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BUSINESS WITH A HUMAN FACE AND GOD'S BLESSING!

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What To Expect In 2019

See story on pages 5-7

People light sparklers on Christmas Eve while visiting Sofiivska Square in Kyiv on Dec. 24, 2018. Ukraine in 2019 will face presidential and parliament elections that will set the country's political course for the next five years. Significant developments are also expected in the economic, defense, reform and legal spheres. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Mailing address:

Kyiv Post,
31A Pushkinska, Suite 600, 6th floor
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Advertising

tel. +380 44 591-7788
fax +380 44 591-3345
advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff

tel. +380 44 591-3344
fax +380 44 591-3345
news@kyivpost.com

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Ukraine will try to revive neglected navy this year

BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO
PONOMARENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

After five years of grueling trench war, leaving more than 10,300 people dead and forcing 1.5 million others to flee their homes, the Kremlin's war continues.

In 2019 the sea is likely to be Russia's favored venue of war, following its attack on three Ukrainian navy vessels in international waters in the Black Sea on Nov. 25.

So Ukraine, with a weak and neglected navy, must be ready to bite back, and hastily rebuild its sea forces. Several new warships are expected to be launched, together with belated new coastal defense projects in the Azov Sea.

In addition, Ukraine's 250,000-soldier army will benefit from the country's record defense budget in 2019 worth \$7.5 billion. The army expects to continue its rearmament program, with new weapons and equipment coming into service, while soldiers and officers look forward to higher pay and better conditions.

Meanwhile, the armed forces and Defense Ministry still need to get up to NATO standards by the end of 2020.

New hardware

Defense spending will be heavily concentrated on Ukraine's navy.

Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said on Dec. 20 that 2019 would see the launch of at least two new Gurza-M gunboats, a Kentavr-class amphibious assault craft, a medium-sized surveillance vessel, and a new Lan-class missile boat.

The fleet's flagship, the frigate Hetman Sahaidachnyi, is also expected to undergo a major refit, giving it the capability to launch Ukraine's newly developed Neptune anti-ship cruise missiles.

"(In 2019), the financial resources for modernizing and restoring the navy will be billions of hryvnias, not hundreds of millions," Poltorak said on Dec. 20 during a visit to Odesa Oblast.

He added that the ministry was considering importing new small craft and marine radars in 2019.

Moreover, in July 2019 two Island-class patrol boats provided at no cost by the United States are arrive in Ukraine after clearing nearly four years of bureaucratic hurdles set up by Kyiv. The long-awaited and much-needed U.S.-built vessels are to



Ukrainian coast guard patrol boats maneuver during Sea Breeze 2018 maritime drills near Odesa on July 16, 2018. After years of scant funding, Ukraine's navy is hoping to rebuild in 2019 to protect Ukraine from the growing Russian threat from the sea. (UNIAN)

enhance the navy's mid-level force, which currently consists of just a handful of old Soviet-era craft.

President Petro Poroshenko, speaking at the end of the 30-day period martial law in 10 of Ukraine's oblasts on Dec. 26, also promised that the armed forces will receive nearly 6,000 pieces of military hardware in 2019.

The supplies are to include new mortars, mobile anti-aircraft systems, sniper rifles and counter-sniper equipment, night and thermal vision scopes, "dozens" of modernized warplanes, helicopters, and drones, and new munitions.

Poroshenko also promised the army nearly 10,000 modern communication devices, and radio-electric warfare and mapping systems in 2019.

Besides, the army this year expects to get some powerful weapons.

After over two years of development and live fire tests, the country's defense manufacturing giant UkrOboronProm is about to launch mass production of the Vilka, a 300-millimeter guided missile system based on the Soviet BM-30 Smerch, a multiple rocket launcher system known for its devastating firepower.

Higher wages

The military also hopes to stem the flow of professional servicemen out of the army by raising wages in 2019.

In 2018, tens of thousands of contracted soldiers and officers, many with rich combat experience, left the service.

According to official figures, at least 29,000 servicemen returned to civilian life, citing very low wages, insufficient to support a family, poor conditions of service, and a lack of career prospects due to corruption, nepotism, and ineffective Soviet-style command.

The situation was so serious

that back in late July, the Defense Ministry urged the government to allocate more funds to increase army pay, which back then started at only Hr 7,500 (\$265) a month for a first-year soldier.

In 2019, according to the ministry, the average private should be paid per month at least Hr 10,000 (\$355), while a company commander would get Hr 16,000 (\$570), a battalion commander up to Hr 23,000 (\$820), and a brigade commander Hr 26,000 (\$930). All personnel deployed to the war zone in the Donbas will also continue to be paid a bonus of at least Hr 10,000 (\$355) a month.

Naval ratings and officers, after years in the shadow of the army, will see even higher wage increases than the ground forces this year. But whether they will be enough to stop the exodus from the military remains to be seen.

Those leaving the military to start a new life behind the lines should have more support from the state this year. By June 2019, the recently created Ministry of Veteran Affairs is expected to start fully operating, finally providing a support safety net for up to 355,000 Ukrainian veterans of Russia's war in the Donbas, as well as for nearly 1 million former Ukrainian combatants in past conflicts.

New regulations

2019 should also see a series of crucial changes to the army's rules and regulations.

Above all, this concerns the expected approval of the long-delayed draft bill to introduce an American-style system of ranks, with non-commissioned officers commanding troops parallel to commissioned officers at each unit level, from squad, to platoon, company, battalion, brigade, and so on.

Meanwhile, another draft bill will

overhaul the army's system of everyday regulations of service, ranging from rules of engagement to duties and responsibilities.

Away from parliament, the Defense Ministry and the General Staff have a long to-do list for this year, as stipulated in the Strategic Defense Bulletin, a comprehensive roadmap for bringing Ukraine's military into line with NATO standards by the end of 2020.

Less than 730 days until the reform deadline, major changes to the unit command structure in the Ukrainian armed forces by the end of 2019 are to be made to ensure the army is inter-compatible with NATO forces, "introducing a new style of command and control based on the Western culture of interaction between leaders and subordinates," the Strategic Defense Bulletin reads.

In particular, the Armed Forces are expected to increase the percentage of contracted soldiers and sergeants, and decrease the share of senior officers, in line with NATO models, which usually envisage sergeants and soldiers making up nearly two-thirds of the overall number of personnel.

All staff and other command and control facilities must also be made completely NATO-compatible, and a brand new Chief Directorate for Logistics (J4) is to be created and launched to improve troops supplies — a perennial problem for Soviet-style militaries.

The 2019 reform agenda also demands that 100 percent of the army's supplies be bought through the ProZorro e-procurement system in order to stamp out corruption in military procurement.

Lastly, believers in uniform will also get some good news in 2019 — by the end of the year, the army will complete the launch of a fully-fledged, Western-style chaplain service. ■

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Election watch countdown begins: 78 days until March 31 balloting

Editor's Note: Election Watch is a regular update on the state of the presidential race in Ukraine. The country will elect its next president on March 31, 2019, with a possible runoff three weeks later on April 21. The Election Watch project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. Content is independent of donor. Go to kyivpost.com for more election coverage.

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

The beginning of the year in Ukraine may have been cold weatherwise, but it had some hot political news.

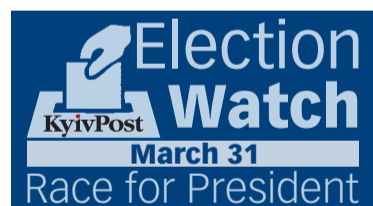
Candidates register

Although many candidates in the March 31, 2019, presidential race started their unofficial campaigns months ago, the race started officially on Dec. 31, exactly three months before the voting.

The Central Election Commission started registering candidates and will continue until Feb. 3. After that, the commission has to announce the final list of candidates by Feb. 8.

Previously, more than 20 people announced they wanted to run. But as of the afternoon of Jan. 10, only five candidates were registered, according to the election commission's website.

They were: ex-lawyer Ihor Shevchenko, who served as ecology minister in 2014–2015 and had to leave after being accused of accepting a bribe from the scandalous businessman Oleksandr Onyshchenko in the form of a ride on a private jet; lawmaker Serhiy Kaplin, who heads the Social-Democrat Party and is known for his populist stance; Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, a former diplomat who ran the Security Service of Ukraine in 2014–2015; Andriy Sadoviy, the mayor of Lviv and head of the Samopomich party that has 25 seats in parliament; and Vitaly Skotsyuk, a former head of the Agrarian Party of Ukraine.



None of the top candidates in the polls have registered yet. Some are planning to do so after party conventions later in January. These include ex-Prime Minister and Batkivshchyna party leader Yulia Tymoshenko, who has been leading the polls almost invariably for months.

President Petro Poroshenko has yet to formally announce his bid for re-election.

Latest polls

The latest presidential poll was conducted in December and released on Jan. 3 by a Kyiv-based polling center Oleksandr Yaremko Ukraine Institute for Social Research.

Tymoshenko led it with a moderate result of 13.4 percent, followed by a showman Volodymyr Zelenskiy with 10.8 percent. Other leaders were Yuriy Boyko, a lawmaker and a candidate from the pro-Russian Opposition Platform – Za Zhyttya party, with 8.5 percent, ex-Defense Minister Anatoly Grytsenko with 8.1

Key developments:

Candidate registration ends on Feb. 3. Final list on Feb. 8. New heavyweight candidate enters race. Poroshenko plays religion card.

Days until election:

78

Registered so far:

Ihor Shevchenko, ex-ecology minister (no party allegiance)
Serhiy Kaplin, lawmaker (Social-Democrat Party)
Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, ex-head of State Security Service (Valentyn Nalyvaichenko's Justice Party)
Vitaly Skotsyuk, ex-head of Agrarian Party (no party allegiance)
Andriy Sadoviy, mayor of Lviv (Samopomich Party)
Source: Central Election Commission

percent, and Poroshenko with 7.7 percent.

But like the previous polls, this one shows there is space for a drastic change. More than 13 percent of the respondents said they are yet undecided about the candidate – the number almost equal to the support of the poll's leader, Tymoshenko.

The poll was conducted before one big news bomb dropped at the end of December – before Zelenskiy officially announced his candidacy.

Zelenskiy and 'team Ze'

Ukraine's top showman, comedian actor and producer Zelenskiy announced he was running for president on the first day of the campaign, on Dec. 31.

He did it in the most public way imaginable: Zelenskiy's announcement was rolled on 1+1 TV channel minutes before the midnight of Dec. 31, brazenly replacing the traditional end-of-the-year address by the president.

Zelenskiy, who has never been in politics but is arguably one of the most recognized celebrities in Ukraine thanks to his massive TV presence, was rumored to consider running for president for nearly a year. His name appeared in the polls, and he himself joked about running.

One of Zelenskiy's most popular roles in recent years has been the role of the president of Ukraine in the comedy series "Servant of the People." His appealing character is a high school teacher who happens to become president and tries to rule Ukraine "the right way" – end the corruption and put people's interests first. The third season premiers in March, the same month as the election.

Following the announcement, Zelenskiy started recruiting supporters online, labeling them "Team Ze," and asked them to post their suggestions for his presidential campaign.

