

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



Monthly Flash Report

July - August 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

In the period July - August, the Fiscal Decentralization team provided inputs and comments on the decentralisation related draft legislative package including the draft Law on Local Self Governments and the draft Law on Budget

Project experts placed in the Reform Support Office carried out the following activities in July-August:

- [Range of analyses of the local government financial data \(both revenues and expenditures\) comparing data for 6 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 report "Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government" with indicators for 6 months of 2019 and 2020
- Development of comparative tables of the draft law on amendments to the Budget Code (№3614) and Tax code (at the request of the Minregion)
- Development of proposals for financing of district councils for 2021 (at the request of the Minregion).
- [Preparation of materials on select indicators of implementation of local budgets of 872 AHs for the first half of 2020](#)
- Providing ongoing support to Minregion with analyses, reports, participation in Working groups and drafting materials for meetings of high level officials.

Decentralisation of Education

During July-August 2020 the work of the education decentralisation team focused on:

- Development of possible approaches to update the education subvention allocation mechanisms as per new policy goals of MES
- Guidance, support and coaching for Ministry of Education and Science (MES) staff responsible for the education mechanism on:

- Preparation of the 2021 version of the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator) for further input of student data, geographical data and allocation criteria
- Introduction of the “future map” of the basic level of administrative-territorial structure to the 2021 version of the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator)
- Design of datasets for ad-hoc collection of student data as per urgent request of MinFin
- Processing of acquired student data for further use in Allocation of the Education Subvention
- 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 studies on teacher salary reforms in Poland, Estonia and Lithuania
 - Assessment of the reform costs under various scenarios, presentation and discussions with stakeholders
- 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 Zhytomyr oblast was held
- Facilitation of the 4 capacity development training sessions for AATC Platforms moderators
- [On 10 July, online meeting of the Board and the Council of the AATC](#) was held to discuss the preparations for the AATC’s Congress and the results of the hromada support campaign
- [On 13 August Congress of AATC](#) was held. The new Chairperson [of the AATC](#) was elected
- [On 13 August during the AATC Congress, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the AATC and Swedish Association of Local and Regional Authorities \(SALAR, SKR\)](#)
- [In April, the AATC presented a special web-page “Hromadas against COVID-19”, created with the support of the project. “Hromadas against COVID-19” is a collection of practices and guidance to support hromadas during the coronavirus pandemic.](#) By the end of August, the online platform <https://razom.hromady.org/> contained 38 practices aimed at preventing and tackling the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic. Since the launch of the platform it has been visited more than 15.000 times
- Project experts held coaching sessions with the moderator of the Rural Development Platforms

- Project experts prepared proposals for the procedure of holding the Congress of AATC online, and drafted rules for online voting procedure for the election of the Chairperson

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

- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
 - Preparation of the Letter to Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning A.Klochku on №04-23/14-2020/99529 dated 08.07.2020 regarding the provision of information on the organisational and legal principles of the ATC Association
 - Preparation of the materials for the AATC Congress (report on results of the thematic platform work, draft resolution of the Congress, political declaration of the Congress, minutes of the Congress)
 - Advising (analysis of case law) Zymnivska ATC on a lawsuit with the State Emergency Service of Ukraine to close the school in connection with non-compliance with fire regulations
 - Representation of the AATC at the meetings with the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development on the powers of local governments in the field of health care and social protection
 - Organisational support in preparation of the seminar "Local Elections 2020: Challenges and Opportunities"
 - Preparation of a letter to Hryhorivka village council of Chaplin district of Kherson oblast regarding the appointment of the first elections of deputies of village, settlement, city councils of territorial communities and relevant village, settlement, city mayors on October 25, 2020
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - [Analysis of the draft law of Ukraine "On amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine concerning financial support of the powers of local self-government bodies" developed by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine and providing proposals](#)
 - [Analysis of the draft law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine concerning harmonization of the tax legislation provisions in connection with the reform of the administrative-territorial system" developed by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine; preparation of remarks and proposals on the provisions of the draft law](#)
 - Analysis of the draft law "On amendments to the Law of Ukraine on local self-government in Ukraine" and some other legislative acts of Ukraine concerning decentralisation and delimitation of powers of local self-government bodies in terms of local budgets; submission of relevant remarks and proposals; participation in the meeting of the steering committee of the project "EU for stronger public finance systems of local governments"
 - [Preparation and sending of the appeal to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine regarding certain problematic issues of ATC budgets in 2020 and the next budget period; analysis of the draft laws concerning amendments to tax and budget legislation, submission of a position on the draft laws \(Reg. No. 3423 and Reg. No. 3532, Reg. No. 3679\); participation in the meeting of the working group on issues relating to LSG finances and budgeting](#)
 - Preparation of a questionnaire for the survey on the topic "Critical issues of ATC budgets at the final stage of budget decentralisation"

- Analysis of the draft law of Ukraine "On amendments to article 24-1 of the Budget Code of Ukraine (concerning increase of efficiency in using funds of the State Regional Development Fund)" developed by the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine; preparation of remarks and proposals on the provisions of the draft law
- **Analytical work:**
 - Organisation of the AATC member surveys on the following topics: implementation of projects in the field of culture, critical issues of budget decentralisation, system of organisation of social services, local economic development, study of community opinion on the problem of organizing the accounting of agricultural land, youth centers functioning, provision of administrative services, current human resources and its changes as a result of enlargement of communities after the next local elections
 - Presenting the survey results about the cooperation with Ukrainian communities abroad at the IX Global Ukrainians Online Forum
 - On 22 July - training on analytical work for Association's platform moderators. Session 1: Moderated dialogue as a source of analysis. How to choose a stakeholder?
 - On 23 July - training for platform moderators. Session 2: Data and data analysis in the field of local self-government
 - On 28 July - training for platform moderators. Session 3: Organisation of a blitz polls. How to prepare a questionnaire?

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 launch of the Swiss-Ukrainian Project on Decentralization for Improved Democratic Education (DECIDE)
- [Working on the layout of the Financial](#) Newsletter
- Communication support of the AATC Congress

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 to the Presentation of the Manual on School Autonomy
- [Presentation of the Manual on School Autonomy](#)
- Mailing manuals on school autonomy to Hromadas, Oblast State Administrations, regional divisions of State Service of Education Quality of Ukraine
- [Support of the AATC with launch of Twitter account](#)
- Providing communication support to the AATC Congress (streaming, photo shooting)
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- Working on the preparation of the Training of Trainers event on Optimisation Game

Project communication

- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)

Project Management

- The project completed gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan and submitted it to Sida