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# KyivPost

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February 10, 2017

## Shell-shocked Avdiyivka Is Pawn In Global Conflict



A portrait of a Ukrainian language teacher by Australian artist Guido Van Helten is seen on a building damaged by shelling in the eastern city of Avdiyivka on Feb. 5. (Volodymyr Petrov)

### Avdiyivka returns from brink of disaster

BY WLLP PONOMARENKO  
[SAINT.ANGER1992@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SAINT.ANGER1992@GMAIL.COM)

**AVDIYIVKA, Ukraine** – The war-ravaged city of Avdiyivka finally got some peace this week. As the guns fell silent, repair crews restored electricity to the strategically vital city of 20,000 residents, home to a giant coke plant that fuels Ukraine's steel industry.

Some residents patched roofs shattered by shell shrapnel. Others lined up for humanitarian aid packages.

But the situation remains tense in the city, some 700 kilometers southeast of Kyiv, and the fragile cease-fire between Ukrainian troops and Russian-backed forces might not last long.

"What we see now is not very

encouraging," a member of the OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine told the Kyiv Post this week. Because the monitor was not officially authorized to comment, the person asked not to be identified.

"The military tension remains very high, and a new outbreak of warfare could happen any moment now, as the opposing troops are

deployed close to each other along the frontline, and their heavy weapons and combat vehicles have not pulled back," the monitor said. "Both sides remain hostile to each other. However, in the past couple of days, we've seen that both sides are generally respecting the ceasefire at last. Thanks to this

more **Avdiyivka** on page 16

Rumor mill goes into overdrive over prospect of secret peace deal with Kremlin

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
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Nearly three years into Russia's war against Ukraine, the Ukrainian government looks to be slowly preparing the public for a bitter compromise with the Kremlin.

In December, billionaire oligarch Viktor Pinchuk suggested big concessions need to be made to Russian dictator Vladimir Putin in exchange for reintegrating Russian-occupied areas of the Donbas back into Ukraine. Back then, President Petro Poroshenko vehemently denied he had anything to do with Pinchuk's plan and publicly condemned it.

But now sources interviewed by the Kyiv Post and public statements by figures linked to the government show that Ukrainian authorities are, indeed, in talks with Russia and the West on reintegrating the occupied territories and urgently trying to reach a compromise with Russia.

This lends credence to speculation that Pinchuk's proposals were authorized by Poroshenko, although the concessions currently under discussion may not be as wide-ranging and radical as those suggested by Pinchuk.

Yarema Dukh, the foreign media coordinator at the Presidential Administration, and Volodymyr Aryev, a lawmaker for the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction in parliament, didn't deny that talks are taking place.

But they said there would be no major concessions going beyond the terms of the unfulfilled Feb. 11, 2015, Minsk peace agreement.

That deal required Ukraine to give autonomy to Russian-occupied areas, grant amnesty to separatists and hold local elections there.

more **Peace** on page 15

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**CURRENCY WATCH**  
**Hr 27.7 to \$1**  
Feb. 9 market rate





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# 64,000 foreigners attend universities in Ukraine

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
MRO@UKR.NET

Nigara Hamrayeva of Turkmenistan, a law student at Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, had an unusual reason to come to study in Ukraine.

"I really liked a poem by Taras Shevchenko, so I wanted to come to Ukraine," the 25-year old student recalls. "The country has a very rich and interesting history."

Hamrayeva is one of 64,000 international students currently studying at Ukrainian universities.

Despite war and economic uncertainty, international students flood into Ukraine every year. The appeal? A cheap education, for starters. Even the usually pricey medical schools in Ukraine cost students only from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.

But money isn't the whole story, according to Olena Shapovalova, the director of Ukrainian State Center for International Education.

"Most international students choose medical and technical degrees, where the quality of teaching is very high," Shapovalova says.

Another international student, 19-year old Ukrainian language student Daniele Andenov from Italy, says it is the prospect of living in a capital, among other factors, that made him want to study in one of Ukraine's leading universities, Shevchenko University of Kyiv.

"Kyiv is very lively. There are a lot of people, a lot of opportunities," he says.

In 2016, the top providers of foreign students to Ukrainian universities were Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, India, Nigeria, Morocco, Georgia, Jordan, Iraq, China and Uzbekistan.

Taweh Johnson, a 23-year-old information technology student from Liberia, prides himself in being the first Liberian to study in Shevchenko



Information technology student Taweh Johnson from Liberia speaks to the Kyiv Post at Taras Shevchenko National University on Jan. 12. (Anastasia Vlasova)

University. He had to seek education in Ukraine because his country's infrastructure, including the educational system, is struggling after the several years of war.

"It's my hope that I'll make the best use of this opportunity," Johnson said.

## Growing demand

The number of foreign students is growing: Some 27,000 new students arrived in 2016, compared to 19,000 students in 2015.

Lately, according to Shapovalova, Ukraine's colleges have been especially popular with Indian and Moroccan students, while the numbers of students from post-Soviet countries, including Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan, have decreased. She expects a rise in the number of students from Asia and Africa.

Some of the arriving students are surprised with what they find.

"Before I came people told me it's a racist country, (there is a) war and it's unstable..." Johnson from Liberia

told the Kyiv Post. "I saw the complete opposite: people are friendly, receptive and responsive. They are always willing to give you directions and help you out."

