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EBRD slams Ukraine leaders over threats to Naftogaz reform

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and foreign directors of state oil and gas monopoly Naftogaz have criticized Ukrainian authorities for being reluctant to carry out gas market and corporate governance reforms.

Under a plan agreed with the EBRD and the nation's Western partners, Ukraine was expected to give the supervisory boards of state companies more independence in financial, management and human resource decisions. However, the government has so far failed to make the changes.

'Risk of collapsing'

The EBRD, which agreed to give a \$300 million revolving loan to Naftogaz in 2015, and the company's foreign directors also objected to the Cabinet of Ministers' attempts to assert more control over the state oil and gas giant, warning of more political interference and potential influence of corrupt vested interests.

"The reform of Naftogaz, which is justly recognized as one of the most meaningful reforms undertaken under your leadership, is at risk of collapsing within the next few days," EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti said in an April 7 letter to President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman.

Naftogaz has been one of the nation's great turnaround stories — posting a nearly \$1 billion net profit in 2016, compared to a \$1 billion net loss in 2015. The turnaround is attributed to a hike in natural gas prices to consumers, Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolev's elimination of murky intermediaries and other steps to increase transparency since he took over in 2014.

Resignation

Yulia Kovaliv, chairwoman of Naftogaz' supervisory board, and

Happy Easter, everyone!

Young women pose for a selfie next to giant Easter eggs near St. Michael's Monastery on April 13. Some 500 traditional Ukrainian pysankas — painted Easter eggs — are on display ahead of Easter Sunday, the Christian holiday celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, on April 16. The next day, Monday April 17, is an official holiday in Ukraine. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

People, Ports Fuel Optimism For Economic Revival Of Mykolaiv

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — Even Mykolaiv's streets reflect the city's founding purpose as a shipbuilding center: They are wide and straight, so that lumber could be transported easily.

Founded in 1789 and named after the 4th-century Saint Nicholas,

Mykolaiv served for more than two centuries as a major shipbuilding center on the Black Sea.

But after its three prominent shipyards almost completely went out of business some 15 years ago, the city sank into stagnation. Stories about Mykolaiv's poverty and crime made headlines in the national media.

Now the local authorities and business planners claim Mykolaiv

is on the verge of a revival, thanks to the remnants of its shipbuilding legacy — large ports, an educated population, and highly developed infrastructure.

They are trying to lure the big money to make this happen.

"This is the ideal time to invest here," said Roman Khanzhyn, a project coordinator at Mykolaiv Development Agency, a non-prof-

it municipal institution created by Mykolaiv city council and supported by Western donors.

Khanzhyn says that the four ports of Mykolaiv, located on the Inhul and the Southern Buh rivers, are the major attractions for investors. About 70 percent of Ukraine's grain exports now goes through them.

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CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 27 to \$1

April 13 market rate



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Ex-political prisoners find new careers as politicians in Sumy

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
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SUMY, Ukraine — Volodymyr Nykonenko and Ihor Hannenko never thought they would have to sacrifice their freedom for their political views.

Back in 2013, they were found guilty of drawing street art depicting then-President Viktor Yanukovich with a gunshot wound to the head in their native Sumy, a city of 269,000 people some 330 kilometers north-east of Kyiv.

The images, which they drew with stencils, were deemed extremist. Nykonenko, who was 24 at that time, and Hannenko, who had just turned 20, were sentenced to one year and 20 months in prison respectively. Four years later, Yanukovich has been gone for three years, ousted by the EuroMaidan Revolution in early 2014, and Nykonenko and Hannenko have gone from being convicts to local politicians. Today, they hold seats on the regional and city councils in Sumy.

'Sumy artists'

But when Nykonenko and Hannenko drew their risky street art in 2011, they were very far from thinking about careers in politics. The image wasn't even theirs: They made their stencil from an image found on the internet.

The images of Yanukovich with a gunshot wound started appearing on walls in various cities as a reaction to his winning the presidential race in 2010.

"When the graffiti appeared it was a shock for the system," Nykonenko, now 29, says.

Sumy was one of the Yanukovich's political strongholds, and drawing the offensive image there was especially risky. Still, Nykonenko and Hannenko, two students and strong opponents of Yanukovich's pro-Russian politics, went for it. At night they used a stencil to draw about 30 images on the main street of Sumy.

But early in the morning there was no sign of the pictures. All had been removed.

They two didn't think they were doing anything illegal: After all, Hannenko recalls, the image was all over the internet anyway.

But soon the authorities came for them. At first, they were just interrogated. They didn't deny being responsible for the graffiti. Then both were detained.

Hannenko, then 18, was arrested on a bus on his way to classes. Two



In 2013, Volodymyr Nykonenko (L) and Ihor Hannenko were found guilty of drawing street art depicting then-President Viktor Yanukovich with a gunshot wound to the head in their native Sumy, a city of 268,000 people some 335 kilometers east of Kyiv. They have gone from being convicts to local politicians. (Volodymyr Petrov)

men rushed into the bus and pulled him out. They didn't bother showing their IDs. The other passengers didn't try to intervene. On the same day, the police searched his apartment, taking his computer, college notebooks, and a flag of Ukraine that he owned.

Hannenko, present during the search, was terrified that the police would plant some fake evidence that would hurt his family. Desperate to stop the search, he slit his wrist.

"I can't explain now why I did that. I was 18 and scared," he says. "I thought maybe they would call an ambulance and the search would be over. Instead, they called me an idiot and kept checking every single item in the apartment."

Jailed

Their case, dubbed "Sumy artists," went through many court hearings in 2012.

"It was rather difficult to send someone to prison just for the stencils," Nykonenko recalls.

Finally, in early 2013, the two were sentenced to prison for hooliganism under "aggravated circumstances." Hannenko was additionally charged with an attempted arson attack on a local hostel — an action he denies. Their appeals against their convictions were refused.

The two went to different jails. Hannenko spent three months in a

detention center before being moved to Byshkivska prison in Poltava Oblast. Nykonenko was transferred to a minimum security prison in Sumy Oblast's Konotop.

Nykonenko was lucky: He was allowed to go out on weekends and even travel to Kyiv to take his college exams. Hannenko had a regular prison experience.

But both of the "Sumy artists" recall the prison as a "different world" with its own jargon, hierarchy and rules, and say that jail doesn't help to reduce the number of crimes, but instead breeds even more offenders.

"I wasn't scared (of prison), but I had no interest in learning more about that world," Nykonenko recalls. "I worked, exercised and slept enough. Sometimes you can even get healthier in prison."

Nykonenko was released on parole after eight months in prison in November 2013. Days after, the EuroMaidan Revolution started, and he rushed to Kyiv.

"I knew I couldn't get caught on Maidan (by police), because I would go back to prison. I never threw a single Molotov cocktail," Nykonenko recalls.

Hannenko wasn't that lucky: He watched the revolution from prison. Friends would call him right from the Maidan to brief him on the news. When Yanukovich fled on Feb.

22, 2014, Hannenko was declared to have been a political prisoner and was soon released.

From prison to war

Soon after the two got out of prison, the war in the Donbas started. Nykonenko quickly volunteered to fight. Having little trust in the regular army, he joined the battalion of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists.

In early 2015, he witnessed the fall of Donetsk Airport, after a 242-day siege by Russian-separatist forces. Soon, he had to go home: His wife was pregnant and wanted him to end his service.

"She waited for me when I was in prison and I didn't want to make her life any harder," Nykonenko says. Now they are raising their 2-year-old son together.

Like many veterans, Nykonenko struggled to readjust to life after serving in the Donbas. But one thing he couldn't stay away from was, surprisingly, politics.

Together with Hannenko, he decided to participate in the local election in the autumn of 2015. They were offered to run on Batkivshchyna party ticket.

"We did everything ourselves, including giving out leaflets on the streets," Hannenko says.

Nykonenko was elected to the city council and is now in charge of a municipal architecture company. Hannenko took a seat on the Sumy Oblast council.

Six years after they sneaked out at night to decorate their city with risky graffiti, the ex-cons are spending their days quite differently. Nykonenko works on building the first bikeway in the Sumy city center and a skate park. He fought to win the funds to build them.

"We used to be on the other side of the barricades, we were activists," he says. "Now that we're in power, it's a different story." ■

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Suprun moves to dislodge health sector corruption

BY ALYONA ZHUK
ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

This year, for the first time in independent Ukraine's history, citizens have every chance of getting all the medication they require in a timely way.

For this, patients' organizations credit Ulana Suprun, a Ukrainian-American who has been acting head of the Health Ministry since July.

The country's corrupt medicine procurement procedures, which were finally stopped under her, are now saving Ukraine millions of dollars per year. The new ways also save time spent on getting vital medicines, ultimately saving lives.

But the battle isn't over: entrenched interests are fighting back, accusing Suprun of mismanagement.

Old schemes

Until 2015, the Health Ministry was in charge of drug procurement for Ukraine's nearly 2,000 state hospitals. The budget is worth up to \$250 million per year.

But usually, only a few companies, and often the same ones, competed. The winning companies would then buy drugs abroad, but only after reselling them through a chain of affiliated companies to artificially increase the final price.

Olga Stefanyshyna, executive director of the non-governmental organization Patients of Ukraine, says that many Ukrainian companies used similar schemes, which resulted in about 40 percent of the funds allocated for drugs procurement being wasted each year through graft.

According to Stefanyshyna, until 2015, tenders in Ukraine were held for "a closed club of monopolists."

Stefanyshyna said that in 2014 only about 10 of 6,500 companies registered in Ukraine as distributors of medications participated in all the tenders in each particular segment, like AIDS, tuberculosis or oncology.

Moreover, even those 10 companies belonged to the same two or three owners. "These people were sharing the budget pie between themselves," Stefanyshyna says.

According to Stefanyshyna, one of those companies was the Kyiv-based Ludmyla Pharm. The company had been selling Triptorelinum, a medication used to treat cancer, to the Health Ministry in 2014 for \$293.56 per bottle. The next year Ludmyla Pharm had to sell the same medication to the Health Ministry through a British procurement agent, Crown Agents, and the price dropped to \$214.99 per bottle.

Ludmyla Pharm's press service denies accusations of price gouging.

Better procurement

To break the graft cycle, anti-corruption activists and patient organizations urged parliament to pass legislation that would allow the Health Ministry to delegate procurement of drugs, vaccines and medical equipment to international organizations.

The proposed organizations included the United Nations Development



Activists from the patients' organizations protest near the Cabinet of Ministers in Kyiv, demanding the government to buy medicine for socially vulnerable groups on May 23, 2016. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Ulana Suprun

Program, the United Nations Children's Fund and Crown Agents, owned by the British non-profit Crown Agents Foundation.

The Verkhovna Rada passed the law in March 2015, but it took the government another eight months to get the legislation working. So international procurement only got started at the end of 2015.

