

Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation In Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

April 2021

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- The ToR for a study on PIT place of collection was prepared

Project experts placed in the Reform Support Office worked on:

- Compilation and analysis of financial indicators of local revenues for the two months of 2020 and 2021
- [Participation in the preparation of the regular reports "Monitoring the process of decentralization of power and reform of local self-government" upon request of Minregion. This included budget data of local governments and oblasts comparing the first two months of 2020 and 2021](#)
- Preparing material on asset transfers from rayons to hromadas, and on debt obligations at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development
- Calculation and preparation of information on balances of the 169 new district budgets as per 01.04.2021
- Participation in the preparation of an opinion for the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the draft laws concerning the personal income tax allocation to local self-governments
- Preparation of answers to questions submitted through <https://decentralization.gov.ua>, on local 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:
 - Upon the request from the MinRegion, preparation of responses to inquiries and appeals, preparation of expert opinions on draft laws № 5244, 5289, 5281, 5073, 5086, 5145, 5150, 5153, 5221, 5230, 5282.

Decentralisation of Education

During April 2021, the work of the education decentralisation team focused on:

- Launch of the work of the intergovernmental Working Group on elaboration of amendments to the allocation formula of the education subvention for 2022
 - an analytical note SN 124 was prepared on the **Review of Normative Class Sizes in 2021**

- Finalisation of the “Individual subvention statements” - an information toolkit for local self-governments containing the information on education subvention allocations and on the main parameters used for calculation of the allocations
- Policy advice to MES and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of statistical data collection
- Project experts took part in a series of strategic online sessions on further advancement of the concept of profile education initiated by the Ukrainian Institute for Education Development
- [Project experts completed the development of the online repository of the products and resources related to education management in local self-governments](#). The repository shall support the capacity building of the local self-government employees.

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- With the support of the project, the AATC organised the regional week initiative in:
 - [Dnipropetrovsk region](#) on 12-16 April.
 - [Zaporizhia Region](#) on April 26-30.
 - During the regional weeks, the meetings are organised between the hromada leaders, oblast councils and/or oblast state administrations. There are also meetings of the thematic platforms, executive managers of hromadas. Professional thematic networks are launched on the regional level
 - An information session "Gender Policy of the Association: how we can be useful to communities" was held during both regional weeks in Dnipropetrovsk and Zaporizhia oblasts
- The project continues to support the regional activities of the Association. Meetings of [Sumy, Vinnytsia, Zaporizhia, Mykolayiv and Dnipropetrovsk](#) branches of the AATC were held during April.
- [On April 20 informal meeting with hromada heads - A Coffee with the Mayors - was held by the Project experts. The purpose of the meeting was to gather mayors in an informal atmosphere to discuss strategic and foreign issues on social care](#)
- Project experts finalised the guidance on “Development of AATC Regional Networks”
- Project experts worked on development of proposals for the internal procedures of the Association’s meetings
- [On April 15 the AATC representatives took part in a meeting of the Ministry of Regional Development on amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" chaired by the Deputy Minister](#)
- AATC presented its opinion on training and advanced training of the civil service at the parliamentary LSG Committee
- On April 21 AATC representatives took part in a meeting of the Ministry of Regional Development, the Ministry of Internal Affairs on the problem situation with the implementation of fire safety requirements in buildings which hromadas have received from rayon councils and rayon state administrations
- On April 24 AATC experts presented the position of the Association at the Working Group on the development of the law on RSA
- [On April 12 AATC experts presented the position of the Association during the hearings of the Parliamentary LSG Committee on "State Regional Policy: Challenges, Risks, Opportunities"](#)
- Preparation of a survey at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development on problematic issues that arise in hromadas when taking over the assets and resources from rayons

The Project's support to the work of the thematic platforms of the Association

- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
 - Preparation, organisation and moderation of an [online seminar](#) on 5 April - Starosta as an official of local self-government

