

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



Monthly Flash Report

June 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- Range of analyses of the local government financial data (both revenues and expenditures) comparing data for 4 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 4 months of 2019 and 2020.
<https://decentralization.gov.ua/news/12503>
- 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
- Development of comparative tables and financial and economic justification of the draft law on amendments to the Budget Code (upon request of MinRegion).
- Analysis of the share of expenditures for the maintenance of local governments in the revenues of their own revenues for 2019 (in terms of budgets of villages, towns, cities and Ahs).
- Participation in the meetings organised 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
- Prepared the conclusion to the draft Law of Ukraine for register № 2475 of 20.11.2019) "On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine" On Humanitarian Aid "(on exemption from customs duties of vehicles of special and specialized purposes, received as humanitarian assistance to meet the socio-economic needs of territorial communities in Ukraine) "

Decentralisation of Education

During June 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:
 - Processing student data for further use in Allocation of the Education Subvention
 - 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 and Lithuania
 - 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.

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. Online meeting of the AATC’s regional branch in Dnipro oblast were held
- Facilitation of the capacity development: training sessions for AATC executive team were organised jointly with DOBRE Project. 1st module was held on 11 June and focused on online facilitation. 2nd session, on 16 June, focused on local self-government, self-government principles, values and ways LSG Associations operate in different countries, in particular in Sweden and Poland, 3rd and 4th modules was held on 18, 23 June, focused on methodology of organising AATC sectoral platforms work, 5th module was held on 25 June, focused on examples of organising and conducting events
- Strategic support to the AATC: [on 11 June, online meetings of the Board and the Council of the AATC were held](#) to discuss the support campaign for hromadas not included in the proposed territorial plans, the preparations for the Congress and the draft legislation on LSG, LSA, budgets and taxes

- The AATC [appealed to the President](#) and registered the relevant petition to protect the existing communities from the liquidation
- [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 June, the online platform <https://razom.hromady.org/> contained 37 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 13000 times
- On 5 June representatives of the AATC took part in the work of working group dealing with the changes to the Constitution of Ukraine
- Project experts held coaching sessions with the moderators of the Education and Rural Development Platforms, together with the USAID DOBRE project experts
- Proposals for AATC activities in the field of gender equality were prepared and will be shared with AATC and Platform management
- Project provided analytical inputs on topics related to legal status of LSGs in different countries, on key elements on legal framework for LSGs, on LSG supervision and on division of competences

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:**
 - Consultations were provided to the AHs on court appeals on the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on approval of Perspective Plans
 - Elaboration and analysis of the draft Resolution of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On the formation and liquidation of rayons"
 - Preparation of a survey on OTG court appeals of the Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers on the recognition of illegal and cancellation of the order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine
 - Elaboration and analysis of the draft law on amendments to some laws of Ukraine to improve the electoral code
 - Information meeting of the Legal Platform on the development of amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine on decentralisation
 - Development of a legislative initiative to exempt local governments from paying court fees
 - Elaboration and analysis of the Orders of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on determination of administrative centers and approval of territories of territorial communities of oblasts
- **Within the framework of the Association’s platform “Local budgets and finances”:**
 - Participation in the second round of online meetings on division of competences, related to the Concept of Amendments to the Laws “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine” and “On Local State Administrations”, changes to Budget and Tax legislation
 - Preparation of the Association's position in support of the draft law "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine (concerning the abolition of tax preferences on land fees for mining companies)"
 - Working on the draft Law "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine (regarding the indexation of the normative monetary valuation of land)" and preparation of an appeal to the author of the draft with a request to further promote the bill

- Preparation of the comments on the draft law "On Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine" and sending it for review and comments to fiscal experts dealing with the finances on local level
 - Participation in the Donor's meeting of WG №2 on finance and budgeting to discuss the draft Law "On Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine" to bring into line the provisions of budget legislation in connection with the completion of administrative-territorial reform
 - Providing individual advice to AHs on financial and budget issues
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Education":**
 - On 10 June, online webinar "Registration of labour relations with employees and school directors" was held
 - On 26 June, a joint seminar was held between the Education and Safety platforms on fire safety in education establishments. A dialogue has been launched between the Association and the National service of emergency situations
 - AATC proposals were prepared to the draft Concept of Preschool Education Development
 - [Collecting and preparation of 2 practices on education in times of pandemic](https://razom.hromady.org/) for the AATC's portal <https://razom.hromady.org/>
 - **Analytical work:**
 - Conducting of the survey on amendments to the Laws of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and "On Local State Administrations" in the preparation of a new version of the definition of the powers of local self-government in the fields of education, health, social protection, housing, civil protection, nature, culture and arts, physical culture and sports, urban planning and architecture
 - Analysis of results and preparation of the document summing up the results of surveys on amendments to the laws of Ukraine "On local self-government in Ukraine" and "On local state administrations" in terms of preparing a new version of the definition of the powers of local self-government

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 1-2 June, meeting of all local self-government associations on harmonisation of positions on amendments to the Constitution, as well as on delineation of powers
- On 5, 12, 19 June - meetings of the working group on the preparation of proposals for amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine of the Commission for Legal Reform.
- On 15 June, meeting with the representative of the Ministry of Finance on cooperation between the Ministry and the Association
- On 25 June, meeting of the Chairman of the Association Oleksandr Korinny and the Executive Director of the Association Valentyna Poltavets with the Chairman of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on

the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning
Andriy.Klochko

- On 25 June, participation of the Chairman of the Association Oleksandr Korinny and the Executive Director of the Association Valentyna Poltavets in the meeting of the Advisory Council on Local Self-Government with the participation of the Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Dmytro Razumkov

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 finalised
- Drafting proposals for improvement of the AATC communication
- [Support of the AATC on starting Twitter page and filling it with information](#)
- Finalisation of school autonomy manual
- Preparation of the 2 articles on gender issues
- Preparation of the article "[3 reasons why civil society is essential to COVID-19 recovery](#)"
- Preparation of the presentation of the Manual on School Autonom
- Preparation of the 2nd quarterly report of the Project
- Communication-related inputs for 2014-2019 report

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

- Project finalised and submitted to Sida its final report on work during 2014-2019
- Draft report of project's gender mainstreaming strategy was submitted to Sida