/>).
- [1st Quarterly newsletter of 2020](#)