The results of the first year showed good progress, Stefanyshyna says. New international producers participated in tenders, boosting competition. Consequently, the old distributors had to become more modest, and supply drugs at lower prices to retain business.

For example, back in 2014, a Ukrainian distributor Ukroptpostach used to supply Binokrit, a cancer medication, to the Health Ministry for \$322.60 per unit. However, in 2015, Ukroptpostach sold the same medication, produced by the same German company, to international organizations at a price three times cheaper – \$104.37.

Overall, in 2015 Ukraine saved Hr 620 million (\$23 million) compared to the 2014 prices.

Doctor vs. minister

But not everyone is happy with the improvements in drug procurement and in January, critics fired back at the Health Ministry.

It started when Borys Todurov, a reputable heart surgeon who heads the Heart Institute in Kyiv, accused Suprun of negligence leading to thousands of patients' deaths. He said that the ministry had failed to hold some drug procurement tenders. The surgeon offered no proof, but was supported by many former patients, experts and other doctors.

Suprun denied the accusations and said procurement was going as planned.

The exchange led to a weeks-long

public discussion, with many civic activists with the Health Ministry and the reform of procurement, which Todurov criticized.

"The reform works, it takes the money away from those (involved in corrupt schemes), and they are losing crazy big money," Stefanyshyna said. "So now they're trying to bury the reform completely."

Long way to go

Janthomas Hiemstra, country director of United Nations Development Program in Ukraine, said that the fuss over procurement through international organizations means that lots of people are losing money and are not happy with the new rules.

"Every year Ukraine spends prob-

ably more on health care than most countries in the region," he says. "However, the life expectancy of Ukrainian people is 10-15 years lower than in other countries. I have to admit that over decades, investment in the health sector has been dissipating."

He praised Ukraine for admitting the problem and inviting "fresh parties" to help with procurement. However, this is just a beginning, he said. In his words, Ukraine has to create a state institute to buy medicines for the entire country. Suprun said that such a procurement body, is expected to be launched by 2019.

Hiemstra also noted that there are a number of medications on the government's list of drugs for procurement that are outdated and should be substituted with newer ones, but some of them are specified in legislation.

Oleksandra Ustinova, a board member at the Anti-Corruption Action Center, also named several problems Suprun's team still has to resolve in reforming the health care system.

One of them is the bureaucratic process of licensing new drugs for import. Ustinova also said that Ukraine spends the largest share of its health budget on financing state hospitals, which is ineffective, since it is proportional with the number of beds.

Suprun plans to overhaul the system in a way that will allow hospitals to get more financing should more patients obtain treatment there.

However, most of the needed changes will depend on Ukraine's parliament, Ustinova said. And based on past experience, there is a risk that it won't be easy. For now, Suprun's team is trying to resolve problems with the ministry's decrees and bylaws to get as far as they can on their own. ■

World
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Editorials

Trump's awakening

Comes the dawn. Relentless critics are blasting U.S. President Donald J. Trump, no matter what he does, the same way that some people mindlessly opposed Barack Obama, no matter what he did.

But we welcome Trump's awakening on the menace of Russia and his move towards a rational and tougher policy against the Kremlin's global threat, a policy that should include heavier economic sanctions on the Kremlin and greater support for Ukraine -- including the generous supply of lethal defensive weapons to help bring an end to Russia's three-year war that has killed 10,000 people and dismembered Ukraine.

Trump in the last week has admitted that the 28-nation NATO military alliance is not "obsolete" as he campaigned to win the presidency on Nov. 8. And he admitted, in an April 12 White House press conference with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, what's happening in Ukraine is "crazy."

It's "crazy" because Russia is an outlaw nation led by a war criminal who backs dictators like Syria's Bashar al-Assad, who kills his own civilians with banned chemical weapons. Vladimir Putin knows a thing or two about killing his own citizens, by the thousands. Current leaders, including Trump, may have finally woken up to the fact that Russia will do anything to undermine civilized values of democracy, rule of law and transparency.

"Right now, we're not getting along with Russia at all. We may be at an all-time low in terms of a relationship with Russia," Trump said. Stoltenberg, the former Norwegian prime minister, assessed the West's policy correctly: "The only way to deter Russia is to be strong."

Meanwhile, in Moscow, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson showed only a partial awakening on Russia after his meetings with his counterpart, the habitual liar Sergei Lavrov, and Putin.

On the up side, Tillerson said: "Russia can make progress in implementation by de-escalating violence (in Ukraine) and taking steps to withdraw separatist armed forces and heavy weapons so that OSCE observers can fulfill their role. Until full progress is made under the Minsk Accords, the situation in Ukraine will remain an obstacle to improvement in relations between the U.S. and Russia."

On the down side, the secretary of state said: "We discussed no change in the status of sanctions that have been in place with Russia as a result of certain actions taken in Ukraine, as you know."

Russia's war, interference with Western elections, support of Syria's dictator and its heinous record on human rights, including the murders of Kremlin critics, are reason enough to ostracize Russia's leaders.

The West should put an economic vise grip on Russia that bankrupts the Putin regime by cutting energy purchases, denying visas to its elite and enacting Iran-strength sanctions, including a SWIFT code ban on financial transactions. Ukraine must also follow suit and endure the short-term economic pain.

When Russia returns Crimea, withdraws from the Donbas and is prepared to live in peace, respect human rights and adhere to international law, it can be readmitted to the family of civilized nations.

IMF forgives too much

Ukraine's leaders got lucky when the International Monetary Fund lent another \$1 billion, bringing to almost half the \$17.5 billion in contemplated credits through 2018, even though the nation only fulfilled five out of 14 structural reforms. The international lender of last resort is the most powerful check on the abuses, corruption and impunity of Ukraine's leaders. It must get tougher on Ukraine's leaders before lending any more money.

Here are the five conditions that Ukraine met: 2017 low-deficit state budget, resolution of banks that do not meet capital requirements, full cost recovery prices for energy, reduced energy consumption, filing of 2015 e-declarations for public officials.

The list of unmet conditions is long and serious: collection of PrivatBank's massive bad loans, pension reform, civil service reform, introduction of agricultural land sales, creation of an anti-corruption court, adjustments to energy subsidies, centralized database for social assistance payments, greater powers for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, and others.

The IMF needs to take a harder line on Ukraine's recalcitrant leaders.



NEWS ITEM: After the European Parliament voted to cancel visas for Ukrainians on April 5, Russian media and experts started slamming Ukraine's achievement, claiming that visa-free travel with Europe will lead to the impoverishment and outflow of people from Ukraine.



NEWS ITEM: Russian state gas company Gazprom has been suing Ukraine's Naftogaz for \$45.7 billion since 2014 over disputable gas supplies. Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said on April 11 that if the international court rules in favor of Russia, he would have to give Russia ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, who he said signed the contracts with Gazprom when she was in office in 2009, as a form of payment.



NEWS ITEM: A Saint Petersburg Cossack club threatened to strip U.S. President Donald Trump of the rank of Cossack yesaul, or captain, which it gave to him in absentia in 2016. The Cossacks are now unhappy with Trump's foreign policy and blame his "anti-Russian" advisers.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine took first place in EY's annual ranking EMEAIA Fraud Survey, which evaluates bribery and corruption in business in 41 countries in Europe, the Middle East, India and Africa, released on April 5.

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Reformer of the week

Yulia Kovaliv



Yulia Kovaliv, the chairwoman of the supervisory board of oil and gas monopoly Naftogaz, submitted her resignation on April 12.

Kovaliv, who is also a member of the National Investment Council, is the latest in a string of more than 20 reformers to resign from government and state companies since late 2015.

Kovaliv and three independent board members – Marcus Richards, Paul Warwick, and Charles Proctor – on April 6 threatened to step down due to the government's reluctance to carry out corporate governance reform by making state companies more independent.

The foreign board members also criticized lawmaker Tetiana Chornovol's amendments, which require them to file electronic asset declarations similar to those of state officials. The controversial amendments, which also crack down on anti-corruption activists, may ruin Ukraine's corporate governance reform by forcing independent board members to resign from all state firms.

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, a creditor of Naftogaz, said in an April 7 letter to President Petro Poroshenko and Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman that the resignation of the board members would shake international confidence in Ukraine, thwart corporate governance and gas market reforms and increase political interference in Naftogaz.

Kovaliv was a member of the energy regulation commission in 2014 to 2015 and a deputy economy minister in 2015 and 2016.

– Oleg Sukhov

Anti-reformer of the week

Yury Goluban



Several videos published over the past week show a person who resembles Yury Goluban, the commander of a special forces unit at Donetsk Oblast's police department, among Kremlin-backed fighters.

The case of Goluban, who denies having fought for separatists, shows the failure of police reform and the infiltration of pro-Russian cadres in Ukrainian law enforcement, according to critics. "The video features a person who resembles me," Goluban said on April 6. "I think it might be me. But the video was definitely tampered with."

Separatist warlord Oleksandr Khodakovsky said on March 15 that Goluban had fought for his Kremlin-backed Vostok battalion. Goluban, who was a subordinate of Khodakovsky at the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in Donetsk Oblast in the 2000s, admitted on March 17 that he had met with Khodakovsky three times when the war with Russia was starting in April and May 2014.

Goluban's boss, Vyacheslav Abroskin – a deputy head of the National Police and chief of Donetsk Oblast police – allegedly tried to serve the Russian occupation authorities as a police official in Crimea in 2014 before moving to mainland Ukraine, according to Sevastopol-based media, although he denies this. Anton Shevtsov, a former Vinnytsa Oblast police chief with pro-Russian leanings who has been charged with high treason, published an alleged SBU document on March 12 claiming Abroskin had passed intelligence information to him, though he denied the claim. The document also alleges that Abroskin had links to Kremlin-appointed Crimean separatist leader Sergei Aksyonov.

– Oleg Sukhov

VOX populi

WITH VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA



Are you excited about the upcoming Eurovision Song Contest in Kyiv?

Editor's Note: The Eurovision Song Contest will take place in Kyiv on May 9-13, so the Kyiv Post asked Kyivans about their expectations of the upcoming event.



Danylo Lytvinchuk, marketing consultant:

"I'm so excited about it. Spring in Kyiv is always awesome, but this year is a triple

strike, as we've also got the visa-free travel to the European Union and Eurovision. More Ukrainians will get the chance to travel to Europe, and more Europeans will come to us. I have a feeling that we're finally becoming Europeans. Ukrainians deserve it."



Sofia Matviets, PR specialist:

"I hope a lot of foreigners will come to Kyiv. That way we'll have the opportunity to practice our language skills in English and other foreign languages."



Zakhar Kutsil, entertainer:

"I've already learned a couple of phrases needed for work. Like 'have a good day' and 'welcome to Kyiv.' Eurovision is a big plus for Ukraine's image, I guess. But I wish Kyiv authorities would also understand it, and prepare for the contest better. Kyiv still needs to be cleaned, we have too much rubbish on the streets."



