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Lost Children

BY OKSANA
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MYKOLAYIV – In her simple, flower-print sundress and plain sandals, 17-year-old Svitlana appears to lead an ordinary teenage life. She recently passed her school exams and plans to enter a medical college. But her night life is much different.

Most evenings Svitlana walks the streets of the southern port city of Mykolayiv, selling sex services. A tall, long-haired and good-looking brunette, Svitlana has been in this line of work for the last nine months, but she still feels →3

A young sex worker looks for clients in the Ukrainian city of Mykolayiv. About 11,000-15,000 adolescents work as prostitutes in Ukraine. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Court resurrects landmark privatization case

BY KATERYNA KAPLIUK AND
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A local court in Kyiv has suddenly restarted an eight-year-old trial on the privatization of Kryvorizhstal, which could potentially take it out of the hands of a foreign investor and return it to a company that two well-connected oligarchs had established to purchase it during the first state sale.

If the Kyiv Commercial Court takes

the side of Investment-Metallurgical Union, the plaintiff appealing the steel mill's 2005 reversed nationalization, it would negate what was viewed by many as Ukraine's only transparent and competitive privatization, which brought nearly \$5 billion to state coffers.

The first hearing in this case was set for June 4, but then postponed to June 18 when the plaintiff failed to show up. Rinat Akhmetov and Viktor Pinchuk, two of the richest people in the country, owned IMU when they bought the

mill for \$800 million on June 14, 2004.

Akhmetov currently owns 49.9 percent of IMU. Pinchuk's share in the special-purpose vehicle is not known.

However, Akhmetov's System Capital Management said in a statement it does not know why the court resumed the investigation into the claim filed by IMU eight years ago.

"SCM representatives have neither filed any applications or petitions to the Kyiv Commercial Court nor appeared in court," read the statement.

Pinchuk's EastOne holding told Kyiv

Post it has not moved on the case for years.

ArcelorMittal, the world's leading integrated steel and mining company, was the giant mill's second buyer paying \$4.8 billion in 2005, after a nationalization that saw Akhmetov and Pinchuk lose control of it.

ArcelorMittal's representative said the company was worried about the case. Supervisory board member Serhiy Piontkovsky told Kyiv Post that although the company does not feature in the suit and the company's rights

will not be affected, there may be others that follow.

"This lawsuit has no effect on us, but it can serve as an impetus for other cases which, in turn, theoretically may somehow affect our rights," he said.

At the time of the first privatization, Pinchuk's father-in-law was then-President Leonid Kuchma. Akhmetov was already the richest man in Ukraine, and was a key backer of then-Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Foreign investors submitted higher bids than IMU's \$800 million but were →2

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Arbuzov, diplomats, oligarch, enter Swissport's quagmire

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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As Swissport's legal battle against Ukraine International Airlines draws to a close, stakes are rising with the first deputy prime minister, diplomats and one of Ukraine's ten richest oligarchs getting involved.

UIA won a court case on March 27 giving it full control over the nation's largest airport cargo handler at the expense of its former joint-venture partner Zurich-based Swissport International.

On the same day it won the rights to and immediately purchased 70 percent of Swissport's share in the joint-venture for just \$400,000, at less than 1 percent of its true value, according to Swissport's estimates, thus inheriting a company worth \$25 million.

UIA argued it was Swissport that assessed the share price value in the first place and that its 30 percent minority rights were breached. Swissport refuted the allegations and said it had treated UIA amicably, noting the airline constantly struggled to meet its share obligations to invest in the company.

Then UIA quickly rebranded Swissport Ukraine into Interavia, and Aron Mayberg, the airline's chairman, announced on April 18 that management had set the task of submitting a business plan and a long-term development strategy.

And when Swissport's senior vice president Mark Skinner called the ruling an "unfortunate consequence of a successful hostile raider attack (by) Ukraine International Airlines and its main shareholder (and Chairman Aron Mayberg)," the airline rejected the accusations and backed its claims with legal arguments by international law firm Cameron McKenna.

All this came on the heels of UIA reporting a net profit of \$3.25 million for 2012, the first time it has been in the black since 2009, when its profits were a third of last year's.

Meanwhile, Swissport fought tooth and nail to regain its Ukrainian business, which had 800 employees, some 20 customers, and was experiencing double-digit growth. On April 16 it appealed the unfavorable ruling with the Economic Court, the nation's highest court for commercial cases, with the trial scheduled for June 11.

On the sidelines, Swissport has applied diplomatic and political pressure. The Swiss and French embassies – Swissport is owned by PAI partners, a French private equity firm – have discussed the case with First Deputy Prime Minister Serhiy Arbuzov and Swissport's local lawyers from DLA Piper, Skinner told the Kyiv Post.

In late May Arbuzov became the chairman for a re-tooled inter-government commission to protect investors' rights and combat illegal mergers and company takeovers.

Ukraine's Cabinet recently raised the agency's status by filling it with ministry and department heads, instead of their deputies, as it was before. It also boosted its powers and spread the scope of its functions, notably to protecting investors' rights.

"We've been told our case is at the top of the list to be handled," Skinner told the Kyiv Post on June 4.

Arbuzov's spokesperson Oleksandr Kutereshchyn said the commission will hold its first meeting shortly but did not specify a date and said the first deputy prime minister will start a round of meetings with European Union ambassadors next week to discuss their concerns, "including the Swissport case."

Meanwhile, Skinner said "one of Ukraine's 10 richest oligarchs" has offered to mediate the corporate dispute. He would not name the individual, however, and believes the oligarch's approach "was a tactical move to see what we know" because no progress has been made.

Despite these new developments, Swissport has little hope of winning the appeal.

"We've lost all trust in the legal system of Ukraine... the damage has already been done in a very non-transparent way," Skinner told the Kyiv Post during an April interview.

Indeed, the case appeared to be rigged from the outset. It had six scheduled hearings, three of which

were postponed and two of which saw the judge changed at the last minute.

"Regarding the court decisions there are several odd indications that due process principles were not respected, the decisions are in our opinion not in line with local law and we have lost, based on our bad experience, the faith in the proper functioning of the legal system," Skinner said, adding he learned of the court's March 27 decision a day in advance.

At the appeals trial Swissport's legal team plans to argue the previous courts and judges had "decided wrongly based on wrong facts that were not in-line with Ukrainian legislation," Skinner explained.

"We will seek vindication," he concluded.

Should Swissport lose the case, Skinner promised to re-enter the Ukrainian market.

"Ukraine has shown fantastic growth rates – it's always double digit. But the joint-venture partner wasn't the right one, so we need to be careful with whom we team up, or go in without a partner. We would compete with UIA, but I don't think there will be competition for long – Ukraine's ground handlers cannot keep up with our safety levels and we should be able to outperform," Skinner said confidently.

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Kyiv court moves on claim to reverse state sale of Kryvorizhstal

→1 rejected because of tender conditions that many believed were designed to favor the oligarchs' bid.

Several months later, after power in the nation shifted to the team of President Viktor Yushchenko and his Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in the wake of the Orange Revolution, the results of the tender were annulled through the courts.

The mill was sold again, this time to Mittal Steel for \$4.8 billion, which to this day remains the highest amount received from the sale of state assets.

In March 2005 IMU challenged the State Property Fund's decision to annul the original privatization of Kryvorizhstal, and the case has remained dormant ever since.

A year later IMU filed a lawsuit in the European Court for Human Rights, claiming its property rights were breached as a result of the nationalization.

Serhiy Vlasenko, a prominent lawyer who represented IMU at the time, made this statement to the press then: "If someone wants to buy a 'Kryvorizhstal', we are warning – this object is defective. Tomorrow or the day after the European Court, which, fortunately, is not controlled by the Ukrainian government, could return the steel mill to the IMU."

The resurrection of the case in Kyiv coincided with increased media attention on ArcelorMittal's employment policy. In particular, at the end of May, TV talk show host Savik Shuster dedicated a program to the dismissal



Founder of Mittal Steel Lakshmi Niwas Mittal (left), his son and top executive talk to the press after winning the bid for Kryvyi Rih Steel Mill on Oct. 24, 2005. Mittal paid \$4.8 billion for 93 percent of the steel mill's shares. Kyiv's Commercial Court has now revived an eight-year-old case that could reverse the nationalization that allowed Mittal to buy the steel mill at a repeat auction. (UNIAN)

of workers at ArcelorMittal Kryvyi Rih.

Oleg Marchenko, managing partner of Ulysses law firm says there have to be political reasons behind the renewal of the case. "To launch or not to launch the case is an issue of business and political interests," he says.

Marchenko said there may be legal reasons behind the claim. "When this

asset was taken away, it was done very quickly and possibly with some violations of procedure. Maybe now the plaintiffs are trying to get it back," Marchenko said.

He said that now the asset is worth less than what Arcelor Mittal paid for it initially, possibly about \$3 billion. "Arcelor might try to either block

the court hearing, or get back \$4.8 billion of their investment for an asset worth \$3 billion. Possibly both sides will be satisfied."

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Teenage sex workers tell their stories of hardship

→ **1** extremely sad and uncomfortable when she talks about it.

Many sex workers turn to selling their bodies out of financial need and scant job prospects, while others choose this ancient profession for selfish reasons to buy goods they would not normally afford.

