

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



Monthly Flash Report

February 2021

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- On 16 March, Project expert Jasmina Djikic held a presentation „Equalization in Ukraine – options“ at the meeting of the Finance Platform of the AATC
- In February, fiscal team finalized an action plan for implementation of changes to PIT payment framework and shared it with MinReg for consultations.
- Fiscal team developed a short questionnaire to collect information from a sample of AATC members about the PIT collection in their municipality.
- Fiscal team submitted comments on the infrastructure grant proposals developed by the Working Group within MinReg, outlining main principles that should be a part of any selected approach, besides providing ongoing technical support to the WG.

Project experts placed in the Reform Support Office worked on:

- [Range of analyses of the local government financial data \(both revenues and expenditures\) comparing data for 12 months of 2019 and 2020 with key indicators. Analysis was usually coupled with design of graphic materials to illustrate the results](#)
- [Contributions to the monthly report "Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government" with indicators for 12 months of 2019 and 2020](#)
- [Participation in the preparation of the analysis of the implementation of local budgets in 2020](#)
- Calculation and preparation of new information on the amount of balances of budget funds as of 1 January 2021 on the accounts of district budgets by oblasts and by separate rayon budgets for the sitting of the committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (at the request of the Minregion).
- Participation in the preparation of the analysis on the distribution of additional subsidies by regional state administrations in 2021.
- Preparation of answers to questions submitted through <https://decentralization.gov.ua>, on local governments' budgets (at request of MinRegion)
- Ongoing support to MinRegion with analyses, opinions, reports, participation in working groups and drafting materials for meetings of high level officials:
 - Expert reports on: draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Ensuring Organizational and Legal Conditions for Social Protection of Orphans and Children Deprived of Parental Care "(Reg. No. 3862); draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On approval of the Procedure and conditions for providing subventions from the state budget to

local budgets for the development of comprehensive plans for spatial development of territorial communities"; debt on medium-term loans

- Analysis on rayon budgets: Lviv, Bilyaiv, Lubny rayons; 4 analysis on rayon budgets of Volyn oblast; 6 on rayon budgets of Ivano-Frankivsk oblast; • 7 certificates on rayon budgets of Lviv oblast; • 4 on rayon budgets of Rivne oblast
- Preparation of the answer to the Pidhorodnenska territorial community of Dnipropetrovska oblast regarding the crediting of taxes and fees and amendments to the decisions of the amalgamated councils on setting rates

Decentralisation of Education

During February 2021, 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:
 - Preparation of data to be used in preliminary calculations of the allocation of the education subvention for 2022
 - Support to the Dashboard to the MS Excel based subvention allocation tool (Simulator) in order to make reading data easier for non-professionals
- Development and design of the "Individual subvention statements" - an informational toolkit for local self-government bodies designed for easy access to information on volume of funds allocated to the LSG and all main parameters used for calculation according to the Formula of Allocation of Education Subvention
- 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
- Policy advice to MES and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of modern statistical collection procedures:
 - Designed an Analytical Note on Legislative Basis of Education Statistics in Ukraine (SN 122)
- Project experts took part in a series of strategic online sessions initiated by the Ukrainian Institute for Educational Development to develop the Concept of profile education. In particular, project experts presented the publication "[Profile education. Methodological recommendations](#)", and also, senior expert on education Jan Herczynski is developing an analytical note on the creation of a network of lyceums
- [Project experts developed 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 and continuing to publish materials
- Profile education is becoming a mainstream topic for discussion. Experts of our project drafted publication "[Profile education. Methodological recommendations](#)" which caused a wave of discussion in media. [To see the articles click here](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- During 23-26 February, [a Regional Week initiative was organised for the AATC members from Cherkasska oblasts](#) (The idea and design of the Regional Weeks were developed by the Project experts and further supported). During the Regional Week, AATC members have a chance to meet on thematic issues, in the framework of Platform meetings. Around 200 representatives from Cherkassy oblast hromadas took part in the meetings. A separate discussion with the AATC members was held on the organisation of the work of the regional team in the oblast. A memorandum of cooperation was signed between the Head of the Cherkasy regional branch of the AATC, the Head of the Cherkasy Oblast State Administration and the Chairperson of Oblast Council.
- Project experts held the seminars for the members of AATC from all oblasts on the values of the membership-based and member-driven association:
 - [One on 19 February;](#)
 - [On 23 February;](#)
 - [On 25 February](#)
- The project continues to support the regional activities of the AATC. Meetings of [Zhytomyr, Khmelnytsk, Odesa, Cherkasy](#) regional branches were held during February.
- On 18 February, the position of the AATC was presented by the heads of communities and starostas at the [Round Table on "Starosta in the Community: status, purpose and tasks"](#) organised by the Parliamentary LSG Committee
- Project experts was working on the development of methodical recommendations "Methods of financial support of AATC"
- Project experts was working on methodological recommendations "Development of AATC Regional Branches networking"
- Preparation to gender seminar for AATC staff started