Macheo DeSandro, student:

"I love such events, and I just hope our authorities won't screw it up, but instead prepare to

meet our European guests properly. I already see some progress. The city is being cleaned, the roads are repaired. I like it. They're preparing it for the tourists, but we also get some benefits."



Dasha Sichkar, English teacher:

"I guess faithful Eurovision fans will come and enjoy the contest anyway. I'm

not one of these fans, but I'm also looking forward to Eurovision. I'm an English teacher, so for me, the crowds of foreigners in Kyiv will give a perfect opportunity to practice my language skills."

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.



Rob Portman

U.S. Sen. Rob Portman, a Republican of Ohio, is a champion for Ukraine. He's a co-founder of the Senate Ukraine Caucus and a member of the Foreign Relations Committee.

He represents a state with a significant population of Ukrainian-Americans who are engaged in events in their ancestral homeland.

On April 6, Portman spoke at an Atlantic Council conference on "Ukraine: Progress, Challenges, and Opportunities."

He also was instrumental in supporting a new law to help Ukraine counter propaganda from Russia, through the U.S. State Department's new Global Engagement Center. He keeps pushing for America to supply Ukraine with lethal weapons.

"There is a bipartisan agreement on the policy tools that the U.S. should utilize as part of its comprehensive U.S. strategy to support Ukraine, deter future aggression against our allies and inter-

ests, and uphold the fundamental principles of the U.S.-led international system that Russia's actions ultimately threaten. These policies include continued enforcement of joint U.S.-European Union sanctions," Portman said. "We also have continued increased discussion on lethal and non-lethal military assistance to Ukraine. I believe it is fair to say that there is a bipartisan majority in Congress that supports not just non-lethal but also lethal assistance so Ukraine can better defend itself."

He said that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has "expressed his agreement with that approach."

He said members of Congress are "talking about an enhanced U.S. military presence in the region, more robust and coordinated efforts to counter Russian propaganda and disinformation in Ukraine and, for that matter, throughout Europe, including with the elections in France and Germany upcoming, and the unity of action between the U.S. and the E.U. on holding Russia accountable for its violations of the Minsk agreements, the Budapest Memorandum for that matter, and other international norms and agreements."

He also expressed confidence in the security team assembled by U.S. President Donald J. Trump – in particular, Tillerson, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis, U.S. National Security Adviser Lt. General H.R. McMaster and United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley.

He also said that "no one understands the consequences of Russia's disinformation war than the people of Ukraine." Amen.

– Brian Bonner



King Abdullah

This tyrant has been king too long, just like his papa. He thinks he rules not only Jordan, but the rest of the world – at least the parts he cares nothing about, such as Ukraine.

He gave an April 6 interview to the Washington Post's Lally Weymouth in which he suggested that the United States trade acceptance of Russia's illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in exchange for Kremlin cooperation in Syria.

Note to dictator: Ukraine is not for sale, nor will it compromise its sovereignty and territorial integrity – this is a principle that the civilized world supports.

You want to compromise, king?

How about this? Let's turn Jordan into the official Palestinian state, run on democratic principles and free elections, not on a hereditary claim to the throne? After all, is Jordan even a real country, with only 6 million people? How does it feel when people talk about surrendering your sovereignty?

Here's the dictator's exact quote: "From the Russian point of view, they play what I describe as a three-dimensional chess game. To them, Crimea is important, Syria is important, Ukraine, and we see them in Libya. The Americans and Europeans must deal with the Russians on all these issues simultaneously...Then you horse-trade. For the Russians I think the most important thing is Crimea. If you come to an understanding on Crimea, I think you will see much more flexibility on Syria, and I think Ukraine then becomes the least problematic...Crimea is Putin's No. 1 issue, and I think that you say, 'Let's discuss Crimea, but when it comes to Syria, you have to move.'"

Abdullah misrules a pauper kingdom. He wants more U.S. aid to "allow us to increase growth and be able to wean ourselves off aid more quickly...The U.S. is our biggest supporter. We received \$1.275 billion last year."

From this U.S. taxpayer's point of view, the money is better spent on Ukraine rather than this jackass.

To summarize the U.S. State Department's latest human rights on Jordan: Citizens can't choose their government. They have no freedom of expression. They cannot criticize the king. Prisoners are tortured. Arrests are arbitrary. Due process is denied. Discrimination is rife. Impunity and nepotism are widespread. Violence against women is prevalent. Foreign travel bans are imposed on citizens.

Is this a kingdom or a prison, your lowness? I call for an immediate cutoff of U.S. aid. You need to go.

– Brian Bonner



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Order of Lenin

Spotlight on Mykolaiv

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In partnership with Ukrainian Builder company

Mykolaiv positions itself as cheap holiday destination

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Although most European Union countries are expected to cancel visa requirements on 90-day visits for Ukrainians this summer, tourism businesses in Ukraine's southern Mykolaiv Oblast still hope for more tourists.

Indeed, Ruslan Volchenetsky, the head of the Department of Youth and Tourism of the Mykolaiv Oblast Administration, says the E.U.'s imminent cancellation of visas for Ukrainians, which is expected to come in force in June, is not likely to hurt Mykolaiv Oblast's tourism industry.

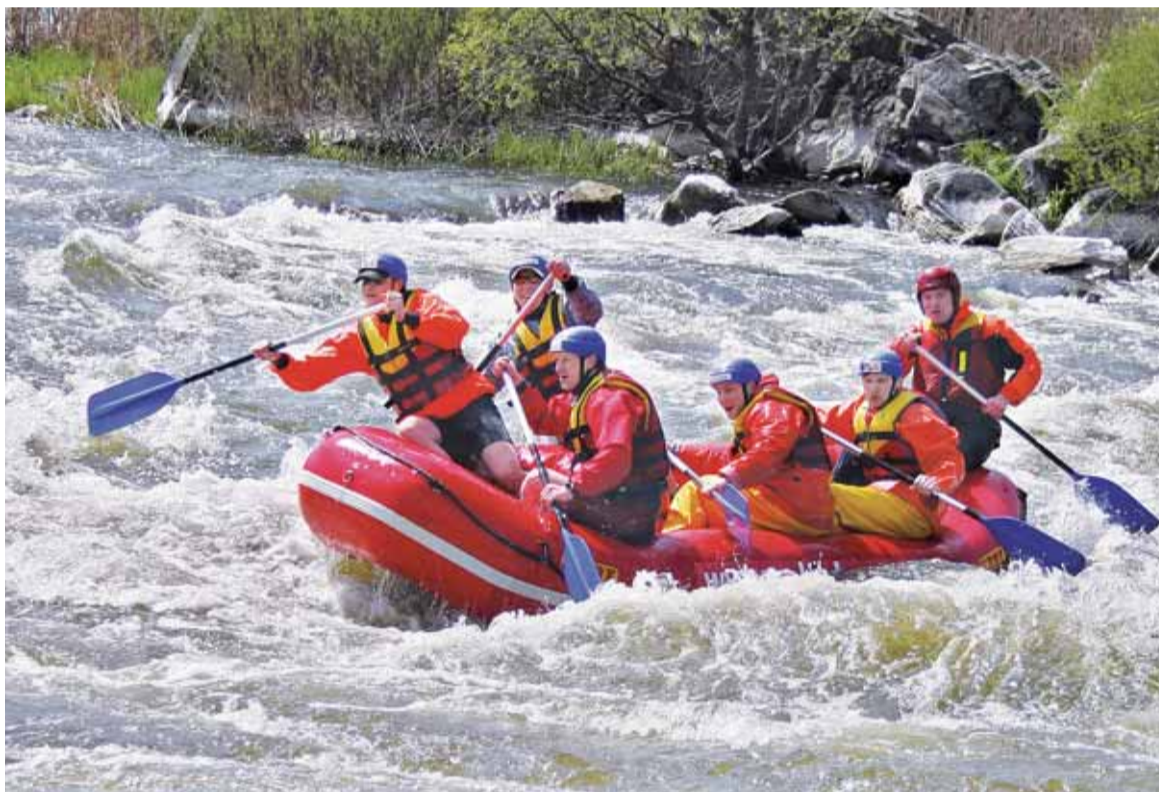
The region's low prices mean it can compete with far more expensive Europe destinations, Volchenetsky says.

Because of that, last year nearly one million tourists visited Mykolaiv Oblast. And in 2017, the local authorities expect that number to double.

"Last year, the cheapest resorts in Mykolaiv Oblast charged Hr 100 per person per night – that's not the kind of money that can buy a holiday abroad," Volchenetsky says.

He's right: The cheapest four-day bus tours to Europe from Ukraine start from 100 euros per person – a price some Ukrainians simply can't afford, with or without a visa.

According to a survey carried out in February by the Association of the Hospitality Industry of Ukraine, in 2017 just 9 percent of Ukrainians plan to spend more than Hr 1,000 per day of holiday (excluding living expenses), while 23.2 percent are



Active vacationers enjoy the rafting along the Pivdenny Buh River in Mykolaiv Oblast. The lowland river of Pivdenny Buh is Ukraine's second longest river and fascinates with scenery and cliffs. (Ukrafoto)

ready to spend Hr 350–500 and nearly 30 percent said they will spend only up to Hr 200 per day.

Under such circumstances, the only option for a cheap seaside holiday for most Ukrainians is the south coast of Ukraine, and particularly Mykolaiv Oblast, says Oleksandr Aliyev, the head of Association of Hospitality Industry.

Volchenetsky from Mykolaiv Oblast Administration said Mykolaiv

seaside resorts – Kobleve, Rybakivka, Ochakiv, Morske – might lose a few tourists this summer because of visa-free travel, but not many. And the region as a whole will gain more tourists, thanks to its affordability and popularity among families with children.

Cheap vacations

Anastasia Pohosova, who owns three recreation centers and two hotels in the seaside resort town of Kobleve, sees a sign of the destination's increasing popularity: There is a rise in bookings for the May holidays – more than 60 percent of her rooms were booked as of the beginning of April, she said. Demand is up by 20 percent compared to last year, she says.

"I'm not worried by the visa-free travel (with the EU) at all," Pohosova said. "Holidays in Europe are quite expensive, and a lot of tourists will likely choose cheaper domestic resorts."

Resort hotels in Mykolaiv Oblast charge on average between Hr 150–500 per person. Some, including Pohosova, offer 7-day vacation packages: Hers, for example, goes for \$150. For that price, one gets room and board, plus a guided-tour of the famous Kobleve winery.

Volchenetsky lists Mykolaiv Oblast's advantages: a warm sum-

mer, sandy beaches stretching over 150 kilometers, landscaped parks, 46 nature reserves and two famous national natural parks – Granite-Steppe Pobuzhya and Biloberezhia Sviatoslava. Together, this gives the oblast a lot of potential to attract domestic tourists.