"I had family problems, bitterly needed money. And my friend, who has been doing this job for about seven years, invited me to try this," she says looking down, refusing to give her last name for fear of hurting her mother, who is unaware of her profession.

"Initially I didn't want (to work as a prostitute), but then I agreed," she adds.

Svitlana is one of approximately 11,000-15,000 teenage girls involved in Ukraine's underground sex business, according to UNICEF, the United Nations' children's fund. Most of them grew up in boarding schools, come from troubled families or experienced sexual abuse in the past.

"These children are only trying out this kind of behavior," says Olena Sakovych, youth and adolescent development specialist at UNICEF. "As they don't know how to protect themselves, they are extremely vulnerable (to sexually transmitted diseases, violence and other dangers)."

Oleksandra, 17, tall and slim with long fair hair, wears a cap over her face to hide as much of it as she can. Although she wouldn't say whether she's currently a sex worker, Oleksandra admit-

ted to working on the streets since the age of 14, when she periodically began to run away from her boarding school together with friends.

"We were earning the way we could," she explains.

Oleksandra was sent to an orphanage at the age of two, after her mother went to Moscow to make a living and never came back, and her grandmother was deprived of parental rights. She never knew her father.

There are more than 94,000 children like her living in various boarding schools in Ukraine while another 100,000 live and work on the streets, UNICEF data shows.

At the boarding school Oleksandra "was living quite a promiscuous life, along with other girls," and the school administration was supposedly unaware of it. But it was quickly discovered by some social volunteers who visited the school.

The volunteers persuaded Oleksandra to visit UNITUS, a Mykolayiv-based charitable foundation working with sex workers, including about 400 adolescents. There, the teenager was offered medical assistance and psychological support.

Sitting at the UNITUS office, she explains why she is now a regular visitor here. "They are helping me, morally supporting me. They don't blame me for anything," she says.

Tetiana Vanenkova, who founded UNITUS in 2000, said the number of adolescents offering sex services



Adolescent sex workers stand on a dimly lit street in Mykolayiv, a port city in southern Ukraine. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

for money or other remuneration in Mykolayiv is currently growing. "And this is very scary."

Unlike Oleksandra, many teenagers coming to UNITUS deny involvement in the sex business, speaking honestly only with psychologists behind closed doors.

"These kids have very low self-esteem, they lack self-confidence, they don't have the life skills allowing them to stay afloat," Vanenkova says.

With their risky lifestyle, these adolescents have higher chances of becoming infected with sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. According to UNICEF estimates, in 2011 about 40 percent of adolescent sex workers engaged in unprotected sex, with the

number rising to 51 percent for children living on the streets.

For adult sex workers this figure hovers below 10 percent, according to the International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine.

Despite some progress in curbing the HIV epidemic, Ukraine together with Russia remains Europe's leader in the rate of new infections, with 7,463 new cases of HIV registered in 2013 alone, health ministry data shows.

The rate of HIV/AIDS infections is currently the highest in the southern and eastern regions of Ukraine, including Mykolayiv, once a center of the shipbuilding industry but currently an economically depressed area.

UNITUS social workers encourage

regular testing. Galyna Usatenko, a venereal disease doctor at the center, tries to reassure a client as she takes a blood sample from her finger. "Don't worry, you will not die," she says.

At night Usatenko also treats patients in a minivan that offers medical services to sex workers on location where they seek clients. But for teenagers, psychological help is even more important, volunteers say.

"Many of them have fears related to the future. They fear dying, fear imprisonment, fear getting pregnant or being infected with HIV," says Inna Sidko, head of the recently founded Youth Friendly Clinic, supported by UNICEF.

Oleksandra says regular conversations with a psychologist helped her rethink her life and change her behaviour. "They told me how to find ways out from various situations, told me that I shouldn't be as selfish as I was," she says.

Oleksandra is now enrolled in a local college and intends to pursue her education in Lviv, in western Ukraine. She adds that she's had a steady boyfriend for the last 2.5 years and hopes to marry him one day.

With a warm smile Oleksandra remembers a social worker who guided her to UNITUS three years ago. "She saw that I still had a chance to become a decent person," she says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com.

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Electronic payments: lifestyle fad or business must?

Developing transparency and legal framework for e-payments

Do you want to increase your sales? Do you dream of speed and convenience? Non-cash payments can help to achieve these aims.

As a matter of fact, new technologies concern not only mobile and networking experiences but electronic payments as well.

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For all the above-mentioned reasons, the EBA Electronic Payment Committee supports the initiatives concerning electronic payments, as the technology is considered to be one of the main tools for the simplification of doing business.



SERGEY SHATSKIY

Raiffeisen Bank Aval,
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For rather long period of time legislative framework for non-cash payments was underdeveloped in Ukraine. High interest of consumers and rapid development of new technologies (Internet, smartphones, etc.) fostered the regulatory developments in electronic payments sector.

The EBA Electronic Payments Committee fully supports all initiatives aimed at increase of electronic payments' share in Ukraine's economy. We welcome the initiatives on limitation of cash payments at legislative level, salary and state funded payments (state aid, etc.) on card accounts, financial education of population. In particular important is also to create legislative background for functioning of electronic money as payment mechanism in Ukraine. The recently published for discussion draft NBU resolution on this topic updates the regulation of electronic money in our country.

Non-cash sector in Ukraine develops rapidly but is still behind most of European or even some CIS countries. Being an international community of companies, our Committee constantly suggests solutions for Ukrainian e-payments field which have been already tried out in other economies. We welcome all interested companies operating in electronic payments sector to join this interesting and essential process of experience sharing.

Latest developments are driving interest in new payment technologies, including digital money and mobile payments, around the world. Speed, safety and mobility are among the leading advantages of online-payments. Some commentators have cited anonymity as another feature of online-payments, but this is a myth. As we know, international anti-money laundering control structures encompass virtual payments. E-Gold, Liberty Reserve and other examples demonstrate the need of the transparency of internet-payments.

Incognito status in the online-payments system is an unprofitable way both for users and developers. WebMoney customers can choose a pseudonym "James Bond". But a bank or money transfer system will withdraw the funds sent to "James Bond" only if a person presents a passport with James Bond's name. So, customers should refuse incognito status for access to all services of WebMoney.

Thus, anonymity is not an advantage of electronic payments. The practice of transparency and anti-anonymity in internet-transfers corresponds entirely to international standards, FATF's recommendations and the national interest of Ukraine.



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Editorials

J-Day present

Leading up to and on June 6 – Ukraine's professional holiday for journalists – the Kyiv Post newsroom was flooded with cakes, chocolates, fruit baskets and notebooks. This is how we were greeted. Officials of all ranks, from the president to the mayor of the smallest town in Ukraine, feel it their duty to speak about the importance of the profession and praise those who dedicate themselves to the fearless pursuit of truth.

But the reality is that many who make these speeches of high praise are the ones who interfere with our jobs, do their best to hinder our work, deeply fear and disrespect our profession and ignore our exposure of corruption, nepotism, lawlessness and general lack of competency.

But money can't buy what Ukraine's journalists want: a major attitude shift in society, starting with the lowest ranking civil servants and politicians, up to the nation's leaders.

We would like to stop being attacked by hired thugs during rallies that we are sent to report on. We would like the police to quit standing by as journalists get beaten and start to "serve and protect" the citizenry by cracking down on crimes. We would like them to follow up on such incidents with swift, thorough and professional investigations rather than with excuses.

We would like for media owners to start figuring out what editorial independence is: full newsroom control and judgment of what issues to cover or not to cover, who to hire and fire for professional reasons, and so on.

We would like government officials whose salaries are paid by taxpayers to serve the public, to stop brushing off our requests for information, and grant access to information that is of general public interest.

We would like the greatest reward of all: to see action based on the findings of our stories, be they about the suffering of orphans or high-level corruption related to presidential residences.

Much of our time is dedicated to reporting every day on the brutal violations of human rights, and it's depressing enough. To see all that work come to nothing is even worse. Hopelessness is a feeling most journalists in Ukraine know a lot about. So, the gift of hope would be the best.

No dialog

This year's annual presidential address to parliament took on a curious form. Normally, the president appears before the legislature and delivers his vision of where the country is and where it's going, much like the U.S. State of the Union Address.

Yet in a disturbing trend of growing self-seclusion, President Viktor Yanukovich on June 6 decided not to bother. Instead, he sent a voluminous 570-page document to lawmakers, and went to Serbia for a state visit, leaving the legislative branch of government to ponder what this was all about.

This audaciously strange way of delivering a national progress report, once again, highlights the lack of communication and coordination between branches of power. It also reflects a bigger picture: incomunicado between the authorities and the Ukrainian public, and it's growing.

A case in point was when the prime minister's team decided to organize a large conference on key issues related to investment, business and the economy. Planned for 1,000 people, it saw 1.5 times that number register in the first week, according to one of the organizers. This shows the degree of desperation in society to be heard by the government.

The president's address to the nation also clearly shows the bubble of isolation in which the authorities live. To summarize, his team of economists and aides tried spinning the lot of gloomy 2012 statistics into achievements, growth and improvement.

"The policy of reform has already brought a positive effect," the president wrote in his address without providing details. "Ukraine has restrained the negative influence of the European depression of 2012. In many countries of the world the level of life has significantly declined. In Ukraine we have managed to prevent it."