Shapovalova notes that safety is a popular concern among prospective students. Ukraine's embassies abroad have to put efforts into explaining that the cities offering international education aren't affected by the war.

Kharkiv, Ukraine's second biggest city, in the east of the country, which has been offering degrees to foreigners for many decades, remains the most popular city in Ukraine for international students, with almost 21,000 studying there at the moment.

The second biggest host city is Kyiv, with 13,000 international students. The rest study in Odesa, Dnipro, Zaporizhzhya, Ivano-Frankivsk, Vinnytsia, and other cities.

## How to apply

There are a few options for applying to study in Ukraine. Foreign students

have two application deadlines: Nov. 1 (Ukrainian students start on Sept. 1) and March 1.

"This was done by the Ministry of Education because in some countries students receive academic certificates quite late, or don't get to find out whether they've been given an offer for a long time," Shapovalova explains.

Foreign students can choose between studying in Ukrainian, Russian, or English. Those who wish to study in Ukrainian usually attend a one-year Ukrainian language course to achieve the required fluency before they can start classes with other Ukrainians. The English-language students study in separate groups.

Students can apply directly to a university or via an agency, which, for a relatively small fee, can offer help in finding the right course and university, as well as helping with the application process and obtaining a visa.

Johnson from Liberia found enrollment very easy. He applied via the Ukrainian State Center for International Education and provided scanned documents from his high school. He said there were no exams to get admission.

"You can get a world-class education while paying an affordable amount. The cost of student living in Kyiv is also very reasonable," Johnson says.

Shapovalova claims that many students return what they spend on Ukrainian education in their first year with the jobs they find in their home countries after graduation.

"These graduates are also good cultural ambassadors for Ukraine abroad," she said. "And that, in times of information aggression from Russia, is very important." ■

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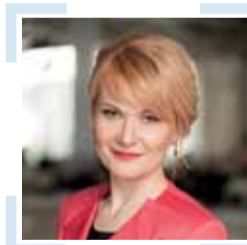
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## ON THE MOVE

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### Tetiana Ignatenko has joined LCF Law Group as a Counsel in the area of litigation



**Tetiana Ignatenko**  
LCF Law Group,  
Counsel, Attorney at Law

Mrs. Ignatenko has 17-year experience of clients' representation in the national courts, in the European Court of Human Rights and in the international arbitration throughout the CIS. She also regularly advises on commercial, tax, civil, employment, family law, as well as on IP matters.

Prior to joining LCF Tetiana worked as a Compliance Officer in IT-company, which is a part of one of the largest IT-companies of Scandinavia. She also worked at a number of leading Ukrainian law firms and in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (in the office of representation of Ukraine in the European Court of Human Rights).



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Oleksiy Goncharenko, a lawmaker with the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko faction, vandalized the Berlin Wall memorial outside the German Embassy in Kyiv on Feb. 8. Goncharenko said he painted "nein" on the memorial to protest German Ambassador to Ukraine Ernst Reichel's comments that elections could be held in the Donbas even with the presence of occupying Russian troops. (Oleksiy Goncharenko/facebook)



Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman congratulates Serhiy Knyazev on his appointment as chief of the National Police on Feb. 8. Critics, however, deride him as a loyalist of Interior Minister Arsen Avakova and representative of an old police guard resistant to reforms. (Ukrafoto)



After announcing that Eurovision Song Contest 2017 tickets would go on sale this month, contest organizers backtracked after ticket agencies complained about the lack of transparency in the selection of the official ticket distributor. No date had been set as of Feb. 9 for when the tickets would go on sale. (Ukrafoto)



EuroMaidan Revolution hero and reformer Yulia Marushevska became the target of a much-ridiculed "anti-corruption" investigation for an \$18 bonus that was paid to all female customs employees on International Women's Day. Marushevska resigned as head of Odesa's customs department last year after accusing top officials in Kyiv of interfering with her reforms. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



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Editorials

# Trojan Horse

The Kyiv Post's sources say that Ukraine is holding talks on a compromise with the Kremlin that would allow it to reintegrate Russian-occupied areas in the Donbas.

We'd like to pretend we live in a fairytale world. But that would have us believe Russian dictator and war criminal Vladimir Putin will just take his heavy weaponry, troops and bandits out of the Donbas and leave Ukraine alone.

But let's face reality: the costs of such "reintegration" could be lethal. Everything depends on what kind of concessions Ukraine will be required to make.

Making radical concessions publicly would be suicidal politically for Ukrainian authorities. But President Petro Poroshenko may decide to do it in a more clandestine way. For example, Ukrainian authorities may secretly agree to the lifting of sanctions against Russia in exchange for reintegrating the Donbas. Then the sanctions will be lifted, and Ukraine will publicly condemn this.

Poroshenko will also keep his pro-Western rhetoric but may decide not to seriously pursue Ukraine's European Union and NATO integration plans to avoid irritating Russia. Also, authorities may tone down their rhetoric on Russia's annexation of Crimea without recognizing it.

Given Putin's lies and deception, the reintegration of the Donbas may turn out to be a sham – a "hybrid" reintegration that will insert a Trojan Horse into Ukraine's body politic. The Kremlin could keep its influence, puppets and even troops in the Donbas while creating a false appearance of giving the areas back to Ukraine.

