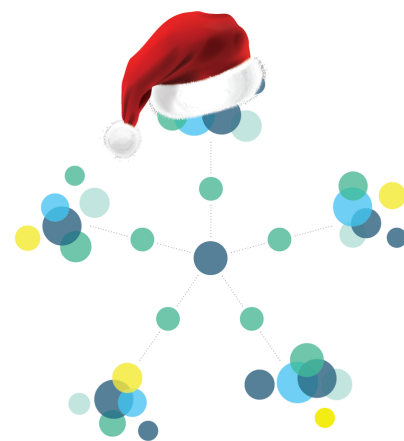


Swedish-Ukrainian Project Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine 2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

November 2021

Thank you to all our partners for our cooperation in 2021!

The values that unite us contribute to the development of local self-government in Ukraine.
May 2022 open up new opportunities, bring trust, new ideas, productive energy, resources
and prosperity to all local communities in Ukraine! 🧑🏻‍🎄 🌲

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Recommendations for financing of starosta districts
- [For the 11 November Council of Europe event "VI Local Self-Government Forum in Ukraine: five thematic areas" project experts prepared information material on local revenues and PIT](#)
- Local experts made analysis on the impact of the 2022 draft budget on local budgets
- [Improvements of the dashboard on hromada finances](#). Two meetings were held with the developers of the monitoring dashboard. On 23 November a new version of the dashboard was launched
- Financial and economic justification of the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine On the Local Self-Government in Ukraine"
- An assessment and summary of local revenues, own and subsidies. Infographics are available [here](#)
- Analysis of changes in regional development funding from 2021 to 2022
- Presentation for the U-Lead event on the PIT place of collection planned for 15 December
- Summary of the effects of 2022 budget on LSGs
- Opinions on legal drafts concerned with (1) financing of health care establishments transferred to hromadas and (2) VAT
- Proposals for the draft opinion of the MinRegion on the fiscal impact of LSG legislation
- [Monitoring of nine months of LSG financial performance in 2021](#)
- Analysis of the debt situation in newly created communities and abolished 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
- 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
- Project's strategy in the field of fiscal decentralisation in 2022

- In cooperation with the Project's Gender Expert proposals were made to integration gender aspects into the model Regulations on the regional commission for evaluation and preliminary competitive selection of investment programs and regional development projects that can be implemented from the state regional development fund, to the form of the investment program and the project of regional development which can be realized from the state fund of regional development, to the form of estimation of the investment programs and projects of regional development which can be realized from the state fund of regional development

Decentralisation of Education (national level)

During November 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
- [On 17 November, Project experts presented the Education subvention formula 2022 at the thematic meeting of the sectoral platforms "Education" and "Local budgets and finances" of the AATC](#)
- Short notes were prepared on:
 - № 131 - Use of Reserve of Education Subvention
 - № 132 - Tasks of Unit of the Ministry Responsible for the allocation formula for education subvention
- 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](#).

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 considered a particularly valuable case - it comprises territorial units across the borders of two different rayons. In November the Project signed memorandums of cooperation with all pilot hromadas
- Preparation to the webinar "Optimization - causes, challenges and solutions: best practices of local communities" planned for December 7
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#). By the end of November, 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 1 055 583 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 **3,508** unique visitors and **14,181** number of visits. Four new topics were added to the repository in November:
 - 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 \(Lvivska oblast\) on Optimisation game planned in December](#)
- The integration of gender component into the subcomponent "Local education" - recommendations were developed for the selection of pilot hromadas, gender sensitive aspects in the process of cooperation with pilot hromadas
- Project's Gender Expert prepared proposals for gender mainstreaming in the draft Roadmap for the reform of primary and secondary education
- The Project's [Manual on effective education management in amalgamated territorial communities "New School in New Hromada"](#) was promoted by the [Deputy Minister of Finance](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- [On 25 November, the AATC held a Forum of New Local Self-Government entitled "5 Years in the Guard of Amalgamated Territorial Communities!"](#)
- [On 19 November, the AATC held the II Forum of Executive Managers of hromadas](#)
- [On 4 November, the representatives and members of the Association took part in the Forum "Community Safety"](#)
- Representatives of the Association took part in a meeting of the gender cluster of the UN Women's Project at the Ministry of Regional Development
- The project continues to support the work of the Association on the regional level:
 - [10 November - start of Kirovohrad Regional Week](#)
 - [11 November - start of Ternopil Regional Week](#)
 - [16 November - participation in the meeting of the Coordination Council for Local Self-Government of Myrhorod District of Poltava Region](#)
- [On 5 November meeting was held on Energy efficiency in local government - "Informally about important - conversation about strategic issues over coffee"](#)
- [Preparation of the event "Informally about important - about strategic issues over coffee" on the topic "European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Lives: Why Do Ukrainian Communities Need It?"](#)
- Preparation for the 14-15 December AATC Board meeting and strategic session
- Annual assessment and priority setting interviews were held with AATC political and executive leaders
- During November meetings were held with the teams of the eight pilot oblasts that will cooperate with the project. Seven oblasts have been selected for cooperation - Cherkasska, Zaporizska, Khmelnytska, Dnipropetrovska, Volyns'ka, Sums'ka, Kirovohrads'ka and Ternopils'ka. First joint team-building meeting of the pilot teams is planned for December