The president's team must have felt they needed to keep a poker face, but there is evidence it's not working. The Democratic Initiatives Foundation, a respected independent think tank in Ukraine, released a new poll on June 5 that shows only 6.5 percent of Ukrainians fully trust the president. By contrast, 45 percent do not trust him at all.

The president's (and the broader government's) failure to admit problems, to communicate them to the people and seek solutions jointly does not help anyone, least of all the president himself, who is now too accustomed to hiding from the public behind the tall fence of his Mezhyhirya residence.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine made some progress on reforms last week, but not exactly on those outlined by the EU in order for Ukraine to sign an Association Agreement and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the 27-member coalition in Vilnius this autumn. On May 20, the Cabinet of Ministers released new designs for prosecutors' uniforms. Among the improvements are real karakul fur collars on new overcoats and gold-colored epaulettes on shirts.

Censorship by violence



OLGA CHERVAKOVA

One of my friends recently told me a story about the son of her friends. He had to be taken to a psychologist after watching news on TV about a mother killing her child.

At the end of the 18th century, many West European countries The Sorrows of Young Werther, a novel by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe. The protagonist commits suicide by shooting himself because of unrequited love. The book was banned because of a series of suicides committed by young men in the same manner. That's when the connection between publication of information about violence and its social effects was made.

The U.S. and many European countries have legal mechanisms regulating the media when it comes to reporting on violence. Many media also have codes and standards about reporting such incidents.

In Britain it is forbidden to show close-ups of severed limbs after accidents. There are clear regulations for how

many seconds and how closely you can show such videos. This is not censorship, but a way to be responsible about every word you say and every frame you screen.

In Ukraine, it's not regulated. The only thing that can potentially restrain newsrooms are personal ethics of journalists. Unfortunately, not everyone has them.

Just a few weeks ago, I walked into a cutting room and bumped into a young female editor with a very red face. She turns around and tells me: "I can't edit this." It was a video of a news item about the rape of a nine-year-old girl. But other people can do it.

Imitation of television

There is a direct correlation between media reports about suicides and the increase in numbers of suicides, especially among teenagers. Suicides, as well as other forms of violence are known to have produced copycats.

Does this mean that news of violence should be hushed? No. It means that it needs to be done carefully and guided by the principle of "do not harm." I found a document developed by the department of mental health of the World Health Organization, published in 2000, entitled "Prevention of suicides."

In it are recommendations for media workers, how news about suicides should be reported as to not harm →5

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Vasylkiv elections: the crime that could have happened



OLGA
AIVAZOVSKA

On June 2 Ukraine held 117 pre-term elections of town and village heads, as well as by-elections to local councils of various levels. The most explosive of the lot was the mayoral election in Vasylkiv, Kyiv Oblast.

This race, and the various manipulative practices employed, should be considered a case study for the nation. Some experts have already tagged it as a preparation for the presidential election of 2015, just as the Mukachevo mayoral elections were a test run for 2004.

I truly hope this is not the case. Otherwise, it will be really difficult to defend citizens' rights to a free election and honest vote count.

The unremarkable community of Vasylkiv, with expensive land just outside of Kyiv, has lived without an elected mayor for two years until it finally was able to exercise its electoral rights, as provided by article 38 of Ukraine's Constitution.

It is this article that guarantees citizen participation in governance of state affairs, local governance, and the right to elect and be elected.

According to the parallel count organized at every polling station by the OPORA watchdog, the turnout was only 32.28 percent. Official figures are somewhat higher: 35.27 percent. The gap between the main candidates, Serhiy Sabov of the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform and Volodymyr Sabadash of the Party of Regions was close to 240, according to both the territorial election commission and observers.

But there were many people who allegedly came to the polling station, signed for receiving ballots and disappeared into thin air. What was the point of that?

OPORA's own count only registered the ballots that were cast in the ballot box, but not those which were received by voters. The gist of what happened is that we bore witness to an attempt to commit a crime which would have been committed had it not been for significant social resonance.

The devil in the details of the Vasylkiv elections was hidden in the artificially high turnout. Preparations were underway to stuff almost 400



A woman casts a ballot in Vasylkiv, Kyiv region, on June 2, when the town elected its mayor. Ukraine had 117 by-elections of mayors and local councillors on that day. (UNIAN)

ballots in four polling stations, and steal the election documents.

If election commission members who were involved in falsification are not punished, in the future there will be nobody to stop those groups of criminals who stole the ballots.

Elections to the Verkhovna Rada in five problematic majority constituencies, which will happen one day, will become a point of no return for the whole country, if the same instruments are used as in the case of the Vasylkiv mayoral election.

At polling station number 321,181, located in a hospital in the town of Bila Tserkva, there were 1,061 stubs left in the hands of election officials, who claim to have given out the same number of ballots. But the number of ballots in the box was 844.

The same happened at other polling stations. At station number 321,185 in another hospital, there were 115 ballots missing, and at a neighboring polling station an election official was caught trying to stuff 70 marked ballots to boost the performance of one of the candidates.

All these manipulations cannot have happened

without the participation of commission members. It seems that the "extra" ballots were set aside during the morning sessions of polling commissions, during which there were no journalists or observers. We can only guess about the authenticity of signatures of the voters who allegedly received them.

In my own opinion, the mass ballot stuffing did not take place for two reasons: the required candidate won anyway, and there was a lot of media interest in this election. It's very hard to do it when 18 members of the commission are sitting across from 40 observers, journalists, athletes, and parliament members of all stripes. It was even risky to plan the ballot stuffing.

However, it was clear that the system was ready for it. You could read it on the faces of the territorial election commission who received reports from polling stations where none of the numbers balanced out.

So far, there has been no investigations into any of the crimes, like the stealing of election documentation. And that means that more of them will follow.

Olga Aivazovska is the head of OPORA, the biggest independent election watchdog in Ukraine.



VOX
populi

WITH
TARAS IVANYSHYN

At the Kyiv Post's Employment Fair on June 1, we asked employers what qualities they look for in workers.



Polina Tkacheva,
talent specialist at British American Tobacco
We appreciate a worker's willingness to learn

fast. As our job is often dynamic, they have to be ready for changes.



Albina Kisilevich,
recruitment specialist at Leroy Merlin
At the lowest level we want to see a worker's roundness.

The second level is roundness plus experience. The last level includes all positive qualities and professional experience.



Evgenia Muro-dshoeva,
public relations manager at Astapov Lawyers
We look for motivated and responsible workers

with a lot of common sense All the rest is everyone's own history and experience.



Anna Kulakovskaya,
head of recruitment at Kyivstar
There are such values as maturity and crystallised personal-

ity. We expect workers to be willing to improve themselves. Nowadays life can't be stable, it's got to keep going on, so your skills are going to change.



Kateryna Andreeva,
marketing manager at Lavrinyovych & Partners
We are looking for confident workers with leadership

qualities able to do an excellent job. A high level of English is one of the most important demands

Media need ethical code

→4 society. It's basically a list of prohibitions: a suicide cannot be reported as a routine event. Details should be withdrawn about the exact manner of suicide. You cannot describe the situation that caused it as "hopeless" and present the reasons as if they justify the action.

Every such report should have a comment by a psychologist condemning the action and explaining that there are many ways out, and reminding about help hotlines whose numbers should be shown below.

These are just a portion of the demands. But tell me, when was the last time you saw Ukrainian TV adhering to at least one? I almost never have. Because if you report this way, the poignancy of the material, its heat will disappear, and any editor will tell you it is "pathetic crap." That's why until recently all self-respecting newsrooms have refrained from such themes: to report on them brightly would produce maniacs, and to report otherwise would not make sense.

Vadym Tytushko and other zombies

At the May 18 opposition rally thugs in sports gear beat up my colleague Olya Snitsarchuk. This happened before the eyes of hundreds of people, and in the presence of police. Many people were upset about violence against a woman, but few understood the reasons behind it.

The attacker, Tytushko, later explained that he

was invited to the rally. He came there specially to fight, realized exactly what it meant, and did not see anything inappropriate about it. He wasn't bothered about attacking peaceful demonstrators. He calmly pondered his "noble" mission of "supporting order," and this is what order looks like in his head, obviously.

Why? Unfortunately, in Ukrainian society nobody ever condemned violence. When in 2011, Ukrainian journalists decided to boycott Party of Regions MP Mykhailo Chechetov, there was just one reason behind it: his blatant lies that his opposition colleagues, which had been beaten by the Party of Regions representatives by throwing chairs on top of their heads, sort of "did it themselves."

Leader of the faction Oleksandr Yefremov, from media demanded an apology, instead talked nonsense about the need "to bring order to parliament." This must have been the same order as Tytushko's. The act of terrible violence was not condemned by any of the politicians, but bloody consequences followed.

This spring, when MP Iryna Gorina was hit by a block of ice on the head, many people laughed at what they called a mock concussion. People said "she deserves it; this is revenge to the Regions for driving people to this state."

The attack was only condemned by Iryna Gerashchenko of the Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reform and Yulia Tymoshenko, the two women who know what it is like to suffer from violence.

So is the attack on Snitsarchuk really that surprising? It's only natural in a society where violence has become normal in both politics and at home. And TV, as a social institution, is involved.

When TV shows news about one young man beating up another, a third one like Tytushko will come into the street thinking there is nothing wrong with what saw.