The most dangerous scenario is that a deal with Russia will lead to Ukraine drifting back into the Kremlin's sphere of influence. Viktor Trepak, an ex-deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, says it's already happening. A rapprochement with Russia is likely because a corrupt counter-revolution is raging on, and pro-Western reformers are in retreat.

Indeed, given the West's increasing indifference towards Ukraine, the country's corrupt elite may deem it logical to reunite with their equally corrupt brethren in Russia. It's not coincidental that Putin's close friend Viktor Medvedchuk, a.k.a the Prince of Darkness, is still playing a key role in Ukrainian politics, despite holding no government job.

# Anti-corruption circus

The prize for being Ukraine's funniest clowns goes to the top officials of the Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, and the National Agency for Preventing Corruption.

Reformist former customs official Yulia Marushevskaya said on Feb. 8 that SBU Deputy Chief Pavlo Demchyna had asked the anti-corruption agency to investigate her over an \$18 bonus that she awarded to herself. In January, the National Agency for Preventing Corruption also started probing anti-corruption lawmaker Sergii Leshchenko for getting \$333 for delivering lectures. The anti-corruption show eclipsed circuses all over Ukraine. Among those laughing were both cronies of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich and incumbent top officials who steal billions of dollars and whose cases are going nowhere.

The National Anti-Corruption Agency is headed by Natalia Korchak, an ally of the People's Front party, and Ruslan Radetzky, an associate of President Petro Poroshenko. Last year the agency did its best to sabotage the launch of officials' electronic asset declarations, and it has not checked a single declaration since they were finally launched last September.

Another anti-corruption crusader concerned with Marushevskaya's wealth is Demchyna, a protégé of Poroshenko's top allies, Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky. They are accused of running the government's biggest graft schemes, while denying the accusations.

State Fiscal Service Chief Roman Nasirov has also launched a bribery probe against Marushevskaya. Nasirov is a symbol of corruption to his critics: he has declared multimillion-dollar wealth and has been accused of running graft schemes by his own ex-deputy, Kostyantyn Likarchuk. He too denies the allegations.

Perhaps it's time to rename Ukraine's anti-corruption institutions as anti-anti-corruption ones? It is obvious that, instead of fighting corruption, they are doing the exact opposite: persecuting anti-graft activists and critics of the government.



**NEWS ITEM:** It seems that Ukrainian politicians and officials have a keen interest in the recently sworn-in U.S. President Donald Trump. The leader of the Ukrainian Batkivshchyna Party and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko met with Trump briefly during the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington on Feb. 2. Shortly after, it was reported that Ukraine's State Fiscal Service head Roman Nasirov had visited Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20.



**NEWS ITEM:** The Kremlin demanded an apology from Fox News after host Bill O'Reilly called Russian President Vladimir Putin "a killer" during an interview with U.S. President Donald Trump. O'Reilly shrugged it off, joking that the apology would take some time and asking the Kremlin to come back to him "around 2023."



**NEWS ITEM:** The relationship between Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko and Russia has gone sour lately. Lukashenko accused Russia of abusing the 1995 agreement on open borders between the two countries and other violations.



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## Reformer of the week

## Yegor Sobolev

Yegor Sobolev, chairman of parliament's anti-corruption committee, said on Feb. 1 that he and Verkhovna Rada Deputy Speaker Oksana Syroid had registered a bill to introduce an anti-corruption court.

A politically independent court is needed because Ukraine's corrupt old courts are incapable of delivering justice. Under the bill, European and U.S. representatives are expected to participate in the selection of judges for the anti-corruption court.

Ukrainian authorities have been dragging their feet on introducing such a court since last year, when it was supposed to be created under the judicial reform law.

Meanwhile, Sobolev's anti-corruption committee on Feb. 8 rejected a bill that would exempt CEOs of state firms from filing electronic asset declarations. This legislation follows numerous other efforts by top officials to sabotage the introduction of e-declarations.

The committee also rejected a bill by Batkivshchyna Party lawmaker Igor Lutsenko seeking to ban foreigners from auditing the National Anti-Corruption Bureau. The bill is seen as an attempt to prevent independent foreigners like Giovanni Kessler, director general of the European Anti-Fraud Office, and U.S. Deputy Inspector General Robert Storch, from auditing the bureau.

Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board, argues that the authorities are seeking instead to appoint loyalists to audit the anti-graft bureau in order to influence it and fire its leadership.

— Oleg Sukhov



## Anti-reformer of the week

## Serhiy Knyazev

Serhiy Knyazev was appointed on Feb. 8 as the chief of Ukraine's National Police.

Knyazev, who has worked in law enforcement for more than 20 years, is criticized as a loyalist of Interior Minister Arsen Avakov and a representative of the Interior Ministry's anti-reformist old guard. According to the law, the National Police are supposed to be politically independent.

Yevhenia Zakrevska, a lawyer representing murdered EuroMaidan Revolution protesters, said on Feb. 5 that an Avakov protege was set to win the competition. Critics have dismissed competitions for top state jobs as rigged procedures used by corrupt interests to appoint government loyalists, while independent candidates are rejected.

Knyazev was also lambasted after journalist Denys Bigus learned on Feb. 6 that Knyazev's ex-wife, who co-owns an apartment with him, has acquired seven apartments and four land plots in recent years. Knyazev said on Feb. 9 that he would not comment on the issue.

