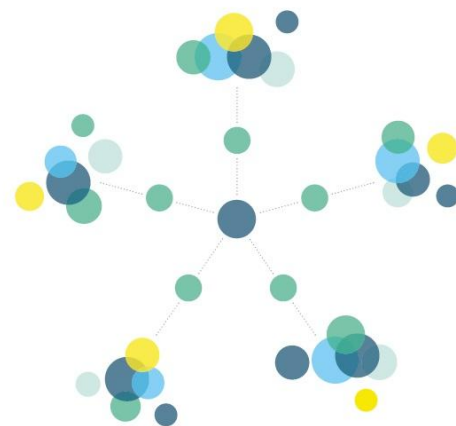


Swedish-Ukrainian Project

Support to Decentralisation in Ukraine

2020-2022



Monthly Flash Report

January 2022

Fiscal Decentralisation

Fiscal Decentralisation team worked on:

- On 15 January Jasmina Djikic, Tony Levitas met with U-lead and Kyiv School of Economics to discuss advancement of work on Personal Income Tax (PIT). A short brief is being prepared for MPs and Diplomatic missions
- analysis of rayon budgets - to what extent can staff costs of rayon costs be covered?
- proposals for the allocation of rayon subvention
- expert opinions on draft laws regarding local self-governments at the request of the Ministry of Regional Development
- a brief information and analytical report on the educational subvention for Minregion
- analysis of the distribution of additional subventions for the maintenance of educational and health care institutions. MinRegion asked for a review of the allocation process. In past, oblasts have rather been retaining these funds for the institutions managed by oblasts and there is a reluctance to allocate these funds to hromadas
- 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](#)
- Information and analytical reports on the state of implementation of local budgets for the 12 months of 2021
- Analysis of the the debts in newly created communities and liquidated rayons
- 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)

During January 2022, 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](#)
- 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
- Preparation of reports on municipal budget processes to set education financing in selected Ukrainian municipalities, and on Swedish and Polish case studies
- 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 25-26 January, Training of trainers of Optimisation Game took place](#)
- [On 22 January an online webinar was held for the pilot hromadas. Transformation of the education system in Poland was presented](#)
- 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
- [On 28 January, an Optimisation Game based training was held in the Khmilnytska pilot hromada in Vinnytska oblast to develop possible scenarios for the development of the school network and to model the reorganisation process](#)
- Nine pilot hromadas have been selected from nine oblasts - Lvivska (Strijska hromada), Mykolaivska (Yuzhno-Ukrainska hromada), Poltavaska (Novi Sanzhari hromada), Khersonska (Kalanchatska hromada - directly borders Crimea), Rivnenska (Tarakanivska hromada), Zhytomirska (Bronikivska hromada), Vinnystak (Khmilnik hromada), Volynska (Novovolynska hromada), Khmelniiska (Novodunayevetska hromada). The further hromadas in the pipeline - Ternopiliska, Chernivetska, Kirovohradaska, Sumska oblasts
- Updating of the country-wide database of contacts of local education managers
- Gender analysis of the guide for moderators "Optimization of the school network in communities" was conducted: it is recommended to include a gender analysis of potential unemployment due to school optimisation
- Preparing [new best practice descriptions from hromadas](#). By the end of January, 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 **1 057 118** times. All best practices can be downloaded from www.wiki.skliinternational.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 **4,825** unique visitors and **15,991** number of visits. Three new topics were added to the repository in January:

- factors influencing the optimisation
- teacher salaries
- effective school management
- Setting up of a [Professional network of education managers on profile education](#), on optimisation issues

Support to the Association of Amalgamated Territorial Communities (AATC)

- Experts worked on the AATC component work Plan 2022
- 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. First seminar with the pilot teams took place in 2021. Teams were sent away with a home work to prepare their work plans. Next seminar with the pilot regions is planned in February. The teams will present and discuss their plans. Another topic of the meeting - setting partnerships with regional bodies
- On 28 January, [a meeting of the Board of the Association](#) was held
- On 18 January, [an offline meeting](#) of office directors and coordinators of regional branches of the AATC was held and priorities for 2022 were agreed.
- On 14 January, representatives of the AATC took part in an online meeting with the head of the Romanian Association of City Managers to establish cooperation.
- On 26 January, the AATC representatives took part in a meeting of the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Development to discuss and coordinate plans of Local Government Associations for 2022
- 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 26 January, the AATC representatives took part in the Meeting of the Committee on the Organization of State Power, Local Self-Government, Regional Development and Urban Planning
 - 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":**
 - [On 13 January](#), a webinar "Practical aspects of compiling passports of budget programs and reports on their implementation" was held
 - [On 19 January](#), a webinar "Internal audit: what to do for the organization and operation of local self-government" was held
 - [On 24 January](#), a webinar "How to evaluate the budget program - practical cases" 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)
 - Participation in the meeting of the Interdepartmental Working Group in order to develop a roadmap for addressing the issue of financial support of general secondary education institutions in accordance with the Formula for the distribution of educational subventions between local budgets
- **AATC Gender platform:**
 - [Prepared articles on gender issues](#)
 - Prepared a report on the results of gender monitoring of the websites of AATC member communities
 - Worked on the text of an open letter on gender inequality in local self-governments
 - Met with SKL gender expert to discuss the "Gender-Sensitive Municipality" initiative
 - [On 21 January, a meeting of the Gender Equality Platform on Model Gender-sensitive Municipality Initiative was held, 26 people \(out of them 25 women, 1 men\) from nine communities took part](#)
 - Two working meetings were held with the UN Women on planning a joint advocacy campaign to overcome gender inequality in local government
 - 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
- Preparation of the Project's calendar for 2022
- [Interviews, videos, streams from the events on decentralisation topics](#)
- Continuous updates to the [Project's website](#) and [Facebook page](#)