Now that the mystery of whether Zelenskiy will indeed run is solved, another other one stands up: why



Ukrainian actor and producer Volodymyr Zelenskiy is on the set of his TV show "Servant of the People," where he plays the president of Ukraine. He declared on Dec. 31 he will run for president in real life. He is one of the most recognizable celebrities in Ukraine. Even before his announcement, polls put him Zelenskiy among the top five candidates, often in the second place, following ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. (Courtesy)

does he run and who backs him.

Zelenskiy works with 1+1, the channel owned by the Ukrainian oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky and was spotted visiting the oligarch's birthday party in Switzerland in 2018. This led to a popular opinion that Zelenskiy's campaign is a scheme by Kolomoisky, who has been in vehement opposition to Poroshenko since Ukrainian central bank nationalized the troubled PrivatBank, which Kolomoisky owned with and his business partner Gennady Bogolyubov, in December 2016.

Zelenskiy said in a December interview he had only a business relationship with Kolomoisky, through the 1+1 TV channel. When Ukrainian journalist Sonya Koshkina asked Kolomoisky in November whether he influenced Zelenskiy, the oligarch replied with a joke.

Zelenskiy's candidacy might indeed hurt Poroshenko, and not only because he can chop off some of his votes.

According to the polls, Poroshenko might have a very hard time winning in the runoff. His best chance is to get in the runoff with a pro-Russian candidate like Boyko. Zelenskiy can be an obstacle to it: a Russian-speaking native of Dnipro Oblast, he would have strong support of the eastern and central Ukraine, hurting candidates like Boyko.

Sociologist Iryna Bekeshkina, director of the Democratic Initiatives Fund, said the high support of Zelenskiy came as a result of the Ukrainians' disappointment in politicians and their hunger for new faces in politics.

"It's their reaction – let it be anyone, even Zelenskiy, but not you," Bekeshkina said on air of Hromadske TV on Jan. 8.

Will he or won't he?

The joker card of this election is

Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, the 43-year-old leader of Okean Elzy, Ukraine's most popular band.

Like Zelenskiy, Vakarchuk has been rumored to consider running for president. The musician isn't new to politics: he sat in parliament in 2007–2008 on then-President Viktor Yushchenko's party ballot. He left the parliament voluntarily, saying that it mired in arguments and failed.

In the recent years, Vakarchuk has again shown interest in politics and democracy, having taken leadership fellowships in Western universities and giving lectures about subjects like rule of law and the future of Ukraine.

\$83 million
2019 presidential election will cost Ukraine's budget

But no word on presidency yet.

Vakarchuk has time until Feb. 3 to decide whether he is running.

Vakarchuk and his band will have a charity concert in Kyiv on Jan. 21 to benefit the families of the Ukrainian soldiers killed in Russia's war in eastern Ukraine. Some expect him to use this occasion for the big announcement – just like earlier they anticipated he would do it at the band's big Independence Day stadium show in August 2018. Perhaps, this boosted the ticket sales: the expensive tickets, ranging from Hr 1,000 to Hr 28,000, are nearly sold out.

Religion card

President Poroshenko, who is yet to announce his bid for re-election but is widely believed to be running, had a mixed start of the year.

While Zelenskiy entering the race is bad news for Poroshenko, it was followed by a major PR victory for the incumbent president.

On Jan. 6, Poroshenko and a Ukrainian delegation went to Istanbul to ceremonially receive a decree pronouncing Ukraine's church independence from the Russian church, ending a 300-year-long subservience.

In 2018, Poroshenko made the fight for the church independence a central point of his promo campaign, running under the slogan "Army. Language. Faith," appealing to conservative patriots.

Poroshenko made sure to squeeze maximum publicity out of the proclamation of the church independence. Despite the fact that Ukraine by its Constitution is a secular state, the president appeared at the Ukrainian church unification council at the end of December, where he sat at the table surrounded by priests. After that, he commissioned numerous billboards celebrating the church unification – signed by his name.

January polls will show if it helped Poroshenko's rating. ■

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement



Zoryana Sozanska-Matviychuk

Ukrainian law firm Redcliffe Partners is proud to announce that Zoryana Sozanska-Matviychuk has been promoted to Partner and appointed as Head of the firm's M&A practice.

Regarding her partnership, Zoryana said that for her it means being trusted by the other partners, and she is looking forward to an exciting challenge.

Zoryana has significant experience with leading international law firms, focusing her practice on complex M&A, private equity and venture capital transactions.

Highly competent and efficient, she has impressive experience and – unusually in the Ukrainian market – expertise in English law transactions, gained in London and Sydney.

Zoryana obtained a degree from Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, followed by an LL.M. at Griffith University (Australia).

"Zoryana's partnership has been the most significant promotion since the beginning of Redcliffe Partners' story three years ago. Her appointment as Head of M&A practice highlights our focus on this practice. We are also glad to contribute to gender balance, which is one of our main values," Managing Partner Olexiy Soshenko commented.

REDCLIFFE PARTNERS

Editorials

IMF's sobering report

Besides the billions of dollars in low-interest loans that the International Monetary Fund has lent Ukraine's underperforming economy, the lender of last resort offers some of the best analysis of the nation's political and economic situation. The latest version can be found in its 111-page report released on Jan. 8. Ukraine should pay heed. What's ahead, according to the IMF?

Sluggish exports of mainly raw materials. Imports outpacing exports. Declining gas transit revenues in 2020 after Nord Stream 2 bypasses Ukraine to connect Russia and Germany. Sizable remittances from Ukraine's 2-3 million workers abroad will help cover the trade deficit and increasing debt service obligations. Foreign direct investment will remain low. Banks will continue to struggle with deadbeat borrowers — 55 percent of loans aren't being repaid and should have never been issued. Taxpayers have doled out \$20 billion for bank fraud alone. Progress in selling assets of failed banks has been limited. Hard currency reserves remain inadequate. Ukraine's debt-service obligations will start hitting \$6 billion to \$8 billion annually in coming years.

And more from the IMF: The structure of the economy remains largely unchanged, with key economic sectors still dominated by oligarchs, stifling competition and deterring new entrants. No cases of high-level corruption have been adjudicated, leaving a sense of impunity and disappointment in society. Election-year promises threaten to reverse the modest gains made. Risks remain high because of Russia's 5-year-old war that has dismembered Ukraine and killed more than 10,300 people.

Also: Restructuring the large and inefficient public sector — including through privatization — remains incomplete. The opening up of markets, including by creating a competitive gas market and a market for agricultural land, has still not happened. Growth is projected to slow slightly, to 2.7 percent in 2019, because of worsening terms of trade and rising production costs — notably wages. Inflation will ease, but still hover at close to 7 percent.

To qualify for the IMF loans, the president, prime minister, finance minister and central bank governor have to sign off on commitments. Ukraine's top officials made pledges, including a budget deficit of no more than 2.25 percent of GDP, with revenues of \$36 billion and spending of \$39 billion, with no major changes in tax policy other than scheduled increases. They committed to pages and pages of reforms in various sectors, including some that are unbelievable, given their track record. "We are committed to build on recent gains in our efforts to tackle high-level corruption and to deliver concrete results," the top public officials promised. In 2019, we, like most in Ukraine, will believe it when we see it happening.

Torben Majgaard

Torben Majgaard, a Danish citizen with a flair for business, was an important part of the Kyiv community. It was with sadness that we reported his Jan. 3 death in a Spanish hospital. The gifted entrepreneur in 2002 started Ciklum, an information technology company, and built it into one of the five top IT outsourcing powerhouses in Ukraine, with 2,500 employees and international reach in several nations.

Majgaard was also generous, investing in IT education, in the Kyiv Post's IT fellowship program and many other noteworthy ventures, including the 2018 Ukraine House Davos. Majgaard spoke twice at the annual Kyiv Post Tiger Conference, always insightfully. He was gregarious and chance encounters with him were invariably pleasant. He also had a rich grasp of history and could talk intelligently for hours on many topics.

He did have his weaknesses, as most of us do. He drank too much alcohol for too long and it killed him, eroding his liver and kidneys. He died at 48, decades prematurely. The circumstances of his death do not define his life or diminish his accomplishments. But Ukraine is an easy place indulge in excess and justify it. The sobering reality of this tragedy should spur reflection about how we can be better persons — to ourselves and to each other, so that all of us can reach our potentials, with lives that are not only fulfilling, as Majgaard's certainly was, but also long and healthy, as his was not.



NEWS ITEM: After showman Volodymyr Zelenskiy confirmed the long-circulating rumor that he was running for president on Dec. 31, the anticipation increased for another rumored celebrity candidate to do the same. Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, the leader of the popular rock band Okean Elzy, has been flirting with politics for a while, but wouldn't confirm whether he is running this time. He has time to announce until Feb. 3, when the time for the registration of the candidates ends.



NEWS ITEM: A delegation of Ukrainian top officials and priests went to Istanbul on Jan. 6 to ceremonially receive a decree, or "tomos," by the highest office of the Eastern Orthodoxy, that declares Ukraine's church independent of the Russian one, ending a 300-year-old subservience. The separation from the Moscow church has been promoted as a big victory for President Petro Poroshenko, and is expected to help his ratings. The ceremony in Istanbul wasn't all smooth: Some were surprised to see among the delegation a Ukrainian businessman from Dnipro Oleksandr Nalekrishvili, who Ukrainian media invariably describe as a mafia boss.



NEWS ITEM: Ukraine's top comedian actor and producer Volodymyr Zelenskiy announced he is running for the president of Ukraine on Dec. 31, the first day of the official campaign leading up to the March 2019 presidential election. Zelenskiy, who has never been into politics, has no election program yet, and said he wanted to write it together with the Ukrainian people. He asked his supporters to post online their suggestions on what needs to be fixed in Ukraine. A lot of the suggestions were populist, which quickly became a subject of mockery.

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Reformer & Anti-Reformer Of The Week



Kateryna Butko
Activist helps compile list of 55 tainted candidates for anti-corruption court



Maryan Holovchak
Candidate for anti-graft court has contradictory data in asset declarations

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week



John E. Herbst
Former US envoy calls for supply of more defensive weapons to Ukraine.



Paul Manafort
Suspicion swirl around former Yanukovich consultant's Russia links.

VOX populi:

What are you looking forward to in Ukraine in 2019?

Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper? The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner chief editor, at bonner@kyivpost.com. All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.

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What's coming up in Ukraine in 2019

Editor's Note: Compared to recent years, Ukraine's calendar in 2019 is empty of big international events, with no major sports competition finals or music competitions for the country to host, or landmark international agreements to come into effect. Nevertheless, the year promises to be packed with political news, with likely two rounds of presidential elections (March 31 and April 21) and parliamentary election in October. There are also personalities to keep an eye on in sports, where Ukraine consistently punches above its weight, and other notable events and historic anniversaries.

Politics

The nation's political course will be set for the next five years, barring another revolution.

The political highlights will be the March 31 presidential election, to be followed by a second round on April 21 if no one gets a majority in the first-round voting, followed by parliament elections in October.

President Petro Poroshenko has a shot at re-election, according to polls that have him trailing ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko of the Batkivshchyna Party and the wild-card candidate, director and comedian Volodymyr Zelensky.

Other top-tier candidates include Yuriy Boyko of the newly formed pro-Russian Opposition Platform – Za Zhitya (For Life) party, and Anatoliy Grytsenko of the Civic Position party.

None of the seven other likely candidates polls more than 10 percent.