The quality of police reform was also questioned when police officers led by Donetsk Oblast Police Chief Vyacheslav Abroskin on Feb. 6 assaulted veterans of the war with Russia who were blockading the smuggling of goods across the war front in the Donbas.

Another setback for law enforcement reform came on Feb. 7 when Nina Yuzhanina, chairwoman of parliament's taxation committee, submitted a bill to revive Ukraine's notoriously corrupt tax police, which was abolished on Jan. 1.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX  
populi

WITH MARIA ROMANENKO

## Will Ukraine manage to regain control of the Russian-occupied territories in 2017?

### Petro Ryzanov, retiree

"It's a very serious issue in general, and the important questions are whether

Ukraine wants to return Donbas, and whether the Donbas people want to be a part of Ukraine. This cannot be resolved in a year, and in my opinion won't happen in the near future."

### Liudmila Tereshchenko, babysitter

"It would be great for Ukraine to regain control of the Donbas,

and I think it is even possible to do it this year, but this depends very much on our government."

### Viacheslav Khoroshkov, retiree

"I think the government doesn't want it. Even if you look at the recent events,

it's all very unclear. Why did the blockade happen, who needed it? There are so many unanswered questions with regards to this situation. Nothing will happen this year, in my opinion."

### Yana Lisovyna, translation student

"We need an adequate government in order for Donbas to

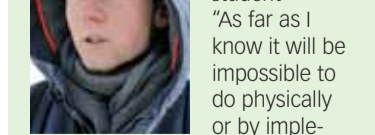
return to Ukraine. Only if people at the top positions of our government change their attitude to work things will change."

### Iryna Pushkar, social communications employee

"No, they will not. Only if the Kremlin-backed separatists voluntarily give up the territories, but they won't do it. This conflict will not be resolved peacefully."

### Yaroslav Shurma, economics student

"As far as I know it will be impossible to do physically or by implementing economic blockades. But if there is an agreement between the United States, the European Union and Russia, and Russia sticks to it, then it would only take a couple of months."



# Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

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



Ben Sasse

### Order of Yaroslav The Wise

Sometimes it's best just to let the politicians say it themselves, so here is Ukraine's friend of the week,

U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse (Republican-Nebraska), with is reaction to U.S. President Donald J. Trump's "respect" for war criminal Vladimir Putin.

"The U.S. affirms freedom of speech. Putin is no friend of freedom of speech.

"Putin is an enemy of freedom of religion. The U.S. celebrates freedom of religion.

"Putin is an enemy of the free press. The U.S. celebrates free press.

"Putin is an enemy of political dissent. The U.S. celebrates political dissent and the right for people to argue free from violence about

places or ideas that are in conflict.

"There is no moral equivalency between the United States of America, the greatest freedom living nation in the history of the world and the murderous thugs that are in Putin's defense of his cronyism.

"I don't understand what the president's position is on Russia, but I can tell you what my position is on Russia.

"Russia is a great danger to a lot of its neighbors and Putin has, as one of his core objectives, fracturing NATO, which is one of the greatest military alliances in the history of the world. And so Putin is a mess. He's committed all sorts of murderous thuggery. And I am opposed to the way Putin conducts himself in world affairs and I hope that the president also wants to show moral leadership about this issue."

Bravo! For this strong moral stand, the senator from "The Cornhusker State" deserves the Order of Yaroslav the Wise.

— Brian Bonner



Viktor Orban

### Order of Lenin

Ukraine has more than one neighboring country ruled by a hostile leader.

While no one can compete with Russian dictator Vladimir Putin's attempt to dismember Ukraine, Hungary's autocratic Prime Minister Viktor Orban is no friend of Ukraine.

The former anti-communist crusader turned communist retrograde endorsed Donald J. Trump as president and bashes the European Union, to which his nation of 10 million people is fortunate enough to belong, along with NATO. He is also no friend of a free press and human rights.

He welcomed Putin with open arms recently to Budapest on Feb. 2. Since Hungary gets 75 percent of its oil and 60 percent of its natural gas from Russia, some boot-

licking was expected. But Orban showed his subservience when he answered a Russian journalist's questions about who is to blame for the recent spike in violence in Russia's war.

He mouthed platitudes about stability and implementing the Minsk peace agreements. Then he went on to complain that the Hungarian-speaking minority in Ukraine is being discriminated against.

He is a gutless wonder. He didn't even have the moral courage to at least repeat the EU position that Russia is the aggressor and Ukraine is the victim and that Russia needs to get out of Ukraine, return Crimea, and respect the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

For reprehensible behavior, the Kyiv Post awards Orban the Order of Lenin award for being pals with the KGB war criminal. You're a rotten neighbor, Orban, and I'm sure Ukraine will remember this if your tiny country is unfortunate enough to get invaded.

— Brian Bonner

(AFP)

(AFP)



# Outsourcing

## Accounting & Auditing

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# Central bank blames PwC for faulty PrivatBank audit

BY JOSH KOVENSKY  
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Big Four auditor PwC allegedly helped PrivatBank commit a multi-billion-dollar embezzlement scheme, officials from the National Bank of Ukraine said last month.

