

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



## Monthly Flash Report

October 2020

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### Fiscal Decentralisation

In October, the Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on the following tasks:

- [Project experts met with Member of Parliament Mr. Mykysha to discuss the possible changes to the Personal Income Tax payment mechanism](#)
- Project experts met with USAID DOBRE colleagues to discuss potential future cooperation
- Project experts met with colleagues from the Gender Related Budgeting (GRB) project to discuss possible dissemination of the GRB outputs once the GRB project closes at the end of this year.
- On 8 October, Project experts took part in the meeting of the decentralisation donor board working group on fiscal decentralisation
- Following the DDB working group meeting, Project experts prepared comments to the draft 2021 state budget

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

- [Range of analyses of the local government financial data \(both revenues and expenditures\) comparing data for 8 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 8 months of 2019 and 2020](#)
- Participation in the preparation of the presentation "Peculiarities of the formation of budgets of communities for 2021" for the session of the financial services of the city councils of the AUC (upon request of Minregion).
- Working on the draft Report on the review of state budget expenditures in the part of regional development in terms of supporting the formation of AHs infrastructure (2016-2019)
- [Research and preparation of information on the budget process in 2021 for AATC](#)
- Working on the Infrastructure Development Subvention Review Report for the WG working within Minregion

- 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 October 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 mechanism on:
  - Finalisation of the 2021 version of the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator) (approved by the Parliament in the first reading of the State Budget)
  - Processing of acquired student data for further use in Allocation of the Education Subvention
  - Design of the practical (Macro based) verification tool enabling each school founder to check all essential parameters and statistical data influencing allocation of Education Subvention
  - Development of updates to the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers No. 1088 dated 27.12.2017 “On the approval of the formula of distribution of the educational subvention between local budgets”
- Continuation of analytical support to MES in design of the structure, composition and approaches to the reform of pedagogical staff salaries:
  - Finalisation of the case studies on teacher salary reforms in Poland, Estonia and Lithuania
- 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 prepared the following case-study:
  - Procedure for early recall of elected officials
- Experts continued work on preparation of case studies on:
  - Local government associations

## Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- The Project continues to support regional activities of the AATC, in particular holding events of all-Ukrainian scale together with regional branches
- On 1 October, a meeting of the AATC Board and Council took place to discuss elections and coordination of the plans after it
- Strategic support of the AATC: on October 1, [a discussion of the integrated project "Improving the quality of life of community residents in rural areas of Ukraine"](#) was held between the leadership of the Association, the DOBRE Program and SKL experts
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- On 6 October, the Association participated in the meeting with the local elections monitoring mission of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe
- On 19 October, the Executive Director of the Association took part in the meeting of the Decentralisation Donor Board meeting
- Project experts and AATC colleagues worked on the preparation of 2021 work plan
- Project experts took part in the meeting with DOCCU Project and AATC management on cooperation and coordination of activities in the framework of the Education Platform
- Project experts discussed the AATCs communication strategy with the comm manager and the Chernivtsi regional branch
- Project experts conducted 18 need assessment interviews with the AATC Board and Council members in preparation of the 2021 work plan

#### The Project's support to the work of the legal and budget and finances platforms of the Association:

- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
  - Processing, analysis and sending proposals to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of July 22, 2020 № 641" - Procedure for implementing anti-epidemic measures during the organisation and conduct of elections
  - Processing, analysis, work with a comparative table of alternative proposals for the new version of the Draft Law "On Local State Administrations", [development of proposals of the Association](#)
  - The AATC [joined](#) the Working Group of the Parliamentary Committee on the Organisation of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning developing the new version of the Law of Ukraine "On Local State Administrations"
  - On 19 October, [the webinar "Local elections - Finish line" was organised by the Legal Platform of the AATC](#)
  - On 28 October, participation in the meeting of WG on the draft amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine in terms of Decentralisation, final approval of the developed positions
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
  - Analysis of the provisions of national legislation on the financial support of the preparation and conduct of local elections, [preparing and publishing the position of the Association](#)
  - Analysis of the provisions of the draft law "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine and Other Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring Balance of Budget Revenues" (Reg. № 4101 dated 15.09.2020), [providing comments and suggestions](#)
  - The Association prepared and sent a letter to the Prime Minister of Ukraine Mr Shmygal [regarding the inadmissibility of transferring to local budgets financial obligations to be fulfilled at the expense of the state budget](#)
  - Analysis of personal income tax, identification of significant important problems with the PIT collection in 2020, preparation of [the analytical report](#), preparation of materials for [the website](#) and social networks
  - Analysis of the calculation of the education subvention, identification of problematic issues, discussion with financial experts, preparation and submission of appeals to the IFI, Cabinet of Ministers, the Parliamentary Committee on Budget [to prevent the withdrawal of education subvention balances from local budgets](#)