Poroshenko has been running an unofficial campaign under the slogan “Army, language, faith,” and the president hopes his success in helping obtain independence for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church from Moscow will boost his fortunes. He also clearly aims to play the patriotism card, emphasizing his record on defense and supporting Ukrainian culture and language.

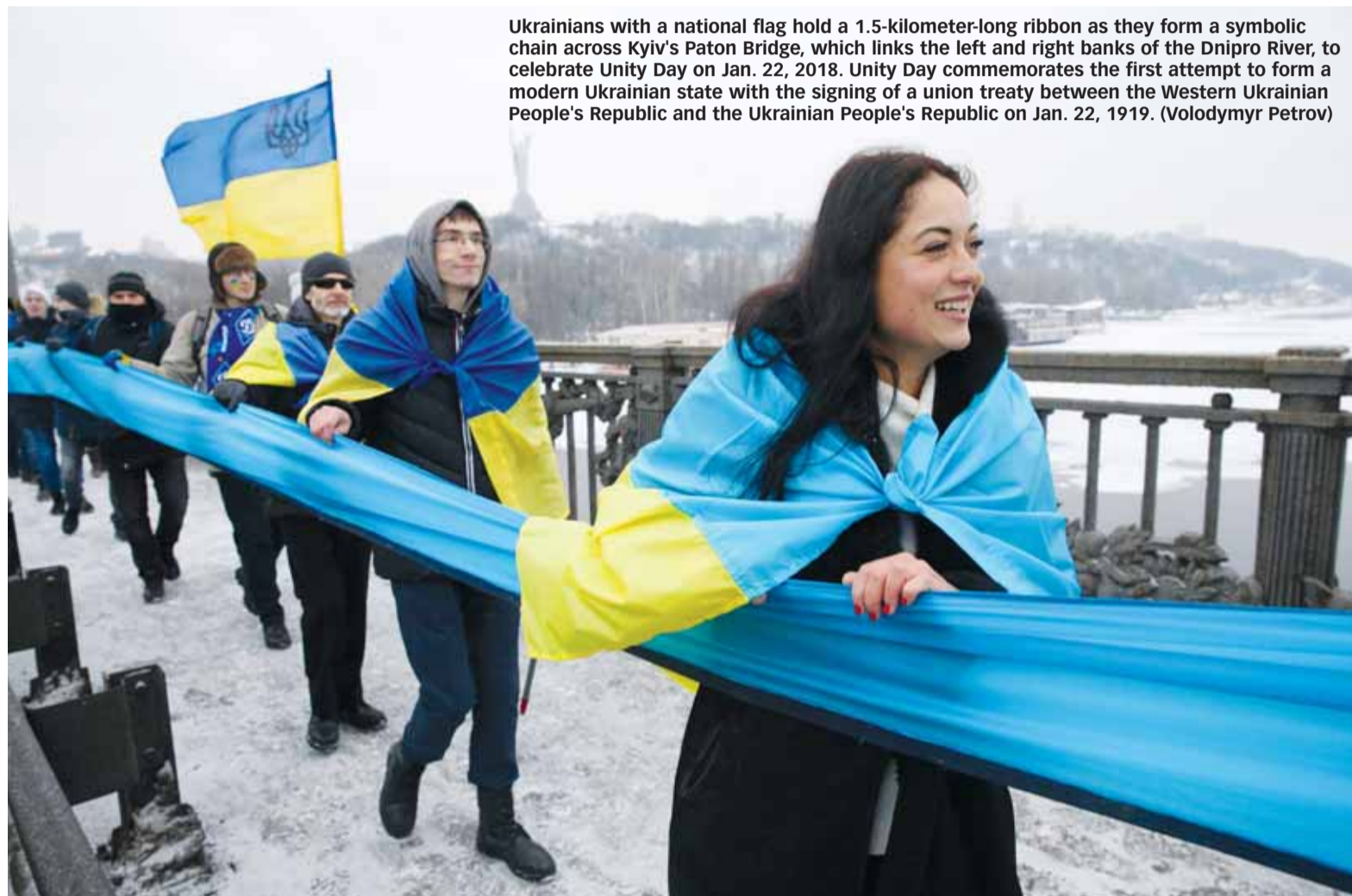
But even should the president make it through to a second round of polling on April 21, his most probable second-round opponents, Tymoshenko or Zelensky, would beat him in the runoff, according to current polls.

There's still time for the situation to change dramatically, and the race is currently wide open.

Ukrainians will go to the polls again six months after the presidential elections for the October parliamentary elections.

The current leader is Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna, with around 19 percent, followed by the catchall party Servant of the People (associated with presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelensky, with around 13 percent) and the pro-Russian Opposition Platform – For Life party (with around 12 percent).

Poroshenko's Solidarity party and the Civic Position party, led by pres-



Ukrainians with a national flag hold a 1.5-kilometer-long ribbon as they form a symbolic chain across Kyiv's Paton Bridge, which links the left and right banks of the Dnipro River, to celebrate Unity Day on Jan. 22, 2018. Unity Day commemorates the first attempt to form a modern Ukrainian state with the signing of a union treaty between the Western Ukrainian People's Republic and the Ukrainian People's Republic on Jan. 22, 1919. (Volodymyr Petrov)

idential candidate Grytsenko, are both at around 11 percent, while the Radical Party of Oleh Lyashko, at around 8 percent, should also win seats in the next parliament.

The Samopomich Party and pro-Russian Nashi, both at around 5 percent support, are dangerously close to failing to meet the threshold for representation in parliament, while the pro-Russian Opposition Bloc at about 2.5 percent looks likely to exit the Rada.

The results of the parliamentary elections will be critical for Ukraine's newly elected president, as political power is finely balanced in Ukraine between the parliament and presidency. Any president left without a workable majority in parliament after October 2019 could find themselves hamstrung for the bulk of their term in office.

History

2019 is the 1,000th anniversary of the start of the reign of Yaroslav the Wise, the Grand Prince of Kyiv and ruler of the ancient state of Kyivan Rus, a precursor of modern Ukraine.

Under Yaroslav, Kyivan Rus reached the zenith of its power and influence, with Yaroslav forging international alliances through his marriage to the daughter of King Olaf of Sweden, and the marriage of his daughter, Anna, to Henri I of France.

Yaroslav's reign lasted until 1054. His legacy includes the founding of towns in what are now four different

countries: Yaroslavl in Russia, Tartu in Estonia, Jaroslaw in Poland, and Bila Tserkva in Ukraine.

This year it will be 100 years since the first attempt to form a modern Ukrainian state, with the signing of the Act of Union in Kyiv between the Western Ukrainian

People's Republic and the Ukrainian People's Republic – both of which had emerged from the ashes of the First World War and the collapse of the Russian empire.

The union was only ever symbolic, however – both states retained their own governments, and both immedi-

ately came under military pressure from enemies in the east and west: by October 2019 the Western Ukrainian People's Republic had lost most of its territory to Poland, while earlier on, the Ukrainian People's Republic saw

more 2019 on page 6

World in Ukraine: NORWAY
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Russia's war on Ukraine starts 6th year in February

2019 from page 5

invasion from the Bolsheviks, with Kyiv falling to the Red Army on Feb. 8, 1919. The army of the Ukrainian People's Republic throughout spring and summer of that year managed to regain most of the territory lost to the Bolsheviks, but by the end of 1919 had lost it all again.

The Bolsheviks went on form the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic in the bulk of Ukraine in 1921. Most of the Western Ukrainian People's Republic remained under Polish control until 1939, when the area was seized by the Soviet Union under the Soviet-Nazi pact to carve up Poland and Eastern Europe between themselves.

Defense

In 2019, Ukraine marks a series of milestone anniversaries — five years since Russia invaded and occupied Ukraine's Crimea after the Euromaidan Revolution that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, 2014, and the subsequent launch of its covert military intervention in the Donbas, in the guise of a "separatist revolt" and "civil war."

Early Ukrainian victories at Slovyansk, and the liberation of



Ukrainian paratroopers board an Il-76MD military transport at Ozerne military airfield near the city of Zhytomyr on Dec. 6, 2018. They were deployed to Ukraine's border with Russia in the wake of an attack by Russian forces on three Ukrainian navy vessels in the Black Sea on Nov. 25, 2018. (Mikhail Palinchak)

TOP 10 KYIV POST exclusives online this week

1. American think tank predicts Putin will escalate war in Ukraine
2. Torben Majgaard, 48, pioneer in Ukraine's IT sector and philanthropist, dies
3. US Navy warship to enter Black Sea to support 'allies and partners'
4. Ukraine's armed forces supplied with over 50 upgraded planes, helicopters in 2018
5. UK considers ban on Kremlin-owned RT (Russia Today)
6. Defense Ministry: Russia prepares new armed provocations against Ukraine
7. Anne Applebaum: Putin's plans for Belarus
8. Ukrainian forces capture Russian-backed militant in eastern Donbas
9. Ukrainian church receives historic independence on Orthodox Christmas Eve
10. Hackers take down website of presidential candidate Zelenskiy's team



roughly half of the invaded region, as well as the disastrous Ukrainian defeat at Ilovaisk in late August 2014 will also be marked.

Meanwhile, the war looks set to continue and not only in the Donbas, but also in Azov and Black seas — a new theater of Russia's war on Ukraine.

Ukraine, with its new record-high defense budget of Hr 212 billion (\$7.5 billion), is expected to reinforce its long-neglected navy. The navy expects to get at least one scout

warship, two new Gurza-M gunboats, and an amphibious assault craft.

According to the military, the navy will again attempt to cross the Russian-occupied Kerch Strait and enter the Azov Sea, even after the unprecedented Nov. 25 attack by Russian coast guard against its navy vessels. If so, there is bound to be a Kremlin response, which may be violent.

Ukraine will also continue building up its new naval base in the Azov Sea port of Berdiansk, with

this having been declared one of the military's top priorities for 2019.

Furthermore, two Island-class patrol boats provided by the United States are expected to finally reach Ukrainian shores by July, according to the Ukrainian navy's commander, Admiral Ihor Voronchenko.

This is still far from enough, and as Ukraine's ambassador to the United States, Valeriy Chaliy, has said that Ukraine will be looking

more 2019 on page 7

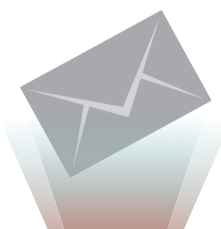


People pass by a currency exchange booth in downtown Kyiv, on Nov. 27, 2018. Ukraine is to receive \$3.9 billion from the IMF in 2019 - if the country can reduce inflation, maintain a flexible exchange rate, and meet a number of other conditions set by the international lender. (Volodymyr Petrov)

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Sports, reforms economy, legal affairs: What to expect in coming year

2019 from page 6

for even more military aid from Washington — including more lethal defensive weapons.

Joint training and military maneuvers between Ukraine and NATO forces are also scheduled. Apart from now traditional exercises such as the Sea Breeze maneuvers or in Strong Europe Tank Challenge competition, Ukraine will also for the first time welcome the British Royal Marines to the country for large-scale drills.

Economy

With the country slowly recovering from the 2014–15 slump, key changes are ahead.

A new law taking effect on Feb. 7 liberalizes the currency market. The law lifts a number of restrictions, most notably the ban on investing abroad (securities, properties, etc.). Loans received from non-residents won't be required to be registered with the National Bank of Ukraine. And currency controls on economic transactions below Hr 150,000 (\$5,500) will be scrapped.

