

DECENTRALIZATION IN UKRAINE

This monthly newsletter is a brief overview of Ukrainian authorities' work on implementation of Reform #1 in Ukraine

NOVEMBER 2017



The Growth of Local Budgets Continues

Over the period of 10 months of 2017, the revenues of the general fund of local budgets in Ukraine totalled UAH 154.7 billion. That is 91.5 % of the target approved in the annual budget.

In comparison with the same period of 2016, the revenues of local budgets increased by UAH 37.4 billion or by 31.8%.

The planned annual targets have been already achieved by more than half of local budgets.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Budgets of the Amalgamated Communities Continue to Grow

The revenues of local budgets of the 366 amalgamated territorial communities that were established in 2015-2016 increased by 85 % and totalled UAH 7.5 billion (+ UAH 3.4 billion).

The average per capita amount of influx of the earned revenues in the amalgamated territorial communities increased by UAH 1,098 and totalled UAH 2,388.

Inclusive of inter-budget transfers from the state budget, the revenues of the general fund of local budgets of the 366 amalgamated territorial communities totalled UAH 16.3 billion.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

The Ministry of Regional Development Published Monitoring Data on the Decentralisation

On 10 November 2017, the Ministry of Regional Development published updated monthly monitoring data on the decentralisation of power and local self-government reforming process.

According to the monitoring, the top five Oblasts in the ATCs establishment rating include the following ones: Khmelnytskyi, Zhytomyr, Chernihiv, Volynska, and Dnipropetrovsk Oblasts.

The increase in the number of agreements on cooperation of communities is one of the most dynamic indices of the monitoring. Just in two recent months, about 50 communities joined the process of inter-community consolidation of efforts. Currently, there are 108 cooperation agreements being implemented. More than 500 communities are cooperating in various areas to provide high quality services to their residents.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Amalgamated Communities have Already Distributed Almost All Funds of the Government Grant for Infrastructure: the Remainder is Less than 1%

As of 24 November 2017, the Commission at the Ministry of Regional Development approved more than 1,988 applications for infrastructure development projects in the amalgamated communities, in the total amount of UAH 1.49 billion. Those projects will be implemented by the end of the year for the account of the respective government grant.

The amount of UAH 9.6 billion remains undistributed among the community projects, which amount comprises less than 1% of funds of the government grant for the development of infrastructure in the ATCs as planned for 2017.

In general, the 2017 State Budget provides for a government grant in the amount of UAH 1.5 billion for the development of infrastructure in the ATCs. Those funds have been distributed among the 366 amalgamated communities established in 2015-2016.

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The Parliament Backed a Draft Law that is Important for the Spatial Development of Amalgamated Communities

On 16 November 2017, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the draft law "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Town Planning Activities Regulation" (No. 6403) in the first reading.

The Draft Law allows communities preparing their territory plans and determining the functional purpose of each land plot both within and outside the boundaries of settlements.

The Draft Law ensures that the ATCs have integrated documentation on spatial planning - the plan of the amalgamated community. Also, it extends the authority of the amalgamated communities regarding the territory development and creates the mechanism for taking into account public interest when the town planning documentation is prepared and approved.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Draft Law Allowing Communities to Amalgamate with Cities of Oblast Subordination has been Adopted as the Basis

On 16 November 2017, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted Draft Law No. 6466 as the basis, which draft law deals with the voluntary accession of communities to the cities of Oblast (Regional) subordination.

That draft law is to unfreeze the process of establishment of capable territorial communities around large cities. It likens the cities of Oblast subordination with capable communities and introduces a mechanism for the voluntary accession of communities to those cities.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Parliamentary Committee Supported Draft Law on Reforming Rayons

On 15 November 2017, the Parliamentary Committee on State-Building, Regional Policy and Local Self-Government recommended that the Verkhovna Rada adopt the draft law "On the Procedure for the Establishment and Disestablishment of Rayons, and for the Determination and Modification of Their Boundaries" (No. 6636). The said Draft Law is required for the formation of an effective administrative-territorial structure at the Rayon level.

The Rayon represents common interests of local councils comprising it. However, in the course of decentralisation and as a result of the amalgamation of communities, the grounds for joint representation of the interests of local councils ceased to exist in many Rayons, since their powers were transferred to executive bodies of the amalgamated communities occupying a larger part of the Rayon's territory. Therefore, due to the lack of authority of Rayon councils and administrations, the system of government at the Rayon level becomes ineffective in many cases.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

The Parliament Adopted the Law on Rural Health Care Development as Submitted by the President

On 14 November 2017, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law "On Improvement of Accessibility and Quality of Health Care Services in Rural Areas" as submitted by the President of Ukraine.