We're living in a pathological society, most of which is incapable of critically assessing what they see on TV. And when journalists report on a mother who killed two children, we need to know that some will take it as an example. This is very dangerous: by talking about violence, we produce more violence.

Ukraine's TV is a true catastrophe. News about murders, rapes and everyday home violence grab headlines. TV managers explain this ensures good viewer ratings, but the channels could not care less about the social impact.

Basically, what is happening is a hidden type of censorship, when journalists have to report not on what's important, but what drives ratings. And I am no longer sure what is more dangerous: political censorship or this type of reporting.

Olga Chervakova is a former parliamentary correspondent for STB, a TV channel that belongs to Viktor Pinchuk. She quit recently because she disagreed with the channel's editorial policy. This op-ed was first published on www.korrespondent.net and is reprinted with the author's permission.



Agriculture has become the biggest driver of economic growth in Ukraine, particularly in the nation's central regions, like Poltava Oblast. (courtesy)

Dupont to launch \$40 million seed facility in Poltava Oblast

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Global agribusiness giant Dupont Pioneer will open a \$40 million seed production facility in Poltava Oblast on June 11, a move the company's commercial unit director for Ukraine and Russia Csaba Molnar expects will help lift Ukraine's notoriously low yields. It also confirms the trend that agribusiness is one of the few sectors where foreign investment is still strong.

Molnar has high hopes. "Ukraine is already a global player in export markets, in the last three years Ukraine was the number three exporter of corn. Just imagine if the yields increase to European levels of 9 or 10 tons (per hectare), then Ukraine can export over 50 million tons of grain. Ukraine may challenge the U.S.," he said.

The average corn yield in Ukraine was 5.9 tons per hectare in 2012, while recent years averaged from 4 to 6 tons per hectare. If the government's plan to export 80 million tons is to be realized, Molnar noted, significant improvements are needed.

Analysts say Ukraine is expected to export 23 million tons in this growing season, ending on June 30.

While Dupont works with genetically modified organisms abroad, in Ukraine local rules limit it to traditional methods. Nonetheless, Molnar points to farmers that use high-quality seeds

and techniques — who manage to get yields of 9 to 10 tons — as a sign of the country's potential.

At present, Dupont's plant has a capacity of 5,000 tons of corn, and will open a sunflower line with a capacity of 2,000 tons next year. Dupont also sells rapeseed and sorghum in Ukraine, but does not plan to work with these crops at the Poltava plant.

While foreign direct investments in Ukraine have plummeted, agribusiness is one sector bucking the trend. Among others, Dupont competitor Monsanto hopes to launch a \$140 million facility in 2015.

This interest stems from droughts and poor yields globally that have raised prices, while Ukraine has a lot of room for growth by improving logistics and technology. Ihor Ostapchuk from the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club told the Kyiv Post. That said, red tape and a tough business environment are holding many back, he added.

According to Molnar, Dupont did not run into major bureaucratic problems — a rarity in Ukraine's difficult business climate — and has good relations with local authorities, who want jobs and investment in the region. The plant will hire 70 people on a permanent basis, with an additional 200 seasonal workers.

Kyiv Post chief editor Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com

Tough job search awaits Ukraine's new graduates

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Recent reports from the International Labour Organization (ILO) show that Ukraine's upcoming university graduates face the same problems as their counterparts everywhere. According to Ukraine's employment professionals, there are ways to navigate this difficult environment.

The employment situation is grim for young people, who make up 40 percent of the world's unemployed, according to figures released by the ILO. Moreover, they need to compete for a shrunken pool of jobs. In its report released on June 3, the ILO claims global unemployment will rise from 196 million people in 2011 to about 202 million in 2013.

The report shows Ukraine has maintained a stable employment ratio, or the percentage of people aged 15 and older that currently employed. After rising over 2008-2010, the employment ratio has almost returned to its 2007 level of just over 60 percent, according to ILO methodology (67 percent by Ukrainian methodology). This suggests that long-term joblessness has not increased substantially.

Total unemployment is not far off its 1995-2010 average of 8.8 percent, according to The Economist. Some 543,000 Ukrainians were unemployed as of May 2013, according to Ukraine's State Statistics Service.

But with just 48,587 registered vacancies, actually finding a job is a challenge (see graph on next page).

Ukrainian Institute for Public Policy director Maxim Boroda is not so positive about Ukraine's official unemployment figures, especially for the young, because of differing statistical methodologies.

"Our measuring system is not as accurate as the ILO's, so it turns out that we don't have real figures,"

Boroda told the Kyiv Post. "In Ukraine the situation is usually ok in the documents, but in general it's far from perfect as many young people are working on temporary contracts if at all."

Students aiming for legitimate work often fail to take into account the needs of the labor market, which leads employers to complain about the lack of young professionals, or that there are too many. "The situation with specialists in Ukraine is tough," Boroda explains. "There's a mismatch between the most popular specializations and those that employers really need. For example, the market is overloaded with lawyers and economists."

Some Ukrainian graduates remain convinced a top university diploma is the key to success, even though European neighbors have seen an explosion of jobless graduates, particularly in the humanities.

"It's not hard to find a job if you have a high-quality education, but at the same time employers here don't see the difference between universities, and only your personality matters," said Oksana Lakushyna, a Taras Shevchenko national university student. "I really think that it's enough to work hard to succeed."

Ulyana Khodorivska, who heads the human resources database research center at Headhunter.ua, agrees that persistence can be a top-line skill.

"More than ever, employers value hard work and a tolerance for long periods of low wages," Khodorivska said. "It also turns out that professional experience is no longer the main selection criteria when hiring. Well, it's another aftertaste of the financial crisis," Khodorivska said.

Demand is still high for programmers and other information technology specialists, administrative staff, sales people and engineers. Most employers in 2013 are looking for

good accountants, secretaries and managers.

But standing out from the crowd is also a major asset. Internships and demonstrable soft skills are two areas employers value, and some top companies in Ukraine have offered work experience programs for years.

British American Tobacco Ukraine Corporate Affairs Manager Iryna Kurinna emphasized that all graduates should pay strict attention to foreign languages and work on their personal skills, as these are top priorities among employers.

"In general we try to find specialists who highlight great leadership skills, because subject matter experience is not always the main thing. However, those who want to find jobs as top managers in our company should have an extensive professional background for sure," Kurinna told the Kyiv Post.

BAT Ukraine has also been cultivating prospective employees from the country's universities for a long time, launching a program in 2000.

"Our internships last two years during which interns work in different departments throughout the company — marketing, finance, HR etc. They do get paid, and after successfully completing the program the intern can be promoted to our regular staff," Kurinna said.

Mobility also counts. Headhunters.ua research shows that 25 percent of Ukrainians are ready to change cities in search of better career opportunities. About 55-68 percent of all job applicants in search of top manager positions are ready to move to Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Ternopil, and 24 percent of applicants are prepared to go to Luhansk or Donetsk.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olena Goncharova can be reached at goncharova@kyivpost.com

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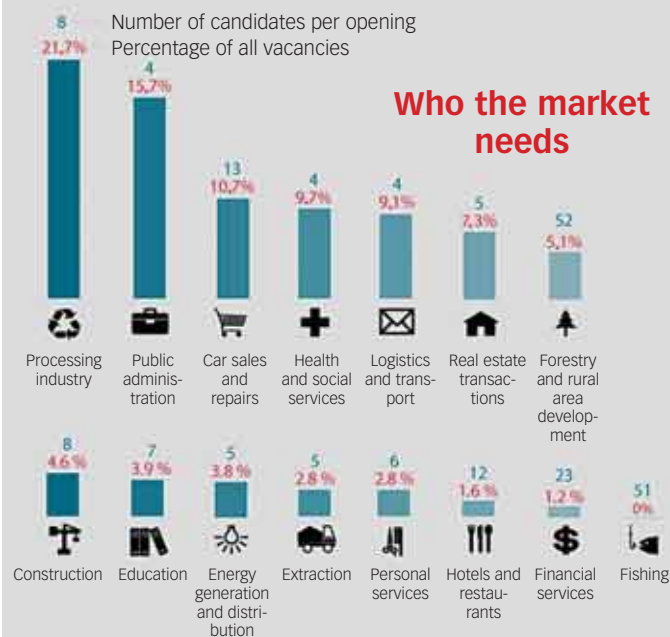
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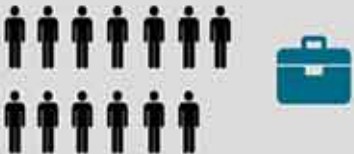
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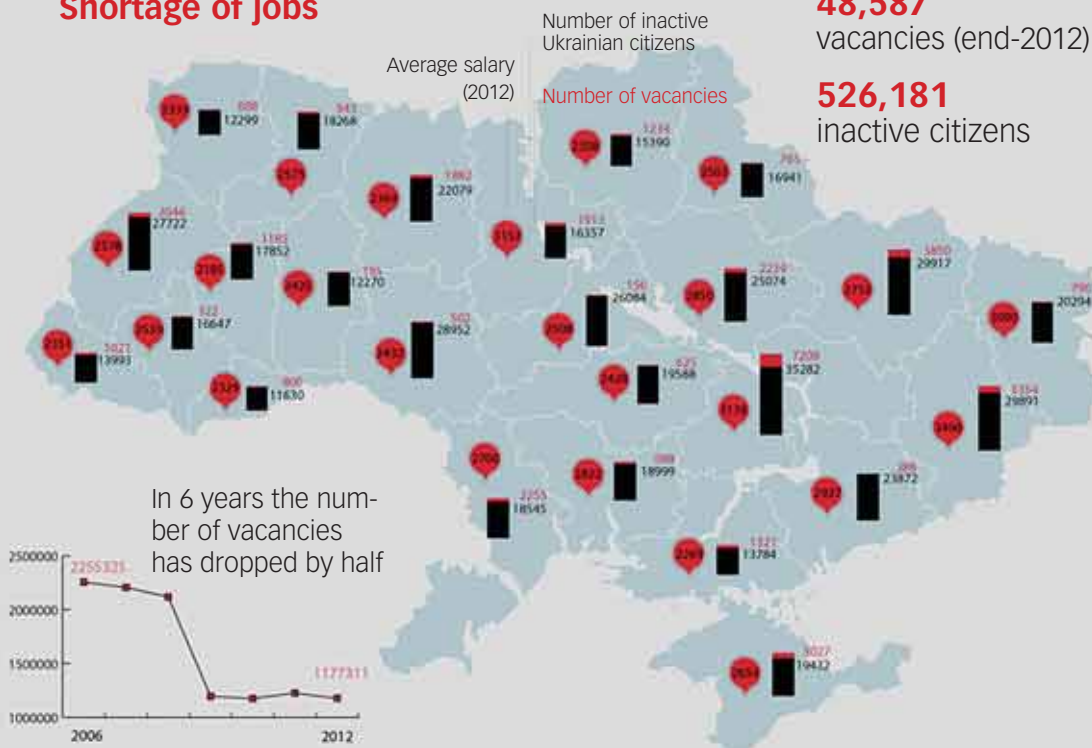
67.1%