The National Bank of Ukraine on Jan. 8 adopted a new currency regulation system consisting of eight main regulations, replacing 56 outdated ones, with everything that is not explicitly forbidden by the regulations now allowed.

The 18-year-old moratorium on sales of agricultural land was extended on Dec. 20, 2018 until Jan. 1, 2020. Even though it won't be lifted prior to 2020, there might be some movement. The moratorium extension orders the Cabinet of Ministers to submit to parliament a proposal for a new law on farmland sales no later than March 1.

On May 22, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the moratorium on land transactions violates human rights. The free trade agreement with the European Union,

signed in 2014, demands the cancellation of the moratorium as well.

Ukraine, which has signed free trade agreements with the European Union, the European Free Trade Association, Canada, Montenegro, Macedonia, and most post-Soviet countries, is on pace to add two more countries to the list in 2019.

Free trade agreements with Turkey and Israel, long in the works, are slated for signing in the first half of 2019.

The agreements could give a major boost to the economy. The free trade agreement between Canada and Ukraine, which came into force in August 2017, sparked a 42 percent growth in goods traded between the two countries in 2018, to \$350 million.

In 2019, Ukraine has to repay \$1.8 billion of foreign debt, with the country's total debt now at 68.8 percent of gross domestic product, according to the International Monetary Fund. The organization on Dec. 18 approved a new 14-month agreement under which Ukraine will receive \$3.9 billion in low-interest loans if it meets conditions, including a budget deficit of 2.5 percent of GDP, formation of an anti-corruption court, and market prices on household gas. Of this amount, \$1.4 billion was released immediately, while the rest will be granted to Ukraine after semi-annual reviews on May 15 and Nov. 15, according to the fund.

Meanwhile, the IMF pegs Ukraine's GDP growth forecast at 2.7 percent with inflation at 7.3 percent in 2019, according to the fund. The IMF also expects 9.2 percent unemployment.

Reforms

The main reform expected this year is the creation of the High Anti-Corruption Court, which according to the law must be set up by June.

However, anti-corruption experts say the High Qualification Commission of Judges, which is selecting judges of the court, has all



The Anti-Corruption Action Center, the DEJURE Foundation, AutoMaidan and Transparency International present a list of 55 candidates for the anti-corruption court who do not meet professional ethics and integrity standards on Jan. 9, 2018. A foreign expert panel has yet to decide whether to veto them. (Volodymyr Petrov)

tools at its disposal — including an arbitrary methodology — to rig the selection process and promote loyal candidates, although the commission denies it has such intentions.

Meanwhile, there are mounting accusations that the Nov. 12 legal knowledge tests for the anti-corruption court and the Supreme Court were falsified, which is also denied by the commission.

Some of the test questions had more than one correct answer, according to ex-Public Integrity Council coordinator Vitaly Tytych, High Qualification Commission member Andriy Kozlov and Judge Mykhailo Slobodin.

The commission had the opportunity to promote some candidates by telling them which answers it deems correct, according to Tytych, who participated in the competition for the Supreme Court but did not pass the tests. The commission refused to give him his test results, which he says proves they were falsified.

Anti-corruption watchdogs on Jan. 9 identified 55 out of 113 candidates for the High Anti-Corruption Court as not meeting professional ethics and integrity standards.

The Public Council of International Experts, a foreign advisory body, is expected to assess all of the candidates for the anti-corruption court in January and decide to veto or approve them.

One of the risks is that the public council will veto only a few candidates and allow the High Qualification Commission to appoint a politically dependent and dysfunctional court, according to Tytych. To resolve this problem, the public council should veto all candidates except for those with the best experience, skills and integrity, he argues.

Legal affairs

Ukraine's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, is expected to pass a seminal law this year on the status of the Ukrainian language.

However, the current draft is seen as uncompromising and intrusive in promoting the Ukrainian language, and lobbying is fierce to get lawmakers to do more to protect the language rights of national minorities — an issue that has caused tensions between Ukraine and its neighbors in recent years.

Important international court proceedings will also take place.

Ukrainians will be keeping a close

eye on rulings of the European Court of Human Rights in cases related to Russia's war.

In addition, the results of some upcoming international cases involving Ukrainian businesses will have political and macroeconomic consequences — these include the case of Oshchadbank vs. the Russian Federation, with the Ukrainian state bank having successfully sued Russia for the loss of its assets in Russian-occupied Crimea, and now seeking the enforcement of the arbitration tribunal's compensation award.

Ukraine is also suing the former owners of PrivatBank for allegedly syphoning off assets from the bank ahead of its privatization in late December 2016. The bank racked up \$5.6 billion in losses covered by taxpayers.

Sports

With major team events bypassing Ukraine in 2019, the year could still see triumphs for individual Ukrainian athletes in tennis, boxing and swimming.

Elina Svitolina, Ukraine's top tennis player, said in a recent interview she aims become the world's No. 1 woman tennis player by the end of the year. The 24-year old Ukrainian is in the top 10 for a third straight year, peaking as the third-ranked tennis player in the world in September 2017. Svitolina finished last year in 4th place, well in reach of her goal.

Ukrainian women's tennis could have a breakthrough year, as the country currently has five tennis players in the top-100, with four of the five younger than 25. The 21-year old Anhelina Kalinina and 16-year old Marta Kostyuk are just outside of the top-100. And Lesia Tsurenko, 29, reached the final of the Brisbane International in early January and is now in the top 25.

While 2018 was a great year for Ukrainian boxers, 2019 will bring new challenges, as current boxing champions Oleksandr Usyk, Vasyl

Lomachenko, Oleksandr Gvozdyk and Artem Dalakian will have to defend their titles.

Usyk, who became the undisputed cruiserweight champion and was voted by ESPN and Sports Illustrated as the 2018 Fighter of the Year, plans to rise to the heavyweight division — the most prestigious.

In swimming, the FINA World Aquatics Championship, the main aquatics tournament outside the Olympic Games, will take place on July 12–28, in Gwangju, South Korea.

Andriy Govorov, 26, and Mykhailo Romanchuk, 22, are those to keep an eye on. Both are favorites to win their events, with Govorov holding the world record for the 50-meters butterfly, and Romanchuk holding eight national records, competing in the 400-, 800- and 1,500-meters freestyle swimming.

With no major football tournaments taking place this year, Ukraine's national football team will attempt to qualify for the upcoming UEFA Euro 2020 tournament. Ukraine is grouped with four other teams — Portugal, Serbia, Lithuania and Luxembourg. Title-holders Portugal and Serbia are the main threats. The first game will be played on March 22 in Lisbon, against Portugal.

Shakhtar and Dynamo Kyiv, the two main football teams in Ukraine, will compete against European teams in the Europa League, Europe's second-tier football tournament. With 2019 marking exactly 10 years since Shakhtar's historic victory in the UEFA Cup, the Europa League's predecessor, the team will attempt to replay that success.

Dynamo will play Greece's Olympiacos, while Shakhtar will face Germany's Eintracht Frankfurt. The teams will play two legs home and away, on Feb. 14 and Feb. 21.

Compiled by: Euan MacDonald (history, politics), Oleksiy Sorokin (sports, economics), Vyacheslav Hnatyuk (legal affairs), Oleg Sukhov (reforms), and Iliia Ponomarenko (defense). ■



Ukraine's Elina Svitolina kisses her winner's trophy after defeating Sloane Stephens of the US in their singles final match at the WTA Finals tennis tournament in Singapore on Oct. 28, 2018. (AFP)

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Jan. 19



(Straytones/facebook)

Winter Mass VI

For those who like their rock extra heavy, Kyiv is holding a festival of Ukraine's top underground musical acts. The sixth chapter of the Winter Mass festival will feature six bands that play alternative genres, like psychedelic, stoner and progressive rock. One of the highlights is

Bluesbreaker, a post-hardcore band from Kyiv that has gained an international following over its nine years on stage. My Personal Murderer is another band from Kyiv that plays experimental rock that combines "dark and atmospheric aspects" of various alternative styles. The festival's other acts include Firejam from Lviv, Vovk, and Straytones from Kyiv, Bolshe Lesa from Bila Tserkva.

Winter Mass VI. Monterey Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) Jan. 19. 5 p.m. Hr 200-400

Friday, Jan. 11

Classical music

Valerii Sokolov, Symphony Orchestra (violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-400

Live music

Christmas Bandura Show (Shpylyasti Kobzari). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-650

Lady Rock (tribute to Bonnie Tyler, Lita Ford, Joan Jett, Doro, Maggie Reilly, Tina Turner, Annie Lennox). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 125-900

Clubs

Vyriy (dancing music party). Khvylovyi. 8 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Kilim (contemporary paintings by Ukrainian artist Natalia Korf-Ivaniuk). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Fragment. Serhiy Zvyagintsev (modern paintings, graphics, tiles). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Contours (silhouette paintings by Zhanna Enikeeva). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free

Movies

Kamchatka Bears. Life Begins (documentary). Zhovten. 1:35 p.m., 5:25 p.m. Hr 60, 80

Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:20 p.m. Hr 90-120. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 7:25 p.m. Hr 60-100

a.m., 2:25 p.m., 7:25 p.m. Hr 50-100

The House That Jack Built (drama, horror, comedy). Zhovten. 8:40 p.m. Hr 100

Shows

Vzroslyi Band (rock). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125

Bakenbardy (ska punk). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Saturday, Jan. 12

Classical music

Kyiv Camerata (Bach's symphonies). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250

Live music

Christmas Tango (Kyiv Tango Project). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-850

Mashyna Vremeny Tribute (blues-rock). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125

NAONI (New Year rock hits). Officer's House. 7 p.m. Hr 300-600

Clubs

Saturday Selector vol.1 / 20ft Radio (dancing music party). Khvylovyi. 10 p.m. Free. Visitors must be over 21

Save the Vinyl (vinyl music party). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 100-150

Masquerade (electronic DJ sets by Ricardo Villalobos, Zip, SE62 and Roman K). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Kilim (contemporary paintings by Ukrainian artist Natalia Korf-Ivaniuk). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Fragment. Serhiy Zvyagintsev (modern paintings, graphics, tiles). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Contours (silhouette paintings by Zhanna Enikeeva). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free

Movies

Kamchatka Bears. Life Begins (documentary). Zhovten. 1:40 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Hr 70, 90

You Were Never Really Here (crime, drama, mystery). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 80

Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:20 p.m. Hr 90-120. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 7:25 p.m. Hr 60-100

The House That Jack Built (drama, horror, comedy). Zhovten. 8:40 p.m. Hr 100

Mandy (action, fantasy, horror). Zhovten. 9 p.m. Hr 90

Shows

Bogdan Gumenyuk and Uri Gincel Quartet (jazz, piano). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 500

Bangladesh-Orchestra (pop, rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Theater

Norma (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-1,000

The Nutcracker (Kyiv Modern Ballet). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 70-850

Adriana Lecouvreur (opera recording in Italian with English subtitles). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7:55 p.m. Hr 190-240

Sunday, Jan. 13

Classical music

From Bach to Galliano (accordion, piano, violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250

Live music

New York Jazz — David Berkman. Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 250-700

Fairmont Classic — Christmas (Ocean Orchestra). Fairmont Grand Hotel. 7 p.m. Hr 400-1,000

