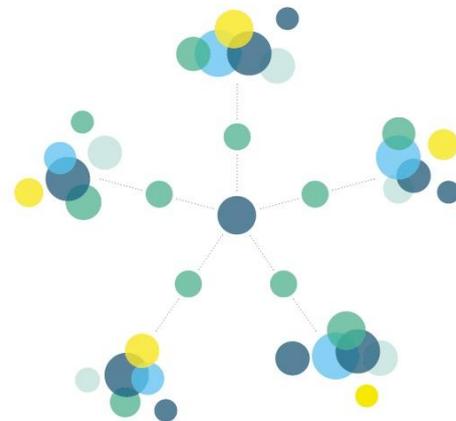


Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

December 2021

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- [Analysis of the amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021" in the part of additional financial resources for local governments](#)
- [Information and analytical materials on changes to the Tax Legislation \(bill №5600\)](#)
- [A detailed analysis of the main indicators of the adopted Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2022" and assessment of its impact on local budgets](#)
- A comparison of local budgets for 2022 and the achievement of decentralization reform since 2014
- [Materials for Monitoring the reform of local self-government and territorial organization of power in terms of local budgets](#)
- Information and presentation materials on state regional support for 2014-2022
- Joined MinRegion management trips to Lviv, Lutsk and Poltava to discuss with local self-governments the tax and budget legislation
- The conclusion to the bill on the distribution of expenditures for the maintenance of utilities, institutions and organizations that serve residents of two or more communities
- [On 16 December participated in the U-Lead event on PIT collection](#)
- Information and analytical reports on the state of implementation of local budgets for 10 months
- Analysis of the the debts in newly created communities and liquidated rayons
- Inputs for the Common Results Framework on decentralisation for the cooperation between the Ministry for Communities and Territories Development of Ukraine and development partners
- The 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 to ensure certain expenditures of district councils aimed at fulfilling their powers"
- Provision of continuous 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
- A meeting was held with the Ministry of Regional Development to determine the terms of reference for municipal cooperation
- Meetings were held with the Association of Small Towns to discuss the particularities of the administration of local taxes and fees

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

During December 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 Second Reading of the Budget Law for 2022
 - MS Excel based allocation toolkit (Simulator for allocation of the education grant)
 - Capacity building activities for the MES team (Advanced MS Excel training)
- Recurrent policy advice to the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) and the Institute of Education Analytics regarding the development and implementation of statistical data collection
- Short notes were prepared on:
 - [№ 133](#) - Estimating the Optimization of School Networks
 - [№ 134](#) - Allocation of Education Subvention for 2022: Differences between the First and Second Reading of the Budget Law
- 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
- [Design of the macros-based tool for generation of individual subvention statements for all territorial hromadas for each oblast 2022](#)

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

The work of the expert team of local education component focused on:

- [On 8 December, School reform road map presentation. Oleh Fasolia presented the work on upper secondary schools and school networks](#)
- On 1 December, an online meeting of trainers on Optimisation Game took place. Both - past trainers and future trainers were invited
- [On 7 December, project held a webinar "Optimization - causes, challenges and solutions: best practices of local communities"](#)
- On 23 December, an online meeting was held with the pilot hromadas to discuss data collection and analysis in preparation for the process of school network optimisation
- [On 14 December, an Optimisation Game based training was held in the Bronykyvska pilot hromada in Zhytomyrska oblast](#) to develop possible scenarios for the development of the school network and to model the reorganisation process
- [On 15-16 December, meetings and game-based training were held with Stryiska hromada of Lvivska oblast](#)
- The first round pilot hromadas have been selected from six oblasts - Lviv (Stryiska hromada), Mykolaiv (Yuzhno-Ukrainska hromada), Poltava (Novi Sanzhari hromada), Kherson (Kalanchatska hromada - directly borders Crimea), Rivne (Tarakanivska hromada), Zhytomyr (Bronykyvska hromada). Khmilnik hromada (Vinnyts'ka oblast) was added as a potential partner later on as the hromada was considered a particularly valuable case - it comprises territorial units across the borders of two different rayons. On December project experts visited all the pilot hromadas, discussed the plans and signed memorandums of cooperation
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#). By the end of December, the online platform of best practices on education management contained 99 practices on effective management of education on a local level. Five new practices were added:
 - Interschool Training and Production Complex in Klevan hromada of Rivnens'ka oblast: it is not necessary to change the legal status, to optimize it
 - Optimization: quality educational services - equal opportunities for all. Experience of Klevan hromada
 - Development of extracurricular education: the experience of the Klevan hromada