NBU officials pursued a behind-the-scenes campaign to disbar auditor PwC from the country last month after PrivatBank, Ukraine's largest bank with 20 percent of the sector's assets, was nationalized in December.

Central bank officials have accused the London-based international auditor of helping to falsify the books of PrivatBank, whose nationalization could cost Ukrainian taxpayers as much as \$6 billion.

PwC refused to comment. When asked on Feb. 7 about the issue, National Bank of Ukraine Governor Valeria Gontareva also did not elaborate on claims made by Igor Budnik, the central bank's head of risk management.

PwC "was trying to lead the user of their reports into confusion," Budnik said in a Jan. 18 interview with business website Delo, adding that there were significant differences in the actual value of the collateral on PrivatBank's loan books and PwC's appraisals in "practically everything that they valued."

The government took over PrivatBank, formerly owned by oligarch Igor Kolomoisky, to fill an alleged Hr 146 billion (\$5.4 billion) hole in its balance sheets caused by massive insider lending made without adequate collateral.

Budnik and NBU collateral official Tetiana Sirosh called for the Big Four auditor's Ukraine branch to be closed. "We are waiting for PwC's office in Ukraine to be closed," Sirosh said.

As a regulator, the NBU's power to go after the auditor is limited. The State Property Fund has the legal power under Ukrainian law to cancel



A woman leaves a PrivatBank branch in Kyiv on Feb. 8. The bank relied on PwC audit reports for years to argue that its financial condition was sound; a reality shattered when the government nationalized the bank in December to fill an Hr 147 billion (\$5.4 billion) hole in its balance sheet. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

an accounting firm's license.

### Phony financials

PwC audited PrivatBank's finances for years until the bank was nationalized in December.

The only one of the Big Four auditors to have an office in Dnipro, where PrivatBank is based, the firm acted as loan appraiser, auditor and accountant for the bank.

The arrangement violated professional standards and could have led to conflicts of interest, NBU officials said in the Jan. 18 interview with Delo.

Insider lending -- which some liken to embezzlement -- was rampant in Kolomoisky's insolvent PrivatBank. After its nationalization, the NBU estimated that 97 percent of the

bank's loan portfolio was comprised of loans to companies linked to Kolomoisky.

Oleksandr Zavadetsky, a former NBU official who reviewed PrivatBank as head of the central bank's related party loan monitoring division, said that there was "serious disagreement" between the central bank and PwC.

"We discussed the method of their audit that the NBU considered unacceptable," Zavadetsky said. "Factually, it turned out that their audit differed from what the NBU got from its diagnostic results -- identifying the insider loans."

In one anecdote from the Delo interview, Budnik said that PwC appraised airplanes listed as collateral by PrivatBank. The auditors claimed they went to Boryspil International Airport to verify the collateral, but their report included only a picture of an airplane taken from the internet. In the background, Budnik said, the sign "Antalya International Airport" was visible.

Sirosh argued that PwC filed their reports in such a way as to shield themselves from any legal liability for the audits.

PrivatBank directors would sign the reports, she said, but PwC appraisers would not. At a cursory glance, the report would appear to be complete, but did not meet the requirements for assigning legal liability to PwC.

"What PwC was producing, in principle should not have been used as an evaluation report," Budnik said.

### Pulling back

The NBU appears to be pulling back from an offensive against the London-based auditor.

In the last week of January, two partners from PwC's London office flew to Kyiv to quell the anger of NBU officials over the botched audit. The auditor representatives told officials that the firm had launched an internal investigation into the matter.

In the Delo interview, Budnik and Sirosh said that the State Property Fund briefly cancelled PwC's license on Nov. 22, but reinstated it on Nov. 28.

"They admitted that even a month before cancelling the license PwC gave documents for receiving a new license," Sirosh said. "So [PwC] already knew then that their license would be cancelled."



Oleg Tymkiv, managing partner of PwC Ukraine. (Courtesy)



Igor Budnik, head of risk management for National Bank of Ukraine. (Courtesy)

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Dmitry Churin, head of research at EAVEX Capital. (Courtesy)



Nataliia Afanasieva, managing director of the Ukrainian branch of TMF Group. (Courtesy)



Victor Nevmerzhtsky, tax partner at BDO Ukraine. (Courtesy)

# Domestic companies try to catch up with trend of outsourced accounting

BY NATALIE VIKHROV  
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Experts say accounting outsourcing in Ukraine is on the rise, but the growth is largely seen in international companies operating in the country.

Victor Nevmerzhtsky, tax partner at BDO Ukraine – the Ukrainian subsidiary of the BDO international network of public accounting, tax and advisory firms – says his company has recently increased its clientele.

But that growth, he said, is being driven by factors outside the country, as the Ukrainian subsidiaries of international companies are more geared towards outsourcing, since the trend is growing at the global level.

“More and more foreign companies that operate in Ukraine are adopting internal policies to outsource either the whole accounting function or some portion of it – for example payroll accounting,” he said.

And according to Deloitte’s 2016 Global Outsourcing Survey, the practice is expected to see growth across many sectors, with finance being one area where growth is especially expected.

More than 40 percent of respondents of Deloitte’s survey said they already outsourced finance functions, and this is expected to grow by a further 36 percent. Meanwhile,

more than 50 percent outsourced tax functions – and this was expected to grow by 17 percent.

