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Documentary links SBU to Sheremet murder

BY OLGA RUDENKO
 RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM
 An ex-SBU state security service officer and another man spent hours in a parked car at night on Ivana Franka Street as a bomb was planted 120 meters away from the car of Pavel Sheremet, a Belarusian-Ukrainian journalist killed when the

explosive detonated as he drove to work on the morning of July 20. This and other revelations came in a 50-minute documentary called "Killing Pavel," released on May 10. The documentary prompted the Security Service of Ukraine, the powerful and secretive law enforcement agency controlled by President Petro Poroshenko, to scramble.

The agency, known as the SBU, issued a hasty statement confirming that Ihor Ustymenko, identified as being at the crime scene, worked for the agency. The SBU said Ustymenko got fired in April 2014, but that claim could not be verified. Also, law enforcement agencies said they will investigate the new findings in "Killing Pavel."

Journalists from the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner, and Slidstvo.info spent nine months investigating the crime. Their findings raise the possibility of a state-sanctioned assassination of the prominent journalist, who worked as



more Sheremet on page 2 Pavel Sheremet

Eurovision

26 Vie For Crown In Kyiv On May 13



United Kingdom's Lucie Jones performs during the Eurovision Song Contest 2017's first semi-final dress rehearsal in Kyiv on May 8 at the International Exhibition Center. All 26 finalists have been selected as of May 12. See special Eurovision coverage starting on page 12. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

See story on page 12

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Findings raise questions of official obstruction

Sheremet from page 1

a radio show host and who wrote for Ukrainska Pravda, one of the nation's leading news sites.

In the documentary, Ukrainska Pravda editor-in-chief Sevgil Musayeva-Borovik said that the organization had received warnings that its journalists were under surveillance — warnings that came with excerpts of private communications among staff members about unpublished investigations involving state officials.

Sheremet's assassination and the lack of progress in the official investigation after more than 10 months raise suspicions that top officials are guilty of obstruction, indifference or simply incompetence in the investigation.

The documentary found that police missed clues, overlooked evidence and failed to track down key witnesses, including Ustymenko.

When journalists found Ustymenko, he gave implausible and evasive explanations about what he was doing in the car for at least three hours. He also would not identify the other man with him.

Both men, along with the occupant of a nearby parked Mercedes-Benz, were in a position to see the uniden-



Ukrainian investigators examine the scene of a car bombing that killed journalist Pavel Sheremet at 7:45 a.m. on July 20 as he drove to work. Investigators have reported no progress in the murder 10 months later. A new documentary, "Killing Pavel," points to involvement by an ex-law enforcement officer. (Volodymyr Petrov)

tified man and woman who worked together to plant the bomb under the car driven by Sheremet.

The car belonged to his partner, Olena Prytula, a co-founder

of Ukrainska Pravda with whom Sheremet lived on Ivana Franka Street. Prytula told the journalists that she and Sheremet had been followed shortly before his murder.

Officially and unofficially, ex-President Leonid Kuchma has been the prime suspect for years in the still-languishing case. He denies involvement.

Given law enforcement's poor track record, Sheremet's colleagues decided to launch their own investigation.

Over nine months, journalists Anna Babinets, Dmytro Gnap, Olena Loginova and Vlad Lavrov, a Kyiv Post staff writer and regional coordinator for the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, meticulously reconstructed the events of the night. They collected hundreds of hours of surveillance video and found witnesses who were ignored by police.

Parallel investigation

Ukraine's authorities have had no success in solving high-profile murders of anybody, including journalists. Their best-known failure is the case of Ukrainska Pravda news website editor Georgiy Gongadze, who was strangled and beheaded by high-ranking police officers on Sept. 16, 2000.

Only the four immediate perpetrators of Gongadze's murder were found and imprisoned — and even that took more than 10 years of constant international pressure. Those who ordered the killing have never

more Sheremet on page 3

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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent

TO: Audrey Cooper, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
Unknowns (whose names and whereabouts are unknown), hereby intending to designate the distributees of the late Zoia Lytwynec, legal representatives, assigns and all persons who by purchase, inheritance or otherwise have or claim to have an interest in the estate of Zoia Lytwynec

A petition having been duly filed by Elena F. Cariola, Esq. who is/are domiciled at 14 West Ham Circle, North Chili, New York 14514

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Monroe County, at 99 Exchange Blvd., Room 533, Hall of Justice, Rochester New York, on June 1, 2017 at 9:30 o'clock in the Fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of Zoia Lytwynec lately domiciled at 26 Brookdale Park, Rochester, New York 14609 in the County of Monroe, New York, granting Letters of Administration upon the estate of the decedent to Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq., Monroe County Public Administrator or to such other person as may be entitled thereto.

Further relief sought (if any):

Dated, Attested and Sealed,
April 18, 2017

HON. John M. Owens
Surrogate
Mark L. Annunziata
Chief Clerk
Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq.
Print Name of Attorney
(585) 454-7145
Telephone

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180 Canal View Boulevard; Suite 100, Rochester, New York 14623
Address

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Ex-SBU agent was at scene where bomb planted that killed Sheremet

Sheremet from page 2

SBU link

Surveillance video shows Ustyenko arriving at Ivana Franka Street outside the apartment building where Sheremet and Prytula lived, three hours before the bomb was planted.

He parked his car 120 meters up the street from Sheremet's parked car and drove away 40 minutes after the car bomb was planted.

During this time, Ustyenko and his passenger got in and out of the car and walked down the street and back. Minutes before a man and a woman showed up to plant the bomb, Ustyenko moved his car a little, parking it out of reach of surveillance cameras.

The driver of the second car, the Mercedes, arrived and left at the same time as Ustyenko, and talked to him during the night. Journalists have been unable to trace that car.

Ustyenko, who lives in Odesa, refused to identify his passenger or the driver of the Mercedes to journalists. He gave a vague and inconsistent explanation of what he was doing at the crime scene.

The car he was driving, a gray Skoda Octavia, was registered in the name of Kyivan Natalya Zaretska, who said that Ustyenko asked her to register the car in her name. Zaretska and Ustyenko said investigators never contacted them.

The journalists discovered from an anonymous source that, as of 2014, Ustyenko had been working for the SBU. When later asked in a telephone call whether he worked for the SBU, Ustyenko hung up and stopped answering phone calls.

At the end of the documentary, the journalists said they had asked President Petro Poroshenko, SBU chief Vasyl Hrytsak, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov to answer questions about their findings.



Ex-Security Service of Ukraine agent Ihor Ustyenko (L) is confronted with video that places him outside journalist Pavel Sheremet's home on the night that a car bomb was planted that killed Sheremet on July 20. (OCCRP/Slidstvo.info)

All four either refused or failed to respond, the journalists said, a sharp contrast to their public proclamations immediately after Sheremet's murder that solving the case is one of their highest priorities.

After the release of the documentary, the SBU hurriedly published a statement saying that Ustyenko had been fired in April 2014 and denied that journalists had sought comment. "If the journalists had asked us about Ustyenko before the release of the film, and not after, they probably wouldn't have a story to tell," said SBU spokeswoman Olena Gitlyanska.

At the premiere screening in Kyiv on May 10, the journalists involved revealed other troubling details.

As they were asking people near the crime scene for video from their surveillance cameras, one shop owner told them that SBU employees showed up before police investigators and took away his hard drive with the surveillance video, returning it erased.

The documentary revealed that months before the murder, an envelope was sent to Ukrainska Pravda anonymously, containing notes summarizing private phone and mes-

sages of journalists. Sheremet was among the journalists whose conversations were in the notes.

Musayeva-Borovik said that her sources in the Presidential Administration and law enforcement said that the notes were in a form commonly used at the SBU.

The SBU has a record of hostility towards journalists and has low credibility among the public.

Missed clues

Apart from the SBU connection, the

documentary revealed other clues that the police apparently missed.

Previously released police footage showed the two assassins, a man and a woman who planted the bomb in Sheremet's car in the early hours of July 20. In the video used to get the public's help in locating the suspects, they appear to be wearing gray tracksuits. However, journalists obtained a color video from a camera installed one kilometer from where the police said they lost track of the pair. It showed that the tracksuits were black and the man's hoodie had a distinctive white logo on the back.

This information, which would have been helpful in tracing the suspects, was never revealed to the public.

Using this new information, the journalists identified a man and a woman, who appear to be the same people from the nighttime footage, waiting near Sheremet's house the next morning — apparently to detonate the bomb after the journalist got into the car.

The journalists also found a taxi driver who was briefly at the scene when the bomb was planted, and who said that police never contacted him. The journalists also, for the first

time, found the video showing the face of a possible witness that the police asked the public's help in finding. The police, however, released only video showing the back of the man who apparently looked directly at one of the murder suspects. The journalists also show videos of what appear to be a group of musicians walking near the crime scene.

Former National Police Chief Khatia Dekanoidze, who left the job four months after the Sheremet murder, citing political interference in her work, appears in the film to defend the work of police investigators. However, Dekanoidze is forgetful about key specific details of the case.

On May 11, the Interior Ministry said it would call in the documentary's creators and former SBU employee Ustyenko for interrogation. It's too early to tell whether this means authorities are taking the case more seriously or simply trying to head off a public relations disaster.

"When we were working on this documentary," investigative journalist Babinets said at the premiere, "it felt like nobody cared about this murder except for us and those at Ukrainska Pravda." ■

To watch the documentary "Killing Pavel," find this story on www.kyivpost.com or search "Killing Pavel" on YouTube. The film is available in English, Ukrainian, and Russian.

ON THE MOVE

Jeantet Ukraine announced two partner promotions



Igor Krasovskiy

Jeantet Ukraine announced that Igor Krasovskiy and Illya Tkachuk were named Local Partners.

Mr Krasovskiy heads Banking & Finance practice, while Mr Tkachuk specializes in corporate and M&A. Both are seasoned lawyers with over 10 years of experience in the legal field. Igor Krasovskiy and Illya Tkachuk are recommended by Chambers, IFLR 1000, The Legal 500, Who is Who Legal and Ukrainian law firms in their practice areas.

Bertrand Barrier, managing partner of Jeantet Ukraine, said 'the appointments reflected the firm's commitment to Ukraine and development of the local talent. Both Igor and Illya are outstanding lawyers - having grown their careers with us for over 8 years - who have built strong relationships with the clients through a solution-focused approach and an understanding of what truly exceptional client service means.'



Illya Tkachuk



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THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
By the Grace of God Free and Independent

TO: Audrey Cooper, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
Unknowns (whose names and whereabouts are unknown), hereby intending to designate the children of the late Pavel Galinsky, or their distributees, legal representatives, assigns and all persons who by purchase, inheritance or otherwise, have or claim to have an interest in the Estate of Pavel Galinsky.

A petition having been duly filed by Elena F. Cariola
who is/are domiciled at 14 West Ham Circle, North Chili, New York 14514

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at 99 Exchange Blvd., Room 533, Hall of Justice, Rochester New York, on May 18, 2017
at 9:30 o'clock in the Fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of
Pavel Galinsky lately domiciled at
1097 Monroe Avenue; Apt. 2, Rochester, New York 14620
in the County of Monroe, New York, granting Letters of Administration upon the estate of
the decedent to Frank B. Iacovangelo Monroe County Public Administrator
or to such other person as may be entitled thereto.

