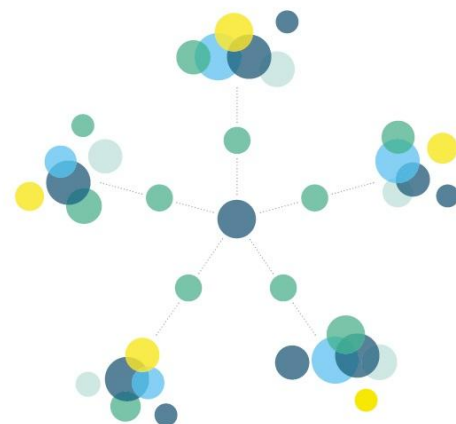


Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

February 2022

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- Data on LSG finances for 2021 was received. Analysis was performed and shared with MinRegion and LSG information portal, dashboards
- [Lot of requests from Minregion were received to prepare opinions on draft laws. A draft law on changes to Budget Code was discussed in Rada Budget Committee. One of the proposals concerns the financing of lyceums. The draft foresees that any type of hromada can finance lyceums](#)
- Information was also prepared for the MinRegion's hromada capacity assessment database
- A draft text of MoU with the MinFin was shared with MinFin. Awaiting their feedback
- Tony Levitas is working on finalisation of PIT note, in coordination with KSE and U-Lead. An issue for follow-up - a possible new contract with KSE on communication campaign for the PIT work
- Experts prepared info note for the prime minister's visit to Luhanska oblast
- Nehoda asked for data on PIT amounts in 2021; the prognosis was also prepared for 2022
- Experts prepared report format for rayon reports on the use of subventions
- Opinion was prepared on one of the draft laws on local budgets
- Donor council results matrix was updated in the area of fiscal decentralisation
- [Dashboard has been updated with the latest fiscal data from 2021](#)
- Experts prepared a ranking of hromada capability, based on the criteria developed by another project. Around 600 hromadas rank low as to the ratio of administrative costs in their budgets. Visualisations are being prepared, too.
- Comments and inputs to [the PFM strategy](#) of the MinFin
- A table on the directions and activities of state regional support in 2021 and 2022
- information on the financing and cost of renting communal property for museums and libraries
- At the request of the Ministry of Regional Development, information and analytical reports on the implementation of budgets of individual communities
- [Materials for Monitoring the reform of local self-government and territorial organization of power in terms of local budgets](#)
- 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

Decentralization of Education (national level)

The work of the education decentralization team focused on:

- Support to build understanding and political acceptance of the formula of allocation of education subvention amongst stakeholders:
 - Designed an MS Excel tool for easy analysis of the differences in grant allocation between the 1st and 2nd readings of the Budget Law
 - [Debugging and finalization of the macros-based tool for generation of individual subvention statements for all territorial hromadas for each oblast in 2022](#)
- Experts were looking into the state budget law and conditions on education subvention. This work is done as a follow-up to the meeting of the working group initiated by the MPs. Proposals were received from several actors
- 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
- The three drafts of city reports have been prepared; a draft report on Swedish experience has been prepared; a draft report on Polish experience has been prepared, too
- Individual education subvention statements have been printed and one set of them was circulated to oblast education departments. The two other sets shall be passed on to the Minister of Education and Deputy Minister of Finance
- Short notes were prepared on:
 - [№ 133](#) - Estimating the Optimization of School Networks
 - [№ 134](#) - Allocation of Education Subvention for 2022: Continued work on education budgeting at local level.

Decentralisation of Education (local level)

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

- [On 16 February, webinar "School autonomy" took place](#)
- [The MoU with Nosivska territorial community \(Chernihiv oblast\) signed](#)
- On 31 January, an online meeting was held with the pilot hromadas from Mykolaivska oblast (Yuzhno-Ukrainska hromada) and Khersonska oblast (Kalanchatska hromada - directly borders Crimea) to discuss data collection and analysis in preparation for the school network optimisation
- It was planned to hold webinar on optimisation issues 3 March. Preparation started by due to war it was postponed
- Nine pilot hromadas have been selected from nine oblasts - Lviv (Strijska hromada), Mykolaiv (Yuzhno-Ukrainska hromada), Poltava (Novi Sanzhari hromada), Kherson (Kalanchatska hromada - directly borders Crimea), Rivne (Tarakanivska hromada), Zhytomir (Bronikovska hromada), Khmilnik hromada (Vinnytska oblast), Novovolynska hromada (Volynska oblast), Novodunayevetska hromada (Khmelnitska oblast). The MoU with Novodunayevetska hromada will be signed this week. The further hromadas in the pipeline - Ternopilska, Chernivetska, Kirovohtradska oblasts. Memorandums of cooperation have been signed with all pilot hromadas. All pilot hromadas have been/shall be visited. Pilot hromadas to be offered online workshops on the progress of the pilots + connected with eg game facilitators and other experts so that they can act independently when ready
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#). By the end of February, the online platform of best practices on education management contained **100 practices** on effective management of education on a local level. One new practice was added - on development of education strategy, from the Starosaltivka territorial community (Kharkivska obkast). 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 **1 238 179** times. All best practices can be downloaded from 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 January the repository had **5,121** unique visitors and **16,332** number of visits. Three new topics were added to the repository:
 - factors influencing the optimisation
 - teacher salaries
 - effective school management
 - school management - education quality appraisal
- Setting up of a [Professional network of education managers on profile education](#), on optimisation issues and network of school directors