Nevmerzhtsky said among the challenges faced by Ukrainian accountants are the country’s frequently changing tax rules, which makes automated accounting harder.

“In other countries they develop accounting software, they implement it, and with minimal changes it works perfectly for years,” he said.

“Here, accounting software needs to be adjusted for (every) change, so it’s very difficult to automate the process, and a significant portion of manual involvement is needed.”

He said Ukraine’s constantly shifting tax landscape is also among the reasons why international companies outsource.

“It is riskier to have one internal accountant, who may not be keeping up with all the changes, compared to outsourcing to an external firm, which has more resources (and) accountants.”

Despite the growing uptake of accounting outsourcing by international companies, the trend is yet to catch on among domestic Ukrainian businesses.

“If you talk about fully Ukrainian companies... we have some clients among them, but I believe that in many cases they don’t want to go to an external accountant because not all their

operations are, (let’s) say, official,” Nevmerzhtsky said.

“That’s probably the biggest issue for mid-sized and big companies. For small businesses, probably the cost factor is important, because there are a huge number of individual accountants who are happy to work for low pay, and their fees are uncompetitive for us.”

Dmitry Churin, head of research at EAVEX Capital, said Ukraine did not have an accounting outsourcing culture, partly because of the costs associated with the service.

“In Ukraine, in around 90 percent of cases it’s cheaper to find a local accountant... than to outsource to a firm,” he said.

Meanwhile, Churin said that for global companies finding a reliable firm with knowledge of local accounting standards was key.

“They need the confidence and reputation of a verified company,” he said.

“Even if they try to hire just a local accountant, it’s hard to run a check on them and control them.”

But Nataliia Afanasieva, the managing director of the Ukrainian branch of TMF Group – an international company offering financial and administrative services, said her firm was seeing new-found interest in accounting outsourcing from Ukrainian companies, even if they were not yet actively using the service.

She said her company has seen an increase in inquiries about the service over the past year.

Although Afanasieva said this hasn’t yet translated into an increase in domestic clients, the growth in interest itself is a positive sign, indicating that businesses were trying to clean up their books and become more transparent.

“Possibly, domestic businesses are moving away from shady payment schemes and want not just an accountant that comes in and gets paid in cash, but a fully legal representative,” she said.

“So I see this is a positive trend, in the sense that businesses are trying to come out of the shadows.” ■

## BUSINESS ADVISER

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### Accounting outsourcing — better than you think



Iryna Koshova

Deputy Practice Leader,  
Financial Management  
and Accounting Outsourcing

With the arrival of international companies on the Ukrainian market, slowly but surely, a new kind of services is becoming more popular – accounting outsourcing. Thus, in the early 2000s, EBS was actually the first company on the market to begin providing such services as a specially designed professional product. Today, the practice of accounting outsourcing is already quite widespread, not only among international companies, but also local companies have begun to take an active interest in such services, and have begun assigning certain areas of their accounting responsibilities to outsourcing.

One of the main questions we are asked by our potential customers concerns the advantages and disadvantages of accounting outsourcing. It is important to note that, at the same time, clients will always have expectations about receiving a direct financial benefit, though this is often difficult to observe in the outsourcing model.

The first and main advantage is the fact that such services are provided by a company rather than one individual. In other words, when you employ an accountant at your company, he is personally responsible for the work he performs himself, and no one can guarantee with any certainty that he will do his job efficiently and correctly. In contrast, in the case of involvement of an outsourcing company, this business bears responsibility for both the quality of the services provided, as well as any errors that have been detected. Thus, the risks associated with mistakes are reduced several times while the quality of services provided is guaranteed by the contract for the provision of these services.

As well, one of the advantages of cooperating with an outsourcing company is cost savings on payroll for staff and the recruitment of new specialists. Thanks to outsourcing, you no longer need to worry that your accountant will quit tomorrow and that you’ll need to urgently find a replacement. There is also no longer any need to worry that you have too little work to employ an accountant. By working with an outsourcing company, you are guaranteed that the service you require will be provided to you at all times.

It is very important for a company’s management to know that transferring a portion or whole cycle of accounting to a third-party service provider allows the company the opportunity to focus on developing existing and new business. In other words, management is able to use this service and does not need to manage these processes, since this service entails a ready, high-quality and professional solution.

Given the high level of competition on the market, the fact that the outsourcing of accounting responsibilities ensures confidentiality is another plus for the contracting company. If maintaining privacy is one of the company’s priorities, then outsourcing is an even more attractive option due to the fact that such a service provider legally guarantees the safety and confidentiality of your information to third parties. Today, one of the most common tasks sent for outsourcing is their payroll, which ensures virtually one hundred percent confidentiality.

Outsourcing clients come from different industries, including trade, agriculture, real estate, companies engaged in imports and export, etc. Thus, the level of professionalism exhibited by outsourcing company employees should be two or even three higher than the average accountant, with a much wider range of professional experience so that they are able to cover all areas and business spheres. To handle this, outsourcing companies are constantly carrying out upgrading and vocational training for their employees, and they also track changes in all areas of legislation. This means that the client does not need to look for accountants with specific knowledge – he simply needs to engage an outsourcing company.