Further relief sought (if any): Revoke 1211 previously issued.

Dated, Attested and Sealed,
April 13, 2017

HON. John M. Owens
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Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq.
Print Name of Attorney
(585) 454-7145
Telephone

Gallo & Iacovangelo, LLP
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Editorials

Beyond incompetence

Almost a year has gone by since Belarussian journalist Pavel Sheremet was killed by a car bomb attack in the center of Kyiv during morning rush hour on a bright July day. The police investigation into his murder has come up with practically nothing.

The only finding of the official investigation into Sheremet's assassination is that it is connected to his activities as a journalist. That's hardly a revelation, given that many journalists have been killed in Ukraine since 1991 for doing their jobs.

Journalists have made more progress than police in their own, independent investigation of the crime.

A video called "Killing Pavel" is the work of the Slidstvo.info investigative journalism team and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner. The 49-minute documentary released on May 10 reveals that police missed crucial clues, video evidence and failed to identify and interview key witnesses.

More damning, the investigative team, using state-of-the-art video analysis techniques, uncovered a very convincing and troubling connection between Ukraine's SBU state security service and the crime: A car with two men inside spotted on CCTV video was parked nearby Sheremet's house for at least three hours only several hours before the murder. The car was traced to a man identified as an SBU officer as recently as 2014. He was interviewed by the journalists. His story was inconsistent and ridiculous. He refused to identify a man seen with him that same night. Then he stopped talking with journalists.

The investigation shows more than the usual incompetence. It shows high-level attempts to obstruct the investigation and official indifference.

The president, prosecutor general, SBU head and interior minister have all refused to give interviews and generally say as little as possible about Sheremet's assassination.

That's unacceptable. Ukrainians and their friends abroad must help hold authorities to account. If they don't, the killing of another top journalist in Ukraine will go unsolved as suspicion grows that authorities sanction the assassination of journalists.

Danger signals

U.S. President Donald J. Trump hosted Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on May 10 in the Oval Office, afterwards calling it a "very good" meeting. Photos of a grinning Trump and Lavrov, two serial liars, emerged.

But the glad-handing looked very bad. It came hours after the president fired FBI Director James Comey, who had sought more money to investigate links between the president's election campaign and Russia's interference with the 2016 vote.

Trump's White House appeared all day to actively try to make those optics worse. U.S. reporters, whom Trump has in the past branded "enemies of the people" (a very Soviet phrase) were barred from the meeting. The only photographs came from Russian state news agency TASS.

Ahead of his meeting with Trump, Lavrov engaged in cynical jokes when being greeted by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. When asked for his reaction to Comey's firing, he feigned surprise, saying "Was he fired? You're kidding! You're kidding!"

To make matters worse, Lavrov brought Russian Ambassador to the United States Sergey Kislyak with him to meet Trump. Kislyak is the key link between Trump's campaign team and the Kremlin. Several Trump team members met with Kislyak ahead of last November's election, and then lied about it.

Rubbing more dirt into the lens, Trump then chose to meet Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, a Soviet apologist who advocates selling out Ukraine for the sake of better U.S. relations with Russia.

The only shine to the day's photo record came from Ukrainian Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin, who was pictured meeting with Trump after Lavrov had gone. But while the White House issued a short readout on Trump's meeting with Lavrov, there was no readout on his meeting with the Ukrainian foreign minister. That looks bad too, although U.S. officials said the president remained consistent in demanding that Russia lives up to its agreements to end its war in Ukraine.

Trump is trashing America's image abroad. Only the West's enemies are rejoicing.



NEWS ITEM: President Petro Poroshenko's younger son, Mykhailo, was photographed wearing a t-shirt that reads "Russia" for a photo shoot in his British school, the Concord College. The photo was published by one of his classmates on social media. The president's administration didn't comment on it.

NEWS ITEM: A march in honor of the Soviet Union's victory in the World War II was held in Kyiv on May 9 as part of the Immortal Regiment movement launched by Russian authorities. The participants of the march, who clashed with Ukrainian nationalists, carried portraits of their ancestors killed in the war, while some also held communist and separatist symbols and expressed support for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin.



NEWS ITEM: Interpol has removed ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, his chief of staff Andriy Klyuyev and his Energy Minister Eduard Stavitsky from its wanted list, saying that the corruption cases against them were political. Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko reacted by nonchalantly saying that, "We will solve this problem, too."

NEWS ITEM: As the Eurovision Song Contest kicked off in Kyiv with the first semi-final on May 9, it turned out that the competition's foreign fans were very eager to see Verka Serdutchka, Ukraine's representative at Eurovision in 2007. The fans were raging on Twitter that Serdutchka wasn't hosting or performing.

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Reformer of the week

Halyna Chyzyh

Halyna Chyzyh, a member of the Chesno civic watchdog, said on May 11 that the High Qualification Commission is backing controversial candidates in the selection of 120 new members of the Supreme Court.

She said that the Civic Integrity Council, a public watchdog, had vetoed 61 out of the 157 candidates interviewed by the commission because they do not meet integrity standards. However, the commission – a judicial body – has disagreed with the council's rejection of 48 of these 61 candidates, and may override the vetoes by early June.

One of the vetoed candidates backed by the commission is Pavlo Vovk, a judge linked to Serhiy Kivalov, an ally of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, and President Petro Poroshenko's grey cardinal and lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky.

Another troubling candidate is Yaroslav Romanyuk, the current Supreme Court chairman, who backed Yanukovich's dictatorial laws, which would have gutted civil liberties, in January 2014. Meanwhile, in April a court allowed High Commercial Court Judge Artur Yemelyanov to take part in the Supreme Court competition. Yemelyanov has been charged with organizing a system of unlawful rulings, while his wife has 13 million Swiss francs on accounts in Liechtenstein.

The High Qualification Commission has refused to publish the results of voting by every member or divulge the methodology of assessment to make the competition more transparent.

– Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Oleksandr Dovzhenko

Oleksandr Dovzhenko was appointed as head of Odesa Oblast's Security Service of Ukraine branch on May 3.

Dovzhenko, who is subject to the lustration law on the dismissal of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's top officials, has escaped being fired due to gaining the status of a war participant – a common way of evading lustration.

He was a close ally of Yanukovich's SBU chief Oleksandr Yakymenko, who has been charged with organizing the murder of EuroMaidan protesters in 2014 and financing Kremlin-backed separatists, and who is suspected of having ties to the Russian intelligence agencies.

The SBU's reputation also suffered a blow when Radio Liberty on April 22 published evidence that the agency organized a fake protest against the Anti-Corruption Action Center.

The SBU has also recently triggered controversies when it cracked down on opponents of President Petro Poroshenko and searched investment bank Dragon Capital and IT company YouControl. The agency has also pressured natural gas traders allegedly in the interests of pro-Russian politician Viktor Medvedchuk and Poroshenko, who deny the accusations.

Meanwhile, the SBU has been criticized for refusing to give either the public or other state agencies access to their staff's asset declarations, in what critics see as an effort to hide corrupt wealth.

– Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Why did you decide to attend Eurovision's first semi-final?

Ksenia Sfronova,
Purchaser

"I work for a company that sponsors Eurovision in Kyiv, so I came because I won a ticket in the company's lottery. But all of our team follows the contest, of course."

Antony Merivale
Accountant

"I came to Eurovision from Australia because I'm a Eurovision fan and a follower of the contest."

I'm of Ukrainian origin and I was so happy that Ukraine won! My friend and I immediately decided that we'd go to Eurovision to Ukraine — now we're here, and we're very excited."

Tanya White
Accountant

"I came from Cyprus especially for Eurovision. I've been watching the song contest for at least 10 years, for sure. I'm of Ukrainian origin, but I've lived abroad for 15 years already."

Mariana Mazur
Translator

"I'm following Eurovision, cheering for the contestants and know the ones that are performing (in the first semi-final). I couldn't get tickets for the second semi-final, so I'll be watching it at home."

Inaki Errasti
Journalist

"I'm from the Basque Country, which is in the north part of Spain. This is the third Eurovision for me and my

friend, actually, and it won't be the last one. We came because we love the show! We will also go to the second semi-final and the grand final."

Svitlana Nazim
Teacher

"I'm not a fan of Eurovision, but I can't miss such a huge event. I leave nearby and we're going

to Eurovision with family and friends — more than 10 people."

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

Editor's Note: This feature separates Ukraine's friends from its enemies. The Order of Yaroslav the Wise has been given since 1995 for distinguished service to the nation. It is named after the Kyivan Rus leader from 1019-1054, when the medieval empire reached its zenith. The Order of Lenin was the highest decoration bestowed by the Soviet Union, whose demise Russian President Vladimir Putin mourns. It is named after Vladimir Lenin, whose corpse still rots on the Kremlin's Red Square, 100 years after the October Revolution he led.



Emmanuel Macron

The free world — and that includes Ukraine — cheered the May 7 election of Emmanuel Macron as president of France.

The 39-year-old fresh face in politics trounced his Kremlin-loving opponent, Marine Le Pen, whose campaign got a \$14 million loan from a Russian bank. French voters handed Macron a landslide 2-1 victory, exceptionally great news for Ukraine.

Russia tried the same trick as in the 2016 American presidential elections — hacking into Macron's emails, just as it did to Hillary Clinton, who is hated by Russian dictator Vladimir Putin. But the French public and press didn't take the bait the same way that American media and voters did. The French, it appears, considered the source.

Moreover, there are reports that Macron's people confused and overwhelmed the hackers with decoy email accounts and disinformation of their own. If true, bravo!

Macron is also reportedly considering retaliation against Russia for its hacking of his campaign's emails. Throughout the campaign, the Kremlin and its Moscow media stooges dutifully tried to smear Macron.

In a May 3 debate, Le Pen and Macron clashed over foreign policy.

The anti-European Union and anti-NATO Le Pen sucks up to Putin, praising his dictatorial skills and military conquest of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. She said she would drop the E.U. sanctions against Moscow and she even visited Putin on March 24. Le Pen called Russia a "great nation"

and said there is "no reason to wage Cold War" again. She accused Macron of being "on his knees" before Germany.

Macron said that Le Pen was "submissive" to Moscow. "I will in no way be submissive to the orders of Putin, and that's the main difference between me and Marine Le Pen," he said.

"I will not accept to have my behavior dictated by Mr. Putin, and that's the difference with Mrs. Le Pen," Macron said. "We will not submit to Russia or Mr. Putin's values, as they are not the same values as ours."

He also called the United States a working partner on a number of regional issues.

The president-elect said that he would not favor lifting economic sanctions against Russia until the Kremlin fulfilled its commitments in the Minsk peace agreements — namely withdrawal of troops and support, return of eastern border control to Ukraine and unfettered access for international monitors.

– Brian Bonner



Steven Seagal

Some view Ukraine's ban on American schlock-movie actor Steven Seagal as a diversionary sideshow to deflect attention from the faltering corruption fight and the simmering war.

Not I. While Ukraine's authorities are not above such shenanigans, they are correct in banning this Kremlin stooge from entering Ukraine for five years because of his trips to illegally annexed Crimea.

