

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



Monthly Flash Report

November 2020

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- Project experts contributed with the comments on the latest draft of the Law on Local Self-Governments (LSG) and took part in the work of the drafting group under the Parliamentary Committee on State Building and LSGs. Experts produced additional inputs on the topics of the local self-government as a legal body of public law; on division of competences; on Statutes of local self-governments; on personal income tax (PIT) and its role in financing LSGs
- On 4 November, project experts met with the EU-financed PFM project in the State Fiscal Authority to discuss the possibility to launch amendments to the PIT payment mechanism
- [Project expert Jasmina Đikić prepared a presentation on international experience in LSG infrastructure grants and presented it at a meeting organised by MinReg on 30 November 2020.](#)

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 the 10 months of 2019 and 2020 with key indicators. Analysis was usually coupled with design of graphic materials to illustrate the results](#)
- [Participation in drafting of the monthly report "Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government" with indicators for the 10 months of 2019 and 2020](#)
- [Preparation of materials on certain indicators of implementation of local budgets of 872 amalgamated hromadas \(AHs\) for the 9 months of 2020 \(preparation of text and graphic materials based on 5 population typologies\)](#)
- Preparing comments and proposals for the draft changes to the Budget Code of Ukraine related to financing of territorial communities in which elections were recognised by the court as not having taken place
- Working on the Infrastructure Development Subvention Review Report for the Minregion
- [Prepared a report on the main indicators of the first draft of the 2021 state budget](#)
- Attended the Seminar on Gender responsive budgeting on 18 and 19 November 2020

- Provision of ongoing support to Minregion with analyses, opinions, reports, participation in working groups and drafting materials for meetings of high level officials
- Participation in the preparation of expert opinions on a range of draft laws (usually proposals submitted by individual parliament members) at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development

Decentralisation of Education

During November 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 second reading of the State Budget by the Parliament)
 - Finalisation of the practical (macro-based) verification tool enabling each school founder to check all essential parameters and statistical data influencing allocation of Education Subvention
 - Finalisation 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 publication on 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
- Internal training for project teams and AATC colleagues on the topic of teacher salaries
- SN - [Budget Process to Determine Allocation 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 prepared the following case-study:
 - [The Role of the Local Government Associations in Poland and Sweden](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- [The Forum of New Local Self-Government](#) was held online on 26 November. 700 participants were gathered.
- [The Land Forum "Transfer of Lands to ATC"](#) was held online on 12 November. 800 participants participated. The AATC [signed a cooperation agreement](#) with the State Service of Ukraine for Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre.
- Strategic support of the Association:

- On 10 November, project experts participated in the [meeting](#) of the AATC Board and the executive staff
- The project continues to support the regional activities of the AATC. Meetings of Cherkasy, Odesa, Kyiv, Khmelnytsky, Zaporizhia regional branches of the Association were held.

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:**
 - Presentation of the AATC at the meetings of the working groups on the development of a new version of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine", on administrative-territorial reform and legislative support of decentralization.
 - Organisation and moderation of the webinar "[Activities of local governments after local elections on the basis of the sectoral platform "Legislation for ATC"](#)", 5 November
 - Organisation and moderation of the webinar "[Legal support of newly created communities](#)" on the basis of the sectoral platform "Legislation for ATC", 27 November
 - Providing continuous consultations for members of the AATC on legal and organisational issues related to the start of work of newly created local self-governments
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Formation of [the position of the AATC](#) on safeguarding member interests in the 2021 State Budget of Ukraine for 2021; in particular regarding securing of development expenditures, the need to increase other intergovernmental transfers, including subsidies from the state budget for education and health care, maintaining the excise tax on fuel produced in Ukraine and fuel imported into the customs territory of Ukraine as a revenue of LSGs, other issues relevant to local self-government.
 - Preparation of [the position of the AATC](#) on the safeguarding of the infrastructure subvention at the stage of finalisation of the State Budget of Ukraine for the second reading, bringing it to the notice of relevant state bodies.
 - Development and publishing of guidance and information materials for heads of territorial communities and heads of local financial bodies "[Budget guide for officials of territorial communities](#)"
 - Preparation of [the material](#) on the budget process in territorial communities
 - Preparation and moderation of the webinar "[Budget process in the newly formed territorial communities](#)" on the basis of the sectoral platform "Local budgets and finances", 16 November
 - Development and publication of guidance and information materials for heads of territorial communities and heads of local financial bodies on the topic: "[Key aspects of the budget process of 2021 in territorial communities](#)"

Analytical work:

- Organisation, conducting, analysis of results and preparation of visualisation of surveys: [on the educational subvention](#), on the "Problems of land use in ATC: relevance of tasks".
- Participation in the organisation of a survey of the Center for Good Governance Expertise of the Council of Europe on the development of a collection of tools, examples and best practices of remote work in public authorities of Council of Europe member states
- Processing of the data and analytical materials related to 2020 local elections and analysis of the results of the 2020 local elections with a view to ensuring gender equality in the electoral process

- Organisation of a survey of ATC leaders to support the AATC in the process of forming Strategies for their development.

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 Land Forum "Transfer of lands to communities"](#) on 12 November, creation of [a video invitation](#) and launch of an information campaign before the event, preparation of materials after the event
- Communication support of [the Forum of New Local Self-Government](#) on 26 November, creation of [video invitation](#) and launch of an information campaign before the event, preparation of materials after the event
- Creating [a calendar of events](#) of the ATTC for November 2020

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- Communication campaign on Facebook on the history of local self-government in Sweden
- Working on the transfer of education materials to AATC online resources, their systematisation and promotion
- Support of the AATC in preparation to the events
- Monitoring, support of the participants of the ToT "Optimisation Game", sending facilitation 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
- Preparation of project's communication plan for 2021
- Preparation of team meeting on communication during Covid
- Working on the SKR-related Informational Stand for the Association

Project communication

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