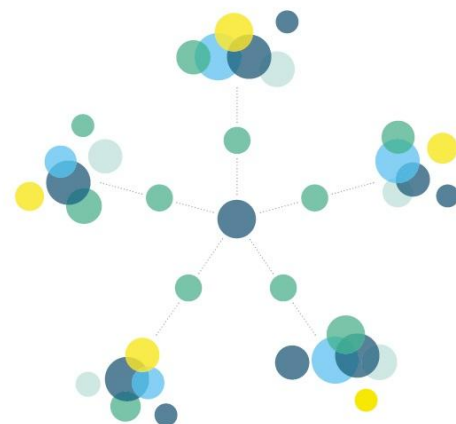


Swedish-Ukrainian Project Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine 2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

May 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
- [Detailed analysis of key indicators of the tax and revenues for each hromada for April 2021 -April 2021](#)
- Preparation of the information for the Minregion regarding allocation of additional subvention to equalize disparities in local budgets and simplification of the procedure for using the funds of the special fund of local budgets
- [Peculiarities of the budget process under the martial law](#)
- [A Helpdesk - consultative group - was created under MinReg and our team leads the way on this work](#)
- Experts took part in the the working groups of the National Council for Reconstruction of Ukraine on customs and budget policy. Experts prepared proposals regarding improving the equalization formula and improving the mechanism of crediting personal income tax. There is an expectation that the proposals regarding PIT could be used in the future
- 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
- Experts took part in the working group of the National Council for Reconstruction of Ukraine on education issues. Project experts suggested to change the structure of secondary education and to change the system of teacher's salaries. Also experts suggested additional proposals regarding education management in a decentralized system.
- The reports on local education budgeting are being worked on. Experts received information on Lviv budget on education which will help to finalise the report

- 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

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

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

- [Experts working on the initiative "School Gardens of Victory" with the aim to involve pupils who are IDPs to agricultural work. Work is performed with 3 pilot hromadas from Khmelnytska, Ternopilska and Lvivska oblasts. Facebook Page was created](#)
- [Digest prepared on the basis of the last webinar regarding Ukrainian language](#)
- Working on the next webinar for hromadas regarding work of centres for professional development of teachers in wartime
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#) in war times. By the end of May, the online platform of best practices on education management contained **108 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 **1 529 389** 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 **8,196** unique visitors and **19,452** visits

United for Ukraine (a new component)

What was planned and done before the War:

- The component aimed at transferring the practical experience of Lviv in local economic development strategy design and implementation to other hromadas of Ukraine. The component would have also closely collaborated with the SymbioCity experts in SKL International to integrate the SymbioCity approach in the work.
- 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

During the War:

- A new area of work is carried out under the "United for Ukraine" initiative. This is a campaign with the goal to help to establish long-standing partnerships between Ukrainian communities and peer-communities abroad. Early on after the Russian invasion it became clear that municipalities that previously had partner communities/cities in European countries were able to benefit from significant direct support. Meanwhile, among the smaller and especially newly formed hromadas – such as the members of AATC – only few have these kind of partnerships. At the same time, many cities/municipalities outside of Ukraine expressed a willingness to do more to help the country.

With the strategic positioning of SALAR, which is much engaged in international networks of LSG Associations, and with over 290 member municipalities and 20 member regions in Sweden, it was concluded that the project was well placed to facilitate the formation of new partnerships. It is envisioned that these partnerships will provide help to communities during wartime, rebuild Ukraine's

cities, towns and villages after the war and help hromadas to develop their potential in a long term perspective. Key partners in setting up the campaign are Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR / SKL International), the Chamber of Local Self-Governments under the President's Regional Development Council, the All-Ukrainian Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC) and the City Institute of Lviv. The partnership has a potential to expand and include also the Association of Ukrainian Cities.

To assist Ukrainian hromadas with finding international partners, the project team is developing individual hromada profiles. A dedicated United for Ukraine-website is being established, where hromada profiles are hosted. SALAR, Chair of the LSG Chamber of Presidents Regional Development Council, as well as DSP team members and Ukrainian hromadas themselves take on the task of promoting the initiative and advocating towards European and international municipalities to consider setting up partnerships with Ukrainian hromadas. The essence of the partnerships will be to build strong and lasting connections between decision-makers, municipal staff, local business communities, NGOs and ordinary people in communities hopefully to result in concrete initiatives, projects and support. A secretariat from DSP will provide back-office support to the establishment of partnerships, guidance on identification of funding opportunities, help with translation services and organise capacity building activities. DSP and SALAR are currently promoting the campaign with relevant international actors to create awareness among potential international partners

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- AATC jointly with the "United for Ukraine" initiative team are working on this Project.
- AATC started pilot Project with World Bank on digitization of damages and losses in hromadas during war
- [On 19 May AATC Board members Meeting was held](#). The conditions of the AATC office work, which projects to implement, and what changes in the legislation and what is new in the budget process were discussed.
- [On 19 May Security seminar for hromadas was held](#)
- [AATC is conducting a survey on health care problems and meeting was held on 19 May at 16:00 with the Deputy Minister Yaremenko](#)
- [AATC prepared digest on work of local governments under martial law](#)
- [On 26 May AATC held webinar on expansion of the powers of village, settlement, and city mayors during martial law](#)
- [The powers of community leaders have been expanded during martial law: bill №7269 has been adopted as a whole](#). AATC is planning to discuss the adoption of the Law including its fiscal thematic platform cause in parallel there are some changes are planned to be approved to the KМУ resolution № 590 regarding Treasury Service.
- A new area of work is carried out under the "Local economic development (LED)" component. An initiative called "Strong hromadas bringing Victory Closer" is called upon to stimulate cooperation in social and humanitarian support to IDPs and war affected population and the development of the local economy during wartime. As part of the initiative, the hromadas can receive support, including funding, to develop and implement one socially-oriented business micro-project. 9 (nine) hromadas in Khmelnytsky, Ternopil and Lviv regions have been selected.
 - Main activities under the component:
 - Project experts jointly with the AATC Thematic Platform "Economy and investments" [held a webinar on 20 May "Gardens for Victory: Why? When? How?" with involvement of starostas](#)

- Cases and ideas are being collected, possibilities for relocation of enterprises, job opportunities are explored to be included into the component. [On May 5 an event on relocation of business was held. LED - promotion of business relocation - positive cases are being identified for wider promotion and encouragement of potential hosting hromadas in the Western part of Ukraine.](#)

Gender Component:

- [Took part in the presentation of the book: "Women and men as a public asset that contributes to the improvement of services in communities"](#)
- [Searching and preparing best practices on Gender](#) for further dissemination amongst Hromadas
- Gender expert reviewed hromada profiles on gender issues under the "United for Ukraine" initiative
- Preparation information for the AATC web-page on gender
- Meeting with Ukrainian Women Congress (NGO). This organization is making research on the state of women during the war time. It is planned to develop a special questionnaire
- Several information materials were prepared and disseminated amongst AATC members :
 - Dangers of war: how to prevent and where to turn for help;
 - How to act in a situation of sexual violence
- [Gender analysis and monitoring of the hromadas web-pages](#)

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](#)
- 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 2nd quarter of 2021](#)
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- On 24 May webinar for the participants of the "School Gardens of Victory" on how to make clips and post
- 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](#)