of working age
Ukrainians are employed
or are in school

For 1 vacancy there
are 11 candidates



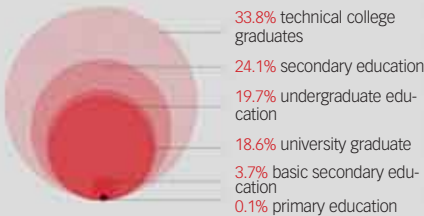
Shortage of jobs



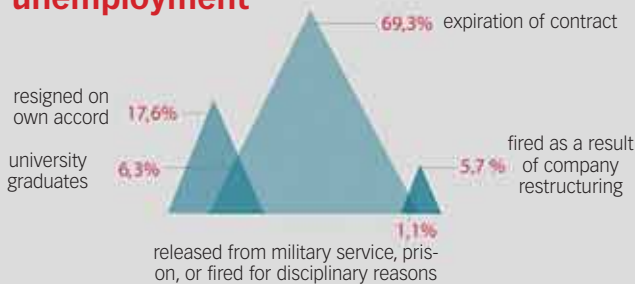
Do employers need specialists?



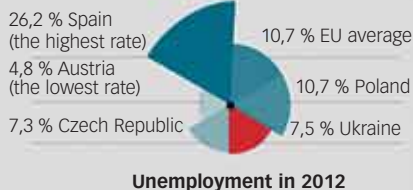
Ukraine's unemployed by education level



Causes of unemployment



Unemployment in Europe



SPONSORED MESSAGE

For McDonald's, Food Safety is a Continuous Process

Walk or drive into any of the 75 McDonald's restaurants in Ukraine, and the Big Mac, fries and Coke you order will be indistinguishable from the meal served up in Lubbock, Texas or Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. That's good news.



Yana Nechaeva,
Head of Quality Assurance Department,
McDonald's

Ray Kroc, who began building the McDonald's system in 1960, instituted an assembly line approach to making sandwiches, and that has morphed into the company's devotion to the standardization of everything from supply chain management to burger assembly. It enables the fast-food chain to provide consistent products all over the world, and it is key to how it provides consistently high-quality, safe food as well.

Hygiene is a case in point: Employees are indoctrinated in the practice of hand-washing, with specific rules governing when and how staff should wash up. The practices become so ingrained that staff use them at home as well as on the job.

"A significant number of all diseases are due to unclean hands," says McDonald's Quality Assurance Manager Yana Nechaeva. She points to an illustrated chart and log sheet on the wall near a sink designated for the purpose in the rear of a restaurant kitchen. The company uses the same soap as in medical facilities.

That's just one of many precautions the company takes. Visitors to the restaurant's kitchen (and each unit offers public tours several times a month) wear disposable coats, shoe and hair covers to prevent contamination.

Care for cleanliness doesn't end there. Meats, fried goods and vegetables are stored and prepared in different areas of the kitchen to eliminate the potential for accidental cross-contamination. The various elements of a hamburger only come together as it is being assembled.

What happens in the kitchen is interesting, but it's only a small part of what ensures that quality and sanitation are first-rate. McDonald's tends to have longstanding relationships with providers from vegetable wholesalers to cattle ranchers and dairies. Every aspect of the production of every fry or ketchup packet is carefully regulated — and that's no easy feat: McDonald's buys, prepares and serves about 100 tons of fresh vegetables every month in its Ukrainian restaurants, from pre-packed cleaned and shredded lettuce to fresh tomatoes (sourced from Ukraine in season, and from Spain and Turkey in winter).

Meat is a major concern for a restaurant known for its hamburgers, and McDonald's takes the quality of its beef seriously. The patties arrive frozen and pre-formed from a plant in Vinnitsia oblast. "About 20% fat content of the patties is necessary, as it allows grilling the beef patties without oil," says Yan Kozinsky, manager of a bustling McDonald's outlet near the Livoberezhna Metro station.

Temperatures are controlled from the point of origin to the company's two Ukrainian warehouses, to its trucking fleet and the restaurants, Kozinsky said. Maintaining temperature control even extends to unloading the trucks that resupply each restaurant as often as once a day: the staff is permitted just 30 minutes to empty a refrigerated delivery truck and store the contents in designated climate-controlled coolers, where the first-in, first-out rule ensures that food stock is rotated so that it is wholesome and fresh when served.

Temperature control is critical, Nechaeva says.

"We use the HACCP risk assessment system at four critical control points — in the delivery trucks, in the chiller and freezer, and internal temperatures at the grill," she says. Monitoring and auditing temperatures guarantee that the company's already high food safety standards aren't compromised by bacterial contamination during preparation.

Even during food preparation, employees rarely come into physical contact with the product. Special trays and utensils are used, and to prevent cross-contamination, items that contact meat aren't used in other areas of the kitchen.

With restaurants turning over their inventories several times a week, spoilage is minimal. Not surprisingly, the company analyzes trends that tell restaurant managers how many of each type of menu item will be sold, hour-by-hour. With a maximum five-minute 'shelf life' for French fries and twice that for burgers, production management procedures ensure that when a McChicken sandwich leaves the dressing table, a customer will be ready to receive it.

Avoiding excess waste doesn't stop with food: even the oil used to fry potatoes and chicken nuggets is closely monitored, filtered, and recycled.

"We are committed to sustainability and recycling," Nechaeva says.

"Each restaurant has a team that is always cleaning and handling trash," says Kozinsky, who adds that restaurant's employees go outside restaurant property to keep sidewalks tidy. "We even hold beautification competitions every spring, with the crews sprucing up shrubbery and flowers and other aesthetic aspects of their restaurants."





June 13-30

Euro 2012 photo exhibition

An exhibition titled Two countries, One Story, comprised of photos submitted by four major photographers from Ukraine and Poland, who were shooting the scenes of the Euro 2012 football championship in Ukraine in June of last year, goes on display on June 13. On the championship's anniversary the public is invited to revisit the events of last summer, when four cities of Ukraine – Kyiv among them – hosted the football contest. Photos feature not only the brightest moments of football games, but also the emotions and behavior of thousands of fans who visited the event.

Euro 2012. Two Countries, One Story (photo exhibition). June 13-30. Museum of Kyiv History (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.). Hr 15



June 10

Lana Del Rey

British singer and songwriter Elizabeth Grant, better known by her stage name Lana Del Rey, will perform her first show in Kyiv on June 10. After her rather unsuccessful attempt to start a career as Lizzy Grant, the singer released the hit song "Video Games" in 2011, and became famous overnight. She's since kept up that pace, following up with the single "Born To Die" and an album of the same name in 2012. Del Rey has been criticized widely for her live performances, during which her voice sometimes wanders off pitch while she herself appears shy and timid. Still, many see a particular charm in her performances.

Lana Del Rey. June 10. Palats Ukraina (103 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). 7 p.m. Hr 500-3,200

Festival of opera, operetta and musical

Opera lovers must have prayed to their gods, because this event is something straight from a daydream. Opera stars from Vienna and winners of opera contests are among participants who will perform at O'Fest in Kyiv on June 8-9. Ukrainian jazz diva Jamala will join the festival, too. Although she usually performs soul and jazz, Jamala is an educated opera singer, so expect to hear some interesting combination of opera and jazz from her. The festival also offers a poetry reading. Several poets will recite their poems accompanied by classical music played by an orchestra.

