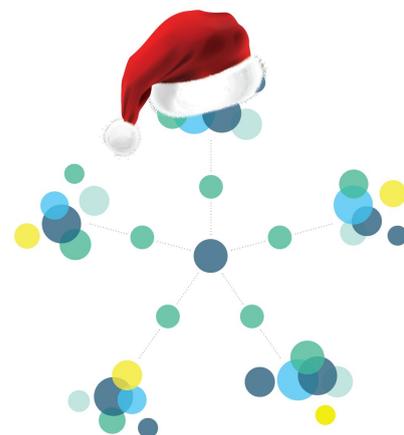


Swedish-Ukrainian Project Support to Decentralisation In Ukraine 2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

December 2020

The only permanent thing in life is change, said Heraclitus long long time ago. 2020 has proved this, for sure! Yet it also showed that there are opportunities in times of change and that big things can be accomplished through shared vision, cooperation, leadership and community spirit.

Whatever change the 2021 will bring, let these be the guiding stars!

Happy 2021 from the SKL International Ukraine team! 🎅🌲

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- [On 10-11 December, Project expert Anthony Levitas participated in the Second International Expert Exchange "Development of Municipalities: Trust, Institutions, Finance and People" organised by the U-Lead, and delivered a presentation on role of Personal Income Tax in ensuring stable revenue base for the local self-governments](#)

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](#)
- Participation in preparation of presentation materials for the Deputy Minister of MinRegion, Mr. Negoda for the Second International Expert Exchange "Development of Municipalities: Trust, Institutions, Finance and People", 10-11 December, organised by U-Lead
- Preparation of financial and economic justification for the draft order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On reorganization and formation of district state administrations" at the request of Minregion
- Preparation of answers to questions posted on the site <https://decentralization.gov.ua>, on the topic of local budgets (at the request of the MinRegion)
- Provision of ongoing support to MinRegion with analyses, opinions, reports, participation in working groups and drafting materials for meetings of high level officials

Decentralisation of Education

During December 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 financing mechanism on:
 - Finalisation of the 2021 version of the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator) after the State Budget was approved by the Parliament
 - Integration of the Dashboard to the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator) in order to make reading data easier for non-professionals
 - Continuation of the work on 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 salary reform of pedagogical staff:
 - 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
- On 26 November, Project experts conducted an internal training for Project teams and AATC colleagues on the topic of teacher salaries
- Project experts took part in the Joint meeting of Education and Financial Platforms of the AATC (December 10, 2020) and presented main changes to the Education subvention allocation formula to their members.
- Project experts prepared a Short Note on Preparation for Implementation of AIKOM
- Project experts began work on the development of the online repository of the products and resources on education management in local self-governments, for the purposes of contributing to the capacity building of the local self-government employees
- On 30 December Project experts took part in public hearing for development of Education strategy of Ivanivska TG of Chernihiv oblast.

The Project began creation of an education repository of education management related products and resources developed for the new hromadas in the past years. The platform will contain 7 thematic blocks, covering issues related to establishment of an effective education management framework, developing and implementing strategies and action plans for education management and school network organisation.

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](#)
- Project Team Leader took part in the regular meetings of the Parliamentary Committee working group discussing the draft Law on Local Self-Governments. Inputs were provided on issues related to the legal status of local self-governments, division of competences, role and scope of LSG Statute, basis of the financial autonomy of the LSGs, structured dialogues between the state authorities and local government associations

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- The project continues to support the regional activities of the AATC together with regional branches. Meetings of [Chernihiv](#) (04.12), [Kyiv](#) (18.12), [Donetsk](#) (11.12), Volyn (17.12), [Dnipropetrovsk](#) (23.12) regional branches of the Association were held.
- The AATC presented its positions in the Working Group of the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, 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 Self-Government.
- The Association took part in the Forum of Local Self-Government of the Council of Europe Office in Ukraine, in relevant panel discussions (9-10.12) [Oleksandr Korinny](#) (Chairman of the AATC) and [Valentyna Poltavets](#) (Executive Director of the AATC) presented the Association and its positions.
- The Association took part in the Forum of Good Governance of the Aspen Institute in Kyiv. Alexander Korinny (Chairman of the AATC) [presented the position](#) of the AATC (18.12).
- The Association participated in the Round Table "Gender Analysis of the Impact of COVID-19 in Ukraine and Applying an Approach Based on Gender Equality and Human Rights to Pandemic Measures and Addressing Socio-Economic Challenges for the Most Vulnerable Populations"
- The AATC became partners with the [National Interests Advocacy Network "ANTS"](#) (09.12) and with [the Kyiv-Mohyla School of Government](#) (10.12)

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 the issues of administrative reform and legislative support of decentralization.
 - Letters to the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine were prepared regarding the draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Local State Administrations" and some other legislative acts of Ukraine on reforming the territorial organization of executive power in Ukraine; Letter to the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine Concerning the Draft Law on Amendments to the Land Code of Ukraine and Other Legislative Acts on Improving the Management System and Deregulation in Land Relations.
 - The AATC was represented at a meeting of the Ministry of Regional Development on the legislative regulation of the institute of elders in Ukraine chaired by Deputy Minister Vyacheslav Negoda.
 - Providing consultations to members of the Association on legal and organizational issues of new local governments.
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - At the request of the Association, the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine provided [relevant clarifications](#) on the establishment of a local financial authority.
 - Presentation of [the position of the AATC](#) on the draft law "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021", [the position of the AATC](#) on the draft Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021" in terms of financial stability of local governments.
 - The Association [insisted that](#) the excise tax on fuel produced in Ukraine and imported into the customs territory of Ukraine in 2021 remain in the budgets of territorial communities.
 - Organized joint meeting of educational and financial platforms AATC (10.12)

Analytical work:

- Organization of a survey of ATC leaders on the position of starosta in territorial communities.
- Organization of a survey of ATC leaders in the interests of forming a professional network of the Rural Development platform and on the organization of training of land managers.
- Analysis of results and preparation of generalized tables of survey results on the position of the head in territorial communities.

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
- Creating [a calendar of events](#) of the ATTC for December 2020
- Launch of the AATC [Telegram Channel](#)
- Preparation, editing, publication of [video](#) - best practice of Serhiyivska TC

Gender component

- On 17 December, Project expert conducted an internal training for Project teams and AATC colleagues on the topic of Gender issues in relation to decentralization at local level
- Project's gender expert met with the management of the Gender Responsive Budgeting project to discuss possibilities of uptake of certain GRB project's products and results
- Gender expert met with the head of the AATC Gender Platform to review the AATC gender strategy and work plan for 2021 and 2022
- Project expert prepared inventory of donor financed gender projects and initiatives to identify which ones are relevant for local self-governments, open to cooperation with hromadas and the AATC
- Development of draft of information\coaching sessions for project staff on gender related issues, values and behavior change aspects in Ukrainian context
- Assessment potential and draft plan out the take-up of the results of the Sida funded GRB Projects coming to an end in 2020
- Work with SKL check-lists – its translation and adaptation to Ukrainian context

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- Working on the transfer of education materials to AATC online resources, their systematisation and promotion
- Support of the AATC in preparation to the events
- 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
- On 3 December, Project's Communication Manager delivered an internal workshop for the project team and AATC colleagues on communication during the times of Covid
- Design of the SKR informational stand in the Association

Project communication

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