Seagal, 65, is so loony that he accepted Russian citizenship from dictator Vladimir Putin on Nov. 3.

"I always felt that the USA and Russia should be best friends and allies," the Putin bootlicker said. "Despite the unfortunate propaganda going on, I remain fully committed to working tirelessly towards this end."

Good riddance, Seagal, let Russia have you. As a Ukrainian resident, I also say, stay out.

Birds of bad character flock together. Seagal has reportedly had to settle claims of sexual harassment on the movie set.

Seagal's political views, meanwhile, are dangerous and delusional.

In a March 2014 interview with Rossiyskaya Gazeta, Seagal described Putin as "one of the great living world leaders" and considers him "as a brother." He also called Putin's military invasion of Crimea as "very reasonable" to protect Russian-speaking people on the peninsula and the Russian Black Sea naval base in Sevastopol.

In August 2014, Seagal entertained and at a Night Wolves-organized show in Sevastopol, Crimea, that depicted Ukraine as a country controlled by fascists.

Seagal must have been struck in the head too many times during his martial-arts schtick. A month earlier, he was in Chechnya, cozying up to butcher Ramzan Kadyrov.

Here's the real propaganda, Seagal: The Russia you love so much is a mafia state under Putin, with no respect for democracy, free speech or rule of law. Russia is home to more right-wing extremists, fascists and Nazis than Ukraine. Despite all of Ukraine's problems, which the Kyiv Post has chronicled accurately, Ukrainians are a far more democratic, respectful and tolerant people. Ukraine is the victim of Russia's aggression, which has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014 and dismembered the nation.

Seagal also called U.S. support of Ukraine's democratic aspirations and defense as "idiotic." Idiot describes the situation well — especially useful idiots Seagal and other Kremlin toadies such as French actor Gérard Depardieu, who gained Russian citizenship in 2013.

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– Brian Bonner

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World in Ukraine

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China officially accounts for 1% of investment in Ukraine

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
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In China, there is a phrase companies use when they are scouring the globe to find the location for their next investment: "country shopping."

Alexander Borodkin, of the Kyiv-based law firm Vasil Kisl and Partners, remembers the term well from his visit in July to Shanghai and Beijing.

As a partner responsible for attracting new Chinese clients, he traveled to cities to tell the Chinese about investment opportunities in Ukraine. But before he could talk business, he had to talk with private entrepreneurs or officials from state corporations, there were always other issues to get out of the way first.

"Business is always the third question," he told the Kyiv Post. "The first two are 'where is Ukraine?'"

and 'what's happening there in the Donbas?'"

Such concerns are by no means limited to the Chinese, with Ukraine having to work to convince outsiders that, in spite of Russia waging war on its territory, it is still open for business.

But if there ever was a time to make a special effort with China it might be now, given the country's positions as both the world's second largest economy and the third largest investor abroad after Japan and the United States, according to the latest United Nations figures.

The Chinese government in 1999 adopted its "Going Out" policy, encouraging firms to move beyond their own country's borders and expand into new markets.

Beijing has been willing to support this global reach by investing in big infrastructure projects.

Vehicles commute on elevated motorways in Shanghai, China. The country now ranks as the globe's second largest economy after the United States and is the world's third largest investor abroad. In Ukraine, Chinese investment accounts for about 1% of all foreign investment in the country, according to expert estimates. (AFP)



Among the most famous of these to date has been the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, a network of trade routes first announced by China in 2013. Ukraine joined the project in 2016, creating a corridor into the European Union which runs from China through Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan and Georgia.

But for now, the Chinese are showing little interest in developing the route. Once their shipments reach Georgia, they prefer to bypass Ukraine and send them into the E.U. via Turkey, Bulgaria or Romania.

Kyiv is hoping that the flow of goods between the E.U. and China will grow enough to attract Beijing's interest. Until it does, China will not likely rank among the top 10 investors in Ukraine.

A political economy

The situation is helped little by the failure of Ukrainian officials to put in the groundwork to attract Chinese investors.

Chinese businesses and state corporations, says Borodkin, pay close attention to political developments in Beijing. If the Chinese and Ukrainian governments were closer, more Chinese investment in Ukraine would follow, he said.

"The Ukrainian government doesn't do enough for any investment to come to Ukraine," Borodkin told the Kyiv Post. "The president should go there, sign some agreements or renew old agreements, show some interest and organize a cultural exchange."

But even if Kyiv steps up its efforts to win over the Chinese, there are no guarantees.

For many analysts, the projects that Chinese money funds across the world are based on geopolitics as well as profits.

"The official rhetoric in China describes these as win-win arrangements — connecting the world, helping other developing countries grow their economy and improving China's access to resources and markets abroad," says Hongying Wang,

a senior fellow at the Waterloo, Canada-based think tank The Centre for International Governance Innovation. "Cynical outside observers view these initiatives and programs as part of China's plan to build its sphere of influence in Asia and beyond, threatening the dominance of the United States in world politics."

In Ukraine's case, the geopolitics revolve around the Kremlin's war in the Donbas and its seizure of the Crimean peninsula.

Beijing has not joined international sanctions on Russia and is seeking to keep Moscow among its allies. Its involvement in the conflict is limited to bland statements in support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This policy limits China's involvement in Ukraine, Borodkin said. "The Chinese now are playing big policy. They are playing with the U.S., with Russia, with the European Union. If the interests of this big policy are in conflict with Ukrainian interests, of course they will take decisions in favor of big policy," the lawyer said.

Room for expansion

Chinese investment has only an estimated 1 percent of all foreign investment in Ukraine, which itself is a paltry \$60 billion since statehood in 1991.

In an April 24 press conference, Chinese Ambassador Du Wei reported successful ventures had already been seen in aviation, alternative energy and information technology, but said that more effort is needed so that other Chinese investments which currently "exist only on paper" could actually happen. ■

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Kubiv traveling to China to save \$3.65 billion energy sector loan

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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Ukrainian officials risk losing \$3.65 billion in Chinese loans targeted for Ukraine's energy sector, with Economy Minister Stepan Kubiv arranging last-ditch meetings to save the deal while on a trip to Beijing.

The credit line – initially agreed in 2012 under President Viktor Yanukovich for coal gasification projects – is being offered by the state-owned China Development Bank. But the agreement has languished since the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove Yanukovich from power on Feb. 22, 2014.

While the state-owned energy giant Naftogaz has proposed projects for the money, government ministries have failed to approve them, one of the loan conditions. Kubiv will meet with officials from the Chinese state bank at a conference in Beijing next week in a bid to make a June proposal deadline for the cash.

The meeting follows warnings from the Ukrainian Embassy in Beijing. One letter from Ukrainian Ambassador to China Oleh Dyomin to Kubiv warned that losing the loan would “negatively impact the entire spectrum of Ukraine-China cooperation on investment.”

Naftogaz blames various government ministries for the debacle.

“Naftogaz has done as much as it could,” said Andriy Suprun, head of Naftogaz subsidiary Vuglesintezgaz, which is overseeing the projects. “It's not only an economic issue – it's an issue of building a long-term relationship.”

The money would allow Ukraine to update its gas and coal energy infrastructure, potentially saving hundreds of millions of cubic meters of gas annually worth billions of dollars.

China would gain rights to sell construction materials for the new energy plants and possibly strike profit-sharing agreements for exporting gas to Europe.

Dzerkalo Tyzhnya first reported on the delay in January 2016. After the deadline was extended in December, Reuters wrote about the issue in April.

Loan agreement

In 2012, Ukraine signed the loan agreement with the China Development Bank on coal gasification projects in Yanukovich's Donbas political base.

“Coal gasification is a Chinese technology,” said Gennadiy Kobal, director of energy consultancy ExPro. “They wanted to sell equipment for the project and export the technology.”

The agreement created a Naftogaz subsidiary called Vuglesintezgaz to oversee how Ukraine would use the cash.

The agreement was discarded in part due to Kyiv's loss of control over parts of the Donbas because of the war Russia launched in 2014.

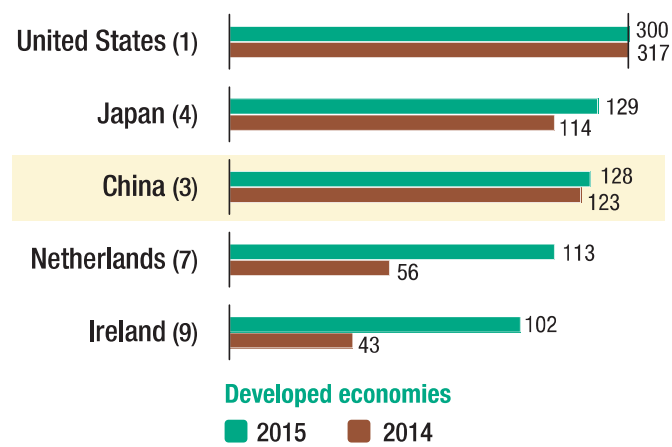
The Chinese government kept the loan available, but on four conditions: that the money be used for energy-related projects, that it be guaranteed by the Ukrainian government, that Naftogaz be the borrower, and that Chinese companies supply



Workers at the Kyiv-5 heat energy plant in August 2014. Naftogaz envisions building two new, more efficient power plants in Kyiv with the Chinese loan. (Volodymyr Petrov)

World's top nations for outward foreign investment 2014 and 2015

(Billions of dollars)



Source: ©UNCTAD, FDI/MNE database (www.unctad.org/fdistatistics).

China kept its place as the world's third biggest international investor from 2014 to 2015, trailing only Japan and the United States. China could become the top outward investor in coming years as Beijing puts up tens of billions of dollars in financing for infrastructure projects in connection with its “One Belt, One Road” initiative to increase its global presence. Among other aims of the political project is expansion of trade routes to help Chinese goods get to Europe.

60 percent of the project's needs.

“It took quite a lot for the government, for the ministries, for Naftogaz, for myself, to realize what this loan agreement is, how can we use it,” Suprun said.

Four projects have been submitted. They include two new coal power plants in Kyiv, one new coal plant in Lviv, the modernization of state-owned gas extractor Ukgazvydobuvannya's drill fleet, and the outfitting of Ukrainian apartment complexes with new boilers.

The Kyiv projects would substitute 600 million cubic meters of natural gas annually with coal, Suprun said, while the Ukgazvydobuvannya

refitting would increase the company's drilling capacity by 45 billion cubic meters over the equipment's 15-year life cycle, according to a rough estimate from Naftogaz.

Internal pressure

Suprun said that Naftogaz submitted proposals for the projects to the ministries of economy and finance for approval in 2016, but that none have signed off on them.

Chinese officials extended the December 2016 deadline by one year, Suprun said, adding that the applications for projects under the

more China on page 10

BUSINESS ADVISER

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When will Chinese investors come to Ukraine?



Viacheslav Lysenko
President of Ukr-China
Communication

After many years of rapid economic growth, China has become a global player in the of the Celestial Empire can be tracked across all corners of the globe, including Ukraine. The Ukrainian economy desperately needs investments from abroad, but the overwhelming majority of foreign investors are afraid of the political instability in the country. Despite the ongoing economic crisis, corruption and civil war in Ukraine, Chinese investments in the Ukrainian economy have slowly but steadily grown over the past three years.