An important factor for a company’s management, especially for a foreigner company, is to obtain reliable financial information in order to gain a full understanding of the state of the company’s affairs, which, in case of a problem, will enable management to make wise management decisions. The likelihood of information being distorted by a company’s internal staff is much higher than would be the case among outsourcing employees since the service provider is an independent party. Therefore, obtaining financial statements that indicate the real picture with the company’s finances is a priority consideration when deciding to outsource.

A possible drawback of outsourcing accounting tasks is that, at first glance, it may seem like an inconvenience. After all, the accountant will not be sitting with you at your office, so he/she is not immediately “on hand”. In addition, the cost of the services is often a disputed factor. Many managers think that it would be cheaper to keep an accountant on staff and pay his/her salary instead of hiring an outsourcing company. Yes, maybe it would be cheaper in terms of the salary itself, but considering the benefits described above, it turns out that such savings will short-lived.

We must also take into consideration such a factor as mentality – Ukrainian companies are less likely to seek outsourcing services due to the fact that they are used to (and comfortable with) having an accountant on staff. Nevertheless, when it comes to confidentiality, even Ukrainian businesses prefer to work with outsourcing companies.

Outsourcing is not just a fashionable word in the world of services, but offers a good number of advantages benefitting the client.



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U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Marie L. Yovanovitch and Ukrainian Finance Minister Oleksandr Danyliuk on Feb. 7 signed an intergovernmental agreement to introduce provisions of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act. (Courtesy of U.S. Embassy in Ukraine)

## Ukraine will help prevent tax evasion by US citizens

BY ISOBEL KOSHIW  
KOSHIW@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine will help prevent tax evasion by U.S. citizens under a new intergovernmental agreement signed by U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch and Ukrainian Finance Minister Oleksandr Danyliuk on Feb. 7.

According to the agreement, Ukraine will introduce provisions of the U.S. Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act to enforce the

requirement of U.S. citizens living outside the U.S. to file yearly reports on their non-U.S. financial accounts.

Ukrainian banks will automatically share information about financial accounts and the assets of U.S. citizens with the Ukrainian authorities, who will pass it onto the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

Details of the agreement and how it will be implemented have yet to be released.

Ukraine and the United States have been in talks about introducing support for FATAC provisions in Ukraine since 2013.

Tetyana Berezhna, a senior associate at law firm Vasil Kisil and Partners, told the Kyiv Post that, going by what is known from previous talks, this is a one way agreement, and U.S. institutions will not be sharing information with the Ukrainian authorities. She said that a special department would be established within the Ukrainian Finance Ministry or the State Fiscal Services to collect and transfer the information.

"In general it is a positive step, which will promote the exchange of information and experience in exchanging information," said Berezhna. "All these procedures will require new software, which will upgrade the procedures of the Ukrainian authorities."

Some Ukrainian banks already share information with the U.S. tax authorities, but the new agreement will enshrine the practice in Ukrainian law, said Berezhna. But she cautioned that the effectiveness of the agreement would only become clear when the implementation plan is published.

"The United States and Ukraine have developed a very strong partnership on tax administration issues, and I'm pleased that our work on FATCA will further enhance our efforts in this sphere," said Yovanovitch, according to a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv on Feb. 8.

Since enacting FATCA in 2010, the United States has signed 94 intergovernmental agreements related to the act, according to the U.S. Treasury's website. ■

## Central bank cites 'poor audit' of banks, backs law to improve quality

BY KYIVPOST

In a statement on Feb. 9, the National Bank of Ukraine said it "began the systemic solving of problems with the quality of audit services to the banks two years ago simultaneously with the reform of the banking system. Poor audit of financial statements of banks has not only increased the bankruptcy risks, but also significantly reduced customers' and potential investors' confidence in banks. That is why the clean-up of the banking system was about not only withdrawing insolvent banks from the market, but also about banning the banks from working with audit companies that provide positive conclusions of failed banks. To this end, the National Bank has in 2015 made the necessary changes in their regulations governing external audit of banks."

Additionally, the central bank said that "the problem of poor quality of audit services refers not only to the banking sector. Therefore, in order to provide a comprehensive resolution to improving the quality of audit services and the reform of the sector as a whole," NBU experts joined others in government to support legislation that "improves the system of audit regulation in line with international standards."

The government approved the new measures on Jan. 25 and now the proposed law awaits action in parliament.



National Bank of Ukraine Governor Valeria Gontareva has closed dozens of insolvent banks in a sector dominated by 40 banks. The top three banks are state-owned. Massive fraud and insider lending has cost taxpayers at least \$20 billion. (Volodymyr Petrov)

## Officials say PwC helped in falsifying PrivatBank's books

PrivatBank from page 6

### A forum for fraud

PrivatBank is not PwC's first imbroglio in Ukraine. In 2014, oligarch Vadim Novinsky got into a conflict with PwC after he hired the auditor to perform due diligence on Bank Forum.

But after buying the bank, Novinsky discovered that it was in much worse condition than he believed, allegedly worth less than the \$80 million that Novinsky paid for the financial institution.

The oligarch partly blamed PwC, saying that their audit failed to provide the true value of the bank.

A separate case involving auditor BDO saw the government disbar the Belgian firm's Ukraine division for "non-compliance with the auditing requirements" and verifying incorrect informa-

tion about an unnamed client, according to an August NBU press release. BDO however, appealed the decision and was reinstated in September.

