

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



Monthly Flash Report

May 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

- In May, the Fiscal team participated in producing comprehensive comments on the Concepts on Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and "On Local State Administrations", that were delivered by the SKL Project to MinRegion
- [Project expert, Anthony Levitas, drafted a Policy note on the Legal classification of local government functions](#)

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

- Range of analyses of the local government financial data (both revenues and expenditures) comparing data for 3 months of 2019 and 2020 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" with indicators for 3 months of 2019 and 2020](#)
- 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
- Calculation of budget savings for economic justification of the Law on the Consolidation of Districts (upon request of Minregion)
- Participation in all meetings organized by MinReg with line Ministries and other stakeholders on the distribution of powers between different levels of government in accordance with the concept of reforming the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine
- Participation in the preparation of the answers to the questions / supplements / notes on the presentation on the distribution of powers between different levels of government
- Consultations with the experts of U-LEAD administrative services component on financing of service centres

Decentralisation of Education

During May 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 on:
 - Redistribution of Educational subvention for 2020 after correcting errors in the source data
 - 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 Estonia
 - Assessment of the reform costs under various scenarios
- Policy advice to MES on the distribution of powers between different levels of government in accordance with the concept of reforming the administrative and territorial structure of Ukraine
- 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 118 - Review of Transactions of Education Subvention

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, on role and functioning of Local Government Association and other LSG-related topics.

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- The Project continues to support regional activities of the AATC, in particular communication with regional members of the AATC. During this period the main focus of the meetings has been on mutual support related to tackling the Covid-19, on the approval of Perspective Plans and on providing support to existing hromadas which have not been included in the final plans. [Online meetings of the AATC's regional branches in Volynska, Odes'ka, Ternopil'ska, Rivnenska, Kyiv'ska, Zaporiz'ka, Chernihis'ka and Cherkas'ka oblasts were held](#)
- Strategic support to the AATC: [on 15 May, online meetings of the Board and the Council of the AATC were held](#) to discuss the situation with the approval of Perspective Plans and the liquidation of more than 100 OTGs, as well as economic problems related to the COVID-19 pandemic

- The AATC [appealed to the President, the Prime Minister](#) to protect the existing communities from the liquidation
- Project experts helped with the preparation of proposals for the hromada support campaign
- [In 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 May, the online platform <https://razom.hromady.org/> contained 35 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 more than 10000 times
- Representatives of the AATC took part in online meetings of Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government and the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine regarding the level of powers of local self-government bodies taking into account the Concept of Amendments to the Laws “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine” and “On Local State Administrations”
- Project experts held coaching sessions with the moderators of the Education and Rural Development Platforms and, together with the USAID DOBRE project experts
- Coaching moderators of education and rural development platforms.

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

- **In the framework of the Association’s Legal platform:**
 - Letters were prepared and sent to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government regarding the draft Law "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On Improvement of Settlements"
 - Three express letters were prepared on the decision of the Cabinet of Ministers regarding the transition to the 2nd stage of quarantine easing from May 22
 - Preparation of a letter to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government regarding the draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" to ensure compliance with local self-government state guarantees and protection of its economic bases
 - Preparation of a comparative table with proposals on amendments to the Electoral Code of Ukraine for consideration at a meeting of the Board and the Council of AATC
 - Preparation of the recommendations for ATCs on how to protect themselves in the situation of approved perspective plans and the process of liquidation: cover letter to ATC; instructions for lawyers on preparation of claims; draft of the session decision; draft of the statement of claim.
 - Preparation of a letter to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on State Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government on Amendments to the Electoral Code of Ukraine
 - [Preparation of a Petition on the website of the Office of the President of Ukraine regarding the preservation of amalgamated territorial communities from the liquidation that have passed the democratic path of voluntary amalgamation](#)

- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Meeting of the thematic platform "Local budgets and finances" on the topic: "Problematic issues with the budgets of the amalgamated territorial communities of the current year and the next planning budget period"
 - Participation in the meeting of the working group № 3 on local democracy of the Donors' Council to discuss the Concept of Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and "On Local State Administrations"
 - Preparation of the appeal to the President of Ukraine, the Prime Minister of Ukraine, the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine to restore Article 103 of the Budget Code of Ukraine and provide further compensation of the loss of income of amalgamated territorial communities due to state tax benefits
 - Preparation and submission of comments to the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine on the establishment of the State Fund for Rural Development"
 - Elaboration of proposals regarding the level of powers of local self-government bodies taking into account the Concept of Amendments to the Laws "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and "On Local State Administrations"; formation of the relevant expert position
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Education":**
 - Project experts worked on design of a training on "Upper level of education - profile education in Europe"
 - On 12 May, the meeting of the thematic platform was held to discuss the division of powers between self-governments. Based on the results of the meeting of the sectoral platform, proposals were prepared for the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine
 - On 26 May, a webinar was held on the "Prospects of the profile school". The event was attended by more than 60 participants from ATCs from 17 oblasts
 - The moderator of the platform, in cooperation with the project experts, prepared an analytical note "Some aspects of fire-prevention and technogenic safety in schools"
 - [Collecting and preparation of five practices on education in times of pandemic](#) for the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/>
- **Analytical work:**
 - [Development and presentation of the Analytical Note "Five years of formation of a new basic level of administrative units: successes and challenges of reform in Ukraine"](#)
 - Analysis of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine orders on perspective plans of ATCs. Collection and processing of data that characterise the capacity and highlight the development of ATC formed in the period of voluntary amalgamation of territorial communities in 2015-2019
 - Analysis of results and preparation of visualisation on the basis of the survey on the preparation of conceptual foundations for the functioning of the position of "executive officer"
 - Analysis of perspective plans on the definition of administrative centers and approval of the territories of territorial communities of the regions of Ukraine and preparation of relevant draft letters of approval of 24 regions.
 - Conducting of the survey on the AATC's support to protect the legitimate interests of communities that are excluded from future Perspective Plans
 - Administration of the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/>

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" is continuously updated with the new practices](#)
- Communication support of the AATC's campaign "[Marathon on Protection of Hromadas](#)"

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

- On 12 May - participation in video conference with other All-Ukrainian Associations of LSG on amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine
- On 14 May - conference of the U-Lead program on the work of Administrative Service Centres in ATCs during quarantine and exit period
- On 25 May - participation in the working groups on the preparation of the proposals on the division of powers and human resource policies in the local self-government, part of Aspen Institute Program "Good Governance"

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
- [Support AATC in preparation of the brief info about the work of the AATC for the Verkhovna Rada TV Channel \(weekly decentralisation digest\)](#)
- Finalisation of school autonomy manual
- [Preparation of the article on gender mainstreaming](#)
- Preparation of the article "[The COVID-19 pandemic has changed education forever. This is how](#)"
- Preparation of the article "[3 ways the coronavirus pandemic could reshape education](#)"
- Support to AATC in preparation of communication products (video editing etc.)

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/>)

Project Management

- On 25 May, the annual monitoring meeting took place between the project, Sida and SKL International
- Work on project's gender mainstreaming strategy continues