Relations between Ukraine and China exist mainly in the trade area. China accounts for about 5% of all Ukrainian exports, while Chinese imports to Ukraine already exceed

12% of the total volume of the imports to Ukraine. The total trade turnover between the countries exceeded 6 billion US dollars in 2016. For the foreseeable future, Ukraine and China will be engaged in dialogues concerning large investment projects. But beyond words, the matter has not yet been resolved. Some private Chinese investments in Ukraine are relatively small and usually are not even highlighted in the investment statistics. All this takes place on the background of the Chinese government's statements about its intention to invest up to 40 billion US dollars in the countries along the so-called “One Belt, One Road” - the trans-Eurasian investment plan of the PRC, where Ukraine is a part of. What is holding back Chinese investment in Ukraine? We can talk a lot about corruption, bureaucracy, low effectiveness of the Ukrainian judicial system and other familiar phenomena's. But all this does not prevent China from investing in Southeast Asia, Africa and South America!

All Chinese partners have specific investment goals, which they are ready to consider. First and foremost, agriculture and natural resources are obvious targets. But also, they are interested in the power generation sector, high-tech production, engineering, aviation and the transport industry as a whole. Such projects will be followed by Chinese banks, financial service providers and portfolio investors. It is noteworthy that this interest has especially increased against the background of the reduction of Russian enterprises' investments and trade. Chinese investors are willing to replace Russian options in many industries. But the Chinese like to conduct their affairs in a somewhat different way.

Basically, Chinese investors are represented by large state corporations, many of which are included to the Fortune Global list. But the major peculiarity of these companies is that they coordinate all their decisions with the Chinese government and its foreign policy. The most important fact for Chinese investors is whether it is possible to establish a bilateral, stable, long-term relationship with a certain country as a whole; whether this country is ready to assume foreign economic obligations and fulfil them. Ideally, the question is whether the government of this country is ready to negotiate the matters of certain project development, to promote such investments, and to provide guarantees.

Namely, Ukrainian government's effectiveness and sustainability, its political relations with the Chinese government, its practical approach to implementations of key economic decisions, and speedy completion of reforms can become those signals for Chinese investors that will help them decide on investing their funds in Ukraine.

There is such a term as “country shopping” in China. It is difficult to translate the words literally, but it means essentially that almost every Chinese investor, looking outside, has a huge number of countries where it can invest its money. One potential investor said bluntly: “I like Ukraine, but there are two other proposals: please convince me why Ukraine is better”. They are interested in Ukraine, but at the same time there are many areas where our country still remains terra incognita for the world. There are many myths and inaccurate or incorrect information concerning Ukraine, as well as a lot of talks about complex and negative situations. As a result, the attractiveness of Ukraine fades, but the stories about success are rarely ever heard. In order to obtain investment for a country that is experiencing both the aggression from another country and being in difficult financial and economic conditions, active promotion alone are not enough. Investors need to be told about Ukraine in order to dispel their concerns and to explain the key advantages that seem obvious to us. It is also important and even necessary to adopt normal laws that will guarantee investment protection and the possibility to receive them back.

As for the reforms themselves, Ukraine has much more to accomplish. One of the biggest problems is an imperfect judicial system and distrust of investors and business to this system. At the same time, we understand that new investors do not want to invest into a country where they cannot properly protect their rights in court or defend themselves against targeted raiding. Special attention should be paid to protection of creditors' rights; it should take an important place in the reform priorities. The necessity to continue the monetary liberalization policy is also critical for the acceleration of foreign investment influx. This will allow the possibility to earn while benefiting our economy, and will help improve the conditions for the comfortable work of foreign companies in Ukraine. Also, investors are interested in business security issues, stable economic growth in the country and the possibility of unimpeded withdrawal of investments and capital from Ukraine.

According to the State Statistics Committee, Ukraine received 4.4 billion US dollars of foreign direct investments in the last year. This is 2.5 times less than that in Poland and 22 times less than that in the UK. Even African countries can boast more significant success in attracting foreign capital. For example, Nigeria received 5.6 billion US dollars of foreign direct investments in 2016.

Now, more than ever, Ukraine needs investment support for all sectors of its domestic economy. The country's leaders and company executives are in constant search of reliable partners who will help secure financing for infrastructure projects. Media reports, briefings and various conferences speak more and more often about the potential and strategic importance of cooperation with the PRC. It is extremely important to intensify bilateral trade and economic cooperation, to sharply increase the Chinese investment influx and to use China's technological and financial capabilities to modernize the Ukrainian economy.



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China commerce group now has 36 companies in Ukraine

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
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When it comes to doing business with the Chinese, it pays to take things slowly and steadily. Ukraine has learned the slow part quite well, but needs to improve on the steady part.

Chinese businesspeople think decades ahead, use cultural events as a backdrop for negotiations and avoid complaining when something goes wrong, said Ruslan Osypenko, CEO of the Chinese Commerce Association, which represents 36 Chinese and Ukrainian companies.

Among its members are information technology giant Lenovo, mobile phone giant Huawei and food processor Cofco. Even better for Ukraine, China is not afraid to work in countries at war and wracked by political turbulence.

His organization, in fact, was founded in 2015, amid Ukraine's deep economic recession and troubling setbacks in Russia's war.

"If China chooses some country as its strategic partner it's not going to change it," Osypenko said. "And China has decided that Ukraine is important."

While that may be so, China's economic relationship and political ties with Russia run far deeper. Moreover, while China professes support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, it doesn't support or participate in economic sanctions against Russia.

Even Osypenko acknowledged Ukraine's relationship with China is not what it could be.

Chinese companies are ready to invest billions of dollars in Ukraine's economy, he said, but haven't found the right projects or conditions yet.



Ruslan Osypenko, CEO of the Chinese Commerce Association, represents 36 Chinese and Ukrainian companies doing business in both nations. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

Lost opportunities

In 2012, the state-owned State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine reached an agreement on a \$3 billion loan from the Export-Import Bank of China to supply grain to the Chinese market.

But after President Viktor Yanukovich fled power in 2014, the deal stalled. Ukraine allocated spending on only half of this loan, Osypenko said, while the second part is being negotiated.

China has good reasons to be wary.

In 2013, Ukraine also tried to

attract, via the now disbanded national investment agency, almost \$400 million from the Export-Import Bank of China to construct a high-speed railway connection between the capital Kyiv and Boryspil International Airport.

But the project ground to a halt. Prosecutors last autumn reported that some \$3 million in state funds for the project had been stolen.

Vladyslav Kaskiv, the former head of the national investment agency, was detained in Panama in 2016. Ukrainian prosecutors have filed sev-

These routes include Russia and Belarus, but bypass Ukraine. Osypenko said that once up and running, the corridors will carry a whopping 51 percent of world trade. He believes Ukraine still has opportunity to join and benefit from it.

Since Kyiv has signed a free trade zone deal with the European Union and joined the Chinese initiative in 2015, Ukraine may become it an important linking point between China and Europe. "This will allow Ukraine to have new industries, develop logistics and increase tax incomes," Osypenko said.

But Ukraine has to stop making mistakes in dealing with China, as it did back in 2008 when then President Viktor Yushchenko did not to attend the Summer Olympic games in Beijing.

Ukraine-Chinese relations were put on hold again in 2014–2016, when the change in Ukraine's government and the war shifted Ukraine's orientation to the Western direction.

In 2013, Ukraine's trade with China was worth \$10.6 billion, while by 2016 it had shrunk to \$6.7 billion.

But China, the second largest economy in the world, is again seen as a key partner in Ukraine, Osypenko said.

The Institute of World Policy, a Kyiv think tank, has also noticed the difference. "China has become a kind of trend of Ukraine's foreign policy, and has come back into the focus of Ukraine's authorities," reads the April report.

Common features

Ukraine's Soviet legacy is a plus, not a minus, to China.

In the mid-20th century, Ukrainian engineers helped to develop metallurgy and heavy industry in China, Osypenko said.

Regardless of their ideological differences, the two countries have never had any conflicts and, despite geographic difference, the two nations have some common features.

"We're both agrarian nations, we care a lot about our families, we have many common values," Osypenko said. "Ukraine and China complement each other."

Osypenko, who used to work at the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Economy Ministry before heading the Chinese Commerce Association, said his role is an outgrowth of his longtime interest in Chinese philosophy, which he believes has played a big role in the economic success of the world's most populous nation.

Du Wei, the Chinese ambassador to Ukraine, at a press conference in Kyiv on April 24, outlined part of that philosophy.

"We usually take just one step, (even) when we can see five, or 10 steps forward. This approach helps ensure the stability of the economy, (and) the continuity and predictability of policies," the ambassador said.

So even at a slow pace, Osypenko said, they achieve tremendous results. ■



Chinese Ambassador to Ukraine Du Wei. (Courtesy)

eral embezzlement cases involving millions of dollars against him, but Kaskiv has yet to be extradited to Ukraine.

Osypenko said such incidents make it hard to build trust with China. "This is a very small project for China, but it's very indicative," said Osypenko. "It's hard to imagine constructing a high-speed railway that would connect the whole of Ukraine if we failed to construct a small part of it to Boryspil."

Bypassing Ukraine

In late January, the first-ever direct freight train between China and the United Kingdom arrived in London under the "One Belt, One Road" project launched by Chinese leader Xi Jinping, which aims to set up six new transport corridors connecting China with Europe.

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As Russia blocks Ukraine's former trade corridors, focus shifts to finding modern Silk Road routes

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
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Ukraine's exports to Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and elsewhere in Asia slumped by 40 percent after Russia banned the transit of Ukrainian goods through its territory in the winter of 2016.

But inspired by the Silk Road – an ancient network of trade routes that linked the Far East and Europe – Ukrainian authorities found alternative routes, via the Black Sea, Georgia, Azerbaijan and then across the Caspian Sea to Kazakhstan and further into Asia, along the Trans-Caspian International Transport Corridor, one of six trade routes together dubbed the New Silk Road.

“Such a route is very difficult, and consumes more time and money, as the cargo goes across two seas and one mountain range. But there's no alternative,” Yevhen Kravtsov, an adviser to Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan told the Kyiv Post during the Ukrainian Railways Development conference in Kyiv on April 18.

Kravtsov said all of the export cargo to the east that used to be transported by rail across Russian territory now goes through Odesa's Chornomorsk Seaport, via the ferry to Georgia.

In April, Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers ratified an agreement signed in September in Batumi in Georgia on a direct rail-ferry connection between Ukrainian and Georgian seaports.

Over the last two years, cargo turnover at Chornomorsk Seaport dropped by nearly 2 million tons, from 14.6 million tons in 2015 to 12.7 million tons in 2016, the port's press service told the Kyiv Post.

Kravtsov is confident that situation will soon improve, as the new direct ferry link between Ukraine and Georgia forms part of one of six routes of the new Silk Road, officially called China's One Belt, One Road Initiative, which was launched by the Chinese government in 2013 to expand links between East and West.

Slow and expensive

Chornomorsk Seaport connected the drop in cargo with the general fall in goods production in Ukraine and Russia's ban on transit Russian goods through Ukraine's territory.