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Kilim (contemporary paintings by Ukrainian artist Natalia Korf-Ivaniuk). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Contours (silhouette paintings by Zhanna Enikeeva). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free

Movies

Kamchatka Bears. Life Begins (documentary). Zhovten. 1:40 p.m., 5:30 p.m. Hr 70, 90

Degas: Passion for Perfection (exhibition on screen). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

You Were Never Really Here (crime, drama, mystery). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 80

Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 4:50 p.m. Hr 90-120. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 7:25 p.m. Hr 60-100

The House That Jack Built (drama, horror, comedy). Zhovten. 8:40 p.m. Hr 100

Mandy (action, fantasy, horror). Zhovten. 9 p.m. Hr 90

Shows

Lyapis-98 (rock, alternative, ska). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 600-800

Big Green Bag (southern rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 100-1,125

Theater

The Nutcracker (Kyiv Modern Ballet). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 70-850

Monday, Jan. 14

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Hr 30-45

Movies

Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:20 p.m. Hr 90-120. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m. Hr 50-70

Instant Dreams (documentary, drama, sci-fi). Kyiv Cinema. 9 p.m. Hr 120

Tuesday, Jan. 15

Live music

New Year's Dixieland (jazz). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

Blues Jam Session by Max Tovsty & Friends. Docker's ABC. 9 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

To Honor the Museum, With Love to the City (paintings, sculptures and prints by Ukrainian artists depicting Kyiv). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

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Contours (silhouette paintings by Zhanna Enikeeva). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free

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The House That Jack Built (drama, horror, comedy). Zhovten. 8:40 p.m. Hr 100

Mandy (action, fantasy, horror). Zhovten. 9 p.m. Hr 90

You Were Never Really Here (crime, drama, mystery). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 80

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Fragment. Serhiy Zvyagintsev (modern paintings, graphics, tiles). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Movies

Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:20 p.m. Hr 70. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m. Hr 50-70

Shows

Jethro Tull (progressive, folk rock). Docker Pub. 7 p.m. Hr 540-3,400

Thursday, Jan. 17

Classical music

Kyiv Chamber Orchestra (violin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350

Live music

International Project — Christmas (jazz, funk, fusion). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 500

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

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Contours (silhouette paintings by Zhanna Enikeeva). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free

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You Were Never Really Here (crime, drama, mystery). Zhovten. 4:20 p.m. Hr 80

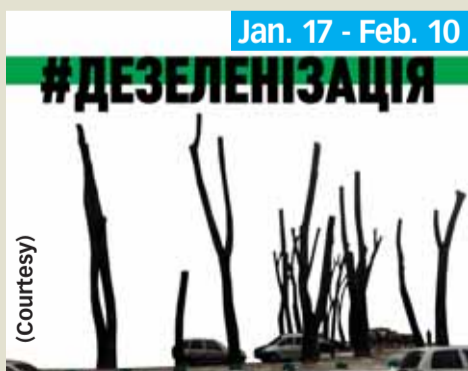
Why Are We Creative? (documentary in German with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:20 p.m. Hr 90-120. Zhovten. 10:50 a.m., 2:25 p.m., 7:25 p.m. Hr 60-100

The House That Jack Built (drama, horror, comedy). Zhovten. 8:40 p.m. Hr 100

'Degreening'

The new exhibition at Bursa Gallery was created by Ukrainian contemporary artists in collaboration with civic activists. "Degreening" features photographs of how Kyiv public utilities have damaged green spots by trimming or felling trees, as well as digging up or asphaltizing lawns. The exhibition's creators want to raise the issue of planting greenery in Ukraine: It is rather considered as a decoration than a source of oxygen, which also strengthens the soil and provides shadow in urban areas.

"Degreening." Bursa Gallery (11B Kostiantynivska St.) Jan. 17 - Feb. 10. Tue-Sun. 12-8 p.m. Free



(courtesy)

Jan. 17 - Feb. 10

#ДЕЗЕЛЕНІЗАЦІЯ

By Toma Istomina, Daria Shulzhenko, Artur Kornienko

Otel'. 11:59 p.m. Hr 250

THP Session: Evano, Sbri, Haathi (electronic music). Closer. 11:59 p.m. Price to be announced

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

To Honor the Museum, With Love to the City (paintings, sculptures and prints by Ukrainian artists depicting Kyiv). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Fragment. Serhiy Zvyagintsev (modern paintings, graphics, tiles). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Degreening (photographs of damaged plants in Kyiv). Bursa Gallery. 12-8 p.m. Free

Shows

Brodinski (electronic dance music). Atlas. 11 p.m. Hr 600-1,350

Saturday, Jan. 19

Classical music

National Academic Symphonic Band of Ukraine (waltz). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350

Miscellaneous

Anatolii Kryvolap (non-figurative paintings by Ukrainian artist). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

To Honor the Museum, With Love to the City (paintings, sculptures and prints by Ukrainian artists depicting Kyiv). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events)

Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Fragment. Serhiy Zvyagintsev (modern paintings, graphics, tiles). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free

Degreening (photographs of damaged plants in Kyiv). Bursa Gallery. 12-8 p.m. Free

Shows

Winter Mass IV: Bluesbreaker, My Personal Murderer and others (alternative rock, hardcore). Monterey Live Stage. 5 p.m. Hr 200-400

David Berkman (jazz, piano). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 250-700

Bohdan Sovyk and Woodstock (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 100-750

Mad Heads UA (rock, punk, ska). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Theater

The Snow Queen (ballet). National Opera. 12 p.m., 7 p.m. Hr 20-600

Sunday, Jan. 20

Live music

Jazz Sketches (Claude Bolling). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300

Miscellaneous

To Honor the Museum, With Love to the City (paintings, sculptures and prints by Ukrainian artists depicting Kyiv). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 30-45

Revolutionize (installations, paintings, video and photographs by artists from 15 countries exploring the phenomenon of revolutionary events). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 40-80. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees

Degreening (photographs of damaged plants in Kyiv). Bursa Gallery. 12-8 p.m. Free

Jan. 11 – March 15



(Courtesy of Khvylovyi bar)

Vyryi Winter Party Series

Kyiv's Khvylovyi bar is to interrupt the slow nightlife season in winter with a series of parties. The series' name, Vyryi, stands for a mythical warm paradise land, and every Friday night starting on Jan. 11, Khvylovyi promises to arrange this paradise for their guests. The parties will feature DJs playing dancing music, and the bar will offer a choice of signature cocktails for Hr 100-160. The parties will take place every Friday until March 15 with no charge for entrance.

Vyryi. Khvylovyi (18 Verkhniy Val). Every Friday from Jan. 11 until March 15. 8 p.m. Free

Shows

Yurcash (rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 150-2,100

Theater

La Bayadère (ballet recording). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 5 p.m. Hr 190-240

Cinderella (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Venues

Classical Music
National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 278 6291

Live Music
Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.) +38067 224 4111
MK Music Space (57B Bohdana

Khmelnyskoho St.) +38095 179 3834
Fairmont Grand Hotel (1 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.) +38044 322 8888
Central Officer's House (30/1 Mykhaila Hrushevskoho St.) +38098 750 3063
In-Jazz Live (1 Druzhby Narodiv Sq.) +38067 381 1572

Clubs

Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308
Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306
Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145
River Port (67 Nyzhniy Val St.) www.facebook.com/riverportkyiv
Khvylovyi Bar (18 Verkhniy Val St.) +38063 443 0925

Miscellaneous
Dom Music Bar (10/5A Petra Sahaidachnoho St.) +38096 011 0515
Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225
Art 14 Gallery (14 Mykhailivskyi Ln.) +38044 461 9055
Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38044 520 2825
Bursa Gallery (11B Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 537 7007

Triptych Gallery (34 Andriivskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 279 0759
Movies
Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyky Vasylykivska St.) +38044 234 7381
Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757
Multiplex Cinema (Sky Mall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333
Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D

Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333
Shows
Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrskaya St.) +38050 358 5513
32 Jazz Club (32 Vozdvyzhenska St.) +38068 411 1972
Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Stritsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivska St.) +38095 280 8340

Docker's ABC (15 Khreshchatyk St.) +38050 440 1525
Monteray Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) +38093 323 0644

Theater

National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrskaya St.) +38044 234 7165
Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279 1582

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WELCOME to the CLUB

A POLO PLAYER ON HORSEBACK HOLDING A Mallet PREPARING TO STRIKE A BALL:

IT'S BECAUSE OF THIS ICONIC LOGO, SEWN ON SHIRTS, SWEATERS AND HOODIES, THAT THOSE WHO WEAR POLO RALPH LAUREN GARMENTS RECOGNIZE EACH OTHER IN THE CROWD. THEY ARE UNITED BY THE SAME VALUES OF QUALITY, ELEGANCE AND EASE, KEY ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN STYLE. NOW WE CAN JOIN THE CLUB:

TWO POLO RALPH LAUREN STORES HAVE OPENED IN KYIV.

HERITAGE

It all started with a little startup of young entrepreneur Ralph Lauren in 1967, and evolved into an international fashion empire. When the designer chose polo as his brand's symbol, his targets were the wealthy fans of the sport of polo. It was a good choice: after 50 years his shirts are still perceived as synonymous with success and well-being.

DENIM

Denim is the key to American style, and Ralph Lauren works a lot with jeans materials. As the vintage denim trend is back, we can finally start to wear a total look again: like a pair of old-school blue jeans with matching denim jacket and brown cowboy boots, as Mr. Lauren himself likes.



POLO SHIRT

"We owe it to those vibrant polo shirts that our school and university uniforms were non deadly boring," Americans often say. Today this iconic shirt still embodies the so-called Preppy style, and can be paired with literally anything. For example, with the classic blazer – as worn by Ralph Lauren himself.

BLAZER

The double-breasted jacket has become Polo Ralph Lauren's iconic statement piece. It can be worn genderless, by men and women or kids alike, as the designer himself and his family does. Gold-buttoned, satin-lapelled or just a plain navy one: it gives space to the imagination and can be paired with basic jeans, a dress, or a knitted sweater, creating a perfect outfit for any context.

POLO BEAR

Apart from the polo player, the teddy bear is another symbol of the brand. It started to appear as a print on the clothes because of Jerry Lauren's collection of Steiff toys. The employees gifted both Ralph and his brother Jerry lookalike teddies for their birthdays in the 1990, and next year Steiff released a limited edition collection of teddy bears wearing Polo Ralph Lauren. The toys, nicknamed Preppy Bear by the clients, sold out in one weekend!

AMERICANA

Effortless elegance and the ability to add a sporty element to business-style clothing are still in the core of Polo Ralph Lauren's vision. The designer also pays homage to his country, his major source of inspiration, by using the image of American flag on sweaters, denim jackets and hoodies.

Read IMF's full report at:
<https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/CR/Issues/2019/01/08/Ukraine-Request-for-Stand-By-Arrangement-and-Cancellation-of-Arrangement-Under-the-Extended-46499>

Ukraine's officials, IMF agree on roadmap for economy

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH,
OLEKSIY SOROKIN
DATSKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM
SOROKIN@KYIVPOST.COM

The International Monetary Fund has released a 111-page economic report on Ukraine, after signing off on a 14-month lending program to Ukraine worth \$3.9 billion of the nation meets its promises of fiscal responsibility, privatization and strengthened rule of law.