O'Fest (poetry reading). June 8. Landscape Park in Bucha (Kyiv Oblast). Free
O'Fest (concert). June 9. Kyiv Operetta Theater (53/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). Hr 40-200



June 8-9



June 10

Steve Vai comes to Kyiv

Frank Zappa's and Yngwie J. Malmsteen's collaborator, world-famous guitarist and three-time Grammy Award-winner Steve Vai, is set to perform in Kyiv. Known for being predictably unpredictable, Vai, with his expressive guitar solos, will certainly amuse guitar music lovers. He's expected to perform his most famous songs from his most popular albums.

Steve Vai. June 10. Green Theatre (2 Parkova Doroga St.). Hr 300-700



Through June 11

Israeli movies

A film festival featuring six award-winning Israeli movies released in the last two years has kicked off at Kyiv Cinema.

All movies are screened in their original languages with Ukrainian subtitles. Apart from Kyiv, the festival takes place in Odesa (June 5-10), Vinnytsia (June 7-11) and Chernivtsi (June 13-19).

Israeli movie festival. Through June 11. Kyiv cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.). Hr 50



June 8-9

Rock music & extreme sports

On June 8-9 international festival Rock'n'Sich will entertain visitors with all-day musical performances and extreme sports competitions. The events will take place on Trukhaniv Island and at Druzhby Narodiv Park.

Ukrainian bands Vopli Vidpopliasova, TNMK, Bumbox, Tartak, Krykhitka, Skay, Swedish Clawfinger, Tiamat, Russian Kauan are among the 35 bands featured in the festival's lineup. A bike parade, knight tournament and auto tuning show are also set to take place.

Rock'n'Sich Festival. June 8-9. Trukhaniv Island, Druzhby Narodiv Park. Free



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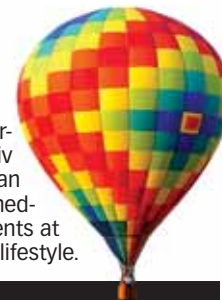
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Get lost in the music at this summer's festivals

City Life

WITH ARTEM BABAK
DEAFLYNX@GMAIL.COM

New food service aims to save time for eager cooks with cash

Food lovers who like to cook, but can't be bothered to shop for ingredients and flip through cookbooks, are in the right city. Kyiv has a new online service called Personal Chef (www.lpovar.com.ua).

Started in March, the company services lazy and busy cooks alike. Its website offers a choice of meals to order, but what you actually get is a set of ingredients and cooking instructions in a cute paper bag. The idea is to save the time and effort it takes to visit the local grocery store.

The website guarantees that each meal's preparation time is under 35 minutes. Recipes are also available online.

The drawback is that the menu choices are very limited on any given day, and it's not necessarily cheaper to cook this way than to go to a restaurant.

Andriy Denysenko, the founder of Personal Chef, says that the menu was compiled by four chefs from Kyiv restaurants, and it gets updated every two weeks. So far, people using Personal Chef give preference to dishes with exotic ingredients like shark meat, he says.

Prices range from Hr 185 to Hr 245 for a two-course dinner. Each set is designed for two people. For example, a dinner of grilled salmon with mashed potatoes and white asparagus with Hollandaise sauce and fried polenta will cost Hr 235. The price includes a detailed video and photo cooking instructions.

"All ingredients are fresh, cleaned and washed. An incredibly handy and useful thing for working people," Irina Gorbunenko, a satisfied customer, wrote on Personal Chef's Facebook page.

Another customer, Vadim Klepik, said he was surprised to find that even pepper, salt and olive oil were included in the set delivered to him.

Denysenko told the Kyiv Post that the idea for the startup came to him once after he spent an incredible amount of time searching for a good recipe online, driving to the grocery, standing in line, driving back home before finally he could start cooking.

"In Kyiv, one always feels the lack of time," he says.

The service offers vegetarian meals as well. A set of polenta terrine with vegetables, mozzarella and gazpacho goes for Hr 185.

Kyiv Post intern Artem Babak can be reached at deaflynx@gmail.com.



A young woman sits on her friend's shoulders and screams out during a night show at the Kazantip Republic festival in Popovka, Crimea on Aug. 7, 2012. Kazantip, a haven for electronic music fanatics, is one of Ukraine's oldest and wildest music festivals. (UNIAN)

BY KATERYNA ZAGORODNYA
ZAGORODNYA.KATE@GMAIL.COM

Whether you like drinking wine to the sound of jazz, or going mad to Russian rock, this summer you will have plenty of options to party. Just like every summer, Ukraine has a number of festival options on offer in locations across the country.

Kyiv Post brings you a comprehensive guide to the season's upcoming festivals, beginning this weekend.

Stare Misto (rock)

Lviv
June 8-9
Hr 90-160 for one day
Hr 300 for two days
Lineup: Lyapis Trubetskoy, Che Sudaka, Archive, IAMX, Goran Bregovic, The Subways.
www.staremistofest.open.ua

Pack your backpack and jump on a train to Lviv to witness the epic comeback of one of Ukraine's best music festivals. Last year Stare Misto

took a break because of the Euro 2012 football championship, but this year the festival is once again open for music lovers, and the lineup looks promising.

Rock'n'Sich (rock)

Kyiv
June 8-9
Free entry
Hr 70 for camping spot per day
www.rocksich.org
Lineup: Vopli Vidoplyasova, Tartak, Kryhitka, Bumbox, Skay, Crawfinger, Pain, TNMK, Akapul'ka, Without Limits, Viscula,

Loreleya, Animal's Session, Panke Shava, Helltrain and others.

Rock'n'Sich centers on Ukrainian and Swedish culture, paying a tribute to the summer of 2012, when Swedish soccer fans stayed in a camp on Trukhaniv Island during the Euro 2012 football championship. They conquered the hearts of many Ukrainians with their gregariousness and endless ability to party.

Besides music, Rock'n'Sich features an international knight tournament, a bike parade and exhibition → **12**

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Rave in Kazantip, rock out in Dnipropetrovsk

→ **11** of custom-decorated cars. Two out of the festival's seven stages will be floating platforms built to resemble a chaika – a boat used by Ukrainian Cossacks. Vopli Vidoplyasova front man Oleh Skrypka will present a DJ set.

Tents can be rented at the festival for Hr 70 per day or Hr 100 for two days.

Alfa Jazz Fest (jazz)

Lviv

June 13-16

Lineup: Dirty Dozen Brass Band, Avishai Cohen Strings, Till Bronner, Al Di Meola, Charlie Haden Quartet, Bobby McFerrin and more.

Hr 80-200 per day

www.alfajazzfest.com

This international jazz festival will occupy three big stages in the center of Lviv, making it easy to combine jazz music with your regular sightseeing. The lineup includes more than 100 musicians from different countries, all together providing hours of endless jazz. Autograph sessions as well as jazz workshops led by some of the world's stars are also on the program. And there will be plenty of surprises, as festival organizers arrange for bands to play in many cafes and restaurants during the time of the festival.

Trypilske Kolo (ethnic music)

Rzhyschiv, Kyiv Oblast

June 27-30

Hr 200 when booking in advance, Hr 220 at the site of the festival

Lineup: Mlada, Atmosfera, TaRuta, Ioryi Klots, Deruny, Drymbadadzyga.

Prepare to take in the magic of ethnic rock music. The annual Trypilske Kolo festival intends to fill 170,000 square meters of nature with music, art and fun, and to do so with the help of 13 bands coming from seven countries. Positive thinking and healthy lifestyle preferences are required from attendees.



Most of Ukraine's festivals are set in fields, although some take place in the city. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



A young woman dances at Art Pole festival in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast on July 12, 2012. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Taras Bulba Fest (rock)

Dubno, Rivne Oblast

July 12-14

Hr 130-150

Lineup: Vopli Vodoplyasova, Komu Vnyz, Borsch, Attraktor, Stigmata, Perkalaba, Julia Lord, Ripley, Biliy Zagin, Dash, Sergo Chanturiya, Sergiy Shyshkin and more.

www.tarasbulba-fest.kiev.ua

poet Ivan Franko, for whom the event and the region are named. The final lineup is yet to be announced, but Georgian jazz diva Nino Katamadze has already signed on. She will perform a song with Franko's lyrics translated into Georgian. In fact, Franko's lyrics will be a recurring theme at this festival, as all bands are asked to create songs paying tribute to this amazing poet and writer.

Ethnovyr (folk)

Lviv

August 21-25

Lineup: AhunaOhana, Zora, Bahot, Nahui-Ollin and others.

www.ethnovyr.org.ua

Ukraine's biggest folk music festival, Ethnovyr, features a variety of performers from many countries, including Mexico, Turkey, Hawaii and Serbia. The festival is a treat for gourmands, too, as many cuisines of the world are expected to be available. Plus, no camping in the field is required, because the festival will take place in the center of Lviv, at Ploshcha Rynok.

Kazantip Republic (electronic, club music)

Popovka, Crimea

31 July – 14 Aug

60 euros per day, 160 euros for the whole festival

Lineup to be announced

www.kazantipa.net

Kazantip hardly needs presentation. This rave festival has been around since 1990s, and has become somewhat of a legend in Crimea. For two weeks, a stretch of the Black Sea shore turns into a unique place, where no normal rules or laws apply. The organizers argue that they create and abide by the rules of a republic for the duration of the festival. All the action is accompanied by the hottest electronic compositions played by the freshest DJs. To become a citizen of Kazantip Republic, one must buy a visa. Local legend says that an old-fashioned yellow suitcase brought along can buy you a free entrance. But it's best to check with organizers before you start painting your good old Samsonite yellow.

