

Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

September 2021

Fiscal Decentralisation

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

- Preparation of the panel discussion and presentation of the results of the study of the Kyiv School of Economics (What are the principles by which a business transfers PIT for its employees to local communities, and how should approaches to its transfer be reformed?), supported by SKL International / Decentralization Support Project and is planned on October
- Gender expert provided comments on the KSE study on PIT sharing
- Working meetings of Gender expert were held with the component "Fiscal Decentralization" to identify opportunities for gender mainstreaming in the documents of the State Fund for Regional Development of the Ministry of Community and Territory Development of Ukraine

Project experts placed in the Reform Support Office worked on:

- Rayon council finances for 2022 with MinFin
- [Preparations of 2022 budget](#)
- Border Control Issues Draft Law
- [Improvements of the dashboard on hromadas finances](#)
- Methodology for the capacity assessment of LSGs
- Expertise on the law on citizen organizations
- Development of indicators for assessing the financial potential of territorial communities and methods of calculating the integrated indicator of financial capacity at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development
- [Participation in the development of an analytical dashboard with financial indicators of 1468 territorial communities](#)

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

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

- Support to the work on finalization of the allocation of the education subvention for 2022
 - MS Excel based allocation toolkit (Simulator for allocation of the education grant)
 - Capacity building activities for the MinEdu team
- Design of the new Activity on Education Budgeting in Municipalities

- Policy advice to MES and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of statistical data collection
- Analysis of the teacher workforce (including gender aspects) is being looked at in case the data is collected in September-October 2021
- Preparation for the new activity - education budgeting on local level. A team seminar was held on 13-14 September in Kyiv. The experts Pavlo Khobzey, Lilia Grynevich and Liudmyla Borisenko joined the team as local experts. Also, Mats Olin from Sweden was engaged

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

Local education component focused on:

- [On 08 September, School Network Optimization Game in Zhytomyr](#)
- [On 09 September, Launch of the Project's support to education management in hromadas and oblasts - Zhytomyr](#)
- [On 16 September, School Network Optimization Game in Rokytno, Rivnenska oblast](#)
- [On 15 September, Launch of the Project's support to education management in hromadas and oblasts - Rivne](#)
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- [Working on the new best practices in hromadas](#)
- Preparation for the next seminar - Launch of the Project's support to education management in hromadas and oblasts - Sumy (planned for October)
- [Inclusion of the session "Gender audit in schools as opportunities for development" in the presentation meeting of the subcomponent "Education at the local level" in Zhytomyr, in Rivne](#)
- The Updates to the School Network Optimization Game are being prepared and was worked on over the mission
- Preparation of the Training for trainers of School Network Optimisation Game. It is planned for the end of October

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- On September 22-23, a strategic seminar was organized and held, and a meeting of [the Board of the AATC](#). At the meeting of the Board, a decision was made [to join 37 new members of the Association](#).
- Project experts started consultations on holding II strategic seminar for AATC
- Project experts worked on development of expert opinion on the challenges threatening the democratic development of the All-Ukrainian ATC
- The project continues to support the development of the AATC at the regional level:
 - [On September 29, the Regional Week started in Zhytomyr region](#)
 - [On September 30, the Regional Week started in Chernivtsi region](#)
- Representatives of the AATC [prepared and presented proposals for the draft Budget-2022](#)
- Representatives of the AATC took part in:
 - meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group on preparation of a new version of the Law of Ukraine "On Service in Local Self-Government Bodies"
 - Representatives of the All-Ukrainian Association of OTG took part in a meeting in the Ministry of Regional Development on the bill on self-organization of the population
 - meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Local Self-Government (submission of proposals for the development of mountain areas)
 - Meeting of the competition commission on the best practices of NAPS training programs

- in the round table on legal personality of territorial communities (Council of Europe Office, Verkhovna Rada Committee)
- in the round table of the Verkhovna Rada Committee and the Council of Europe Office for Administrative and Territorial Organization
- in the round table on legal personality of territorial communities (Council of Europe Office, Verkhovna Rada Committee)
- Working meeting with the representative of the OSCE project in Ukraine "Support to Good Community Governance as a Component of Decentralization Reform", supported by the US Mission to the OSCE and the governments of Germany, Norway and Lithuania
- Round Table "Administrative-territorial organization and new rules"
- meeting of the Ministry of Development of Communities and Territories of Ukraine to resolve differences on certain provisions of draft laws of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Decentralization and Separation of Powers of Local Governments in Relation to Changes in Administrative and Territorial Structure" and "On Amendments to the Law Of Ukraine "On local self-government in Ukraine" on the distribution of powers of local governments in connection with the change of administrative-territorial structure.
- event of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning together with the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine "Challenges of National Security and Territorial Integrity of the State May Be Changed by Changing
- Representatives of the AATC have prepared [a letter to the Prime Minister](#) regarding gas prices.