Ukraine already received \$1.4 billion on Dec. 18, with two more stabilizing transfers being released after the completion of semi-annual reviews on May 15 and Nov. 15.

The aim is to decrease public debt, now at 65 percent of gross domestic product; reduce inflation, from 10 percent in 2018 to 7 percent in 2019; keep a flexible exchange rate; and strengthen the banking system, now burdened by a loan portfolio that is 55 percent deadbeat; among other aims.

The report gives a fresh analysis of Ukraine's economy and projects the country's development for the next five years.

Unmet expectations

Most of IMF's expectations are still not met.

"Efforts to create a more dynamic, open, and competitive economy have fallen short of expectations, and the economy still faces important challenges," the report reads. Only three reviews of the 15 originally planned economic benchmarks have been completed under IMF's so-called Extended Fund Facility program, signed in 2015.

The IMF has worsened Ukraine's gross domestic product growth forecast to 2.7 percent in 2019, from the initial 3.3 percent. The growth rate is still too low to recover the losses during the crisis, caused by Russia's war against Ukraine and the country's internal corruption. Unless substantial reforms are done, it will hardly exceed 3 percent in the coming years, the report states.

Ukraine has also been attracting

The National Bank of Ukraine's policies play a key role in whether the International Monetary Fund lends the nation money. (Volodymyr Petrov)



little foreign direct investment. With the already modest \$2.3 billion in FDI in 2017 the number dropped to \$1.7 billion in 2018. And IMF's forecast for FDI in 2019 is even worse — \$1.6 billion.

"Investment, particularly foreign direct investment, is held back by a difficult business environment, while large numbers of worker(s) seek job opportunities abroad as economic growth is too low for incomes to noticeably close the gap with regional peers," the report says.

Positive results

However, Ukraine's inflation rate will slow down, dropping slightly under 7 percent from 10.9 percent by the end of 2019, due to the continuation of a tight monetary policy and the decreasing domestic hryvnia demand, according to IMF forecasts.

"Monetary policy aims to reduce inflation and rebuild international reserves within a flexible exchange rate regime. Safeguarding central bank independence will be crucial in this regard," the report reads.

The country's inflation peaked in 2017 at 16.5 percent as a result of food price shocks as well as the increase in wages and pensions, according to the report.

The country also succeeded in reducing its debt ratio. The total external debt decreased in the past couple of years — from 122.5 percent of Ukraine's GDP in 2016 to 95.5 percent in 2018.

Ukraine's current public and publicly guaranteed debt equates to 65.2 percent of the country's GDP, or \$82.5 billion, while in 2016 the number was much higher — 81.2 percent.

The overall fiscal deficit which reached 10 percent of GDP in 2014 declined to 2.5 percent of GDP in 2018. It will further decline to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2019, IMF forecasts.

Risks and delays

Despite the few positive trends, IMF sees serious risks for Ukraine to sustain stable growth. External risks include possible deterioration in Ukraine's terms of trade, as well as a worsening global market sentiment toward emerging markets, which may impede Ukraine's access to international capital markets.

The report mentions political risks, including Ukraine's presidential elections in March and fall parliamentary elections, which might play a vital role in Ukraine's economic outlook.

"With increasing polarization in the run-up to the elections, the authorities' ability to implement the program could weaken. The conflict in the eastern part of the country remains a key vulnerability," the IMF wrote.

Ukraine also suffers from major delays and uneven progress in structural reforms, which lead to frequent IMF program interruptions and Ukraine's fading battle against corruption.

"No cases of high-level corruption have so far been adjudicated, deepening the public perception that not much has effectively changed," the report reads.

The restructuring of the inefficient public sector is still incomplete, even after a new legal framework was adopted to launch the privatization process of thousands of inefficient state-owned enterprises, to ensure property rights, and improve the business environment.

Ukraine still must open up its markets to create competitive gas and agricultural land markets, IMF said.

Social policy

IMF expects Ukraine's unemployment to decrease each year. By the end of 2019 the number of Ukrainians without a job will equal to 8.6 percent, or 3.2 million people, of the country's work force, whereas by 2023 the country will see unemployment drop to 6.6 percent.

Nominal wages are projected to increase substantially, however inflation will affect real wages to increase by only 7.4 percent in 2019 and later by an average of 4 percent each year up until 2023.

The country is expected to increase its tax revenues by 75 percent in the next five years, with numbers rising from Hr 1.2 trillion (\$43 billion) to around Hr 2.1 trillion (\$75 billion) by 2023.

The government is projected to double its spending on social programs by 2023. The increasing amount of retirees will force the government to spend Hr 613 billion (\$22 billion) on pensions by 2023, compared to the Hr 345 billion (\$12 billion) spent in 2018. However, according to the IMF, Ukraine will continue to spend slightly more than 10 percent of GDP on pensions which is close to the European average. Nonetheless, the gap between the country's expenditure and revenue will only increase reaching more than 5 percent of GDP by 2022.

Government promises

Before receiving the financial package from the IMF, Ukraine's government promised to follow through

particular reforms in a statement the IMF attached within its report. Here are some of the main points.

- The Ukrainian government will:
- Limit its budget deficit to 2.3 percent of GDP in 2019
 - Refrain from policies that would be inconsistent with the IMF program's objectives such as: granting any tax amnesty, introducing new tax exemptions or privileges as well as reducing or altering corporate income taxation; instead, it will cooperate with the IMF on how to improve taxes
 - Provide IMF staff with data and information it requests for program monitoring
 - Maintain a cautious monetary policy to further reduce inflation and rebuild reserves as well as revive sound bank lending
 - Fully commit to having an independent central bank
 - Bring inflation down to below 7 percent by the end of this year and within the NBU's target range of 5 percent in 2020
 - Provide the NBU with enhanced daily and monthly cash flow projections to improve liquidity forecasting through the Finance Ministry
 - Limit the general government budget deficit to no more than 2.25 percent of GDP in 2019
 - Strengthen its fiscal framework to improve credibility and predictability of fiscal policies
 - Create modern and efficient tax and customs administrations; this includes a transparent recruitment process by the end of April
 - Increase the Finance Ministry's role in oversight of tax and customs administrations as well as develop detailed reporting requirements for the administrations
 - Ensure that the wholesale price for gas supplied to households and for heating will be adjusted to 80 percent of the base market price on May 1
 - Simplify and accelerate procedures for obtaining permits for the exploration and development of gas fields through transparent tenders
 - Further strengthen the banking system including the transparency of state-owned banks
 - Bring the Deposit Guarantee fund back into solvency by the end of December; by the end of March DGF will put on sale assets worth at least Hr 20 billion
 - Ensure the independence and integrity of anti-corruption institutions and tackle high-level corruption
 - Start the sale of five large state-owned enterprises in the first half of 2019 — Centrenerg, Coal Company Krasnolymanska, Indar, and President Hotel Kiev — and will actually sell at least 500 small state-owned companies and assets by the end of April
 - Reduce time for land allocation, simplify access to geological information
 - Prepare a transparent agricultural land market ■



Dispensing dollars, euros

A woman leaves a branch of state-owned bank PrivatBank in Kyiv on Feb. 8, 2017. According to Ukraine's central bank, the NBU, Ukraine from February will greatly liberalize the use of foreign currency, with customers being able to deposit Ukrainian hryvnias and withdraw dollars or euros at some ATMs in future. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Firtash's defense alleges that US prosecutors used false evidence in seeking oligarch's extradition

BY MATTHEW KUPFER
KUPFER@KYIVPOST.COM

The saga has lasted nearly five years. Since 2014, the United States has been trying to extradite Ukrainian oligarch Dmytro Firtash to Chicago to stand trial on corruption charges. The case has slowly wended its way through the Austrian court system.

But now, as Firtash awaits a ruling by the Austrian Supreme Court, an explosive New York Times article has shed rare light on the American evidence. This has led Firtash's defense to allege that U.S. prosecutors have effectively used false evidence of wrongdoing against their client.

And Austrian lawyers say the latest developments could influence the ruling.

A single slide

The defense's accusation comes after a Dec. 30 article by The New York Times revealed the existence of a PowerPoint slide dating back to 2006 that supposedly outlined a proposal by a foreign partnership financed by Firtash to gain the right to mine aluminum in India.

That slide suggested that Firtash's company, Bothli Trade A.G., had plans to curry favor with Indian officials by investing in infrastructure and employment in the Andhra Pradesh state and "respecting traditional bureaucratic process including use of bribes."

The Times said that the slide was part of a due diligence report prepared by consulting firm McKinsey & Company for the aviation company Boeing, which sought a new source of the metal to produce its newest jet airliner.

But there may be a problem: prosecutors in Chicago presented the slide to the Austrian legal system as "clear proof" of the oligarch's guilt. But it was not prepared by him or his associates, Firtash spokesperson Lanny Davis told journalists during a Jan. 8 telephone press conference.

Meanwhile, in the wake of the Times' article, McKinsey confirmed that its employees authored the slide — and that the firm "has not served Firtash."

The slide was an appendix to a 35-page document providing background on Firtash's company and its operations and recommending further due diligence. That report in no way endorsed bribery as a business strategy, McKinsey said in a Dec. 31 statement on its website.

"The text was an ill-advised way for the authors to describe what they mistakenly understood to be general market conditions and should never have been used," the firm said.

Road to extradition

That admission could have ramifications for Firtash's case. The oligarch has been entangled in two extradition cases — one to the United States and one to Spain, both related to alleged illegal financial operations.

In the U.S. case, prosecutors in Chicago indicted him in 2014 as the mastermind of a scheme to pay \$18.5 million in bribes to Indian officials. After being arrested in March 2014, Firtash was released upon paying \$174 million in bail. Since then, he has lived under house arrest in Vienna, while his businesses in Ukraine are still operating.

Five months later, American prosecutors sent the PowerPoint slide — which they referred to as "Exhibit A" — to the Austrian Ministry of Justice, the New York Times reported. The document appeared to be a breakthrough for the prosecution. An Austrian judge, Christoph Bauer, had found the case against Firtash weak.

Bauer ultimately denied the extradition request, concerned that the United States' desire to extradite Firtash was connected to political events in Ukraine. Firtash is one of Ukraine's wealthiest and most controversial oligarchs, with significant holdings in natural gas, fertilizer, and



Dmytro Firtash (L), one of Ukraine's most influential and controversial oligarchs, attends a court hearing on April 30, 2015 in Vienna. (AFP)

the media.

He was reportedly close to two Ukrainian presidents: Viktor Yushchenko, who served from 2005 until 2010, and Viktor Yanukovich, who served from 2010 until he was driven from power in the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution. U.S. prosecutors also allege that Firtash is a leading member of the Russian mafia. Firtash spokesperson Davis denies that charge, calling it "utterly false" and noting that it was not included in the public indictment.

From Bauer's point of view, U.S. interest in arresting and extraditing the oligarch had waxed and waned as Yanukovich vacillated between signing an economic and political association agreement with the European Union and a different agreement with Russia in 2013 and 2014. Yanukovich's refusal to sign the EU agreement helped trigger the

revolution that ousted him.

After Bauer declined the extradition request, the U.S. won an appeal. Now, the Austrian Supreme Court must rule.

Meanwhile, the PowerPoint slide remains a key piece of U.S. evidence.

