

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



Monthly Flash Report

September 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- Project expert Tony Levitas prepared a policy note on PIT place of collection
- Project team submitted a range of comments to the draft Public Finance Management reform strategy, upon invitation by MinFin

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 analysis and proposals for the draft budget for 2021](#) (at the request of the Minregion)
- Participation in the preparation of the comparison of the draft laws amending the Budget Code: №3614, №4100 and the draft prepared by the financial group of the Office of Reforms at the Ministry of Regional Development
- 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 September 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) for the first reading of the State Budget by the Parliament
- 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
- 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-studies:
 - Benefits and risks of e-voting and on-line voting
 - Citizens' Right to Initiate Legal Proposal On-line
- Experts continued work on preparation of case studies on:
 - Local government associations
 - Procedure for early recall of elected officials

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. A [meeting of the heads of Amalgamated communities, AATC members, in Cherkasy oblast was held on 17 September](#)
- Strategic support of the AATC: discussion of the strategic tasks of the Association between the management of the AATC and SKL experts was held on 16 September
- Project experts prepared and delivered training for AATC platform moderators on project development, UN sustainable development goals, rural development
- Project experts delivered training for platform moderators on how to prepare project intervention logic matrix and logframes, and result indicators
- [AATC legal expert and executive director participated in the meetings organised by the Ministry of Regional Development to discuss drafts of new versions of the laws of Ukraine on local self-government in Ukraine and in the discussion on local state administrations chaired by the Deputy Minister of Community and Territorial Development](#)
- On 4 September [AATC representatives took part in the meetings of stakeholders related to the amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine in terms of decentralization reform, the position of the AATC members on the formation of an action plan to complete the process of amending the Basic Law was presented](#)

- [On 24 September, at the meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Finance, the AATC presented its position on the draft laws 4000,4100 concerning the draft budget and the amendments to the Budget Code](#)
- On September 30, the position of the AATC was presented at [the meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Local Self-Government](#): on the draft laws 3651, 4000,4100 concerning the draft Budget, amendments to the Budget Code and processes of liquidation of rayons and reorganisation of territorial communities
- Project experts provided AATC colleagues with comments and insights from EU country practices into the issues related to Constitutional amendments and draft legislation on local self-governments and local state administrations

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:**
 - On 07-08 September - [organization and moderation of the seminar in the framework of the meeting of Association's Legal platform on the topic: "Nomination of candidates and myths about the status of already elected deputies"](#)
 - Preparation and submission of proposals from the AATC for expert discussion of the topic ["Protection of community rights" in the process of amending the Constitution of Ukraine in the section of decentralisation](#)
 - [Preparation and submission of proposals from the AATC for expert discussion of the topic "Management in the interests of the community" in the process of amending the Constitution of Ukraine in the section of decentralisation](#)
 - [Preparation and submission of proposals from the AATC for expert discussion of the topic "The system of local self-government in the state" in the process of amending the Constitution of Ukraine in the section of decentralisation](#)
 - [08 September conducting consultations for communities on the implementation of election legislation](#)
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - [Participation in the consultations of the Ministry of Finance with all-Ukrainian associations of local governments on the draft Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021"](#)
 - [Online meeting of hromada finance managers, members of the platform "Local Budgets and Finance" of the AATC](#) was held on 10 September
 - [On 21 September participation in the meeting of the Commission for evaluation and selection of investment programs and projects that could be implemented at the expense of the State Fund for Regional Development](#)
 - Preparation of [comments and proposals](#) to the draft Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021". Participation in the discussion of the bill in the Budget Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; participation in the discussion of the draft State Budget of Ukraine for 2021

Analytical work:

- Organisation, conducting and analysis of results and preparation of visualisation of surveys: on the current state of land management in amalgamated communities, to study the opinion of communities on the problem of organising the accounting of agricultural land, on the functioning of youth centers, on the importance of forest belts for communities

- Preparation and facilitation of training in analytical work of moderators of the AATC platforms: on electronic forms of questionnaires and work with Jotform, on the initial processing of the questionnaire and visualisation of questionnaire data and work with Piktochart

Communication:

- Project experts participated in the selection of the new Communication Manager for the AATC
- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in September was released](#)
- [Facebook page](#), [Association's official website](#), the ["The best practices" web-site](#) were continuously updated
- Communication support was provided to [the meeting of the heads of Amalgamated communities in Cherkasy region on 17 September](#)
- [The digest of current grants for communities for September 2020](#) was published
- Creation and launch of the rubric "Topical interview" with the chairmen of OTG - members of the AATC, chairman of sectoral platforms. Creation of the first [video with the chairperson of the AATC](#)

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Working on the design and searching the proofreader for the publication on teacher salaries in Poland, Estonia and Lithuania
- Working on online event to be held in November regarding presentation of the Manual of School Autonomy
- On 18 September - participation in the meeting of the donor coordination working group on communication
- Contribution to the finalisation of the reform support communication plan for the rest of 2020
- Supporting the new communication manager of the AATC
- Working on the preparation of the Training of Trainers for Optimisation Game

Project communication

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

Project management and donor coordination

- On 11 September, project experts participated in the donor meeting on next steps of local self-government related reforms
- On 14 September, project experts participated in the donor coordination working group meeting on local democracy
- On 18 September, project team leader met with the colleagues from USAID DOBRE project to discuss further cooperation and opinions on LSG reform related issues and priorities
- On 21 September, project experts participated in the donor coordination working group meeting on gender issues

- On 22 September, project experts took part in the donor coordination meeting on public finance management, organised by the Ministry of Finance
- On 29 September, project team leader met with Council of Europe experts preparing inputs for the discussion on legal framework for formation and functioning of local government associations
- On 8 and 30 September project expert took part in the meeting of the assessment committee for the Council of Europe and MinRegion competition of best practices in local self-governments
- On 7-9 September project experts took part in online SDG training co-organised by UNDP