

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



Monthly Flash Report

June 2022

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Tony Levitas and project experts took part in the WEBINAR on LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE - FORMATION, REFORMS, GEOPOLITICAL IMPLICATIONS AND POST-WAR RECOVERY. IGU Commission on Geography of Governance (IGU-CGoG). Detailed info is here - <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/program>. Presentations from the webinar - <https://sites.google.com/view/lgukraine2022/download-files>
- [Analysis of local budgets for 4 months of 2022](#)
- [Experts prepared recommendations regarding additional subsidy to local budgets during martial law](#)
- [Experts prepared analytical note "The government has simplified the mechanism for conducting budget management operations"](#)
- [Review of the draft law №7406 on support for employers and workers in martial law](#)
- Preparation of the information for the Minregion regarding allocation of additional subvention to equalize disparities in local budgets and simplify 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 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 changing the structure of secondary education and to

change the system of teacher's salaries. Also experts suggested additional proposals regarding education. Experts continue to discuss the future process of preparation of the 2023 budget

- Supporting MES in preparation of the response to the Ministry of Finance regarding the allocation of 2023 education subvention
- 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 are working on the initiative "School Gardens of Victory". Work is performed with 3 pilot hromadas from Khmelnytska, Ternopil'ska and Lviv'ska oblasts. [Facebook Page was created](#). [Experts visited hromadas which are taking part in the initiative "Victory Gardens in schools"](#)
- Experts are finalising methodology of "Victory Gardens in schools" which will be transferred to the Ministry of Education for future implementation all over Ukraine
- [On 3 June experts held a webinar for hromadas regarding work of centres for professional development of teachers in wartime](#)
- [On 10 June meeting with the Kirovograd Institute for professional development of teachers](#) took place
- [On 17 June webinar for hromadas regarding profile education](#) was held
- [On Friday 01 July, a second webinar was held on profile education. During the first webinar there was great interest in the presented experience of the two hromadas. They are ready to continue sharing their experience and receive visits from colleagues from other hromadas](#)
- Experts prepared the scheme on how we will be collecting information from our pilot hromadas. And the first week of July a meeting with the pilot hromadas will be organised. Work will start from August
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#) in war times. By the end of June, the online platform of best practices on education management contained **109 practices** on effective management of education at a 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 **1 534 127** times. All best practices can be downloaded at www.wiki.skinternationa.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 June the repository had **8,411** unique visitors and **17,245** visits

United for Ukraine (a new component)

- 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.

What has been already done by the end of June:

- 24 community profiles are already on the website <https://unitedforua.org/>
- First community from Germany interested in cooperation with Radomyshelska hromada Zhytomyr oblast

- 51 communities profiles under preparation
- The initiative was presented:
 - [June 14-16 URBACT festival in Paris](#)
 - [June 26-30 during the World Urban Forum in Katowice](#)
 - [July 4-5 during the conference on the reconstruction of Ukraine in Lugano](#)
 - Information about the initiative has been sent to all European local self-government associations

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- AATC joins the initiative of the Committee of the Regions of the European Union "European Alliance of Cities and Regions for the Reconstruction of Ukraine".
 - The purpose of the Alliance is to unite the efforts of the Committee of the Regions, European and Ukrainian associations of local self-government, cities and communities of the European Union and Ukraine, aimed at rebuilding of Ukraine. A separate role will be assigned to the "Platform for Reconstruction of Ukraine", which is currently being formed by the European Union
- [AATC is preparing weekly digest on work of local governments in martial law](#)
- AATC is preparing meeting of It's members in Lviv regarding cooperation with Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities under the President and ACU
- AATC prepared a package of documents for communities on how to protect personal data during war time. Webinar is planned for the July
- [AATC prepared proposals to the Draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal and Criminal Procedure Codes of Ukraine on Certain Issues of Optimizing the Functioning of Public Authorities and Local Self-Government Bodies in Martial Law](#)
- On 17 June webinar - [Legislative grounds for taking budget commitments by administrators / recipients of local budgets during wartime](#)
- [Providing consultations to hromadas regarding the Law of Ukraine on On Amendments to Some Laws of Ukraine Concerning Priority Measures for Reforming the Sphere of Urban Development](#)
- Valentina Poltavet took part in the working group on the audit of the calculation of losses in the war of the National Council for Reconstruction
- [On 28 June webinar on "Interaction of local governments with military administrations" was held](#)
- Experts are working on the renewal of the work with regional branches of the AATC.

- 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, 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 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 24 June. "Family farming - the basis of community economy"](#)
 - Partnership Agreements were signed with 7 pilot hromadas. Project is expecting the completion of deliveries to go for verification visits as soon as all the communities receive the equipment.
 - Cases and ideas are being collected, possibilities for relocation of enterprises, job opportunities are explored to be included into the component. On 17 June - Webinar ["How can local authorities help relocated businesses? - experience of three months of relocation"](#) was held

Gender Component:

- [Gender monitoring of communication by communities during the war was conducted](#)
- [Search and preparation of best practices on Gender](#)
- [On 20 June a seminar with AATC on of gender issues in wartime](#) was held
- [Prepared material on How gender equality makes municipalities more successful based on URBACT event](#)
- [On 21 June webinar "Presentation of the results of gender analysis of the situation in Ukraine during the war to communities"](#)

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 2022
- Administration of the Facebook groups for education practitioners, Viber groups of regional teams of education managers
- On 14 June webinar for the participants of the "School Gardens of Victory" on how to make short video clips and post them
- Creating new social media groups of education managers in war time
- Support the colleagues in preparation of the events (announcements, invitations, infographics, translation etc.)
- 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](#)