Kyiv Post intern Kateryna Zagorodnya can be reached at zagorodnya.kate@gmail.com.

One of the oldest Ukrainian festivals, Taras Bulba Fest positions itself as both an art event and a music festival. The festival is famous for igniting the careers of new names. To get to Dubno, take one of the minibuses that run from the Kyiv Central Railway Station every 30 minutes.

The Best City.UA (rock)

Dnipropetrovsk

July 12-13

Hr 399 per day, Hr 999 for the whole festival

Hr 299 for camping spot

Lineup: Scorpions, Hurts, Guano Apes, Lacuna Coil, Enter Shikari, Leningrad, Mumiy Troll, Kozak System, Nochnye Snajpery and others.

www.thebestcity.ua

Held for the second time this year, The Best City.UA once again wins our praise for the most impressive lineup in Ukraine. Three days, three stages and more than a dozen first class bands – that's basically all one needs to know about the festival. On top of that, it is held outside in Dnipropetrovsk, in a picturesque area surrounded by lakes. Organizers focused this time on foreign bands, recruiting only three Ukrainian bands for the main stage. Classical festival activities are on the list too, including artistic workshops and sport contests.

Franko Fest (rock, folk)

Nahuyevychi, Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast

July 26-28

Free entry

Lineup: Nino Katamadze & Insight, Oleh Skrypka, Skryabin, Tartak, Ot Vinta, Gaidamaky and more.

www.frankofest.org.ua

www.vk.com/franko.fest

Franko Fest is mainly for fans of Ukrainian music. Nahuyevychi is known as a native village of Ukrainian




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Budget airlines take off in nation's skies

BY KATERYNA ZAGORODNYA
ZAGORODNYA.KATE@GMAIL.COM

Comfortable and quick, trips by air have one annoying feature – they can be hard on the wallet. So to save money, many opt for low-cost airlines when planning their trips.

Ukraine's air travel market is hardly flooded with low-cost airline companies, but there are at least six operating here now. The list includes Wizz Air, Vueling Airlines, Pegasus Airlines, Air Arabia, Air One and Carpatair. Most of them fly from Kyiv to the carrier's home city, and in some cases to other destinations.

Low-cost airlines' economy prices pair with typical bargain features such as having one passenger class, no or minimal additional services on board and often non-refundable tickets.

"Budget airlines have certain limitations. In particular, a refund is usually possible only in the case of cancellation of flight," says airline lawyer Andriy Guk. "The ticket is only valid for a specific date and time, and the passenger has to pay for re-booking. Legally, passengers must be notified about those restrictions before purchasing the ticket."

Wizz Air Ukraine

Flies to Antalya, London, Kutaisi, Hamburg, Cologne, Dortmund, Katowice, Valencia, Barcelona, Venice, Vilnius, Sofia, Dubai, Budapest, Memmingen/Munich, Simferopol

The first low-cost airline to break into the Ukrainian market, Wizz Air

is already offering an impressive number of routes, most of them from Kyiv to Western and Central Europe. Several new routes are expected to open in late summer or in autumn, including routes from Kyiv to Moscow, St. Petersburg and Bucharest. Also, a flight from Donetsk to Dortmund will be launched on July 6, 2013. Wizz Air also serves one in-country route, from Kyiv to Simferopol. With it, travelers get to Crimea in one hour instead of taking a 13-hour-long ride on a train. Another convenient feature is that Wizz Air flies from Zhuliany Airport in the city, rather than the suburb of Boryspil.

Pegasus Airlines

Flies to Istanbul

Though one of the biggest Turkish budget airlines and serving routes with more than 40 destinations in Europe, Pegasus has a small presence in Ukraine. It only serves flights to Istanbul, but departs from Lviv, Donetsk and Kharkiv. It does not fly from Kyiv.

As most low-cost airline operators, it offers tickets without seat numbers, but allows passengers to book a specific seat for an additional fee. Also, one can order a meal in advance, choosing it from a menu when booking a ticket.

Air Arabia

Flies to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates

Air Arabia tickets are the priciest of the low-cost airlines operating in Ukraine, but the company is still considered a bargain carrier. It offers the cheapest option to fly to the Sharjah emirate.

Vueling Airlines

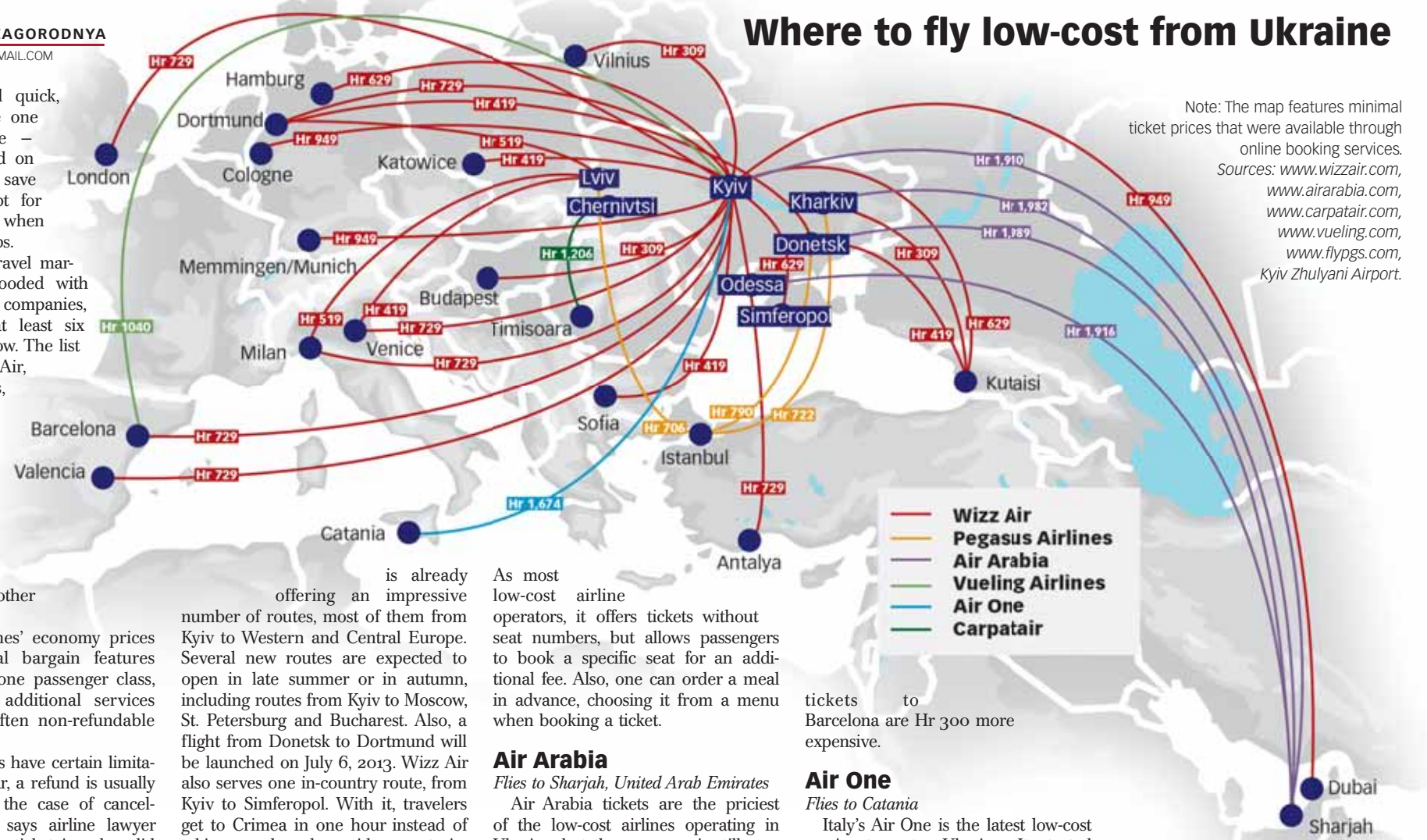
Vacating Ann Flies to Barcelona

Spain's second biggest airline company flies from Kyiv's Zhuliany Airport to Barcelona. Flights take 3 hours and 40 minutes and are available on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Wizz Air flies to Barcelona too, which makes it the only route served by two low-cost companies. So far, Vueling's

Where to fly low-cost from Ukraine

Note: The map features minimal ticket prices that were available through online booking services.

Sources: www.wizzair.com,
www.airarabia.com,
www.carpatair.com,
www.vueling.com,
www.flypgs.com,
Kyiv Zhulyani Airport.



tickets to Barcelona are Hr 300 more expensive.

Air One

Flies to Catania

Italy's Air One is the latest low-cost carrier to enter Ukraine. It started flying from Kyiv to Catania on June 3, thus opening a low-cost route to Sicily with one-way prices starting at Hr 1,674. Flights, however, will be limited to just one every 10 days through September. In 2012, Air One started flying from Kyiv to Milan, but ceased soon after. Let's hope this attempt will last longer.

Carpatair

Flies to Timisoara

Romanian low-cost company Carpatair only flies from

Chernivtsi to Timisoara, the company's home city. Mostly used by western Ukrainians working in Romania, the flights could also be of use to those interested in sightseeing. Tickets are available for about Hr 1,200. Be careful when booking, though, because the first price offered does not include taxes.