According to Volchenetsky, most Ukrainian tourists come from Chernivtsi, Vinnytsia, Rivne, Cherkasy and Lviv oblasts.

Obstacles remain

However, Mykolaiv Oblast attracts holidaymakers not only because of its cheap sea resorts – local travel agents offer package tours that include rafting and yachting.

Volchenetsky says that holidays for children, as well as outdoor activities and rural tourism are among the most promising tourism trends in the future.

"Last year we had 70 countryside mini-hotels that provided rural tourism services. Now we already have 100 of them," he said. "I think that this year rural tourism in Mykolaiv Oblast will see a breakthrough."

Still there are lots of obstacles that slow tourism development. For many local tourist businesses, taxes have gone up. Pohosova says that after Kobleve village council in 2016 increased property tax rates by four times, she paid more than Hr 300,000 in taxes. This year Pohosova had to increase prices by Hr 50–100 per night per person to stay profitable.

Waste disposal in the resort areas also remains a big problem – local garbage collection firms perform poorly, while tourists coming to Mykolaiv Oblast are not accustomed to cleaning up after themselves, Pohosova complains.

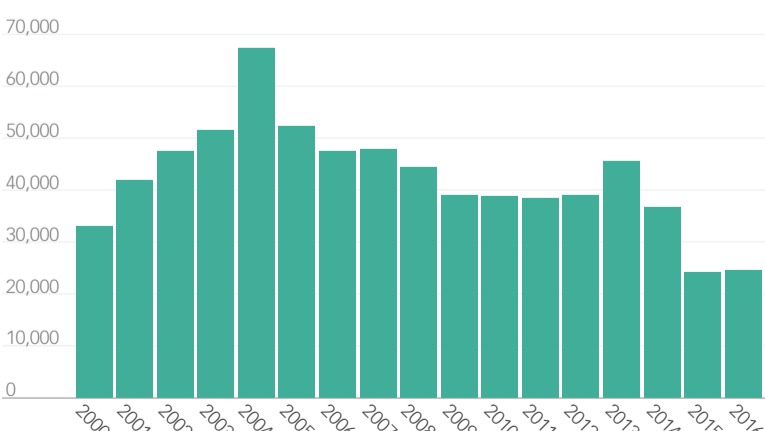
Mykolaiv Oblast Administration's Volchenetsky names poor tourism infrastructure and the poor state of local roads, more than half of which have not been repaired for decades, as obstacles to developing the tourism industry. The region also lacks modern water transport, he says.

Aliyev of the Association of the Hospitality Industry of Ukraine said the government should develop a strategy for developing tourism in the region. It should also create tourism products and promote tourist areas, he said.

As for visa-free travel to Europe, Aliyev believes that it will not harm, but foster domestic tourism, including to Mykolaiv Oblast: Closer ties with Europe, he said, would inevitably improve the quality of local tourism services. ■

Number of children sent to summer camps in Mykolaiv Oblast

Children's recreation in Mykolaiv Oblast is said by experts to be one of the most promising areas of tourist sector development. However, the number of children going to summer camps in the oblast has fallen practically every year since 2005, with 2013 being the only exception. Since 2014, the year of the annexation by Russia of the Ukrainian territory of Crimea, the numbers have fallen even more sharply, to levels lower even than in 2000.



Kyiv Post | Source: Statistic Service of Mykolaiv Oblast



Mykolaiv, close to the Black Sea, has nearly 500,000 people and is located nearly 500 kilometers south of Kyiv.

Mykolaiv mayor says he's 'ready to be a lobbyist for every reliable investor'

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine — Oleksandr Senkevych impressed many in November 2015, when he defeated a candidate from the old local elite for mayor of Mykolaiv, a southern provincial capital with a strong pro-Russian sentiment.

Senkevych, 35, an information technology director from the pro-Western Samopomich Party, beat ex-governor Igor Diatlov from the Opposition Bloc party, which was formed by former allies of fugitive ex-President Viktor Yanukovich.

Now Senkevych is trying to prove he can make a difference in this city of almost 490,000 residents, some 500 kilometers south of Kyiv. Mykolaiv has suffered years of stagnation in independent Ukraine following the collapse of its shipbuilding industry.

Valuable resource

When the shipyards stopped, skilled workers and education centers remained. So Senkevych is trying to lure investors by promoting the skilled workers, who he calls the city's "most valuable resource."

"They're creative workaholics," he told the Kyiv Post in an interview in his spacious office in Mykolaiv City Hall, just days after his return from a



Mykolaiv Mayor Oleksandr Senkevych speaks with Kyiv Post in his office on April 10. He was elected in November 2015, defeating a pro-Russian candidate. He's trying to attract new investment to the struggling southern port city of nearly 500,000 people, but some residents are unimpressed. (Anastasia Vlasova)

business trip to Turkey.

He added that the local people are ready to work for a relatively low salary. The average salary in Mykolaiv is only \$270 per month. The city topped a ranking of European mid-

sized cities in terms of cost effectiveness, according to fDi Intelligence Global Cities ranking 2016/17.

"I'm ready to lead every investor by the hand through the various commissions, go through all the pro-

cedures with them," Senkevych said. "I'm ready to be a lobbyist for every reliable investor here."

Scandals

But Senkevych admits investors are

still wary about coming to Mykolaiv, fearing instability, lack of security and corruption scandals.

In June, Mykolaiv Oblast Governor Vadym Merikov resigned after his deputy was accused of receiving a bribe of possibly \$100,000.

The new governor, Oleksiy Savchenko, who was appointed by a local selection committee in October after an open competition, also sparked a scandal after journalists from the Schemes investigative television program found that he had made dozens of grammatical mistakes in his test.

Senkevych, however, said he had built a good working relationship with Savchenko. "He has also come from business, so we have no misunderstandings," he said.

Savchenko, who is a member of President Petro Poroshenko's party, came to politics from the banking sector.

Before going to politics in 2014, Senkevych co-founded IT company Quadrologic in 2005, and later also worked in the construction business.

Now he said he earns just his mayoral salary of some \$370 a month, while his wife manages his businesses and supports the family.

"But for most public officials

more **Mayor** on page 10

UKRAINIAN BUILDER COMPANY OF MYKOLAIV NAMED ACHIEVEMENT OF 2016

According to the National maritime rating of Ukraine, the realization of the projects for Bunge (USA) and COFCO Agri (China) which are located on the territory of Mykolaiv Sea Port, by engineering company Ukrainian Builder was named Achievement of 2016.

"The young and ambitious team's recipe for success includes professionalism, decency and patriotism", - Vasyl Kapatsyna, the Company Supervisory Council Head, said. "Projects like these create jobs and confirms that the State of Ukraine occupies a leading position in the processing and export of grain and oil cargoes."

USD \$500 mln of foreign investments which was attracted by the Company for the development of port infrastructure of Ukraine has helped provide the agricultural manufacturer the possibility of not only competing on the international market, but also progress by increasing its production volume.

"We have applied the most advanced technologies as well as the newest equipment models from Siemens, AGI and many other internationally recognized manufacturers. The unique solutions to zoning as well as innovations in architectural planning has permitted us to create production facilities unparalleled in the world", - Andriy Dmytrenko, the Company Director emphasized.

As of today, the two port terminals and oil extraction plant of "Bunge" and "COFCO Agri" companies have considerably increased the cargo turnover of the Mykolaiv Sea Port, which makes it possible to increase its profit margins for the country's budget on the basis of port dues totaling over USD \$45 mln per year.

Mykola Kapatsyna, Company Supervisory Council Member and Company project manager added "Our city mission emphasizes on its capability to continuously developing itself with a new and modern generation of creators which greatly contribute its efforts into the creation of its unique image."



Advertisement

Mykolaiv, a former shipbuilding center, plans for next revival

Mykolaiv from page 1

In 2016, Mykolaiv attracted \$320 million in investment. U.S. agricultural giant Bunge and Chinese firm COFCO Agri have opened grain and oil-handling terminals in Mykolaiv's ports worth \$250 million.

Ports

In a busy Mykolaiv port, Andrii Dmytrenko, the director of the Ukrainian Builder construction company, or Ukrbud for short, proudly shows off the huge and shiny grain terminal used by COFCO, which was constructed by his firm.

"There used to be a landfill of construction waste here," he said. His firm also constructed the oil and grain transshipping terminal for Bunge.

Both projects took several years of planning and construction work, with about 1,000 people working simultaneously on each construction site.

But although President Petro Poroshenko visited the opening of Bunge terminal in June, the companies had to halt other new construction projects for this year and next. Investors are under pressure from the port authorities and constant checks by prosecutors, Dmytrenko said.

Oleksiy Vadatursky, the CEO of Nibulon, one of Ukraine's largest grain production and exporting companies, said that law enforcement agencies are continuing to put pressure on business, despite the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove the corrupt President Viktor Yanukovich from power in 2014.

"With every change in the regional prosecutor and the law enforcement bodies, (they) start checking how a company became successful,"