Gender audits in schools:

- MinEducation has published the methodology for the gender audit in schools
- All pilot hromadas will be approached to select schools for gender audits. 2+2 schools shall be selected. The first two schools shall carry out the audits in spring, two further ones - in autumn

WOW hromady (a new component)

- The component aims at transferring the practical experience of Lviv with 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. (WOW = work on wonders)
- The new component will have 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
- Criteria for selection of pilot hromadas: draft will be shared with project colleagues for further recommendations based on colleagues' experiences from work with hromadas
- 20 residencies are preliminary planned in Lviv and selected example hromadas. Project experts could participate in the residencies on eg education
- The LSG Forum is preliminary planned for 31 March - 1 April. Part of the Forum will focus on the WOW hromady work
- [Launched the series of security meetings with hromadas. More than 500 participants joined the first event. It was the first occasion when the military command spoke directly with the LSGs.](#)

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- Project experts started the process of preparation of the AATC new strategy covering the period 2023-2027. The current strategy period is coming to an end and there needs to be assessment of its implementation and preparation of the new strategy
- Project experts started preparation of the seminar for pilot teams which is planned on March in Khmelnytsk. First seminar with the pilot teams took place in 2021. Teams were sent away with a home work to prepare their work plans. Kyiv oblast is interested to join the pilot work of regional teams. The

teams will present and discuss their plans. Another topic of the meeting - setting partnerships with regional bodies

- Preparations for the study visit are starting. Preliminary dates - 15-20 May
- [On 7 February the regional week started in Volyn oblast. Around 20 hromadas participated. Thematic meetings had on average 10-12 participants, which is good for this oblast as it is one of the problematic ones hromada activity-wise. There were participants who are members of the Association and hromadas who are not members](#)
- Regional week was planned in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts for the end of February
- [AATC joined the WOW team as a partner of a series of security seminars for hromadas. First security seminar was held on 17 February](#)
- On 31 January, Valentyna Poltavets, Executive Director of the AATC, participated at the USAID HOVERLA project conference and presented the Association's position on the decentralization legislative agenda.
- Representatives of the Association assisted the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Public Administration and Local Self-Government in testing the survey platform and involving the association's members in registering on the platform.

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

- **AATC Legal platform:**
 - [On 09 February, webinar on administrative protocols](#)
 - Legal support and provision of specialized consultations to the member communities of the Association
 - Processing and analysis:
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Bodies of Self-Organization of the Population" on Improving the Procedure for Organization, Activity and Termination of the Body of Self-Organization of the Population (Reg. № 6319 of 18.11.2021)
 - Of the Draft Law of Ukraine on Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Concerning the Determination of the Range of Local Self-Government Officials (Reg. № 6505 dated 05.01.2022)
 - Of the Draft Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine" On Local Self-Government in Ukraine "on Ensuring Transparency of Local Self-Government" (Reg. No. 6401 of December 7, 2021).
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Improving the Procedure for Early Termination of Powers of a Village, Settlement, or City Mayor (Reg. №5241 of March 12, 2021)
 - Of the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Cooperation of Territorial Communities" on Regulation of Certain Issues
- **AATC platform "Local budgets and finances":**
 - [Association supported the adoption of the draft law "On Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine to Eliminate Discriminatory Restrictions on Local Borrowing and Provision of Local Guarantees by Rural and Urban Territorial Communities"](#)
 - [Meeting with Hromadas' financial experts in the framework of regional week in Volyn oblast](#)
 - [On 22 February Platform meeting regarding the key issues of budgets of territorial communities and the budget process in 2023, development of proposals for the Budget Declaration for the next budget period was held](#)
 - Analysis of the draft law "On Amendments to the Budget Code of Ukraine to Eliminate Discriminatory Restrictions on Local Borrowing and Provision of Local Guarantees by Rural and Rural Territorial Communities" (Reg. № 6472 of 28.12.2021)
- **AATC Gender platform:**

- [Prepared articles on gender issues](#)
- Gender policy for the Association shall be developed. Yulia prepared a draft and shared it with Valentina
- Work with Rada - suggest to LSG Committee ideas how to prepare greetings on 8 March
- [Day of girls and women in science - materials prepared for the AATC site. There are good practices in hromadas how girls are engaged in STEM](#)
- An outline for gender-sensitive communication training was prepared. Communication webinar was organized for the AATC members, in cooperation with UN Women. Gender expert presented the results of the hromada website monitoring; and the recommendations
- One of the AATC members has asked for support with the development of the gender equality plan in line with the European Charter of Gender Equality in Local Self-Governments. A meeting is planned for 16 February, with the NDI team, to discuss the possibility to apply their guidelines in the process of plan development
- Working meetings were held with other Components of the Project to discuss activities in 2022

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
- Personalized 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
- Project related updates for the MinRegion's Capacity building database
- Support the colleagues in preparation of the events (announcements, invitations, infographics, translation etc.) - Preparation the ToT on Optimisation Game
- Updating Project's web page
- Coordination of communication activities with the PROSTO project
- Preparation of the communication plan
- The 2022 calendars have been printed and delivered to the office and disseminated all over Ukraine
- [Interviews, videos, streams from the events on decentralisation topics](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)