- Preparation of methodological materials for the new hromadas on formation and approval of budgets of territorial communities for 2021

#### Analytical work:

- Organisation, conducting, analysis of results and preparation of visual report on [the importance of forest belts for Amalgamated communities](#), on the management of the energy efficiency of Amalgamated communities, [on the development of inclusive education in Amalgamated communities](#)
- Preparation of the draft Concept of analytical and statistical framework on amalgamated territorial communities
- Preparation of data and analytical materials on implementation of the annual plan of PIT revenues in ATCs as of August 2020

#### Communication:

- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in October was released](#)
- Facebook page, Association's official web-site, the "The best practices" web-site were continuously updated
- Communication support of [the Forum of Community Energy Managers October 8-9, 2020](#), creation of [a branded framework for the event, the avatar on Facebook](#)
- [Digest of current grants for ATCs for October 2020](#)
- Recording of "Actual interviews" with the ATC leaders - members of the AATC, heads of the platforms of the Association. Creation of a video with [Velina Zayats](#) (head of educational platform, head of Dunayevetska ATC), [Veniamin Sitov](#) (head of Community Safety platform, head of Merefianska ATC), [Valentina Poltavets](#) (executive director of the AATC)
- [Digest of actual grants for combating COVID-19](#)
- Search for a character and preparation for participation (Velina Zayats) in [the program "Vidverti Rozmovy" \(straight conversations\) on I-UA.tv](#)
- Presentation of the Association and clarification of the concept of "amalgamated territorial community" in [the story of the TV channel UA:Pershiy](#) (Suspilne TV)

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

- On 1 October, the representatives of the AATC took part in the meeting of the working group Regarding the draft amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine in terms of decentralisation "Through consensus - to amendments to the Constitution in terms of decentralization"
- [The Forum of Energy Managers in ATC](#) was held on 8-9 October 2020
- On 12 October, a meeting of the AATC representatives in the talk show of the U-LEAD programme on the work of the CNAP
- The AATC [has become a partner](#) of the project "Youth for Democracy in Ukraine" within the Council of Europe Action Plan for Ukraine 2018-2021, which will be implemented by the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine
- On 12 October, participation of the AATC representatives in the WG og Committee on the Organisation of the State Power, LSG, Regional Development and Urban Planning of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the development of a new version of the Law of Ukraine "On Local State Administrations"
- On 16 October Project experts and representatives of the AATC took part in the online discussion of the new Law about Rural development organised by Ministry of Economy of Ukraine

- On 22 October, the Association [took part](#) in the online marathon of the Swiss-Ukrainian project "Support to Decentralization in Ukraine" DESPRO "Local Elections 2020: the finish line".
- On 13 October, [participation of the Association](#) in the round table on evaluating the effectiveness of local governments, the DOBRE Program
- On 30 October, the AATC [represented a position in the talk show of the program "U-LEAD with Europe"](#) on the work of ASC after the formation of the amalgamated communities

## Communication

### Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- [Communication campaign on leadership, jointly with the AATC](#)
- [ELDW posts on Facebook](#)
- Working on the way of transferring of education materials to AATC online resources, their systematisation and promotion
- Working on the preparation of the Training of Trainers for Optimisation Game
- [Project experts held the Training of Trainers for Optimisation Game](#)
- Monitoring, support of the participants of the ToT "Optimisation Game" and sending materials by post
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Supporting the new communication manager of the AATC
- Working on communication plan for 2021

### Project communication

- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)
- Design of the 2021 Project calendar