Interesting facts about Mykolaiv

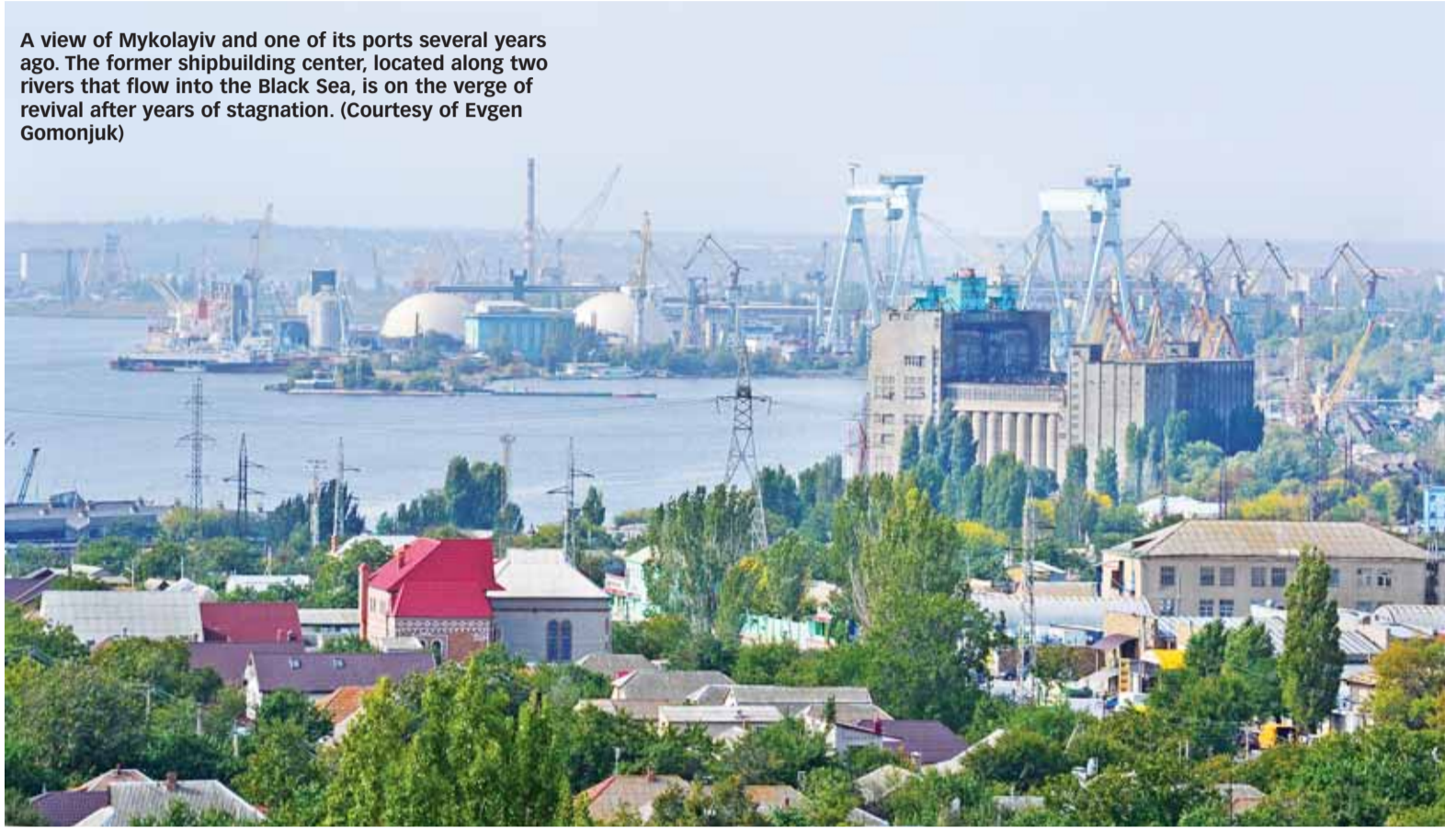
Mykolaiv was a closed city in the Soviet Union because of its shipyards, military port and other defense-related enterprises. Even in independent Ukraine, foreigners were not allowed to enter the city until 1996. One in 10 residents worked in shipbuilding in Soviet times.

Mykolaiv has Ukraine's longest waterfront — 136 kilometers — and the longest pedestrian street — Soborna Street. Mykolaiv also has the biggest and most famous zoo in Ukraine.

April 7 is the day when local pro-European activists celebrate the city's liberation from local separatists. On April 7, 2014, the activists cleared a Russian-backed separatist protest camp near the memorial to city's liberators in World War II.

The city became the center of the nation's volunteer movement in 2014, with famous Ukrainian volunteers helping the Ukrainian army. Among them, Yuriy Biriukov and David Arakhamia are both from Mykolaiv.

A view of Mykolaiv and one of its ports several years ago. The former shipbuilding center, located along two rivers that flow into the Black Sea, is on the verge of revival after years of stagnation. (Courtesy of Evgen Gomonjuk)



he said. "Then they start an investigation into the company."

Vadatursky added that although Mykolaiv ports provide investment opportunities, the fees the ports charge are among the highest in the world. Moreover, the money bypasses Mykolaiv and goes straight to the Administration of Sea Ports, which is based in Odesa.

"Mykolaiv and Kherson remain donors for the development of the ports of the Odesa area. So I will not see any investment booming here no matter how much the governor and the mayor want this," Vadatursky said.

People

The big trucks that rumble down the wide streets of Mykolaiv to the port and back irritate city residents, as they damage the roads and cause pollution, while not contributing to the economic development of the city.

While the port fees go mostly to Odesa, the big companies operating in the city pay taxes to Kyiv, where they have their main offices.

The new terminals opened by Bunge and COFCO created hundreds of jobs, but that is few in comparison to some 50,000 employees that used to work at the local shipyards.

Mykolaiv has a total labor force of more than 340,000 people between 25 and 60 years old, Mykolaiv Development Agency calculated.

Mykolaiv also has some 40,000 college students, many of whom graduate with diplomas in shipbuilding and ship operating, but who have to leave the city since they are unable to find a good job there.

Viktoria Demir, 30, is one of them. A Mykolaiv native, she studied at the local Admiral Makarov National University of Shipbuilding. But now she works on a cruise ship sailing

around the Mediterranean. She was in Mykolaiv to see her parents and friends while on leave from work.

"Most of the young people want to leave Mykolaiv. It's painful for me to see how it looks now," she said while walking with her friend along the picturesque Mykolaiv riverfront.

Mykolaiv's authorities said the creation of the new jobs is even more important than investment.

One promising sector would be building and servicing of the luxury yachts, which could be easily constructed by the specialists who used to build Soviet warships in the city.

In fact, Mykolaiv already has four shipyards for the construction of the premium-class yachts, said Dmytro Misyuryov, another project coordinator of the Mykolaiv Development Agency. And 10 more companies provide yacht maintenance and repair services, he added.

Mykolaiv also has an ideal location for servicing yacht marinas, which would boost the recreation, hotel and restaurant businesses in the city.

"We've already contacted marina developers in Turkey and Croatia to invite them here," Misyuryov said, adding that the city authorities are ready to allocate land plots for this purpose.

Infrastructure

Another leftover from the city's Soviet industrial past is Mykolaiv's infrastructure, including the railroads and international highways that crisscross it.

The experts from the Mykolaiv Development Agency believe this is another area ripe for investment.

A 140-hectare land plot in the suburbs of the city, located by the railways and large roads, which is still known as Promzona-2 (industrial zone two), would be an ideal spot for a Mykolaiv industrial park, the experts say.

"There would be land, plus infrastructure, plus tax credits that would allow the companies to pay taxes later," Khanzhyn said.

He added that the international company Lactalis, which produces dairy products under the President brand in Mykolaiv, has already shown interest in the project.

Misyuryov said that the industrial park would allow the development of food processing in the city, creating more jobs and allowing Mykolaiv to supply the world not only with food commodities, but also with finished food products.

"Grain exports are already highly developed here, but it would be good to give a boost to fruit and melon processing, which are also in big demand in the world now," he said.

The experts from the Mykolaiv Development Agency admit, however, that the industrial park is a risky project for the city, as there's no guarantee businesses will come to use the land.

Any decision related to land allocation in the city may also take a long time to be approved by the city council, where most deputies are in opposition to the mayor, Oleksandr Senkevych.

Dmytrenko from Ukrainsky Budivelnik said his company has for many months been unable to lease a land plot under the shabby building of the former river terminal because the city council is hesitant to vote on it.

The company has already bought the terminal building and wants to create a co-working area for community meetings there.

Mood of Mykolaiv

For decades residents of Mykolaiv were proud to live in one of the main Soviet shipbuilding cities, a place where powerful cruisers and aircraft carriers were constructed.

Pro-Soviet and pro-Russian sentiments were high there because military bases were located near the city, and many Soviet officers remained living in Mykolaiv after their retirement.

So it was a surprise that the city's residents were some of the first in Ukraine to topple a statue of Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin after the Euromaidan Revolution. The statue was downed on Feb. 23, 2014, after an hours-long standoff between the supporters and opponents of the EuroMaidan protest. There was no major violence.

In the next month, Mykolaiv took in Ukrainian servicemen who left Crimea following the Ukrainian territory's invasion and annexation by Russia.

Then it became a center for volunteers who were helping the Ukrainian army, including the famed 79th Airborne Brigade, and Ukraine's marines, units that are based near the city.

And in November 2015, Mykolaiv residents once again surprised Ukraine when they elected Senkevych from the pro-Western Samopomich party as their mayor. His competitor, Igor Diatlov, was a representative of the Opposition Bloc, comprising mainly of former supporters of ex-president Viktor Yanukovich.

Victoria Veselovska, an educator at the local College of Press and TV, said the trend was down to the large number of young people living in Mykolaiv and the suffering of local small and medium businesses due to corporate raiding by Yanukovich's cronies.

Those who voted for Senkevych now want to see rapid improvements in the city, and fear the return of Yanukovich's old allies if he fails, she said. ■



Bunge invests \$180 million, employs 400 in Mykolaiv

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

One thing in Ukraine has stayed constant across decades: the amber waves of grain.

It is fitting, then, that U.S. agricultural giant Bunge would stay the course and build a \$180 million grain and oilseed terminal complex to completion in Mykolaiv, a southern port city of nearly 500,000 people nearly 500 kilometers south of Kyiv. It provides 400 jobs.

Finished in June, the complex includes an oilseed refinery and terminal and grain storage, increasing its capacity by 1 million tons – for a projected 5 million tons in annual export.

The complex is made to conduct exports, company officials say. But to build it, they had to withstand difficulties ranging from political instability to a collapsed economy to recalcitrant local officials.

So why did they stay?

Growing with Ukraine

Bunge entered Ukraine in 2002 after buying out Cereol, a French edible oil company that owned an oilseed extraction plant in Dnipro, the eastern provincial capital of 1 million residents located 472 kilometers southeast of Kyiv.

“Bunge was buying one of the biggest oil processing companies in Europe, but it started in Dnipropetrovsk to develop its grain trading business,” said Oleg Bigdan, Bunge-Ukraine’s legal director. Bigdan joined the company when it was still Cereol, and has seen Bunge through its entire Ukraine development.

The company grew steadily throughout the 2000s, investing in



The new terminal for American-based agricultural giant Bunge stands in Mykolaiv on April 12. The company invested \$180 million to increase storage capacity to 5 million tons and employs 400 people at the complex for grain and oilseed. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Dnipro and building a handling terminal in Mykolaiv in 2011, while fighting off a corporate raid attempt in 2006.

“In about 2010, Bunge took a strategic decision to invest, they saw the success of our Dnipropetrovsk facility,” Bigdan added.

At the same time, the company was suffering from inefficiencies in its supply chain. Terminals were at

over-capacity, limiting the company’s ability to export its production. Workers had to make do with “old-type, Soviet infrastructure,” Bigdan said, which added more delays.

Mykolaiv solution

So from there, Bunge began to eye Mykolaiv as a potential center for building an independent, self-sustaining production and export sys-

tem in Ukraine, with Bigdan calling it “uniquely positioned logistically” to move grain and sunflower oil from the country’s breadbasket down the River Dnipro to foreign markets.

Olga Kopyika, the company’s government relations counsel, said that construction began in 2013.

“Our first launch of the facility was in April 2016,” she added.

Others are interested, as well.

COFCO Agri, whose parent company Noble was recently bought out by Chinese investors, completed another grain terminal in Mykolaiv in May. That comes with an annual shipping capacity of 2.5 million tons per year.

Natalia Shpygotska, an agriculture analyst at Dragon Capital, said that building these kinds of grain terminals was likely a good investment for commodity traders in Ukraine.