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

- **In the framework of the Association's Legal platform:**
 - ❖ Conducted processing and analysis:
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Cooperation of Territorial Communities" regarding the regulation of certain issues of cooperation of territorial communities (Reg. №5742).
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Bodies of Self-Organization of the Population"
 - Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Strengthening State Guarantees for Citizens Living in Mountainous and Alpine Settlements (Registered №2003).
 - Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Stimulating Economic Development and Ensuring Social Stability of Mountain and Alpine Settlements (Reg. -12003-1).
 - of the draft law № 5655 on amendments to some legislative acts of Ukraine on reforming the sphere of town-planning activity
 - of the draft law amending the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" on Communal Property "
 - ❖ AATC representatives took part
 - at a meeting of the government committee on economic, financial policy, fuel and energy, community and territory development and environmental protection. (chaired by OM Lyubchenko)
 - of the event of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning together with the Office of the Council of Europe in Ukraine
 - ❖ [September 13 preparation and holding of a webinar "Disciplinary responsibility in local governments \(judicial practice\)" in the question-answer format](#)
 - ❖ Providing advice to members of the Association on legal and organizational issues of the new local government.

- **Within the framework of the Association's platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - [On September 17, a webinar "How to prevent violations in the activities of TC" was organized and held](#)
 - [Meeting with financiers of territorial communities of Zhytomyr region in the framework of the project "Regional Week \(September 30\)](#)
 - Meeting of the platform "Local budgets and finances" on the topic: "Key issues of budgets of territorial communities in the context of the draft Law of Ukraine" On State Budget of Ukraine for 2022 "with the participation of heads of territorial communities, heads of local financial bodies and heads of regional branches of the AATC; [working out a final position on issues raised in the field of budget](#) in order to present them to the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Budget;
 - Presentation materials were prepared on the topic: 'Budgets of territorial communities: achievements and challenges in the process of decentralization' for students of the certificate program of the Institute of Postgraduate Education of Kyiv National University for leaders of territorial programs; conducting classes on budget topics for students of this program
 - Elaboration and analysis were carried out, proposals were prepared and sent to the profile committees:
 - "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine Concerning the Strengthening of State Guarantees for Citizens Living in Mountainous and Alpine Settlements" (Registered № 2003 of September 3, 2019);
 - "On Amendments to the Laws of Ukraine on Stimulating Economic Development and Ensuring Social Stability of Mountain and Alpine Settlements" (Registered № 2003-1 of September 16, 2019);
 - "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On the Status of Mountain Settlements in Ukraine "on the Development of Mountain and Alpine Settlements" (Reg. № 2785 of 20.01.2020),
 - "On service in local self-government bodies" in part of the provisions concerning salaries of officials of local self-government bodies, providing relevant comments;
 - of the draft Law 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 the administrative-territorial system", preparation of proposals of the Ministry of Regional Development
 - ["On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2022". preparation of analytical and information materials;](#)
- **In the framework of the Association's Gender platform:**
 - Working meetings were held with the representatives of the Council of Europe' office to coordinate joint activities for the second half of 2021 and for 2022
 - Participation in a meeting with a gender expert on GRB from Sweden with the formation of a request for Swedish experience in GRB in education (in particular, extracurricular education)
 - Working meetings were held to agree on the format of cooperation with National Democracy Institute for online internships for women leaders of communities
 - Preparation for participation in the seminar of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service "Meanings and values of the new civil service: equal opportunities", where experience of gender sensitive practices was presented by communities-members of AATC
 - Proposals for integration of gender aspects into the project application form for a project that can be implemented from the state budget' subvention to local budgets for infrastructure of united territorial communities and to Regulations on regional commission for evaluation and preliminary competitive selection of investment programs and projects of regional development, which can be implemented from the state fund of regional development
 - A proposal for partnership cooperation with the organizers of the Ukrainian Women's Congress (Equal Opportunities Caucus) - on behalf of AATC and SKL International

- [On 29 September a meeting of AATC' platform "On Gender Equality" on the topic "The Association Builds Women's Networks in Communities" was held with the participation of 20 people \(out of them 3 men, 17 women from 11 ATC: including 1 ATC chairwomen\), the minutes of the meeting were prepared](#)
- Preliminary agreements have been made on the creation of potential network centers (methodological centers) for the collection and dissemination of successful gender sensitive initiatives (Pokrovska, Merefyanska, Novoukrainska, Bashtanska ATCs)
- [3 messages on the AATC' website on gender policy prepared](#)

Communication:

- [Preparation of the digest](#)
- [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.
- Information support of the Congress of the Board of the AATC, preparation of materials
- Information support of Regional Weeks in Zhytomyr and Chernivtsi regions
- [Creating and distributing a digest of relevant grants to communities](#)

Support to the Parliament

- [Designed 2 country cases on legal personality of Local Governments \(Sweden and Latvia\) structured according to the questionnaire designed by the Parliamentary Committee on State Building, Local Governance, Regional and Urban Development](#)

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- [Quarterly Newsletter for the 3rd quarter of 2021](#) preparation
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Support in preparation of the Launch of the Project's support to education management in hromadas and oblasts - Zhytomyr and Rivne
- Project related data updates for the MinRegion's Capacity building database
- Donor Meeting on Communication
- Working on Onepagers of the best practices on education in hromadas
- Organisational support of expert for strategic seminar for AATC members
- [Working on the video about profile education](#)
- Working on the video about Optimisation Game
- 'A figure of Thursday' posts have been launched on Facebook using the education statistics

Project communication

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