But Kravtsov said that the ferry transport market in Ukraine wasn't ready to operate at full capacity.

“As of now there are only three ferries going between Chornomorsk and the Georgian ports Batumi and Poti. Soon Ukrzalizniitsya will launch its first ferry, which, we hope, will improve the situation,” said Kravtsov.

At the moment it takes more than 12 days for Ukrainian exports to get to some store shelves in Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, instead of eight days before. Furthermore, the Russian route for Ukrainian exports is much cheaper than the Silk Road.

Oleksandr Kava, a former infrastructure minister's adviser, told the Kyiv Post prices depend on the type



Locomotives carry empty wagons to a ferry during the opening ceremony of the Trans-Caspian International Transport Route from Ukraine to China in Odesa Oblast's Chornomorsk Port in January 2016. (UNIAN)

of cargo and the export destination. Kava reckons that to transport one cargo container from Dostyk station on the Chinese-Kazakhstan border via Russian territory cost about \$3,500, while to transport a contained along the Trans-Caspian Corridor of the Silk Road costs about \$5,500.

Because of the longer time and higher prices, some Ukrainian exporters have been practically squeezed out of some Central Asia markets.

But Omelyan believes that the longer, harder road will soon be the perfect alternative to Russian Federation transit.

“The logistics is not the problem; the problem is the lack of clever and competitive logistic companies. But we're working on it. We've made deals with Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Georgia, and there are more to come,” Omelyan told the Kyiv Post on April 20.

Omelyan said Ukraine wanted to join in the Silk Road project in 2015, and had asked that the Chinese make them not only members of the transport corridor, but also members of the Silk Road Economic Belt.

“But the Chinese refused, saying it was too late, and we'd missed our chance. Nevertheless, in a year we did the impossible, and Ukraine joined the Silk Road in 2016,” Omelyan said.

Ukraine launched the new route from Ukraine to Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and then China, which includes two ferry crossings bypassing Russia, in January 2016.

The first “Silk Road Train” with Ukrainian cargo from Chornomorsk Port arrived at Dostyk Railway Station on Kazakhstan's border with China on Jan. 31.

Truck blockade

Russian President Vladimir Putin early last year banned transit of Ukrainian export goods to Kazakhstan through Russia “for Russia's national interests and economic security.”

At first, Russia let Ukrainian traders transport their products through Belarus and then to Russia, as long as the shipments were constantly tracked online by the Glonass navigation satellite system, the Russian analog of GPS.

However, in June, Russia expanded the ban on the transit of Ukrainian goods not only to Kazakhstan, but also Kyrgyzstan.

The Economic Development and Trade Ministry's press service said that because of the export drop in 2016, Ukraine had lost \$297.7 million in export revenues from Kazakhstan, \$28 million from Kyrgyzstan, \$51 million from Azerbaijan, \$91 million from Turkmenistan, and \$36.4 million from Uzbekistan.

According to the Economy Ministry, Ukraine exported mostly ferrous metals, nuclear power elements, electric cars and food industry products to the Central Asian countries.

Kava said that Kazakh and Kyrgyz exporters have the right to transport their goods through Russia, so frequently trains return to Ukraine via Russia.

The expert said he was sure Russia won't lift its ban on the transit of Ukrainian goods soon.

Because of the ban, and the extra expense of using the Silk Road, Ukrainian goods have become much more expensive on the Asian markets and have been pushed out of the market by Chinese and Russian goods.

“Russia got an extra niche on markets where it could sell goods banned under EU and U.S sanctions, and under its own sanctions,” Kava said.

Risky route

Kava said the government's Silk Road initiative was more of a political decision than a realistic alternative route for exports. Traders always chose the simplest and cheapest way to transport their goods, while the Silk Road is neither simple nor cheap. And it's riskier.

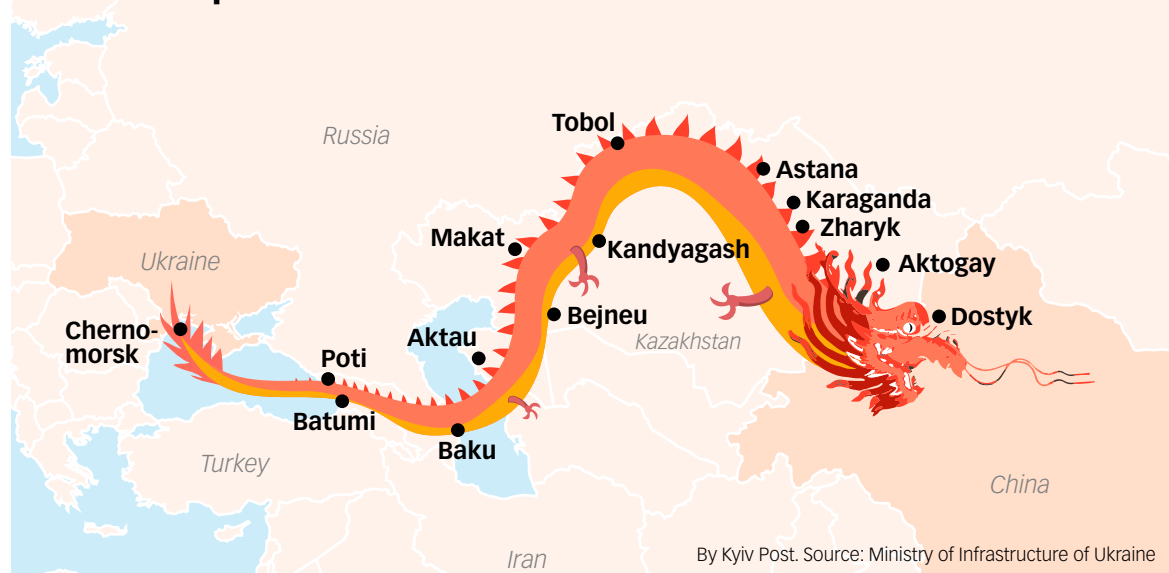
“The cargo stands in lines in ports. Some ferries can't carry all the train wagons at once. Plus, there is the risks of transporting cargo across two seas,” said Kava. “The Chinese try to transport their goods as quickly as possible, and to diversify their supply routes. Frequently cargo that came from China to Batumi (Georgia) is transported through Turkey, Bulgaria or Romania, because that way it's more simple to get straight to the European Union.”

A glance at an online vessel tracking map confirms. According to vesselfinder.com, Turkey's port at Istanbul and the Romanian port of Constanta accept 10 times more cargo vessels than Ukraine's Chornomorsk.

However, Omelyan is confident that the Silk Route corridor through Ukraine will become the perfect alternative for the Russian route sooner or later.

“The route will start working. The only question is whether it will be this year or next year,” the minister said. “That's because the number of cargo trains from China to Europe is growing.” ■

Trans-Caspian Corridor of the New Silk Road



By Kyiv Post. Source: Ministry of Infrastructure of Ukraine

Trans-Caspian Corridor of the New Silk Road

After Russia banned Ukrainian goods transit to Kazakhstan and other Asian countries in 2016, Ukrainian authorities started using alternative routes. China's “One Belt, One Road” initiative, launched in 2013 to expand East-West trade ties, offered Ukraine new possibilities. Bypassing Russia, trade goes through the Black Sea, Georgia, Azerbaijan and then across the Caspian Sea to Kazakhstan and further into Asia.

China at a glance

Total area: 9,388,211.0 square kilometers

Population: 1.37 billion

GDP (2015): \$11.06 billion

GDP per capita, purchasing power parity (2015): \$13,571

Main economic sectors: metals, textiles and apparel, agriculture

Ukraine-China relations

Trade: \$5.2 billion

Exports from China to Ukraine:

Electronics, nuclear reactors, plastics, black metals, organic chemical products

Exports from Ukraine to China:

Metal resources, grains, animal products, lumber and wood products, nuclear reactors

Imports: \$3.1 billion

Exports: \$2 billion

Major companies: Huawei, CNBM, Meizu, Xinwei, Lenovo, Noble Agri



Ukraine gets 20,000 out of 122 million Chinese tourists

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
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Some 122 million Chinese traveled abroad as tourists in 2016, spending \$109.8 billion, the Chinese Tourism Academy estimates, with especially strong numbers in Thailand, Japan, Russia and the United Kingdom.

But only 20,000 Chinese tourists made it to Ukraine the same year. While a record number, it still represents less than 1 percent of Chinese tourists overseas.

Obviously, Ukraine has yet to be discovered by Chinese travelers.

"The one who comes first to the Chinese market and opens Ukraine for it, he will definitely get rich," said Yulia Ulasik, CEO of the Kyiv-based Center for Contemporary China Tianxia Link.

Maryna Ignatusha, CEO of Brandberg Ukrainian Incoming Tours, said Chinese tourists like modern comforts and many need translators, since only about half of them speak English.

Ignatusha said Chinese favor group travels and, apart from traditional sites in Kyiv and Lviv, have shown fondness for the Nikolay Ostrovsky museum in Khmelnytsky Oblast's Shepetivka, as well as the Tunnel of Love, a section of industrial railway near Klevan in Rivne Oblast.

"They find interesting all related to the Soviet past, our aviation, our



A Chinese tourist sits inside a bus in St. Petersburg, Russia. Drawn by its Communist past and visa-free regime, Russia is a popular destination for Chinese tourists. (AFP)

industry, our World War II museum in Kyiv," Ignatusha said. Other big attractions are Chernobyl, balloon rides in Kamyanytsya-Podilsky and shooting guns in entertainment centers. Expensive brand stores are also popular.

Tourism obstacles

Viktor Kikthenko, president of Ukrainian Association of Sinologists, said "it's a shame" that Ukraine lacks China-friendly venues, such as hotels and restaurants with the signs writ-

ten in Chinese and staff workers who speak the language.

A poll by the China Tourism Academy shows that Chinese tourists pay close attention to traffic, food and shopping in choosing travel destinations.

Ukraine's volatile security situation, rough infrastructure and lack of country information are big obstacles, Chinese Ambassador Du Wei said at an April 24 press conference, although he praised Ukraine's start of visas on arrival for Chinese visitors

in 2016. Chinese tourists arriving at Boryspil International Airport, Kyiv Zhuliany Airport and Odesa airport can receive 15-day visas upon arrival for \$94.

To get an entry visa, tourists also must have a return ticket, hotel bookings, travel insurance and at least \$110 per day to spend in Ukraine, Ignatusha said. She said her agency tries to get scans of tourists' passports and photos in advance to speed up the process. But visa upon arrival, she said, will increase the number of Chinese tourists soon.

Along with other tourist operators and Kyiv city officials, she's going to Beijing and Shanghai on May 22 to promote tourism to Ukraine. On June 20, a Chinese delegation will make a return visit.

Yevheniy Ikkelzon, who co-owns I Love Asia tourist company in Ukraine, said his team is developing tours in Ukraine for Chinese and other Asian tourists. Ikkelzon said he hosted many Chinese tourists in Malaysia, where he operated a hotel for several years. Accustomed to the tastes and demands of Chinese travelers, he wants to host them in Ukraine.