"This is our first time of knowing what's behind the curtain of what the Chicago prosecutors have," Davis said. "Not one word in that indictment alleges that Firtash or anyone else actually paid a bribe; it's all about a 'scheme,'" Davis added.

He suggested that prosecutors may have mistaken the PowerPoint slide for a document composed by Firtash and his associates. But in light of the Times' article and McKinsey's statement, Davis says that the U.S. government must admit its mistake.

Due to the current U.S. government shutdown, neither the

U.S. Department of Justice nor U.S. state attorneys in Illinois could be reached for comment.

Austrian justice

It remains unclear when the Austrian Supreme Court will rule. But the latest revelations could prove important, say two Austrian lawyers knowledgeable in extradition cases. Neither has any direct relation to the Firtash case.

After the Austrian appeals court ruled that Firtash could be extradited, the oligarch's defense team filed an extraordinary appeal to the Supreme Court. To file such a case, a defendant must argue that one of his or her elementary rights were violated, says Nikolaus Loudon, a senior associate at Austria's Wolf Theiss law firm.

Since the court of first instance denied extradition on the grounds that it believed the case against Firtash was politically motivated, Loudon believes that Firtash's lawyers may have used this argument in filing the appeal to the Supreme Court.

If the Austrian courts believe that the PowerPoint slide is not a correct piece of evidence, "this might be a violation of a fair trial in the Austrian extradition proceedings," Loudon told the Kyiv Post. "But, in particular, it could also be raised as an argument that (Firtash) cannot expect a fair trial in the United States."

That could be grounds for not granting extradition.

But Matthias Cernusca, an attorney at Lansky, Ganzger & Partner law firm, says it is difficult to forecast how the PowerPoint slide could influence the Supreme Court decision. It could allow Firtash to file for a retrial, even if the Supreme Court goes against him.

"It's something that might have an impact on the decision (of whether) extradition is granted or not," says Cernusca. "So that could be grounds to file for retrial." ■

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January 11, 2019

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Want to skate through winter? Here's where



Food Critic

WITH DARIA SHULZHENKO
SHULZHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Best places for burgers in Kyiv

Since its invention in the late 19th century in America, the hamburger has become one of the most popular dishes in the world, helped on its way around the globe by the spread of fast-food chains.

On its journey through time and across space, the basic burger theme – a beef patty between two halves of a freshly baked bun – has undergone countless variations, with lettuce, cheese, sauces and bacon being frequent additions to the basic burger.

Western-style burgers only arrived relatively recently in Ukraine, with the first McDonald's restaurant opening next to Lukyanivka metro station in Kyiv in May 1997.

Since then a number of burger joints have come and gone, but the range and choice of America's favorite fast food in the Ukrainian capital has only continued to grow, with one restaurant now even offering a menu based largely on fish and seafood burgers.

The Kyiv Post checked out this, and other spots where readers can find the capital's best burgers.

Star Burger

The Star Burger chain consists of five restaurants, dotted all around the capital, and is known for offering a large variety of delicious burgers at reasonable prices.

Star Burger's menu is divided into 5 categories: beef burgers, ribs burgers, chicken burgers, and vegan and seafood burgers.

There are 18 meat burgers, including a turkey burger with mushrooms, Caesar burger with chicken and Caesar salad dressing, as well as French burgers with beef and caramelized onions, salad, cheese, and sauce.

The burgers at Star Burger are made from local meat and served with freshly-baked potato buns.

On the seafood burger menu, the restaurant offers burgers with salmon, shrimps and white fish. Each burger is served with French fries or sweet potatoes, and a salad.

Star Burger also serves sets of three small burgers, including a bacon and Cheddar burger, a turkey burger, and an Italiano burger, for Hr 219.

more Burgers on page 14



A boy skates at the ice rink located at the VDNH exhibition center on Dec. 10, 2016, in Kyiv. This year, the ice rink at VDNH is open every day until March 10, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Perfect for a romantic date, family weekend and friends' time, skating is a universal winter entertainment, and Kyiv offers a bunch of options to enjoy it.

As it keeps freezing in the Ukrainian capital, it's about the perfect time to grab a pair of skates and try outside ice rinks. Those not willing to freeze outside can still enjoy

skating at many indoor rinks.

The Kyiv Post has picked some of the best skating spots in the city this winter.

VDNH

Every winter Kyiv's exhibition center VDNH puts up Winter Land, an entertainment park with numerous activities for children and adults, and one of them is an outside ice rink for skating. Decorated with Christmas adornments and atmospheric lights,

the spot is a popular winter destination among Kyiv citizens. There, visitors can rent skates or bring their own and enjoy skating unlimited time for Hr 110 if paid with a card and Hr 130 if paid in cash. VDNH offers regular skates with a range of sizes from 24 to 48, which will fit both adults and children from around two years old. The entrance for children under 4 and orphans is free.

After skating, the attendees can

take a break and treat themselves to hot drinks and street food and later try riding the slides on tubes, climbing at the rope park and riding various attractions.

Prices: unlimited skating with own or rented skates – Hr 110–130.

VDNH. 1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave. Until Jan. 13. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Jan. 14 – March 10. Mon-Fri. 12–10 p.m. Sat-Sun. 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

more Skating on page 13



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Try these 5 skating rinks in capital's winter wonderland

Skating from page 12

Kontraktova Square

One of the main winter holidays locations in Kyiv this year is Kontraktova Square, where visitors can take a Ferris wheel to enjoy the city view, ride the slides, taste street food and drinks and buy souvenirs. Apart from that, the square holds an outside ice rink located right by the Kyiv Municipal Academic Opera and Ballet Theater for Children and Youth. There, the attendees can rent a pair of skates for Hr 50. Skating for half an hour will cost Hr 50, while the unlimited time is Hr 100. Those who want to use their own skates can only take the unlimited time option paying Hr 100.

The visitors that are making their first steps in skating can use an instructor's assistance for Hr 50. The spot has skates of sizes 22–47 fitting children from around one year and adults. After skating at the lighted ice rink, Kyiv citizens and guests can proceed to further entertainment at the Kontraktova Square or take a walk along the Petra Sahaidachnoho Street to have a look at artsy light installations.

Prices: skates rent – Hr 50, 30 minutes – Hr 50, unlimited – Hr 100. Unlimited for students, retirees, children with disabilities of first and second groups, children of veterans and police officers.

Kontraktova Square. 2 Mezhyhirska St. Until Jan. 19, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Taras Shevchenko Park

The Ferrero Ukraine company, which produces Raffaello candies, has set up an outside ice rink in the middle of the Taras Shevchenko Park located in the city center. The circle rink is labeled with the Raffaello logos and is made



Children and adults enjoy skating on the ice rink at Taras Shevchenko Park in Kyiv on Dec. 31, 2018. Entry to the ice rink is free, and it will be open until Jan. 14, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

in its brand colors, white and red, however, it is also decorated with various winter and romantic adornments creating a fairy atmosphere of an icy lake hidden in the thick of trees.

The rink offers skates of sizes 25–47 and doesn't allow visitors to use their own skates. The entrance to the rink is free, yet the visitors will have to leave an ID or Hr 300 as a deposit in order to use the spot's skates. Apart from that, the attendees can take pictures at the photo zones and try hot drinks right by the ice rink.

Prices: free.

Taras Shevchenko Park. Tarasa Shevchenka Blvd. Until Jan. 14, 11 a.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Ice Arena at Kosmopolit

Ice Arena ice rink is located inside the Kosmpolit shopping and entertainment center. The place is open every day from early morning till late at night. Big and spacious, the rink is perfect for those confidently gliding the ice. The newbies, however, can take a 45-minute individual lesson with a teacher for Hr 150 to improve their skating skills.

Ice Arena offers 10 one-hour skating sessions every day starting with the first one at 8 a.m. and the last one at 9:30 p.m. From Monday through Friday an adult ticket for one session costs Hr 70 in the morning, Hr 80–90 in the day time and Hr 90–110 in the evening. On weekends and official holidays, the price for adults is Hr 110 at any time. Tickets for children with the height under 150 centimeters cost Hr 70 on Monday-Friday and Hr 80 on weekends and holidays. The tickets cover skates rent and one hour of skating. Ice Arena has both figure

and hockey skates of sizes 25–49 with the smallest one fitting 2-year-olds. And those who want to use their own skates will have to pay the same price.

Prices: adults – Hr 70–110, children under 150-centimeters-high – Hr 70–80.

Ice Arena at Kosmopolit. 6 Vadyrna Hetmana St. 8–12 a.m. Check sessions time at www.trc-cosmopolite.com/rozvagacat/lodova-arena

Ice Rink at Dream Town

Another ice rink located at Dream Town shopping and entertainment center, despite its indoor location, maintains the winter holidays mood with snowy trees and snowdrift decorations. The spacious arena, which can hold up to 120 visitors, is perfect for big companies and family recreation. The place is open from early morning with the first session starting at 8 a.m. and ending with the last session at 10:30 p.m. The rink offers skates of sizes 27–49 with the smallest ones fitting three-year-olds.

And the place has some of the cheapest prices in the city. The visitors are able to use their own skates, however, the price remains the same as the one including skates rent. Adult tickets for a one-hour session on working days cost Hr 30–50 depending on the time of the day and Hr 50–80 on weekends. Tickets for children under 13 and retirees will have to pay Hr 45–50. The visitors of the ice rink at Dream Town can take a 45-minute lesson with an instructor for Hr 100, as well as rent protective equipment for Hr 10.

Prices: adult – Hr 30–80, children under 13 and retirees – Hr 45–50.

Ice Rink at Dream Town. 1B Obolonskyi Ave. 8 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. Check sessions time at www.dream-town.ua/ru/entertainment/items/2



A new unique restaurant in a house with a 200-year history has opened in Podil

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Food Critic

These 5 burger joints should satisfy red meat lovers in Kyiv

Burgers from page 12

Apart from burgers, Star Burger's menu includes variety of starters, salads, desserts, and drinks to suit all tastes.

Prices: Beef burger – Hr 229, French burger – Hr 199, pork burger – Hr 229, cider – Hr 59

Star Burger. 7/11 Khreshchatyk Street, 1B Tychyny Ave., 34B Stepana Bander Ave., 6D Berkovetska St., 37 Sahaidachnoho St. Mon-Sun – 12–10 p.m. +38067 828 2081

Furgoneta

The small but cozy fast-food outlet Furgoneta is located right at the heart of the city and offers a small but tasty range of burgers.

Furgoneta stands out not only due to the taste and quality of its burgers, but also because of the venue's design – it's basically a food van, located inside of an eating area. Its name means "little van."

Although Furgoneta's burger menu is not so large, the quantity of choices here is compensated for by the burgers' quality. The venue serves five kinds of burgers, including a lamb burger, a chicken burger and three types of beef burgers – all delicious.

On the beef-burger menu, Furgoneta offers a burger with goat's milk cheese – Buche de Chevre, as well as the traditional grilled beef burger, and it's well-known "Matia" burger with two beef patties, egg, cheese, salad, bacon, and BBQ sauce.

Apart from burgers, Furgoneta serves noodles and rice with meat or vegetables, and four kinds of non-alcoholic drinks, including lemonade and berry compote.