- Optimization: a complex process that brings positive changes. Experience of Brusyliv hromada of Zhytomyrs'ka oblast
 - School Director's election: who initiates, why and how? Experience of Brusyliv community
- 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 1 056 714 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 December the repository had **3,734** unique visitors and **15,211** number of visits. Four new topics were added to the repository in December:
 - Strategy for changes in the network of community education institutions
 - Remuneration of teachers
 - Implementation of the Moodle platform in the practice of communities
 - Reforming the teacher salary system: the experience of Poland
 - Setting up of a [Professional network of education managers on profile education](#), on optimisation issues
 - Preparation of the Training for trainers of School Network Optimisation Game
 - [Holding online meetings with two pilot hromadas - Bronykivs'ka \(Zhytomyrska oblast\) and Stryis'ka hromada \(Lvivska oblast\)](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- [On 14-15 December](#), members of the Board of the AATC, representatives of international projects and donors, the SKL International team and the Executive Office of the Association participated in a strategic session to launch the development of a new Strategy of the Association
- [On 16 December](#), the team of the executive office of the AATC took part in a meeting of the Kyiv regional branch of the Association: analysis of the results of AATC work in 2021 and AATC work plan for 2022 were discussed
- [On 21 December](#), AATC and project representatives participated in the National Conference "Women's Leadership in Decentralization and Local Self-Government"
- On December 6, representatives of the Association took part in a meeting and interviews with representatives of the Eurasian Department of the OECD
- [On 17 December, an "Informally about important" event for the AATC members discussed international cooperation of local governments](#)
- [On 9-10 December, a meeting of the pilot regional teams of the AATC took place in Cherkasy. It was the first mentoring event delivered by the project, the focus of the event was on the planning of the regional team's work](#)
- Project experts completed interviews with board members. Altogether 17 interviews were held. The findings from the interviews were summarised in a report and recommendations, which was discussed with the AATC Board on 14-15 December. The interviews confirmed that the regional work shall be the main focus of AATC cooperation with the project in 2022

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

- **AATC Legal platform:**
 - On 7-8 December, representatives of the Association took part in the presentation of the results of the sixth annual All-Ukrainian Sociological Survey "Decentralization and Local Government

- Reform", which is traditionally held at the end of the year by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the Ministry of Regional Development.
- Representatives of the Association took part in the HOVERLA round table to discuss the proposed changes to the Constitution of Ukraine.
 - Representatives of the Association took part in the meetings of the Committee of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning
 - Representatives of the Association took part in the meeting of the Working Group of the Verkhovna Rada Committee and All-Ukrainian Associations on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Associations of Local Governments "on state support for further development of institutional capacity of local government associations"
 - Analysis and processing of legal drafts was performed on:
 - The draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Local Self-Government in Ukraine "on the distribution of powers of local governments in connection with changes in the administrative-territorial structure" (Reg. No. 6281 of 04.11.2021).
 - The draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts on Decentralization and Delimitation of Powers of Local Self-Government Bodies and Executive Bodies in Connection with a Change in the Administrative-Territorial Structure" (Reg. No. 6282 of November 4, 2021).
 - AATC Legal Expert prepared letters to the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government of Regional Development and Urban Planning of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine No. 0403 and No. 0402 of 24 December 2021 to No. 04-23 / 13-2021 / 361550 of 22 November 2021 and 24 December 2021.
- **AATC platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - The analysis was performed:
 - of the Draft Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2022" submitted by the Cabinet of Ministers to the Verkhovna Rada for the second reading, preparation of the publication
 - On the Law "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2022" in terms of intergovernmental transfers (grants, subventions) foreseen in 2022 budget, preparation of analytical reports of the OTG Association, publications, mailings to local communities
 - On the Law "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021" in terms of subvention for repayment of arrears on the difference in tariffs, preparation of explanatory material for representatives of local communities
 - Providing daily consultations to the heads of territorial communities and representatives of local financial bodies on the organization of the budget process in territorial communities
 - **AATC Gender platform:**
 - [Preparing articles on gender issues](#)
 - A number of online meetings were held in order to plan integration of gender component in activities of the project for 2022 within such components: "Fiscal Decentralization", "Education at the local level", "AATC", "Work with Parliament"
 - Information on the AATC website on the analysis of decentralization reform in Ukraine in terms of gender equality and human rights-based approach (based on the presentation of the NGO "Center for Public Initiatives" Sumy Region Intelligence" jointly with UN Women) was prepared
 - [On 21-22 December, a joint AATC and UN Women conference "Women's Leadership in Decentralization and Local Self-Government" was delivered. 150 participants attended the event, out of them 140 women and 10 men. A conference resolution and information on conference for the AATC website](#) were prepared

- Gender monitoring of Internet resources of territorial communities - members of the AATC was conducted
- Planning an advocacy campaign on gender inequality in local self-government of Ukraine was started
- One [new successful gender sensitive communities' practice was described](#). Altogether, 26 hromada practices on gender issues have been collected so far

Communication:

- Preparation of the digest of AATC events
- [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](#)
- [Creating and distributing a digest of relevant grants to communities](#)
- [Creating a calendar of events for the month](#)
- Information and communication support of the Association's activities, creation of visualizations, content distribution

Communication

Promoting decentralisation reform

Project's Communication expert worked on the following tasks:

- Preparation of the [Quarterly Newsletter for the 4th 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
- Support the colleagues in preparation of the events (announcements, invitations, infographics, translation etc.)
- Updating section on the Project's web page the [Subvention statements for all territorial gromadas for each oblast](#) 2022
- Preparation of the Project's calendar for 2022
- [Interviews, videos, streams from the events on decentralisation topics](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)