"It's important to make them see Ukraine not as a former part of Russia but as a unique country with a rich culture, tasty cuisine and natural treasures," he said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Nataliya Trach contributed reporting to this story. ■

Huawei among top Chinese investors active in Ukraine

Huawei began as a small operation when it was founded in 1987 by Ren Zhengfei, a former engineer in China's People's Liberation Army. It has since then grown into a global multinational headquartered in Shenzhen, in China's Guangdong Province.

At first manufacturing for industry, it gradually expanded into telecommunications and consumer electronics, releasing its first cellular phone on to the mass market in 2004. Today its products and services are available in more than 170 countries and are "used by one-third of the world's population," according to the company's website.

Huawei began operating in Ukraine in 1998 and since then its business in the country has "grown year on year," says Vitaliy Matarykin, a public relations manager.

Looking ahead, the tech manufacturer is focusing on 4G technology which will allow users greater access to data-hungry services.

"We believe that in the nearest future cloud services will boom in Ukraine," says Matarykin. "People will have access to their information anytime and anywhere. The business-to-business market, especially in the small and medium enterprise segment, has very high potential demand in I.T. and new technology solutions in telecoms."

Last month Huawei announced that it plans to soon open a research and development center in Ukraine. If the center does open, it will join the more than a dozen such institutions which Huawei already operates worldwide.

— Rahim Rahemtulla

Government stalling puts Chinese loans for energy sector, worth billions, at risk

China from page 7

loan need to be submitted by June 2017.

Suprun said that he hoped Kubiv's visit to Beijing next week would accelerate approving the proposals.

Internal pressure may also be playing a motivating role.

Dyomin, the Ukrainian ambassador to China, warned Kyiv through a series of letters in 2016 that the country may lose the credit.

"A lot of time and effort has been spent on supporting these projects from the Chinese Ministries of Commerce and Foreign affairs," Dyomin wrote in a May 2016 missive to Kubiv. "Politically, dismantling the energy project cooperation that we have begun would negatively impact the entire spectrum of Ukraine-China cooperation on investment."

Spokespeople for the ministries of economy, energy, and foreign affairs did not reply to requests for comment.

Who profits?

It's not clear whether the proposals have been delayed due to pressure from vested interests or administrative incompetence.

In March, the General Prosecutor's Office opened a criminal investigation into Suprun for "criminal negligence" over the delays. The Vuglesintezgaz director denies wrongdoing.

DTEK, the energy firm owned by billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov's System Capital Management, has a lease through Kyivenergo on one of the Kyiv power plants that would be replaced under the loan — TETs-6.

One document reviewed by the Kyiv Post showed that Kyivenergo has recently refused to grant Naftogaz surveyors access to the TETs-6 site. Kyivenergo did not reply to a request for comment.

At the same time, replacing a gas power plant with coal could be a serious boon for DTEK's coal supply business.

"Coal is a tradeable commodity, if the situation were not good, the project could burn coal from Poland no problem. Poland's coal — we've examined it, and it's perfectly suitable," said Suprun.

"For the government and local producers, which is DTEK, it should be in their interests to be the supplier. They could bid for that," he added.

A DTEK spokesman said the company was unaware of the project.

Yulia Ulasik, director of the Center for Contemporary China, argued that other failed China-funded projects — like the proposed express train between Boryspil Airport and Kyiv and a grain loan program — had become sore spots.

"At the level of the government, it's not ready to take on something else again that it's not prepared to fulfill," Ulasik said.

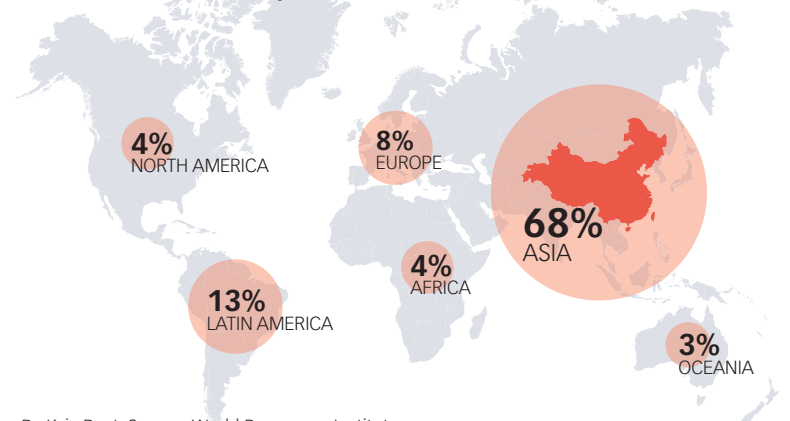
Kobal, the energy consultant, said that Naftogaz's proposals are "very distant from the kind of work that Naftogaz usually does. It seems like they're already far from synthetic natural gas and are just trying to find some replacement."

Hedging bets

The case may cause Chinese investors to shy even more away from Ukraine. "For them, it's an issue of losing face," said Andrey Goncharuk, a board member of the Ukrainian Association of Sinologists.

In spite of the delays, however, the Chinese government appears to be positioning itself for a longer stay both in Ukraine's energy market

Global distribution of outward Chinese foreign direct investment, 2013



By Kyiv Post. Source: World Resources Institute

Most Chinese investment goes to Asia with Latin America and Europe the second and third biggest destinations, respectively. Top sectors for Chinese money include energy, metals and real estate.

and for Ukrainian investment more broadly.

The state-owned China National Building Material's Ukraine office has announced several plans, including a project that would turn part of the Chernobyl exclusion zone into a large solar farm.

The Chinese investment consortium Bohai Commodity Exchange also bought a former state bank in

a November privatization auction from the State Property Fund for 3 million euros.

Goncharuk, the China expert, said that the bank's name — "Ukrainian Bank for Reconstruction and Development" — is no accident.

"They now have their own bank in Ukraine with which to finance projects that interest them," he said. "They bought a signboard." ■



No Chinatown in Ukraine, home to 30,000 Chinese

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Lots of cities have Chinatowns — areas where expat Chinese people live and do business in close proximity. And with good reason. Chinese account for nearly 20 percent of the world's population.

But there's no Chinatown in Ukraine. Instead, the estimated 30,000 Chinese people are scattered.

That's a good thing, says Demian Dyao, the trustee of the Chinese diaspora in Ukraine Association, a nongovernmental organization established in 2016 with nearly 400 active members.

"One of the aims of our organization is to help Chinese people to get to know Ukrainian laws, culture, customs, and language, and be fully integrated into Ukrainian society," Dyao says. "The phenomenon of Chinatowns is unacceptable and should be left in the past."

Dyao believes the number of Chinese immigrants to Ukraine will likely grow as the country's calm pace and beautiful nature attract. "Ukraine offers good conditions for living, studying, working and investment," he says.

Clean air

The first Chinese immigrants started coming to Ukraine in Soviet times during the 1970s, at the time of the Cultural Revolution — a brutal purge of Chinese society by Communist Party chief Mao Zedong. Mao aimed to sweep away the last remaining traditional elements of Chinese society and impose Maoism as the country's dominant ideology. The purge sent at least 50 million Chinese abroad as emigrants — 75 percent of them going to live in Southeast Asia.



Demian Dyao (L), trustee of the Chinese Diaspora in Ukraine Association, says around 30,000 Chinese expatriates live in Ukraine. Chinese citizen Peng Tao (R) gestures as he recalls the difficulties he had finding his way around Kyiv upon arrival in 2004. He senses a lack of confidence among Ukrainians about their future and is still unsure about whether he will stay in the country. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Dyao, 30, came from Beijing to Ukraine with his parents when he was an 8-year-old boy. "Even though Ukraine is not as clean as Western European countries, it cannot be compared to any big Chinese city," he says. "I like it that the people here are friendly and helpful."

Most Chinese expatriates live in Kyiv, Odesa and Kharkiv.

"They are mostly Chinese students, businessmen or employees of Chinese companies who come to Ukraine, so it's natural that they mostly live in big cities," says Dyao. Some Chinese trade in local markets, some practice traditional Chinese medicine and others teach Chinese to Ukrainians.

Dyao says that it is usually Chinese families or young men who come to

Ukraine as immigrants, not single Chinese women.

Word of mouth is the main source of information about Ukraine in China, Dyao says, as Ukraine does little to promote itself there.

Unsure future

Peng Tao, 31, found out about Ukraine from his friends. He came to Ukraine from Chongqing in 2004 to study Russian at Kyiv's Dragomanov National Pedagogical University.

"It was very difficult to get around the city, there was no normal access to the internet then. Kyiv looked to me like a big village then," says Tao, who comes from a city of 8.2 million people.

While a university student, he found a job as a manager in Kyiv at Sto Express, a Shanghai-based postal

service, and decided to stay.

But Tao is still unsure about staying. "Living here I feel lack of confidence in the future. One cannot be sure that an investment will be returned, or a bank will not seize the money," he says.

At the same time, Tao likes Ukraine's picturesque landscapes and not having to work too hard to survive. "In China they work without holidays because there is too much competition."

Tao won't say what he misses about China, but Dyao, who regularly visits his grandparents in China, says Kyiv lacks good Chinese food.

Language barrier

Few Chinese go on to become Ukrainian citizens. Language is one barrier.

"Ukrainian or Russian, their pronunciation and word endings, do not come easily to Chinese speakers, and this is the biggest obstacle to integration," Dyao says.

To ease integration for newcomers, the Chinese Diaspora in Ukraine Association offers Ukrainian language lessons and introductions to local customs.

"Often what is OK in China is unacceptable here. For example, the Chinese like to speak loudly, which is perhaps irritating to others," Dyao says.

Dyao speaks flawless Russian and Ukrainian. After more than 20 years in the country, he even feels a bit Ukrainian. "When I'm in Ukraine I feel I am Chinese, but when I go to China I feel I'm more Ukrainian than Chinese," he says. ■

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One of these 26 singers will win Eurovision Song Contest 2017

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
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With one day left to the grand final of this year's Eurovision Song Contest, all 26 finalists are finally known. The two semi-finals, on May 9 and May 11, saw participants from 36 countries, but only 20 qualified for the final. The other six participants escaped competing and pre qualified for the final show – Ukraine as the winner of the last year's Eurovision, and the so-called "Big Five" (Italy, Spain, UK, Germany and France) as co-founders of the contest.

The winners of each semi-final, as well as of the grand final, are being selected in a 50/50 vote of the jury and the TV audience. The TV audience votes after the televised performance. The grand final will start on May 13 at 10 p.m. Kyiv time.



Country: Ukraine
Contestant: O. Torvald
Names: lead singer Zhenya Halych, guitarist Denys Miziuk, drummer Oleksandr Solokha, bass guitarist Mykyta Vasylyev, DJ and pianist Mykola Raida.
Age: 33, 35, 30, 28, -

Song: "Time"
Interesting fact: The name "O. Torvald" was inspired by all the mischief that the rock stars got in. In Russian, "otorvatsia" means "to party hard" and the made-up name "O. Torvald" sounds similar.



Country: Italy
Contestant: Francesco Gabbani
Age: 34
Song: "Occidentali's Karma"
Interesting fact: Francesco Gabbani is the only artist who won an award at the most popular Italian song contest and awards Sanremo Music Festival two years in a row.



