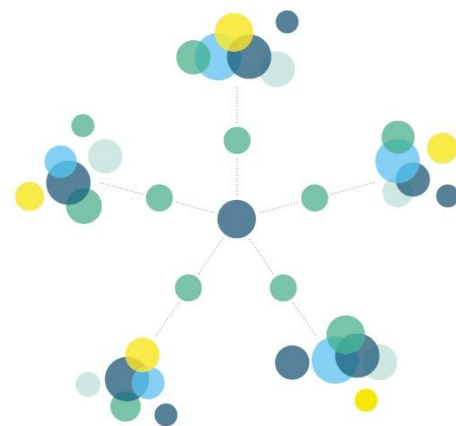


Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

March-April 2022

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Experts were following the legislative developments in the Government, the Parliament, the President's administration to see what is relevant for hromadas. How hromadas function in a war situation? How to simplify procedures for hromadas? Guidelines and overviews are being prepared for wider dissemination and publication on www.decentralization.gov.ua website
- [Experts developed a draft contract and guidelines for municipalities on how to engage with donors and receive foreign funds directly into local budgets](#)
- [An overview of the changes which were introduced in tax and budget codes was prepared](#)
- [A Helpdesk - consultative group - was created under MinReg and our team leads the way on this work](#)
- Draft legislation is being designed to allow flexibility of use of funds by local authorities.
- [Experts have worked with requests and questions from hromadas](#)
- [Guidance and FAQs were published on decentralization.gov.ua website](#)
- [Remuneration in local government in martial law. Experts clarified](#)
- MinRegion asked to develop proposals and comments on the Government decree on the assessment of losses due to war. A separate information system is being designed to collect the information about the losses
- Proposals are being developed on simplification of procedures for the rebuilding of infrastructure
- 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

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

The work of the education decentralisation team focused on:

- Experts are in permanent touch with the Ministry of Education. Thinking also about a system of monitoring of schools, teachers, payments

- Finalising the report on education budgeting at the local level. Kyiv report is being finalised. Completion of some tasks will not be possible in current circumstances. One of the reports is on Mariupol and contains a legacy description of positive developments and practices introduced by the City Council
- 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:
 - [№ 134](#) - Allocation of Education Subvention for 2022: Continued work on education budgeting at local level
 - [№ 135](#) - Budget Process in Education at the Local Level in Poland

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

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

- Re-profiling of the component
- Developing a proposal on how to ensure quality education in hromadas receiving large numbers of IDPs. Some teachers have left; children have left
- One of the main focus of the work of the experts was on how to organise education within and outside Ukraine?
- [On 15 March the first meeting on education in war time took place with selected hromadas, their education managers. MinEdu was invited and was very open for cooperation and support to project's work](#)
- [On 23 March second meeting on education in war time took place with selected hromadas.](#) The meeting gathered school directors from selected hromadas
- [On 01 April a third meeting on education in war time took place with selected hromadas, their education managers.](#) The meeting was dedicated to psychological support in schools
- [On 19 April online event on electronic journalising of the education process](#) took place
- [On 29 April an online event on teaching Ukrainian language to IDPs. The experiences show that IDPs from the East have not been taught Ukrainian](#)
- [Warsaw has no more capacity to accept Ukrainian children in Polish schools. Wojciech Marchlewski is working on the creation of a Ukrainian school in Warsaw. For starters, it shall be a temporary solution. A database of Ukrainian teachers is being set up. On April 12 Ukrainian school in Warsaw opened](#)
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#) in war times. By the end of February, the online platform of best practices on education management contained **105 practices** on effective management of education at a local level. Five new practices were added - on electronic journalising of the education process, education process in wartime, informal education, creation of an education-cultural hub on the base of puppet theatre. 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 **1 311 169** times. All best practices can be downloaded at www.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 March-April the repository had **6,006** unique visitors and **18,212** visits

Local Economic Development Component (a new component)

What was planned and done before the War:

- The component aimed at transferring the practical experience of Lviv in strategy development and implementation to other hromadas of Ukraine. The component will also closely collaborate with the

SymbioCity experts in SKL International to integrate the SymbioCity approach in the work of the component.

- The new component (WOW = work on wonders) would have had four components: (1) support to pilot hromadas with strategy development or upgrade, (2) practical and creative residencies for hromada practitioners, (3) LSG forum and Investment Forum, (4) Institute Hromad - training programmes on strategic planning in LSGs in Ukrainian Catholic University and online on Prometheus
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- The LSG Forum was preliminary planned for 31 March - 1 April. Part of the Forum would have focused on the WOW hromady work
- A Series [of security meetings with hromadas was held. More than 500 participants joined the first event. It was the first occasion when the military command spoke directly with the LSGs.](#)

During the War:

- Humanitarian aid wise, food and medicine is running out in stocks in Lviv
- Lviv has opened an export promotion centre to help businesses relocate or expand their production beyond Ukraine's borders
- Lviv team is also supporting the media located in Lviv and is connecting media with local authorities. The primary task is to keep Ukraine in the attention of world media
- A proposal to support partnership building between Ukrainian and European municipalities was prepared.

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- Association resumed working with the members - information on changes in legislation, recommendations are issued regularly; communication from members is disseminated widely
- Project experts [have started work with pilot hromadas to support wartime economy, food security, service delivery in war times, integration of IDPs, equipping IDPs, accommodation and education facilities etc. It is also planned to pair these hromadas with Swedish and European municipalities. Municipalities are asking about possibilities to obtain grants and goods.](#)

In April the first online meeting was held between hromadas and oblast state administrations to discuss the process and experiences of business relocation

- Project experts were working on development of the new component for ensuring food safety, and wartime economy development called [Sady Peremohy](#)
- Cases and ideas are being collected, possibilities for relocation of enterprises, job opportunities are explored to be included into the component.
- The guidance to mayors and local officials in danger was shared with the members of the AATC and the Association of Ukrainian Cities. The guidance is also relevant for education workers in occupied hromadas - colleagues working with education stakeholders can circulate the guidance wider
- AATC is planning the application to the CEMR. To apply, a discussion with other local government associations in Ukraine is required
- A request to the UN for medicines and food supplies for AATC members in distress has been issued

Gender Component:

- Information materials on gender based violence and threats have been elaborated based on the available resources
- Gender expert joined the work of [Prosto Project team](#) on gender analysis of the work of Administrative Service Centres
- Gender expert was participating in the UN coordination meetings on gender-based violence, provides comments to the UN food cluster; provides information and updates for the AATC website

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 visualisations, content distribution
- Personalised distribution of birthday greetings to the heads of the AATC member communities

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
- Creating new social media groups of education managers in war time
- Support the colleagues in preparation of the events (announcements, invitations, infographics, translation etc.)
- Drafting the design of the best practices in education during war time
- Support colleagues in preparation of the infographics for the reports and design of the documents
- Updating Project's web page
- [Interviews, videos, streams from the events](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)