The new law is a part of the comprehensive health care reform initiated by the Ministry of Health. It provides for additional funding of the rural health care system, incentives for physicians, introduction of telemedicine services, etc.

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Youth Capital of Ukraine National Competition for Cities has Started

On 1 November 2017, the Youth Capital of Ukraine national competition started in Ukraine, which competition was initiated by the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ukrainian Institute for International Policy, and the National Youth Council of Ukraine.

The main objective of the competition is to promote cooperation between young people and the local self-government, as well as to facilitate the creation of comfortable conditions for youth development in Ukrainian cities.

Starting from 2017, the competition is to be held on annual basis in Ukraine honouring the best city in the country for youth development and living.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Ukraine has Implemented the Council of Europe's Decentralisation Roadmap by More than 80%

On 21 November 2017, President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, during the meeting with Vice-Prime Minister - Minister of Regional Development, Construction and Housing and Communal Services of Ukraine Hennadii Zubko, stated that Ukraine implemented the Decentralisation of Local Self-Government Roadmap by more than 80%.

They are aware in Europe that Ukraine strives hard to implement it in full, however, reaching more than 80% is good progress. The Council of Europe was ready to continue providing support for Ukraine on that way and in performing that work, Gudrun Mosler-Törnström said.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Health Care, Safety, Social Security - New Areas to be Supported by the Board of Sponsors

On 9 November 2017, the Board of Sponsors' Thematic Working Group on Sectoral Decentralisation held its meeting.

The event participants agreed that the matters pertaining to the arrangement for high-quality and affordable health care, social security, law enforcement, and fire safety services in the amalgamated territorial communities require immediate attention of the sponsors and their support in the course of decentralisation. In this connection, there arose the necessity to establish new thematic working groups to deal with those areas within the framework of the Board of Sponsors.

International technical assistance projects will coordinate their efforts to support the relevant changes proposed by concerned ministries.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

Physicians from Ukrainian Villages will have a Training Course in Canada

On 20 November 2017, the Ministry of Health and the Canadian-Ukrainian Foundation announced a competition for family physicians working in rural areas to participate in a three-day emergency health care training course for rural hospitals to be carried out by the University of Calgary Faculty of Medicine, Canada.

The course will be held on 19-21 January 2018 in the province of Alberta, Canada.

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More than 100 Representatives of Amalgamated Communities Communicate at the On-line Forum for Headmen

Over the period of one month and a half, more than 100 headmen from 22 Oblasts of Ukraine registered on the on-line forum to discuss pressing issues.

The on-line forum for headmen, acting headmen and representatives of the executive committees of the amalgamated territorial communities was developed on the initiative of the DESPRO Swiss-Ukrainian Decentralisation Support Project in Ukraine.

In total, more than 600 headmen have been elected in the amalgamated communities, and more than 1,700 persons are acting headmen.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

A Team of Trainers is Formed in Regions Who will Teach Leadership and Local Development

On 20 November 2017, the Ukrainian Association of Rayon and Oblast Councils (District and Regional Councils) started to register participants of the "Extension of Knowledge and Skills in the Area of Leadership and Regional Development" Project. Those training courses are aimed at the training of trainers in the areas of "Formation of Leadership Abilities - Initiative, Responsibility and Goal Achievement" and "Regional and Local Development". The initiative is being implemented with the support of the U-LEAD with Europe Programme.

Following on from the results of training, participants will be selected and recommended to regional Centres of Local Self-Government Development and other stockholders for the engagement of such participants in awareness campaigns.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

The Selection of Communities to Participate in the "Small Cities - Great Impressions" Project has Started

On 3 November 2017, the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine initiated the "Small Cities - Great Impressions" Project.

Within the framework of the project, six amalgamated territorial communities or small cities will be selected through an open competition where pilot cultural start-ups related to the cultural heritage will be launched, the implementation of which start-ups will promote further cultural and economic development of the territories.

SOURCE: [DECENTRALIZATION OF POWER WEB-SITE](#)

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Press center of Government Initiative "[Decentralization of Power](#)"

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