- Preparation, organisation and moderation of an [online-seminar](#) on 9 April - Legal support of territorial communities (Interaction with law enforcement agencies)
 - Meeting with the regional members of the Platform "Legislation for ATC" in the framework of [the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Week](#) on 13 April and [Zaporizhia Regional Week](#) on 27 April, the formation of a regional network of lawyers.
 - Providing consultations to members of the Association on legal and organisational issues of new local governments
 - Preparation and moderation of an [online-seminar](#) "Conflict of interests in local governments. Powers and private interest: points of contact", held on 15 April.
 - [Preparation of the intervention](#) by the Chairman of the Kyiv Regional Council at the committee hearings "Public consultations as an instrument of participatory democracy. World practices and standards", held on 20 April.
 - [Representation of the Association at the meeting of the Ministry of Regional Development on the state of implementation of the Law of Ukraine dated 17.11.2020 № 1009-IX "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Regulation of Certain Issues of Organization and Activity of Local Self-Government Bodies and District State Administrations"](#)
 - Preparation, organisation and moderation of an online seminar on 23 April - "Legal support of territorial communities" (Interaction with law enforcement agencies). Illegal profit, and other crimes of corruption
 - Preparation, organisation and holding of an [online-seminar](#) on 29 April - Cooperation of territorial communities. Forms of contracts and procedure for concluding.
- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Analysis of draft laws of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Tax Code of Ukraine to bring into line the provisions of tax legislation in connection with the reform of administrative-territorial organization and streamlining of certain issues regarding the administration of taxes and fees" and "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On local self-government in Ukraine "on delimitation of powers of district and regional councils and streamlining of terminology in accordance with changes in the administrative-territorial structure", preparation of proposals and comments, referral to the Ministry of Regional Development
 - Participation in the meeting of the Ministry of Regional Development to discuss proposals for amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" and sectoral legislation
 - Moderation of a meeting with finance managers of territorial communities of Dnipropetrovsk oblast in the framework of the project "Regional Week" [on 12 April](#) and in the framework of the regional week of Zaporozhye oblast [on 28 April](#).
 - Preparation of information certificate for communities ["PIT, excise tax, infrastructure subvention, subsidies from the state budget, road fund"](#)
- **In the framework of the Association's Gender platform:**
 - On 14 April, the training was delivered on "Gender-sensitive communication: why is it relevant for us personally and for Ukraine in general" for partners - communication managers of the decentralisation donor projects, with the participation of 8 people (5 women, 3 men)
 - [On 23 April, a meeting of the working group of the platform "On Gender Equality" was held with participation of 18 people \(16 women, 2 men\), work on expansion of working group members conducted, in particular communities which are AATC members, chaired by women, invited to participate, as well as communities that have sent successful practices of gender mainstreaming and implementation of gender initiatives](#)
 - [An article on "How the signing of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in local life contributes to the achievement of sustainable development goals" has been prepared for the AATC website](#)

- [16 successful practices of integrating gender approaches into communities' activities and gender initiatives' implementation described](#)
- [The website section of the AATC Gender Platform was updated with materials - relevant legislative and normative legal acts, information sources provided](#)
- Monitoring of websites and Facebook pages of hromadas - AATC members was started to assess the gender sensitivity of the language used; conclusions and recommendations to improve gender sensitivity in hromada communication are under preparation
- Negotiations were started with the Council of Europe and the Ukrainian School of Government on conducting trainings for AATC members on gender equality

Communication:

- [The digest covering the activities of the Association in April was released](#)
- [Facebook page](#), [Association's official web-site](#), [the "The best practices" web-site](#) were continuously updated
- Ongoing support and maintenance of the AATC's [Telegram channel](#) and [Viber channel](#).
- Creation of the monthly calendar of events.
- Organisation, conducting and publishing, with the participation of heads from regions to the regional week: with [Gennady Sumsky](#) (Tsarychanskaya ATC of Dnipropetrovsk oblast), [Ivan Kalashnyk](#) (Tomakivska ATC of Dnipropetrovsk oblast), [Vitaliy Manych](#) (Chernihivska ATC of Zaporizhia oblast), [Alla Korol](#) (Mykhailivska ATC of Zaporizhia oblast), [Yuriy Konovalenko](#) (Pologivska ATC of Zaporizhia oblast)
- Creating and distributing a [digest of relevant grants](#) available for local communities

Gender equality

- Editing of the analytical note "On the network of specialised lyceums" for the education decentralisation component of the project

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- [Preparation of the Quarterly Newsletter for the 1st quarter of 2021](#)
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Finalisation of the work on [Education management repository](#), web-page updates, design
- Project related data updates for the MinRegion's Capacity building database
- Preparation of the launch of the education management repository: announcement, invitation, interviews, videos etc.
- Preparation for the Teacher Salaries publication
- Support to preparation and delivery of the 1st informal 'Coffee with Mayors' meeting

Project communication

- [Publication "Local Government in the Nordic and Baltic Countries"](#)
- [Publication "Teacher's salaries prepared and uploaded on the web-page"](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)

Project management

- Project team participated in facilitation skills training

- Project's 2020 report was submitted to Sida