Kyiv Post intern Kateryna Zagorodnya can be reached at zagorodnya.kate@gmail.com.



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Handmade paper notebooks that come with a history

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

In the noisy hall of Arsenal Book Fair a small table tucked into a corner is easy to miss. But the young man behind it doesn't seem bothered. Despite being hidden from the crowd of booklovers, his unusual paper notebooks still get a lot of attention.

Three years ago Pavel Suslyakov would never have guessed he would be presenting his products at the country's biggest book fair. That's when he made his first designer notebook cover out of a checkered tablecloth as a birthday gift for his friend.

"We bought a pretty tablecloth, which turned out to be too big for our kitchen table, so we cut away half of it, and I used the material for the notebook," Suslyakov recalls.

The friend was happy with the present, but it took several months more for Suslyakov to get an actual sale. "You know, a friend is a friend, he would say he likes it anyway. But when a stranger

→ Some may think we do it because it's cheaper this way. But think of it – when we find a shirt at the flea market, it's an adventure.

buys your product, that's true success," he explains.

Now he and his wife Iryna Suslyakova run a small workshop that produces notebooks with covers made of old shirts and tablecloths under the cute brand of Papina Rubashka (Dad's Shirt). They've sold more than 800.

The couple's notebooks start at Hr 180 and go up depending on design and place of purchase. Papina Rubashka offers six designs, including covers with buttons, clippers and shirt collar parts. Suslyakov says their most popular item has a shirt sleeve cuff on the cover, which can also serve as a pocket.

Checkered and striped, red and blue, all of Papina Rubashka's notebooks have one thing in common – their covers are never made of brand new materials. Shirts and tablecloths used for their production are carefully picked at Kyiv's flea markets and second-hand shops. While a children's shirt can be made into one notebook, an adult XXL-sized shirt can provide enough material for three or four covers.

"These were made of a tablecloth," says Suslyakov, pointing to three striped notebooks piled on the table



Notebooks produced by Papina Rubashka are put on display at Arsenal Book Fair in Kyiv on June 1, 2013. Prices start at Hr 180 depending on the size and design. (Anastasia Vlasova)



Pavel Suslyakov, the co-founder of notebook producer Papina Rubashka. (Anastasia Vlasova)

at Arsenal Book Fair. He continues showing other notebooks, caressing their covers to show how smooth or rough they are. "Texture matters a lot. This fabric is very cool. This one, too, its woolen."

He seems to adore all the notebooks, but the one he personally uses combines two fabrics. "People keep saying our notebooks are for men, judging from their appearance, but actually most customers are women," he says.

Suslyakov admits that not everyone likes the idea of owning a notebook made of used clothes. At first, he says, the couple avoided mentioning where

the fabrics come from, but soon understood that it should be positioned as their special feature instead.

"Some may think we do it because it's cheaper this way. But think of it – when we find a shirt at the flea market, it's an adventure, and the shirt is unique. We'll never find one with the same pattern again. In this way the notebooks are unique," he explains.

Papina Rubashka also offers a special service. A notebook can be decorated with artistic drawings related to the customer's personal features. The special service costs Hr 500, notebook included, and can take up to several

months. Also, one can order drawings of fictional characters or historical figures.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com.

Papina Rubashka notebooks in Kyiv:

www.papinarubashka.com
Divan bar. 2 Bessarabska Square
Shtuki. 8 Velyka Vasylkivska Street,
Metrograd, Home Block.
Chulan. 21A Pushkinska St.
www.djournal.com.ua

Employment

 Botschaft der Bundesrepublik Deutschland Kiew

Bekanntmachung für Deutsche zur Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag

Am 22. September 2013 findet die Wahl zum Deutschen Bundestag statt.

Deutsche, die außerhalb der Bundesrepublik Deutschland leben und im Bundesgebiet keine Wohnung mehr innehaben, können bei Vorliegen der sonstigen wahlrechtlichen Voraussetzungen an der Wahl teilnehmen.

Für ihre Wahlteilnahme ist u. a. Voraussetzung, dass sie

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- in ein Wählerverzeichnis in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland eingetragen sind. Diese Eintragung erfolgt nur auf Antrag. Der Antrag ist auf einem Formblatt zu stellen; er soll bald nach dieser Bekanntmachung abgesandt werden.

Einem Antrag, der erst am 2. September 2013 oder später bei der zuständigen Gemeindebehörde eingeht, kann nicht mehr entsprochen werden (§ 18 Abs. 1 der Bundeswahlordnung).

Antragsvordrucke (Formblätter) sowie informierende Merkblätter sind online auf der Seite des Bundeswahlleiters (www.bundeswahlleiter.de) erhältlich. Sie können auch bei

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Weitere Auskünfte erteilen die Deutsche Botschaft Kiew und das Generalkonsulat der Bundesrepublik Deutschland in Donezk.

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1 – Zu berücksichtigen ist auch eine frühere Wohnung oder ein früherer Aufenthalt in dem in Artikel 3 des Einigungsvertrages genannten Gebiet (Brandenburg, Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt und Thüringen zuzüglich des Gebietes des früheren Berlin (Ost)).

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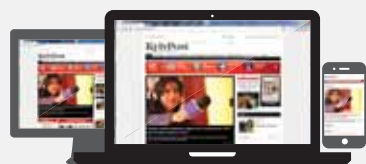
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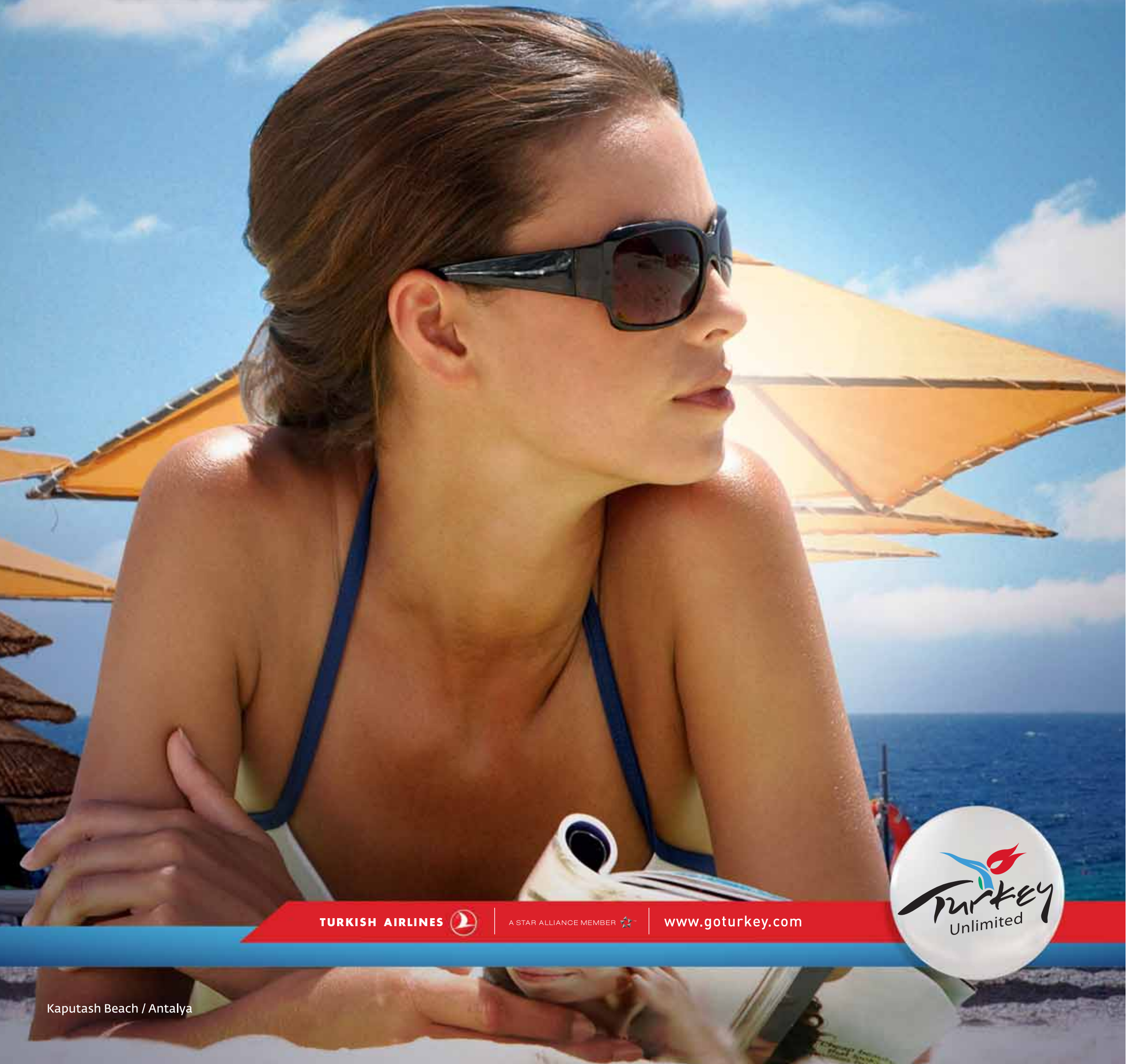
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