Country: United Kingdom
Contestant: Lucie Jones
Age: 25
Song: "Never Give Up On You"
Interesting fact: Lucie Jones is not only a singer but also an award winning actress who has worked in theatre for the last seven years. She's toured the world with huge shows including Les Miserables, Ghost The Musical, Legally Blonde



Country: Spain
Contestant: Manel Navarro
Age: 21
Song: "Do It For Your Lover"
Interesting fact: Manel Navarro became a star being a teenager. He published videos of covers on famous songs on YouTube and was signed to Sony Music Spain after winning the Spanish competition Teen Star.



Country: Germany
Contestant: Levina
Name: Isabella Levina Lueen
Age: 26
Song: "Perfect Life"
Interesting fact: Levina realized what her true passion is pretty early. She has started taking music classes in the age of nine and since then has never quit singing.



Country: France
Contestant: Alma
Name: Alexandra Maquet
Age: 28
Song: "Requiem"
Interesting fact:

Alma speaks four languages – English, Italian, Portuguese and French – due to living in the different countries – United States, Italy, Brazil, Belgium and France.



Country: Sweden
Contestant: Robin Bengtsson
Age: 27
Song: "I Can't Go On"
Interesting fact: Robin Bengtsson is a happy father of a 3-year-old son William. One of his main goals in life is to be the best friends with his kid.



Country: Australia
Contestant: Isaiah
Name: Isaiah Firebrace
Age: 17
Song: "Don't Come Easy"
Interesting fact: Isaiah is only 17 but he's already won The X Factor Australia and released a debut single, "It's Gotta Be You", that charted all over the world.



Country: Belgium
Contestant: Blanche
Name: Ellie Delvaux

Age: 17
Song: "City Lights"
Interesting fact: Blanche didn't plan to take part in Eurovision. She received an invitation to participate in Belgium selection while having a class. She made a decision to agree and her candidacy was approved the same day.



Country: Azerbaijan
Contestant: Dihaj
Name: Diana Hajiyeva
Age: 27
Song: "Skeletons"
Interesting fact: Dihaj was born in Mariupol, a town in eastern Ukraine. She participated in the country in Eurovision 2011 but didn't make it to the final.



Country: Portugal
Contestant: Salvador Sobral
Age: 27
Song: "Amar Pelos Dois" ("Love For Two")
Interesting fact: The song Salvador Sobral will perform was written by his elder sister Luisa. She is considered as one of the most important songwriters and singers of the new generation of Portuguese musicians.

Advertisement

Action Plan for Ukrainian LGBTI Community

Ukraine was the first of the post-Soviet states to decriminalize consensual gay sex. The relevant law was one of the first of the new state's legal acts. Then the situation of the Ukrainian LGBTI community virtually froze for long years. Almost nothing changed in legislation and public attitudes towards LGBTI people even worsened, evidently because of the ever-growing influence of the country's main churches, both Orthodox and Greek Catholic. Only the deposing of Yanukovich's pro-Russian administration and real reforms tending toward European integration initiated visible changes in Ukrainian LGBTI's legal and social situations.



Billboards of Nash Mir Center to Eurovision 2017

In November 2015 the Ukrainian government adopted the Action Plan to Implement the National Strategy of Human Rights until 2020. It became the first state policy to approach modern Western standards for human rights in many spheres of life. For many vulnerable social groups, including LGBTI people, it was quite a revolutionary one. Under the plan, within three years the Ukrainian legislation and state policies had to implement top necessary measures acknowledging the interests and legal rights of LGBTI people. Included were criminalization of hate crimes from motives of homophobia and transphobia, explicit prohibition of discrimination on

grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity in all spheres of public life, introduction of civil partnership for both opposite-sex and same-sex couples, simplification of gender reassignment procedures, and much more. After one year of the Action Plan's realization we can draw initial conclusions about its actual adoption.

According to estimations by Ukrainian human rights organizations the Action Plan's implementation does not exceed 20%, total level. Likewise for its LGBTI components, but here the situation is much worse than in other fields because up to the present LGBTI community interests have been almost completely ignored in Ukrainian legislation and state policies. The only real development in this sphere during the previous two decades was the addition of sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) as protected grounds in labor legislation in 2015, becoming possible only because of constant pressure from EU institutions. While other vulnerable social groups in Ukraine already have some level of recognition and protection from the state, LGBTI people still remain mostly disregarded and stigmatized. The Ministry of Justice already refused to mention SOGI explicitly in the general anti-discrimination law, the Ministry of Interior tries to avoid amending the Criminal Code according to the Action Plan's provisions on hate crimes, and the only visible success was achieved in changing the rules of gender reassignment. After Uliana Suprun became Acting Minister of Health in 2016, her ministry swiftly started to take up tasks the Action Plan placed on it which had been completely ignored by this government institution's previous leadership. Thus, obviously the realization of the plan's provisions depends entirely on the presence of our country's political leaders' good will. Alas, this will is evidently absent. The most important LGBTI provision of the Action Plan consists of developing a draft civil partnership law available for same-sex couples (as well as for opposite-sex ones (but the latter already have the option of ordinary marriage). The law is due now, in the second quarter of 2017, yet the Ukrainian government still has not even decided which of two ministries – Justice or Social Policy – is responsible for this task and both institutions refuse to implement it! So far only Ukrainian LGBTI and human rights organizations, Nash Mir Center above all, are engaged in pressing for action. We offered our expertise and have even drafted a text of the planned bill to help the government, but every time we've encountered only indifference and the officials' total disregard of their obligations. Nevertheless we do not give up. Nash Mir Center already has twenty years' experience protecting and advocating LGBTI rights in Ukraine.

We developed along with the young Ukrainian democracy, we fought for freedom and equality in the first Maidan – the Orange Revolution – and in the second Euromaidan's Revolution of Dignity. Only after the latter, after the final victory of the pro-European forces over the pro-Russian ones in 2014, have we seen how Ukrainian political parties, society and government began to change their attitudes toward LGBTI issues. A window of possibilities appeared for rapid modernization of Ukrainian society and emancipation of the Ukrainian LGBTI community, so we cannot afford to lose this great chance!

All this became possible only through development of civil society in Ukraine and the permanent efforts of our Western partners pressuring Ukrainian authorities. Also, one cannot underestimate the influence of

changes that happened in Western society and politics during recent decades: the emergence of new international standards of LGBTI rights. Nash Mir Center tries to use every available domestic and international instrument to push the process of realizing these modern standards regarding LGBTI and general human rights issues. Thus, we utilize not only political pressure exerted upon the Ukrainian government to ensure adoption of necessary legislation, but also we resort to strategic litigation by suing Ukraine in the European Court on Human Rights over the absence of any legal form that recognizes same-sex family couples. We hope that these tactics of ours



Billboards of Nash Mir Center to Eurovision 2017

(proven by others to be successful in cases against Greece and Italy) will eventually prompt the Ukrainian government to carry out its obligations and adopt a law on registered partnership. Besides these activities, Nash Mir Center also carries on permanent efforts to protect and serve the interests of the Ukrainian LGBTI community, primarily by monitoring violations of human rights and providing legal assistance to such victims. For instance, a more detailed report on our activity against hate crimes can be found in KyivPost's previous issue, just look for the article The hate that dare not speak its name. Those interested in the situation of LGBTI people in Ukraine can also find up-to-date information at our website www.gay.org.ua. Donations are welcomed.

Andrii Kravchuk, Expert of LGBT Human Rights NASH MIR Center gay.org.ua/en/



Country:
Greece
Contestant:
Demy
Name: Dimitra Papadea
Age: 25
Song: "This is Love"

Interesting fact: Demy was a little music genius in the childhood. She started taking piano classes in the age of five before even going to school. She continues taking piano lessons in the adult life.



Country:
Poland
Contestant:
Kasia Mos
Age: 30
Song: "Flashlight"

Interesting fact: Kasia Mos was born in an artistic family, which determined her life. Her father Marek is a conductor, violinist, and director of the chamber orchestra AUKSO. Her mother Joanna also plays the violin. Her brother Mateusz is a violinist and composer, who has a debut album.



Country:
Moldova
Contestant:
Sunstroke Project
Names: lead singer Sergey Ialovitsky, saxophonist Segey Stepanov, violinist Anton Ragoza.

Age: 30, 32, 31
Song: "Hey Mamma"
Interesting fact: The band represented Moldova in Eurovision 2010 along with the singer Olia Tira. After that saxophonist Sergey Stepanov became

a YouTube star better known as Epic Sax Guy. The video of him dancing and playing the sax during the performance has reached over 20 million views.



Country:
Cyprus
Contestant:
Hovig
Name: Hovig Demirjian
Age: 28
Song: "Gravity"

Interesting fact: Hovig participated in Cyprus selection for Eurovision 2010. He made it to the final but eventually lost to the band Giorgos Alkaio & Friends, who took the eighth place in the grand final of the song contest.



Country:
Armenia
Contestant:
Artsvik
Name: Artsvik Harutyunyan
Age: 32
Song: "Fly With Me"

Interesting fact: Artsvik studied speech therapy and psychology at Moscow State Pedagogical University. Her participation in the Russian version of The Voice made her famous and determined the future as a professional singer.



Country:
Bulgaria
Contestant:
Kristian Kostov
Age: 17
Song: "Beautiful Mess"

Interesting fact: Kristian Kostov was born in Russia, where he also made his first steps as a



Ukraine's O.Torvald performs the song "Time" during the second semi-final dress rehearsal of the Eurovision Song Contest 2017 on May 10 at the International Exhibition Center in Kyiv. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

professional musician. He participated in the Russian version of The Voice Kids and reached the final. Kostov took the fourth place in the vocal competition X Factor in Bulgaria.



Country:
Belarus
Contestant:
Naviband
Names: guitarist Arciom Lukjanienka, vocalist Ksenia Zhuk

Age: 24, 25
Song: "Story of My Life"
Interesting fact: It is the first time when an entry in the Eurovision Song Contest will be performed in Belarusian language, which was defined by UNESCO as an endangered one - meaning it tends to disappear. The band wants to share with Europe their culture and the beauty of their national language.



Country:
Croatia
Contestant:
Jacques Houdek
Age: 36
Song: "My Friend"

Interesting fact: Jacques Houdek is one of the most successful singers among this year's contestants. He is the mentor on The Voice of Croatia. He has released 13 albums which have been certified silver (five times), gold, platinum and diamond.



Country:
Hungary
Contestant:
Joci Papai
Age: 35
Song: "Origo"

Interesting fact: Joci Papai's music is a mixture of authentic Hungarian and gypsy styles, modern pop and electronic beats. He inherited the love to gypsy music from his father, who was the leader of a big gypsy orchestra.



Country:
Denmark
Contestant:
Anja
Name: Anja Nissen
Age: 21
Song: "Where I Am"

Interesting fact: Anja was born and raised in Australia. She won the third season of The Voice Australia in 2014. Anja has always dreamed to represent Denmark in Eurovision as she is Danish as well as her parents and relatives.