“Exports will likely increase, and so will their growth prospects,” Shpygotska said. “So it makes sense for them to establish their position here before these niches are taken by local players.”

Ukraine has been profitable for Bunge – the company has an annual turnover of \$1 billion from its Ukraine operations.

Looking ahead

Nine months since the new port complex launched, Bunge is evaluating its options. The Black Sea region covers nearly one third of world grain production potential, giving it enormous potential.

President Petro Poroshenko lauded Bunge’s project at its June opening ceremony, calling it “one of the largest investments in the Ukrainian economy in recent years.” He brought it up again at the European Union-Ukraine summit in Brussels in November.

But Bigdan was hesitant on further development, complaining of difficulties in obtaining value-added tax refunds.

“We have projects in our pipeline that we are ready to execute and that will allow to increase our capacity,” he said. “But we still need to see the clear signs from the Ukrainian government that we will be supported.” ■

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Mykolaiv mayor trying to revive city, but critics say they see no results yet

Mayor from page 7

city management is just a way to become rich," he said.

More transparent

Senkevych said now he's trying to make the city policy more transparent and cut away all the "temptations" to use his post for profit.

"We're creating the registry of communal property and plan to mark all city property on a special electronic map by April 30," he said.

Senkevych said that thanks to his efforts, Mykolaiv has already risen in the rankings of the country's cities.

According to an International Republican Institute municipal survey conducted at the end of 2016, Mykolaiv's residents are the third least optimistic in Ukraine regarding improvements in the local economy. They were the least optimistic in the previous year's survey.

The city also came 13th out of 50 big Ukrainian cities in a local government transparency ranking conducted by the Kyiv-based

International Center for Policy Studies in 2016.

Frustrated efforts

Senkevych said his priority for 2017 is to improve city's environment and budget planning.

But he said the City Council, where most deputies are from the Opposition Bloc, often frustrates his efforts.

Senkevych's Samopomich Party is now the main opposition force to Poroshenko. This also creates difficulties for the mayor, who tries to be on good terms with the present authorities, including Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman and his own party boss Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovy.

"I don't isolate myself from those in power," he said, adding that the last time he met Sadovy was two weeks ago. He met with Poroshenko two months ago.

In September, Senkevych tried to help his party leader by offering to take part of the garbage from Lviv, which has experienced troubles with waste disposal. But local city

council members nixed that plan, and the offer was withdrawn.

Smear campaign

Another problem for the mayor is a smear campaign in the local media and even the delivery of free newspapers with anti-mayoral propaganda. Senkevych accuses the former governor, Merikov, of being behind the campaign.

Mykolaiv has five TV channels, five big newspapers and several dozen local news websites, most of which are dependent on either business or political forces, said Viktoriya Veselovska, who teaches at the local College of Press and TV.

But she said Senkevych is being criticized by the local media largely because he has failed to build a good PR strategy for himself, and his political enemies are merely taking advantage of this shortcoming.

"The mayor hasn't given any press conference so far," she said. "If it continues like this, we may see the revenge of the Opposition Bloc."

High expectations

Olena Lik, 27, walking with her baby in the park along the city's riverfront, agrees. Lik said she voted for Senkevych back in 2015, but now she's disappointed with his performance.

"We had Lenin Avenue renamed and the road rebuilt there. That's it," Lik said. "Our European hopes can't make us ignore the dirt and rubbish in the city."

Senkevych admits he was elected largely due to the rise of patriotism in Mykolaiv. Many of his campaign activists worked for free to prevent a victory by pro-Yanukovich's forces.

But since the expectations were so high, it's hard to meet them all, especially so quickly, he said.

"It would be good to meet at least 1/10th of all the expectations people have of me," he said. ■



The reform of oil and gas monopoly Naftogaz is being blocked by the authorities, according to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Will Naftogaz go back to corrupt ways? Some see political threat

Naftogaz from page 1

three independent board members — Marcus Richards, Paul Warwick and Charles Proctor — on April 6 threatened to step down due to the government's reluctance to carry out corporate governance reform by making state companies more independent.

Kovaliv submitted her resignation on April 12.

If independent directors resign, "it would not only severely damage Naftogaz at a time when reforms were finally beginning to take hold, but it would also shatter the international confidence in your government's commitment to reform and restructure Naftogaz and other key state-owned enterprises," Chakrabarti said in the letter to Poroshenko and Groysman.

The EBRD said that the reform is being delayed by a lack of legislation. The bank also said that the government's actions compromise "the intended independence and insulation of the company from undue political interference."

Deputy Prime Minister Volodymyr Kistion has blocked changes to Naftogaz' charter under which the functions of approving the company's financial plans and appointing the executive board were to be transferred from the cabinet to Naftogaz's supervisory board starting from April 1.

Chornovol amendments

The EBRD, Kovaliv and the foreign board members also criticized controversial amendments to the asset declaration law sponsored by People's Front lawmaker Tetiana Chornovol and signed by Poroshenko in March. The amendments require anti-corruption activists and potentially investigative journalists to file e-declarations similar to those of state officials, which was seen by critics as a crackdown on free speech and civil society.

The amendments also apply the



Andriy Kobolev

declaration requirement to state companies' board members, including independent directors.

The declaration amendments "will seriously discourage worthy candidates with an international background and experience to apply for such positions, and hence deprive the country of much needed expertise for the transformation and proper governance of its state-owned enterprises," the EBRD said.

Moreover, the new disclosure rules may also violate confidentiality clauses in foreign board members' contracts and foreign legislation. There are fears that corporate governance reform may be killed due to the mass resignation of independent directors from state firms, with government loyalists and vested interests asserting complete control over them.

Gas market

The EBRD and board members also complained about the government's alleged efforts to make Naftogaz a vehicle for populist social policies rather than a profitable business.

The board members said that the government's policies would lead to

more Naftogaz on page 11



City: Mykolaiv

Location: 482 kilometers south of Kyiv

Population: 489,088

Major employers: Nibulon, Zorya-Mashproekt gas turbine construction plant, Lactalis dairy group, Pepsico, Bunge, Cofko, Kernel, Artel local construction company.

City founded: On Aug. 27, 1789 in the Russian czarist empire by Prince Grigory Potemkin.

Historical place: Mykolaiv was the main ship building center of the Black Sea until the early 2000s. Now its three shipyards barely function, but the city still has a number of universities and research centers specializing in ship-building. It is also an important transport junction. Mykolaiv's seaports are among the largest in Ukraine with 70 percent of country's grain export being exported from there.

Rankings: Top European mid-sized city by cost effectiveness, according to fDi Intelligence ranking 2016/17.

No. 13 out of 50 big Ukrainian cities in the local government transparency ranking by the International Center for Policy Studies in 2016.

Average salary: \$270 per month.

World in Ukraine: Poland

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EBRD threatens to end help if Naftogaz reforms unravel



Francis Malige

Naftogaz from page 10

liquidity problems for the company.

In March, the cabinet approved extending Naftogaz's obligation to sell gas at a below-market price to households for a year.

The EBRD criticized this decision, and urged the Ukrainian authorities to achieve natural market liberalization, solve liquidity problems at Naftogaz and adopt all of legislation needed to achieve these goals.

The bank also said it would only provide further funding to Naftogaz if the Ukrainian authorities implemented the reforms.

Turf war

The moves by the EBRD and the board members followed a long-running conflict between Naftogaz's leadership, including its CEO Andriy Kobolev and its supervisory board, and the cabinet.

In March, the cabinet approved the addition of another independent board member and one cabinet representative to the supervisory

board, which would give the government more control over the company. Currently, the board comprises Kovaliv, the three foreign directors and ex-Energy Minister Volodymyr Demchshyn.

The cabinet is likely to nominate Oleksiy Perevezentsev, an ally of Economy Minister Stepan Kubiv and Poroshenko, while a supposedly independent candidate will be chosen by a commission controlled by Groysman's subordinates.

The cabinet and the Economy Ministry have also sought to take direct control over gas pipeline operator Ukrtransgaz, a Naftogaz subsidiary.

But in March Naftogaz's leadership fired Igor Prokopiv, the CEO of Ukrtransgaz, a decision that allegedly angered the cabinet.

Prokopiv, who has defended the cabinet in this conflict, has also admitted that he represented the interests of the People's Front party. His dismissal followed an audit that found alleged violations of procurement rules at the company.

Harsh words

After the publication of the EBRD's letter, Francis Malige, the bank's managing director for Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, on April 13 also lambasted Ukraine's investment policy, which he argues discourages investors.

"Ukraine has an image problem abroad," he said at a meeting of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council in Kyiv. "We need to realize that investors have a choice, and sometimes this choice seems unfair (for Ukrainians)."

Malige said that he had been shocked when he was approached at a business conference by a woman who had invested in Ukrainian and Iraqi bonds, but preferred the Iraqi ones.

Although Iraq is a war-torn and corrupt country, its sovereign debt to gross domestic product ratio is lower. It is also an oil-exporting country, in contrast with Ukraine, Malige said.

He said that investment in Ukraine

was being discouraged by lack of the rule of law, corruption, rules on the repatriation of dividends, high port fees, and high royalty rates.

Malige displayed a graph showing that more people want an autocratic government in Ukraine than 10 years

ago due to pervasive corruption and lawlessness.

"Ukraine has made a lot of progress in the wrong direction over the past 10 years," he said. "To me, that is a sign of corruption fatigue and government fatigue." ■



11th Kyiv Post CEO Breakfast delves into Ukraine-China trade relations

He Jie, global chairman of China-based Cathay Associates, speaks as Pascal Demko, global managing partner of Cathay Associates, listens on April 12 at the Hilton Kyiv. They were participants of the two-hour Kyiv Post CEO Breakfast's "Doing Business with China" discussion. The event was sponsored by Vasil Kisel & Partners, a Kyiv law firm.

Other attendees: Liu Jun, Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Ukraine, commercial advisor; Alexander Borodkin, Vasil Kisel & Partners, partner; Oleg Alyoshin, Vasil Kisel & Partners, partner; Liu Syumin, president, InterBusinessConsulting; He Jie, Cathay Associates, managing partner; Cao Lei, Cathay Associates, partner; Pascal Demko, Cathay Associates, global managing partner; Ruslan Osipenko, Chinese Commerce Association, CEO; Roman Zorin, Huawei Ukraine, head of legal department; Vyacheslav Lysenko, Ukr-China Communication president; Vladimir Osadchuk, COFCO Agri general manager; Sergiy Kapuzo, State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine, deputy chairman; Volodymyr Melnik, State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine, head of international activity division; Iryna Ilchenko, State Food and Grain Corporation of Ukraine, translator; The Kyiv Post contingent included: Luc Chenier, Kyiv Post CEO and Brian Bonner, Kyiv Post chief editor. More details can be found online at www.kyivpost.com. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Easter for Protestant, Catholic and Orthodox Christians falls on April 16 this year. Monday (April 17) is a public holiday in Ukraine



Follow this pub crawling guide for next night out



A bartender mixes drinks in Parovoz Speakeasy bar inside Kyiv Cinema at 19 Velyka Vasylkivska. The Kyiv Post offers a guide of possible routes for pub crawling in the Ukrainian capital. (Ivan Chernichkin)

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Good news, bar lovers: with the number of bars and pubs in Kyiv increasing all the time, the city can now support a great old Friday night tradition: the pub crawl.

