

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



Monthly Flash Report

October 2021

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Rayon council financing for 2021 and 2022
- On 08 October [Presentation of "Personal Income Tax Place of Collection in Ukraine – Legal Background and Current Practice" in Kyiv School of Economics](#)
- [Preparations of 2022 budget](#)
- [Improvements of the dashboard on hromada finances](#)
- Financial and economic justification of the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On the Local Self-Government in Ukraine"
- Information and analytical reports on the state of execution of local budgets for 9 months, separately for oblasts and local budgets
- reports on local government deposits in banks.
- Analysis of the debt situation in newly created communities and abolished rayons
- comments to the Common Results Framework on decentralisation for cooperation between the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine and development partners
- Analysis and conclusions on the main financial indicators of local budget execution, per oblast and by individual territorial communities
- answers to topical issues related to the implementation of local budgets (at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development), posted on the website <https://decentralization.gov.ua>
- Providing expert opinions on the proposal to amend the budget legislation in terms of execution of local budgets, ensuring the powers of local governments
- Providing ongoing support to the Ministry of Regional Development through analyses, conclusions, comments, remarks, reports, participation in working groups and preparation of information and presentation materials for meetings of senior officials

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

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

- Support to the work on preparation of the allocation of the education subvention for the First Reading of the Budget Law for 2022
 - MS Excel based allocation toolkit (Simulator for allocation of the education grant)
 - Capacity building activities for the MinEdu team (Advanced MS Excel training)

- Recurrent policy advice to MES and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of statistical data collection
- Following the seminar in September selected experts have started cooperation with Mariupol and Lviv respectively to analyze budget processes in education
- 8 trainings for MES staff - advanced excel functions
- Short notes prepared on:
 - Policy Options for the Table of Normative Class Sizes
 - Functionalities of the portal of education data and indicators
 - Use of Reserve of Education Subvention
- Design of the Macro-based tool for generation of individual Education subvention statements for each LSG - recipient
- Development of methodology for the analysis of the teacher workforce (including gender aspects) is being looked at in case the data is collected in September-October 2021
- Continued work on education budgeting at local level. Project consultants had numerous discussions with the pilot municipalities (Kyiv, Lviv, Mariupol) for data collection and first-hand evidence gathering
- [Subvention statements for all territorial hromadas for each oblast](#)

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

Local education component focused on:

- The first round pilot hromadas have been selected from six oblasts - Lviv (Strijska hromada), Mykolaiv (Yuzhno-Ukrainska hromada), Poltava (Novi Sanzhari hromada), Kherson (Kalanchatska hromada - directly borders Crimea), Rivne (Tarakanivska hromada), Zhytomyr (Bronikivska hromada). Khmilnik hromada (Vinnyts'ka oblast) was added as a potential partner later on as the hromada was comprised of territorial units across the borders of two different rayons. In October the Project signed memorandums of cooperation with 2 pilot hromadas [Bronykivs'ka \(Zhytomyrska oblast\)](#) and [Stryis'ka hromada \(Lvivska oblast\)](#)
- On 22 October meeting with Swiss Ed DECIDE project on future cooperation
- On 27 October working visit to one of the potential pilot hromada - Khmilnik hromada (Vinnyts'ka oblast) with the aim to analyze the situation
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- [Working on the new best practices in hromadas](#). By the end of October, the online platform of best practices on education management contained 94 practices on effective management of education on local level. Each good practice record contains a description of the practice, analysis of the problem it aims to resolve, approach taken and results achieved, as well as description of risks, relevant regulatory and legal acts developed by the hromadas. Since the launch of the platform it has been visited 1 053 996 times. All best practices can be downloaded from wiki.sklinternational.org.ua
- Online repository of the products and resources related to education management in local self-governments. The repository supports the capacity building of the local self-government employees. In October the repository had **3,249** unique visitors and **12,135** number of visits.
- Setting up of a [Professional network of education managers on profile education](#)
- Preparation of the Training for trainers of School Network Optimisation Game
- The integration of gender component into the subcomponent "Local education" is going on - recommendations for the selection of target communities, gender sensitive aspects in the process of cooperation with communities provided
- [Article of the Deputy Minister of Finance on education subvention](#) in which he promoted the Project's book [Manual on effective education management in amalgamated territorial communities "New School in New Hromada"](#)
- [Article in NUSH on New food standards in schools](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- The project continues to support the development of the AATC at the regional level:
 - [October 8 - start of Regional week in the Mykolaiv region](#)
 - [October 8 - the start of the Regional Week in Lviv region](#)
 - [October 21 - the start of the Regional Week in Rivne region](#)
- Preparation of the [Energy efficiency in local government - "Informally about important - conversation about strategic issues over coffee"](#)
- Selection of pilot regions for cooperation with the project was completed. Seven oblasts were selected for further cooperation - Cherkaska, Zaporiz'ka, Khmelnytska, Dnipropetrovska, Volyn's'ka, Sums'ka, Ternopis'kal. Next step is individual meetings with the oblast teams.
- [Energy efficiency in local government - "Informally about important - conversation about strategic issues over coffee" preparation. The event was planned on November 5](#)
- During October Project experts worked on drafting the AATC pilot RB selection matrix, the concept of Pilot support for regional branches
- Expert interviews with political leaders of the AATC - meeting in Nova Borova with Grigorij Rudiuk, meeting in Kiev with Volodymyr Shmatko