Country:
Romania
Contestant:
Ilinca ft. Alex Florea
Names: Maria Ilinca Bacila, Alexandru Ionut Florea
Age: 18, 25

Song: "Yodel It!"
Interesting fact: Ilinca, who was told as a child that singing was not for her, learned yodeling completely on

her own in just a week after she saw an inspiring yodeling performance on "America's Got Talent."



Country:
Israel
Contestant:
IMRI
Name: Imri Ziv
Age: 25
Song: "I Feel Alive"

Interesting fact: Imri has loved music since the very young age. When he was two, Imri has already known the lyrics to Queen's "We Are the Champions" and sang it in front of his family and friends on every possible occasion.



Country:
Norway
Contestant:
JOWST
Names: vocalist Aleksander Walmann, sound engineer Joakim With Steen

Age: 31, 27
Song: "Grab the Moment"
Interesting fact: JOWST were considered to be the biggest underdogs in the national Norwegian selection and eventually won the competition. Bookies predict the band to reach the 25th place but the musicians enjoy being the dark horse again.



Country:
The Netherlands
Contestant:
OG3NE
Names: Lisa, Amy and Shelley Vol
Age: 22, 21, 21
Song: "Lights and Shadows"

Interesting fact: All three members of the band are sisters. Amy and Shelley are twins. The name OG3NE represents their mother's blood type O and the genes that tie the three sisters together.



Country:
Austria
Contestant:
Nathan Trent
Age: 25
Song: "Running On Air"

Interesting fact: Nathan Trent started writing lyrics and music at the age of 11 and since then worked on improving his talent. He writes, composes and arranges his own songs, including his entry for the Eurovision 2017, "Running On Air".

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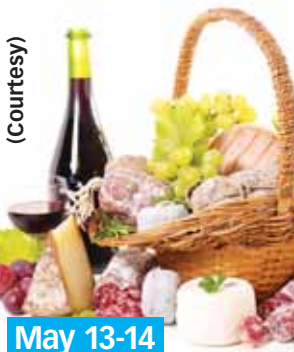
"The patient's needs must always come first, and I must advocate for my patients above everything else. Humility, caring and empathy are essential to being a good doctor. A good internist understands that his ability to investigate his patient's illness comes from a lifetime of continual learning; a caring specialist is worthless if he does not know his stuff."

4 Volodymyra Vynnychenka St., Kyiv
www.uniclinic.com.ua
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May 19
Kyiv Light Festival

Media artists from Ukraine and abroad will display their light shows on various buildings around the capital, including the river station on Poshtova Square, the TSUM shopping mall on Khreshchatyk Street, a building of the central bank in Podil district, and others. There will also be master classes on video-mapping and media art, given by international artists. Visit the kyivlights.com website for full list of locations and festival schedule.
Kyiv Light Festival. May 12-14. 9 p.m. – 11 p.m. River station (1 Poshtova Square St.) TsUM (38 Khreshchatyk St.) National Bank of Ukraine (2B Kontraktova Square). Free



Kyiv Food and Wine Festival

Visitors can participate in cheese-making master classes. Runners can enjoy a 5-kilometer morning Wine Run on May 14 and even win alcohol as prizes.
Kyiv Food and Wine Festival. May 13-14. 10 a.m. – VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Av.) Entrance fee: Hr 90 Wine Run. May 14. 12 p.m. Hr 250 Register for the run at www.athletic-events.com/en/events/419



May 19-21
Tattoo Collection Festival

Tattoo Collection gathers artists to show that tattoos are not just for criminals, as many people believed in Soviet times, but art that enlightens one's soul. Visitors will also witness an interactive Biker show and music performances.
Tattoo Collection Festival. May 19-21. 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Av.) Hr 130-280



Latexfauna

The songs of this Ukrainian dance-pop band are pleasant and breezy, like a spring night in Kyiv. Along with their already popular tracks, the band will perform some new songs.
Latexfauna. May 19. 7 p.m. MonteRay Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) Hr 170

Classical music in the garden

The concert will take place in Kyiv's Gryshko Botanical Garden as the magnolias, lilacs and chestnut trees are in full bloom. The symphony orchestra called Kyiv's Virtuosos will perform masterpieces by Bach, Strauss, Sen-Sans, Tchaikovsky and more.
Classic music in the garden. May 20. 8 p.m. Gryshko Botanical Garden (1 Tymyryazivska st), Hr 300



On music waves

On music waves is a voyage on a motor ship along the Dnipro River that lasts 90 minutes. It's a nice option for a date, as well as a chance to make new friends aboard. Live music and lights of Kyiv will complement the atmosphere.
On music waves, motor ship party. May 13. 7 p.m. Dock #8 of the Dnipro River bank near Poshtova metro station. Hr 200

VI Festival of Brazilian Cinema
to celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations between Ukraine and Brazil

19-21 of May 2017

- 19th of May
The Inheritance (A partilha)
- 20th of May
Central Station (Central do Brasil)
- 21st of May
Hour of the Star (A hora da estrela)

BEGINNING AT 19:00
CULTURAL CENTER "CINEMA KYIV"
19, VELYKA VASYLKYVSKA, 19

Additional information: kiev.itamaraty.gov.br www.facebook.com/brasil.ukraine



United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in Ukraine is looking for highly motivated and competent person to join our team for the following position: **Communication and Advocacy Specialist**.

Detailed job description and application instructions are available at below link: http://www.unfpa.org.ua/procurement_and_jobs/714.html

Application deadline – 22 May 2017

MINI RESUME

Technical auditor/consultant

Project manager with extensive experience fulfills services:

- Due diligence of construction
- Due diligence of developments
- Contract preparation negotiation
- Monthly valuation of GC works
- Construction monitoring

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Yuri



Financial Sector Specialist - Agriculture Insurance

Location: Kyiv, Ukraine

IFC is looking to recruit a financial sector/agricultural insurance expert for a term position to work on the establishment and development of agriculture insurance by working with Government and legislators/regulators to improve the laws, regulations and sector oversight to foster the proper and robust development of agriculture insurance, and work with the private sector to develop and advance new and useful insurance products to foster lending and overall growth of the agriculture.

The duties of the Analyst will include: develop an agriculture insurance system concept with the government bodies like Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Regulator, and other stakeholders; participate in the drafting/amending of laws, normative acts, and regulations with respect to agri-insurance system development; map the task and information flow of the MoA, the Regulator and other stakeholders; facilitate the development of statutes to support operations of the Public Private Partnership or oversight entity; mentor/coach/observe that the entity is operating well/troubleshooting; work to create public awareness, design materials and training programs, train farmers and other stakeholders, write articles, etc. to promote the understanding and uptake of agriculture insurance; provide individual consultations to project stakeholders where needed to understand their position or to work out compromises and agreement;

assist the Program Manager in any other duties as required.

Please follow the link to get more details on the assignment and apply for the position (Selection #: 170953) http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/careers_ext_content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/IFC+Careers/Career%20Opportunities/CareerOpportunityPlaceHolder?JobReqNo=170953

Applicants must submit their CV and Cover Letter indicating their experience in one or more of the key areas listed above.

Deadline for applications – **May 23, 2017**.



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM) provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts – to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH OF UKRAINE:

- Marketing Specialist;
- PR & Communication Specialist;
- Security Lead;
- National Authorization Specialist.

FOR THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE:

- Youth Police Legal Advisor;
- Youth Police Capacity Development Expert.

FOR THE REFORM OF STATE FISCAL SERVICE (SFS):

- Customs Expert in Development;
- Customs Expert in Implementation;
- Tax Expert;
- FIA Expert.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AUDIT PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE:

- Risk Assessments Coordinator;
- The Quality management System Coordinator;
- Policy Advisor;
- Legal Coordinator;
- Finance Coordinator;
- Project Manager.

FOR THE NATIONAL DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION REFORM OFFICE (NDIRO):

- Team Lead.

FOR THE UKRAINE INVESTMENT PROMOTION OFFICE:

- Business Relationship Manager.

FOR THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION (NAPC):

- Communications Expert.

FOR THE PROJECT OFFICE FOR SECTORAL DECENTRALIZATION (POSD):

- Sector Lead (5 positions);
- Administrative Officer.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>



Peace Corps

The Peace Corps of the United States

seeks applications from qualified, dynamic, motivated candidates for vacant position of:

- **Financial Assistant (Maternity Leave Replacement until o/a May 2018).**

This post offers the right candidates significant professional development opportunities, competitive remuneration, and a pleasant working environment.

For full details on the vacancy announcement, application and selection process, please visit our website <https://www.peacecorps.gov/ukraine/contracts/>. The deadline for applications is **May 25, 2017**.



Financial Sector Specialist - Crop Receipts- Kyiv, Ukraine

Location: Kyiv, Ukraine

IFC is looking to recruit a Financial Sector Specialist for a term position to serve as an expert to the Ukraine Crop Receipts Project who will be working to establish crop receipts in the market (in a business context).

The duties of the Financial Sector Specialist will include: design and develop value propositions to various audiences in specialized contexts where crop receipts could be used; strategize and design new ways to use crop receipts (i.e. milk receipt, value added processing, working with smaller farmers); provide advice and advisory services to facilitate the uptake of crop receipts; involvement in the strategic development and planning of the Ukraine crop receipts project; design training program for farmers, input suppliers, traders, distributors, value chains, and market stakeholders to facilitate business details/strategies to enter a crop receipt arrangement; deliver the training to the above-mentioned stakeholders; and organize and lead regional training.

Please follow the link to get more details on the assignment and apply for the position (Selection #: 170955) http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/careers_ext_content/IFC_External_Corporate_Site/IFC+Careers/Career%20Opportunities/CareerOpportunityPlaceHolder?JobReqNo=170955

Applicants must submit their CV and Cover Letter indicating their experience in one or more of the key areas listed above.

Deadline for applications – **May 23, 2017**.



Chemonics International, an international development consulting firm, implementing USAID/OTI-funded Ukraine Confidence Building Initiative II which aims to enable vulnerable Eastern communities to actively participate in, benefit from, and advocate for Ukraine's transition to a prosperous, unified, and democratic state, is looking for qualified professionals to fill the following positions in Kyiv:

1. Program Development Officer (PDO) for Media Program and Partners.

The selected program development officer will function as a media specialist – focusing on the program's media portfolio.

2. Finance Assistant

3. Program Development Assistant

Send electronic submissions to gmurecruit@gmail.com by **May 21, 2017**.

Please insert the position you are applying for in the subject line and include your CV and a cover letter/statement of interest explaining interest in and qualifications for the job.

Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis and only finalists will be contacted. Interested prospective applicants are encouraged to visit UCBI's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USAIDUCBI/> and www.chemonics.com for more detailed information.

Announcement



U.S. firm seeking Ukrainian manufacturer of aluminum brazed automotive style intercoolers (charge coolers) and radiators.

Contact Richard Mason, Ukrainian-American Trade Association, San Diego, California.

ukramer988@gmail.com, Phone or FAX 858-487-8316

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Advertising in the Classifieds section

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HealthRight International is seeking

Chief of Party, Deputy Chief of Party, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser for the upcoming five-year ServingLife Project of USAID, based in Kyiv

For more information see: www.healthright.org.ua

Send CV, cover letter, recommendations and salary history by email to halyna.skipalska@healthright.org. The deadline is **May 25, 2017**.

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