The rules are simple: enter the bar, have one drink there, and move on to another place.

For those looking for an organized pub crawl with the chance to meet new people, Bar Crawl Kyiv (barcrawlkyiv.com) offers a tour of five bars (and five drinks) for Hr 500 (\$18).

But the more adventurous can follow one of the Kyiv Post's three pub crawl routes. There are wine, beer, and cocktail routes, although mixing drinks is also an option for the brave.

As for prices, expect to spend Hr

90–150 per cocktail, Hr 30–60 per glass of beer, and Hr 50–100 per glass of wine.

Route No. 1: Cocktail crawl

Parovoz – True Burger Bar – Bar /13 – N::B – PR Bar – Khvilyoviy – Pink Freud – Wood You Like Bar – Podil East India Company

This cocktail-focused bar crawl kicks off near Lva Tolstoho Square and ends in Podil.

Start the night with a drink at one of Kyiv's oldest cocktail spots, the Parovoz Speakeasy, hidden in the basement of Kyiv Cinema at 19 Velyka Vasylkivska St. The place is famous for its friendly atmosphere and skilled bartenders. The bar even has its own mixology school.

Next, walk past Bessarabska

Square, along Tarasa Shevchenka Boulevard, and turn to Ivana Franka Street to find the True Burger Bar on 42 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. In its basement, there is the even better Hendrick's Bar – just go down the low-key stairs and knock on the black metal door. However, this will only be possible after May, when Hendrick's reopens after reconstruction. Meanwhile, enjoy a top-notch cocktail in the True Burger Bar.

The next stop is a 15-minute walk away - Bar /13 (21/13 Reitarska St.) is a cozy spot with a relaxed atmosphere, DJ sets, and a large choice of mixed drinks. Make sure to have enough cash to pay here, as payment by card often isn't available.

Some fresh air won't hurt at that point, so take a walk along the Volodymyrska Street and then

Volodymyrskyi Passage to get to N::B Cocktails on 13 Mykhailivska St. This tiny bar opened last year but has already become famous for its house drinks served in unusual metal glasses.

Then go to the European Square and down the hill to Poshtova Square, where PR Bar (6 Sahaidachnoho St.) offers its famous house cocktails such as Podil Apple Mule, a twist on the classic Mule, and Rusty Beard with tequila, coffee, rosemary, and lemon fresh.

The next stop is Khvilyoviy Bar on 18 Verkhniy Val, a place to drink another cocktail and enjoy a game of table football.

Just across the road from there is Pink Freud (19 Nyzhniy Val), one of

more Pub on page 13

Food Critic



WITH MARIA ROMANENKO
MRO@UKR.NET

Where to get fancy Easter cakes in Kyiv

Many Ukrainian families get together on Easter Day to go to church or just to enjoy a traditional meal for the Christian holiday.

Taking a central place on the festive table are sweet bread Easter loafs called paskas, which contain pieces of nuts, dried and candied fruit, and which are decorated on top with sugar icing, sprinkles and more nuts and dried fruit.

While many make these cakes themselves, they are widely available at this time of year in stores. The Kyiv Post has picked out five of the best places selling the best paskas, including options for vegans and people with gluten sensitivity.

Reprisa

Reprisa, a chain of high-end café-boutiques in Kyiv, offers a variety of Easter cakes, from a traditional classic cake with candied fruit and raisins to its soft cheese version with candied fruit, dried cherries and orange pieces. The café-boutique also offers a 715-gram lamb-shaped lemon cake and a variety of Easter-themed chocolate eggs, bunnies, and hens, along with honey gingerbread cookies and other candies.

Price: Hr 310-1,430 (\$11.5-53)
Reprisa. 40/25 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St., 38 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., 10/5 Sahaidachnoho St. and 26 Velyka Vasylkivska St. +38-067-505-3350; +38-067-131-2223.
www.reprisa.com

Baker Street bakery

Baker Street bakery doesn't have its own shop, but its products can be found in many Kyiv cafes or can be ordered online. For Easter festivities, the bakery offers three types of Easter cakes, various gingerbread cookies, and baskets filled with cakes, gingerbread cookies, and other candies.

Baker Street's classic and most popular paska Easter cake contains two varieties of raisins, cranberries, and almonds, and is decorated with sugar icing, dried fruit and nuts.

A raisin-free version is also available, which the bakery recommends eating with unsalted butter.

The bakery's chocolate Easter cake is a real treat for chocolate

more Cake on page 13

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KyivPost



Pub crawl routes for some of best Kyiv bars, night clubs

Pub from page 12

the best cocktail places in town. Its menu has pictures of its cocktails, so guests can see exactly what they're ordering.

Wood You Like Bar on 24 Mezhyhirska St. attracts visitors with its home-like atmosphere. The last spot on the pub crawling menu is Podil East India Company, on 9 Mezhyhirska St. Co-founded by the American expat and bartender Adam Howell, the place offers a large variety of exclusive and classic cocktails originating in India, such as Fourth Regiment.

Route No. 2: Wine crawl Nevinniy Bar – Vinsanto – Shampanela – Vian – Malevich – Like a Local's

Wine lovers in Kyiv now have a wide range of wine bars to drop by.

One of them is Nevinniy Bar on 15 Shota Rustaveli St., close to Palats Sportu metro station. The place offers white, red and rose wines, and cheese or meat platters to go with them.

Continuing on the wine trail, walk towards Lva Tolstoho Square, turn into Pushkinska Street and walk two blocks. The classy Vinsanto wine bar (20 Pushkinska St.) offers 100 types of wine.

Shampanela (11A Pushkinska St.) is just across the road from Vinsanto and focuses on sparkling wines. It is a tiny place, but well worth a visit.

When done with the bubbly, walk along to Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square. Then go up Mykhailivska Street to the Vian wine bar (21 Mykhailivska St.), which has more than 15 types of wine, which visitors can enjoy with oysters and various types of cheese.

From Vian, walk along Volodymyrska Street to reach the Golden Gates monument. Malevich bar (9 Yaroslaviv Val St.) is nestled in the yards of Yaroslaviv Val Street, which starts at the Golden Gates. This place serves Ukrainian wines and delicious cheese.

The last wine bar is 15 minutes away: To get there, walk along the

Yaroslaviv Val Street, cross the Lvivska Square, and continue moving along Sichovykh Striltsiv (former Artema) Street. Like a Local's wine bar (26 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) offers various Ukrainian wines and delicacies to go with them.

Route No. 3: Beer crawl Taphouse by Collider – Golden Gate Irish Pub – Blues Bar – Solomyanska Brovarnya – Pyvna Duma – O'Connors – Fight House – Beer Point, Plan B, Klaipeda or Doska

Kyiv beer pubs offer much more than just the drink: a friendly atmosphere, finely crafted sandwiches and often very cheap prices.

To start, check out the two best beer spots near Zoloti Vorota metro station: The recently-opened Taphouse by Collider on 16 Yaroslaviv Val St. and Golden Gate Irish Pub on 15 Zolotovoritska St.

Then move along Volodymyrska Street and turn down to Mykhailivska Street to Blues Bar (24 Mykhailivska St.), which treats its guests not only to tasty beer but also live blues music.

From there, it takes about 10 minutes to walk to Solomyanska Brovarnya in the middle of the picturesque Andriivsky Uzviz Street. The brewery offers several types of house beer and beer cocktails.

Keep walking down Andriivsky Uzviz, turn left and reach the bunch of beer spots clustered around Kontraktova Ploshcha metro station. Pyvna Duma (5 Spaska St.), right next to the metro entrance, offers four types of house beer. Move on to O'Connors Irish Pub at 15/8 Khoryva St., and continue to the Fight House (24 Verkhniy Val) – a boxing club with a bar.

From there, pick one of the four beer places that are within two minutes walking distance: Beer Point at 24 Verkhniy Val St., Plan B at 19 Kostiantynivska St., Klaipeda at 37/20 Nyzhnii Val St. and Doska at 12 Mezhyhirska St. Klaipeda offers the widest range of beers. ■

Food critic: Celebrate Easter like Ukrainians with this traditional festive pastry

Cake from page 12

lovers, as it includes chocolate and walnut pieces and is decorated with chocolate icing, dried fruit, nuts, orange zest, and more chocolate.

Price: Hr 185-400 (\$7-15)

Baker Street's Easter products can be found (in very limited amounts) at Trattoria No. 5 restaurant at 8 Drahomyrova St. and at Kartata Potata café at 1-3 Pushkinska St. It is best to order directly from the bakery: +380-67-409-7277 www.bakerstreetbakery.com.ua

Wolkonsky

Wolkonsky patisserie and cafe offers a range of handmade Easter cakes, from a traditional one with candied fruit, raisins, dried fruit and orange zest, to a chocolate Italian-style panettone with praline, chocolate drops, and orange zest. A new addition this year is the Pandoro cake, a sweeter option than the traditional Easter cake, which also originally comes from Italy, and which is made with walnuts, cashew nuts, figs, cranberries, cherries and other fruit.

Two less common choices are a cheese Easter cake with almonds and dried and candied fruit, and a marzipan sponge cake in the shape of a lamb. There is also the option of ordering a customized Easter cake or buying other Easter-themed products like gingerbread cookies.

Price: Hr 95-595 (\$3.5-22)

Wolkonsky, 15 Khreshchatyk St. +380-44-393-7833, 22 Verkhniy Val St. +380-44-200-0324 and more (for a full list of addresses visit www.wolkonsky.com)



An employee displays a custom-made Easter cake at Wolkonsky cafe on April 11. Wolkonsky offers a wide range of Easter cakes, from classic to cheese and chocolate versions. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Boulangerie Artisan

Boulangerie Artisan makes three types of Easter cakes. The first is a traditional one made with raisins and candied fruit and decorated with sugar crystals. A special edition Easter cake, which comes in a gift box, contains a generous amount of raisins and candied fruit and is decorated with large chunks of nuts, strawberries, and other fruit. The Boulangerie Artisan staff says the cake is "very filling."

Since there is now a lot of demand for gluten-free products, Boulangerie Artisan introduced a gluten-free Easter cake this year. It is made of rice flour, with added candied fruit and sugar, and is decorated with even more candied fruit.