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

AATC Legal platform:

- ❖ Presentation of the platform "Legislation for ATC" in the framework of [Rivne](#), Lviv, Chernivtsi and Mykolayiv regional weeks
- ❖ Organisation and holding of the training "[Decisions of local councils: legal grounds for cancellation and recognition as illegal](#)" on 22 October
- ❖ Participation in the meetings of the Parliamentary Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning
- ❖ [Participation in the Council of Europe Round Table "Legal Entity at Local Level" on October 8](#)
- ❖ Representation of the Association at the meeting of the Government Committee on Economic, Financial Policy, Fuel and Energy Complex, Community and Territorial Development and Environmental Protection
- ❖ Analysis of court disputes and court decisions, description of the case law of the Supreme Court of Ukraine on local governments on the issue:
 - "On the right of a deputy of a local council to represent the interests of such a council in courts"
 - "On restricting the sale of alcoholic beverages by local governments"
 - "On the procedure preceding the dismantling of the temporary structure"
 - "On the publication on the official website of the city council of the decision to approve the rates of local taxes and fees"
 - "On the illegality of granting permission to develop a detailed plan of territories that are not included in the master plan of the settlement"
 - "The local government is responsible for failure to fulfill its responsibilities to ensure safe, comfortable traffic conditions and provide road users with relevant information"
 - "The amount of rent is changed from the moment of entry into force of the court decision, not a change in the amount of regulatory monetary valuation"
 - "On the duty of the local self-government body to establish a service for children within the executive committee"
 - "On taking into account the interests of the local community in the liquidation of the school"
 - "On changing the scheme of traffic organization by the local government"
 - "Local governments do not have the authority to establish / cancel the regime of enterprises, institutions, organizations that do not belong to communal property, without the consent of such a regime with the owner"

- ❖ Analysis and processing:
 - Of the Draft Law "On Local Referendum" 5512 dated 19.05.2021
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to Clause 6-1 of Section V of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" Concerning Ensuring the Constitutional Right of Territorial Communities to Local Self-Government (Reg. №5504)
 - Draft Law on Amendments to Some Laws of Ukraine on Improving the Procedure for Early Termination of Powers of a Village, Settlement, or City Mayor (Reg. №5241, second reading)
 - of the draft law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government in Ukraine" on holding remote meetings
- **AATC platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - Organization and holding of [an offline meeting of the platform "Local budgets and finances"](#) in the Lviv region, holding an online meeting of the platform within the regional week of [Chernivtsi, Mykolaiv](#) regions
 - Participation in the meeting of the commission for selection of regional development projects that can be implemented at the expense of the state budget received from the EU
 - Providing consultations to the heads of territorial communities and representatives of local financial bodies on the organization of the budget process in territorial communities
 - Formation of the position of the Association on the Memorandum of Understanding on the settlement of problematic issues in the field of heat and hot water supply in the heating period of 2021/2022 in terms of provisions on local budgets
- **AATC Gender platform:**
 - [Preparing articles on gender issues](#)
 - Valentina Poltavets, an executive director of the AATC, [was a speaker at the UN-Women Conference](#) on October 20
 - [On October 4 AATC presented on online event "Internship for women leaders" within joint initiative with National Democratic Institute](#)
 - Presentation of the platform "On Gender Equality" within the regional weeks of AATC in Lviv and Rivne regions provided
 - Prepared an abstract from AATC for all-Ukrainian conference "Regions at the center of gender policy", took part in this conference
 - Working meetings held with experts on organization of the Methodological Center for Gender Issues in pilot ATC as part of the concept of "Model Gender Sensitive Municipality"
 - Concept of "Model Gender Sensitive Municipality", Regulations on the Methodological Center for Gender Issues developed and submitted for legal expertise
 - [Five new successful gender sensitive communities' practices described](#). There are 24 practices on gender issues described.

Communication:

- [Preparation of the digest](#) of AATC events for October
- [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](#)
- [Creating and distributing a digest of relevant grants to communities](#)
- Information support of Regional Weeks in Mykolayiv, Lviv, Rivne regions
- Coverage of trips of AATC members to share experiences: [communities of Cherkasy region to Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi regions](#), [Dnipropetrovsk regional branch of Association to Merefa TC](#)

Support to the Parliament

- [Designed two 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](#). Inputs on LSG legal status in Sweden and Latvia were prepared and sent to Council of Europe, which put together a summary report covering numerous European countries. [Presentation was held on 8 October 2021. The case of Latvia has caused an interest and a possible follow-up meeting might be held with the Latvian expert.](#)

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- [Quarterly Newsletter for the 3rd quarter of 2021](#)
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- Project related updates for the MinRegion's Capacity building database
- Working on One pagers of the best practices on education in hromadas
- [Organisational support of Energy efficiency in local government - "Informally about important - conversation about strategic issues over coffee"](#)
- Creating new section on the Project's web page and preparation of the design for the [Subvention statements for all territorial gromadas for each oblast](#)
- Organisational support of the [Presentation of "Personal Income Tax Place of Collection in Ukraine – Legal Background and Current Practice" in Kyiv School of Economics](#)
- ['A figure of Thursday' posts have been launched on Facebook using the education statistics](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)