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

- **AATC Legal platform:**
 - Presentation of the AATC position at the meeting of the Working Group of the Verkhovna Rada Committee and All-Ukrainian Associations of Local Self-Government on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Local Government Associations "on state support for further development of the institutional capacity of local government associations"
 - Presentation of the Association's position at the meeting of the subgroup "Decentralization" of the Sectoral Working Group "Decentralization and Regional Development"
 - Participation in the presentation of Amendments to the Constitution for the Board of the Association and at the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development, and Urban Planning
 - Analysis and elaboration of the proposals and comments on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Associations of Local Self-Government Bodies "on State Support for Further Development of Institutional Capacity of Associations of Local Self-Government Bodies"
 - Preparation of legal analysis, comments and proposals for the founding documents of the "Methodological Center for Gender Issues"
 - Advising the Tereshkiv Territorial Community on the court decision and the procedure for considering land issues
 - [Organizing and holding a meeting of the thematic platform "Legislation for ATC" on the topic: "Improving the legislative settlement of communal property of territorial communities"](#)

- **AATC platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - [Publication "Budget Process-2021" - problematic aspects of budgets of hromadas](#)
 - Preparation of AATC position regarding the draft Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget for 2022" in the part of revenues and expenditures of budgets of territorial communities
 - Preparation of a questionnaire on 'Current issues of education expenditures in the territorial communities'
 - Conducting a training on the topic: "Finplan for KNP-2022: how to make, when to report and who monitors implementation?" on 10 November
 - [On 17 November a joint meeting of the sectoral platforms "Education" and "Local budgets and finances" of the AATC on education subvention formula for 2022](#)
 - [Preparation of a publication "State Budget-2022, II reading: the Association asks the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine to provide important expenditures in the field of health care"](#)
 - Participation in the meeting of the commission for evaluation and selection of investment programs and regional development projects that can be implemented at the expense of the State Fund for Regional Development

- **AATC Gender platform:**
 - [Preparing articles on gender issues](#)
 - A meeting with potential partners of the project - NGO "Ukrainian Women's Congress" was held, information on areas of activity exchanged, in particular, it was determined that the work of this NGO at the community level may be of common interest
 - On 29 November, an online seminar "Gender Monitoring and Evaluation: Current Status and Challenges" was held together with the Council of Europe Program "Decentralization and Public Administration Reform in Ukraine"
 - Project's Gender Expert took a part in the meeting of the Cluster on Gender Equality at the Ministry of Community and Territorial Development

- Proposals were prepared to the methodological recommendations on human rights-based approach and gender equality (UN Women and Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine)
- Consultations were held on the concept of a model gender-inclusive municipality
- One [new successful gender sensitive communities' practice described](#). Altogether, there are 25 hromada practices on gender issues available here

Communication:

- [Preparation of the digest](#) of AATC events for November
- [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 support was provided to the Regional Weeks in Ternopil and Kirovohrad regions

Support to the Parliament

- [Project experts prepared 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
- 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](#)
- Project's calendar for 2022
- On 30 November a meeting was held with PROSTO project colleagues on coordination of communication strategies
- [Interviews, videos, streams from the events on decentralisation topics](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)