Additionally, Furgoneta also has a delivery service, available from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., for Hr 30 in Kyiv's



A waiter serves a burger with French fries at True Burger Bar in Kyiv on Jan. 10, 2018. True Burger Bar offers 14 kinds of burgers made with local meat. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

downtown, and for Hr 60 in other areas.

Furgoneta's delivery map can be found at <https://furgoneta.com.ua/contacts/adresse>

Prices: Grilled chicken burger – Hr 79, 137 depending on its size, grilled beef burger – Hr 97, 149, citrus-mango lemonade – Hr 60.

Furgoneta. 13 Basseina St. Mon-Sun – 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. +38099 341 8088

The Burger

Located in the Arena City business center, The Burger is a pricier restaurant, serving 15 types of burgers, some named after U.S. states.

For instance, the venue serves a New York burger, with a double beef patty, cheddar cheese, onions, tomatoes, pickles, salad and BBQ sauce,

for Hr 260.

The Burger's Kentucky burger is made with chicken, the Indiana one with turkey, the Idaho burger with lamb, the Texas burger with spicy beef, the Carolina burger with duck, and the Hawaii burger with pikeperch and dried tomatoes.

The restaurant is also child-friendly, as it has a kids' burger, with a turkey patty, iceberg lettuce, tomatoes, pickles, cheddar cheese, and mayonnaise, for Hr 140.

The venue also offers a selection of steaks, soups, salads, desserts and drinks, and its friendly staff is always ready to recommend something from the menu. However, delivery is not available.

Prices: The Burger – Hr 250, Indiana burger – Hr 190, kids burger – Hr 140, ginger lemonade – Hr 80

The Burger. 5 Velyka Vasylkivska St. Mon-Sun – 12 a.m. – 12 p.m. +38044 384 2717

True Burger Bar

True Burger Bar is a perfect place for those looking to try something more adventurous than the traditional burger for a reasonable price.

The place offers 14 burgers made with local meat, served with French fries and coleslaw salad.

True Burger Bar also has a Mexican burger with pickled cactus on a beef patty, a Thai burger with a chicken patty, mushrooms and coconut sauce, as well as a burger with crayfish and chicken patty, and a truffle burger with beef patty, bacon chips and truffle sauce.

Apart from that, the venue offers

an Azov Sea burger with double fish patties and goby fish instead of a burger bun.

For spicy food fans, True Burger Bar also offers pepper steak burger and big Diablo burger, served with hot peppers and sauces.

This is also a good place for family dinner, as it serves a special burger for kids, with chicken and fresh vegetables, along with a number of soups, desserts, and milkshakes.

Prices: Vegetarian burger – Hr 138, chicken burger – Hr 108, turkey burger – Hr 148, grapefruit lemonade – Hr 38

True Burger Bar. 42 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. Mon-Sun – 11 a.m. – 11 p.m., Fri-Sat – 11–3 a.m. +380099 010 9993

Crab's Burger

Crab's Burger restaurant, located in Kyiv's historic Podil district, welcomes visitors with a warm atmosphere, great service, and excellent food, including, as one can guess from the name, a variety of seafood and fish burgers.


The burger menu features six types, served with French fries and salad, including a burger with crabmeat cutlet, a tuna and shrimp burger, a surf and turf burger with marbled beef and prawns, and a traditional cheeseburger.

Apart from that, the restaurant also serves up a lobster roll burger, with a half lobster for Hr 488, as well as a burger with king prawns.

Additionally, Crab's Burger is pet-friendly and serves lunches Mon-Fri, 12–4 p.m., for Hr 129.

Prices: Crab's burger – Hr 268, lobster roll – Hr 488, double cheeseburger – Hr 128, orange fresh juice – Hr 39

Crab's Burger. 21–23 Vozdvyzhenska St. Mon-Sun – 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. +38096 121 3131 ■



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Orphans enjoy Christmas cheer

Right: St. Nicholas, a Ukrainian equivalent to Santa Claus, plays with kids at a Christmas celebration organized by Orphans Are Our Children charity in Kyiv on Jan. 9, 2019.

Bottom: Guests play at the Orphans Are Our Children charity event. For the seventh year, orphaned children cele-



brated Christmas and New Year's at Kyiv's Premier Palace Hotel on Jan. 9, joined by their guardians, charity workers and distinguished guests. It is a one-day fairytale for many of the 130 children from eight orphanages in Kyiv and Zhytomyr oblasts. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Canadian Media Group's local Kyiv office is looking to hire 5 job positions:

- **journalist,**
- **video editor,**
- **video operator,**
- **office administrator;**
- **counselor.**

Work can be part time or full time and hours of work can be flexible to suit the ideal candidate, some work responsibilities can be performed from home or online remotely, even out of country. High English proficiency is required.

Full time salary up to 20,000 or higher, depending on English proficiency, and job experience. Specific job conditions will be discussed during personal candidate interview process.

Tel./viber: 093-573-9596



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 National Child Care Deinstitutionalization Reform under the Lviv Regional State Administration:

- **Regional Expert on Deinstitutionalization and Services Development;**

for the eHealth project under the Ministry of Health of Ukraine:

- **Junior Monitoring Expert.**

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

Building Capacity and Opportunities for Change



Agriteam Canada Consulting Ltd., an International consulting company is seeking candidates to fill the following position on International Technical Assistance Project funded by the Government of Canada

- **Sector Lead**

The closing date for applications is January 18, 2019

Please, submit your CV and Cover letter to vitalinai@agriteam.ca
For more detailed information about applying procedure, please visit our web-site: <http://edge.in.ua/vacancies/>

Overseas Strategic Consulting, Ltd., an international development consulting firm, seeks a professional for the following position on the five-year USAID-funded Safe, Affordable, and Effective Medicines for Ukrainians Project (SAFEMed) Activity:



The **SAFEMed Communications Advisor** will support the project through planning, design, and development of all communication materials in English and Ukrainian, including:

- Technical briefs
- Project technical reports
- Success stories
- Press briefings

For more detailed information about key duties and responsibilities, preferred qualifications, as well as information on how to apply, please visit web-site: <http://www.oscltd.com/careers/>

International non-profit organization seeks Project Coordinator for its project of international technical assistance focusing on public health, position based in Kyiv.

Requirements include:

- University degree (public health, communications, education, social sciences, business administration or related field); equivalent experience may be substitution
- Proven work experience as a Project Coordinator or similar role in training or research projects
- Solid project planning, administration and coordinating skills, including multi-tasking and time-management
- Excellent analytical, writing and computer skills
- Strong client-facing and teamwork skills
- Exceptional communication and diplomacy skills
- Ability to work independently and deliver results under pressure
- Work experience in public health project is a plus
- Fluency in English and Ukrainian languages
- Availability to travel

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted and will receive detailed job description prior to their interviews. All resumes w/cover letter & references should be sent to tenders@itech-ukraine.org by 6 p.m. on January 25, 2019.



THE ROYAL DANISH EMBASSY IN KIEV IS LOOKING FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT ADVISOR

The Embassy is hiring a locally employed Development Advisor for the Political Department. The employee will be part of a team consisting of two posted and four locally employed co-workers as well as two interns.

You will participate in the management of Denmark's development activities in Ukraine and Georgia under the Danish Neighbourhood Programme as well as other programmes supporting peace, stability and economic development in the two countries.

The position is full-time, 40 hours a week. The employment is on local terms. A competitive salary package will be provided, according to qualifications. The position is initially announced as a maternity cover expected for 2 years (with the possibility of extension).

Tasks will include:

- In cooperation with the team leader and staff in Copenhagen, ensure implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities according to Danish guidelines.
- Conduct research and draft analysis on political processes, policies and other developments within sectors related to Danish development priorities.
- Represent the Danish Embassy at donor coordination meetings and meetings with Government officials and other development partners.
- Draft internal and external communication and address ad hoc donor requests.
- Perform other duties as assigned by the team leader and the Embassy management.

Qualifications:

- University degree, preferably in international relations, development studies, political science or other social sciences.
- A minimum of 5 years of working experience in international relations, political analysis, and/or development programming.
- Ability to foster and maintain a broad network of contacts among Government and non-state actors.
- Knowledge of project management cycles, including tools and procedures for project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation will be an asset.
- Excellent skills in oral and written communication in English and Ukrainian and/or Russian and strong analytical and presentation skills.

Starting Date

1 March 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter. Employment requires security clearance from the Danish authorities.

Application deadline and recruitment process

To apply for the position, please send your application (cover letter, CV, proof of relevant education, and recommendations) to the Danish Embassy at ievamb@um.dk no later than Friday the 25th of January 2019. Please write in the subject line: "Application – Development Advisor". Shortlisted candidates must complete a written test before an interview.

Equality

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to promote equality and diversity. Therefore, all qualified and interested persons, regardless of age, sex, religion and ethnicity, are invited to apply for the position.

Contact

Further information about the position can be obtained from the Embassy at ievamb@um.dk.

Kyiv Post

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The Kyiv Post is expanding and hiring for the following vacancies:

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Ukrainian advertising enters 2019 still trying to get back to its 2013 high of \$1.4 billion

BY NATALIA DATSKEYVCH
DATSKEYVCH@KYIVPOST.COM

Since 2016, the Ukrainian advertising market has been rebounding, with digital media showing the most promise.

The market hit \$625 million in 2018 and is expected to reach \$793 million in 2019, according to the latest report by All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition.

But the market is still lower than the 2013 peak of nearly \$1.4 billion.

The digital sector is expected to keep growing fast, reaching \$134 million in 2018, or 17 percent more than the previous year. But still, TV ads accounted for the biggest share in 2018 — \$331 million — and will again in 2019, at \$411 million.

Election years are always good for advertising. This one will be no exception, with likely a two-round presidential election on March 31 and April 21, and parliamenta-

ry elections on the last Sunday in October.

The political ads are also giving a boost to digital advertising.

“Many clients worry that TV will be overloaded with political advertising, and in the first half of the year they tend to consider only limited content on these channels. This will only further increase the (importance) of digital advertising,” said Victoria Enkina, communications director at Tabasco, an advertising agency, back in December, according to Sostav.ua.

YouTube mania

Advertisers also showed substantial interest in the American video-sharing website YouTube as an advertising platform last year. Digital video channels, including YouTube, in Ukraine almost doubled and reached \$48.5 million. Next year it might grow by another 70 percent, experts predict.

Print media advertisement is headed for more decline, expected to dip to only \$65.8 million in 2019. Radio ads are expected to grow by 24 percent, reaching \$25.5



Ukraine's digital advertising has been on the rise and its growth is expected to outpace outdoor billboards, radio and print media. Overall, Ukraine's advertising market reached only \$625 million in 2018, dominated by TV advertising with \$331 million. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

million, in 2019. Last year several groups of advertisers, such as pharmaceuticals and food products, tried out radio.

Global advertising trends, such as mobile applications and social media, are shaping budgets too.

For example, Instagram is set to grow, says Yulia Sergiychuk, director

at Promotion Technologies, a consulting agency, according to Sostav.ua in Dec. 25, 2018. Ukraine's advertising market is constrained by low incomes, the need for more high-speed internet and other factors, Sergiychuk says.

Competition is becoming tougher for all brands and in all categories.

“Leaders that have occupied their market share over the years may lose everything in one day due to an inappropriate phrase posted on their social page. Now there are no unimportant moments,” Enkina said. “I think that there will be more advertising, (and) it will definitely become better.” ■



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