Price: Hr 60-299 (\$2-11)

Boulangerie Artisan, 21/20 Yaroslaviv Val St. +380-44-234-0447, 41 Sahaidachnoho St. +380-44-462-5321. www.artisan-boulangerie.ua

Bombom

For those looking for a less traditional but completely vegan-friendly Easter cakes, Bombom vegan bakery is the place to go to. They have very colorful sourdough and soymilk cakes with two raisin varieties, candied lemon and orange pieces, blood orange zest, dried apricots and spices.

Price: Hr 80-120 (\$3-4.5)

Order online at www.bombbakery.com or by phone +380-73-052-31-37







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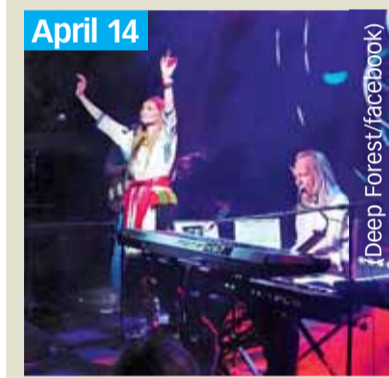
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Petro Lebedynets art show

Kyiv Art School is exhibiting the paintings of Petro Lebedynets, part of a series of art exhibitions by outstanding modern artists from Kyiv. The project starts with a personal exhibition of the works of the famous abstractionist Lebedynets, whose paintings are imbued with the harmony of bright colors, broad strokes and an embossed texture.
Petro Lebedynets art show. April 6-23. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.). Hr 30



Deep Forest (ethnic electronic duo)

French duo Deep Forest comes to Kyiv to present their new album "Evo Devo." The band plays charming ethnic electronic music which it calls "world music." Its famous "Sweet Lullaby" uses a vocal sample of the lullaby originally recorded in Baegu, the Solomon Islands, by ethnomusicologist Hugo Zemp in 1970, which was later released by UNESCO.
French Spring: Deep Forest (ethnic, electronic). April 14. 8.00 p.m. Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.). Hr 40-50

All Star Jazz. Smooth Operation

Smooth Operation is one of the best known jazz bands in Ukraine. The band is presenting a new show that combines elements of R'n'B, funk and pop. Nine musicians, four saxophones, a vocalist and the mystery of real jazz are waiting for guests at the Bel Etage concert club.
All Star Jazz. Smooth Operation. April 20. 8 p.m. Bel etage (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) Hr 150-450



Men in Motion ballet

The world-famous British ballet company Men in Motion will perform their new program in the Ukrainian National Opera and Ballet Theater in Kyiv. Staged by Ukrainian ballet dancer and producer Ivan Putrov, the performance is dedicated to the role of men in the history of dance, and the ballet legends' impact on it.
Men in Motion ballet. April 22, 23. 7 p.m. Taras Shevchenko National Opera and Ballet Theater of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrska St.) Hr 180 - 2,800



Kyiv International Short Film Festival

The 6th Kyiv International Short Film Festival (KISFF) will feature over 300 short and classic films in both competition and non-competition programs. Apart from the movie screenings, there are parties, lectures and discussions about the program. All the movies will be screened with English subtitles in the Cinema House, Ukraina and Lira cinemas. Night outdoor screenings will be held at the summer stage in Mariinsky Park.
Kyiv International Short Film Festival. April 19-23. Hr 40-50. For more information see www.kisff.org

'Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead' (theater screening)

The play by an award-winning British writer Tom Stoppard, performed at the Old Vic theater in London, will be broadcast live in Kyiv. The absurdist, existentialist tragicomedy re-interprets William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" from the point of view of two minor characters: Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The play features famous Harry Potter actor Daniel Radcliffe in the role of Rosencrantz.
British National Theatre Live: "Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are dead." April 20. 9 p.m. Multiplex Cinema (2T General Vatutin Ave.) Hr 175-225



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COMMUNICATIONS AND MONITORING OFFICER FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE BUDGETING

The "Gender budgeting in Ukraine Project" (GRB Project) is funded by Swedish Government and implemented by two consultant companies; NIRAS-In-develop, and CPM. The aim of the project is to introduce GRB in Ukraine in compliance with the on-going Public Finance Management process and its specific emphasis on performance-based budgeting. The introduction of GRB in Ukraine is driven by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine.

The ultimate goal of the project is to contribute to an increased economic efficiency and effectiveness in budget allocations that take into account different needs of both genders.

Working under the overall supervision of the Team Leader the consultant will be responsible for the following issues:

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- Produce and disseminate project experience/promotional materials such as newsletters, leaflets, brochures, articles, success stories, etc.;
- Ensure regular update of the Project's website, facebook group and other social media channels;
- Plan and co-organize public and media events;
- Monitor media, and regularly update project team of any media coverage relevant to their work.

Proactively identify media opportunities and plan and implement media events including interviews with media houses, organization of press conferences and other tasks.

In the area of Monitoring of project activities:

- Implement the Monitoring and evaluation plan (M&E plan)
- Ensure data are collected according to the M&E plan from the project team members and partner activities in timely, reliable, valid, and precise manner;
- Perform qualitative and quantitative analysis of collected data for indicators and assist in the maintenance of the Project's M&E framework;
- Conduct quality assessments of data collected to identify areas for improvement in data collection and analysis;
- In cooperation with the Project Manager in Stockholm office, lead the drafting of annual and quarterly reports with inputs from the team members and Team Leader
- Perform other duties as agreed with the Team Leader.

The position requires the following experience and qualifications:

Education: Master's degree in public relations, communications and/or international relations, or similar; **Experience:** Minimum of 5 years' experience in communications, public relations or a related field, preferably in Technical Assistance Projects; Excellent oral and written communication skills in English and Ukrainian; Previous experience in working with M&E systems and frameworks is an advantage.

Please note that the main purpose of the Sida's technical assistance projects is developing capacities within our partner institutions and therefore direct engagement of the civil servants of partner institutions is not recommended or encouraged by Sida.

Deadline for applications: 24th of April 2017.
Starting date: 1st of May.

Please submit your job application with a complete CV, cover letter in English, contacts of references (containing the example of one of the communication materials produced by the applicant) to nadiya.ivchenko@grbproject.org

KyivPost Lifestyle

The Lifestyle team of Ukraine's English-language newspaper Kyiv Post is looking for a lifestyle reporter.

We seek a journalist who is fluent in English and Russian or Ukrainian, knows Kyiv and has a strong desire to write about places, tastes, events and people of the city.

For more details, email Lifestyle editor Alyona Zhuk at zhuk@kyivpost.com and send CV, three writing samples, three story ideas and motivation letter.

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in Kyiv is seeking for their growing Energy Efficiency Portfolio (EE) a qualified professional to fill the position of:

(SENIOR) PROJECT COORDINATOR (FULL TIME 100%)

Responsibilities:

- support for the development and implementation of strategies for improving energy efficiency in companies in Ukraine
- facilitation of dialogues with the Ukrainian government and public agencies, international experts and as well as other relevant stakeholders
- providing professional advice to partners and cooperating with important stakeholders
- independently managing components in accordance with the commission, project goals and activities agreed with the partner, team agreements and/or agreements with the superior
- preparation of workshops, study tours, trainings and networking events

Requirements:

- masters/MSc in an area that is related to the project objectives (preferably in engineering, economics), with a focus on a relevant field
- 5-7 years' professional experience, with at least 5 years' professional experience in a comparable position, experience with the energy topic is preferred
- team oriented, flexible (incl. business trips), good skills in management, communication and organisation
- excellent English and/or German and Ukrainian/Russian language skills, including the ability to produce reports

Employment conditions: full-time position with 40-hours working week until February of 2021.

Application: please send us your CV and a compelling cover/motivation letter by e-mail HR-UA@giz.de in German or English by April 28. More information on <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/32413.html> or <http://eeib.org.ua/>

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Global Communities is seeking qualified professionals to fill the following long-term position for the five-year USAID-funded **Decentralization Offering Better Results and Efficiency Program (DOBRE):**

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Candidates are asked to submit resumes and cover letters in English to: UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org by April 21, 2017 indicating the position title in the subject line.

Only applicants selected for interviews will be contacted. No telephone inquiries will be accepted.

Horizon Capital INVESTING IN EMERGING EUROPE

Representative Office of Horizon Capital Advisors, LLC
Is looking for
ACCOUNTANT
Based in Kyiv, Ukraine

THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE:

- Experience with Ukrainian LLC or Representative office
- Knowledge of 1C, online banking software, Excel is required
- Good command of English and Ukrainian
- Optimistic, multi-tasking and service oriented attitude

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Extensive invoice processing and preparation of wire transfers
- Accounting for purchases and accounts payable
- Accounting for fixed assets
- Accounting for inventory
- Accounting for bank transactions
- Review of expense reports according to internal policies
- Maintaining general finance, vendor and bank files
- Liaising with foreign banks

WE OFFER:

- Challenging work in a Western environment
- Competitive remuneration and benefits package

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a resume to hr@horizoncapital.com with the position title in the subject line of the message.

PRISM
Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism

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 Internal Affairs of Ukraine:

- Youth police legal advisor;
- Youth police capacity development expert.

For the National Agency of Ukraine for finding, tracing and management of assets derived from corruption and other crimes (ARMA):

- Communication Expert.

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>

EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO UKRAINE

The Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine is currently seeking to recruit for the following positions:

- Policy Officer (Limited term contract)
- Project Officer

For further information about these and other current vacancies at the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine please consult the website: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/search/site_en?%5B0%5D=bundle%3Aeeas_job_vacancy&f%5B1%5D=im_field_regions%3A232

MINI RESUME

Native Ukrainian with a B.A. in literature and psychology from U.S.-based Macalester College '16, magna cum laude. Experience in literary translation and nonprofit fundraising/communications/advocacy/research, fluent in Ukr/Rus/Eng, highly adaptable. Seeking UA/international offers, especially in communications, journalism, PR, translation, publishing, and nonprofits, but open to all possibilities.

+1(651)269-3158
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CLASSIFIEDS

Place your TEXT for Hr 532

The U.S. Embassy will hold a motor vehicles sealed bid sale at the Embassy warehouse at 44 Mashinobudivna St. on Wed, April 26, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All subject vehicles are being sold "as is" and have no expressed or implied warranties on the condition of the vehicles. For more information, please see our website: <https://goo.gl/HmRdg9>

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Russia's war against Ukraine has killed at least 2,700 soldiers

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Since the declaration of yet another cease-fire on April 1, one Ukrainian soldier has been killed and two wounded. The casualties occurred over the past 24 hours near Donetsk's Oblast Avdiyivka, the Ukrainian military reported on April 13.

Russia-backed separatists attacked

Ukrainian army positions in Maryinka, Vodyane, Popasna and Troitske 61 times, military officials said in their daily briefing.

Fighting and military operations have claimed the lives of 24 Ukrainian soldiers over the last three weeks, according to a Kyiv Post count.

Read the full story at www.kyivpost.com



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**APRIL 22, 2017
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.**

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