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 the basis of the platform, on 24 February [a meeting of lawyers of Cherkasy region](#) was held as part of the "Regional Week".
 - On 15 February, AATC position was presented at the meeting of the Working Group on the development of amendments to the Constitution of Ukraine on decentralization.
 - The analysis and elaboration of the comments and proposals to the Draft Law "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning the Development of the Institute of Elders" was carried out (Reg. № 4535 of 22 December 2020).
 - The analysis and elaboration of the comments and proposals to the Draft Law "On the Procedure for Resolving Issues of the Administrative and Territorial System of Ukraine" (Reg. 4664 of 28 January 2021) was carried out
 - On 25 February, the webinar was held on the ["Legal support of territorial communities"](#) (Interaction with law enforcement agencies).
 - consultations were provided to members of the Association on legal and organizational issues.
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Preparation of an open letter to the chairman and members of the working group on the development of the draft Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" regarding the risks of financial security of the powers

- Participation in revision of the draft law "On features of stimulating regional development".
- Analysis of the draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On amendments to the Procedure and conditions for providing subventions from the state budget to local budgets for the implementation of measures for socio-economic development of certain territories"
- Analysis of the draft amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine regarding the road fund of Ukraine, preparation of an information report on the proposed changes for the participation of a representative of the AATC in the meeting of the Ministry of Infrastructure on the second stage of decentralization of public roads
- [Meeting of the thematic platform "Local Budgets and Finance"](#) on 16 February.
- On 26 February [Meeting with finance managers of territorial communities of Cherkasy region](#) within the framework of implementation of "Regional Week" events

Communication:

- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in January was released](#)
- [Facebook page](#), [Association's official web-site](#), [the "The best practices" web-site](#) were continuously updated
- Ongoing support and maintenance of the [Telegram channel](#) of the AATC. Launching and managing a [Viber channel](#).
- Collaboration on creating video interviews on the Time of Change channel. Interviews with heads of hromadas Veniamin Sitov (1, 2), [Iryna Hryshchenko](#), [Svitlana Spazheva](#), [Igor Lidoviy](#).
- Information support of the Regional Week in Cherkasy region (23-26 February).
- Information support of the series of webinars "Values of the membership organization as a basis of independence and influence of the Association on public policy", facilitation of events on 23 and 25 February
- Preparation of a series of videos for webinars on values, with the participation of Alexei Ryabokon ([How the idea of creating OTH started up?](#), [What was the aim to become a member of AATC?](#), [Why the democratic principles of the Association are important?](#), [What principles of the AATC are the most important for you?](#))
- Preparation and publication of information on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science according to the recommendation of the gender expert SKL International

Gender equality

- Program of AATC session at the UN Women conference, which is planned for the beginning of March, developed
- "Gender calendar" for the project prepared
- Training on gender mainstreaming for the project staff was delivered on 17-18 February (15 participants, out of them 7 women, 8 men)

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- [Quarterly Newsletter for 4th quarter of 2020](#)
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Working on technical solution for Education management repository, uploading information, updating web-page, design
- Working on Flash report

- Project data entry in MinRegion's Capacity building database

Project communication

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