"As history has already shown, not only in Ukraine but around the world, the Big Four do not take responsibility for the conclusions they reach," Rostyslav Kravets, a Kyiv attorney at Kravets and Partners, said.

Kravets said the auditor could be held liable under Ukrainian law for losses sustained due to PrivatBank's nationalization. The NBU could file a civil lawsuit against the auditor as well, Kravets noted.

While the facts support making such a claim, "I hardly believe that there will be a positive decision here due to a lack of political will in the country," Kravets added. ■

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# Advertising market finally in recovery phase

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA  
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Ukraine's advertising market has entered new year with a bit more spring in its step. While Russia's war and economic uncertainty continue to take their toll, recovery began in 2016.

According to Maksym Lazebnyk, the executive director of the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition, advertisers spent \$455 million (Hr 11.6 billion) in 2016, compared to \$419 million the year before.

He expects this year's market to reach Hr 14.8 billion, or \$540 million as long as the currency remains stable.

Ukraine's advertising market used to be worth \$1 billion before Russia annexed Crimea and started the war in the Donbas in 2014. Ukraine's national currency has lost more than two-thirds of its value since then.

Vitaliy Georgiev, strategy consultant at Aimbalance strategic marketing agency and a moderator at Ukrainian Digital Agencies Committee, says that the advertising industry is "very sensitive" to political and economic instability.

"This is a downside... On the other hand, there is hardly any other business that can recover so quickly," Georgiev told the Kyiv Post.

The blossoming of digital communications provides a fresh source of revenues. Online advertising will remain a key factor, market experts

say. In 2016, digital advertising accounted for a significant chunk – more than a quarter – of Ukraine's advertising pie.

In its latest forecast, the All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition expects nearly 30 percent growth in internet advertising, which is set to rise from Hr 3 billion or \$79 million to almost Hr 4 billion or \$108 million in 2017.

The main drivers of growth in 2016 were mobile ads, paid search (advertising in the sponsored listings of a search engine) and digital video. Experts say this trend will likely continue.

The figures also suggest that TV ads, as well as public media (billboards, street and road signs, etc.), will likely boost their share, as these segments went down during the EuroMaidan Revolution and the war that followed. Such media advertising should take about 10 percent or Hr 1.6 billion (\$43.2 million), while Hr 7.4 billion (\$199.8 million) will go to television channels – an increase of 30 percent compared to 2016.

Print media is also expected to grow slightly next year, increasing its share of the market from the current Hr 1.1 billion (\$28 million), or 17 percent.

Upcoming spring events, including the World Hockey Championship Division I Group A matches, and the Eurovision Song Contest in May, will likely help the domestic advertising market.

Tetiana Gusak, a client service director at Momentum, a network brand experience agency, says that outdoor advertising in Ukraine looks like a "garbage bin" because it is often poorly integrated into cities' architecture. She says that brands should creatively come up with advertisements that "stimulate positive emotions."

Kyiv City Council is working on a plan for the city that will help outdoor ads to blend in with urban surroundings.

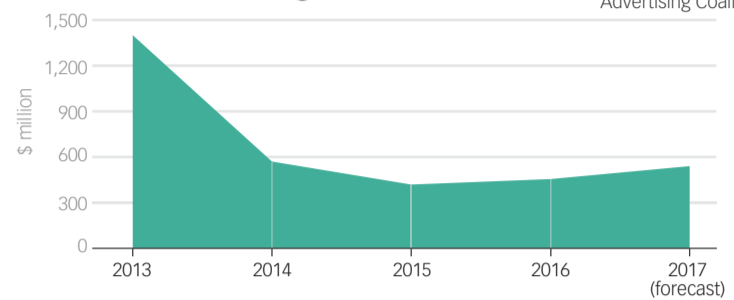
As for new trends, experts say that 2017 is going to mark a turning point in the way audiences consume video content.

"Users are accustomed to consuming video content in the gigabytes, and this leads to the fact that there are difficulties with the traditional text content consumption," Georgiev says, adding this trend is going to inspire marketers to produce more square-shaped videos that fill the full space of a social media newsfeed when viewed on a mobile device. He said that this would likely pay off, as such video clips are more likely to be viewed to the end.

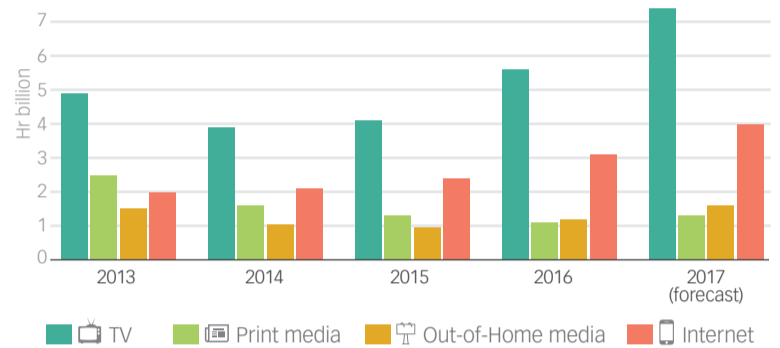
According to U.S.-based Laundry Service, a social media agency, view rates for square videos are 28 percent higher than for horizontal content. That offers more opportunities for advertisers, including more interactive formats, and encourages them to prioritize mobile content over more traditional advertising forms. ■

## Ukraine's advertising market

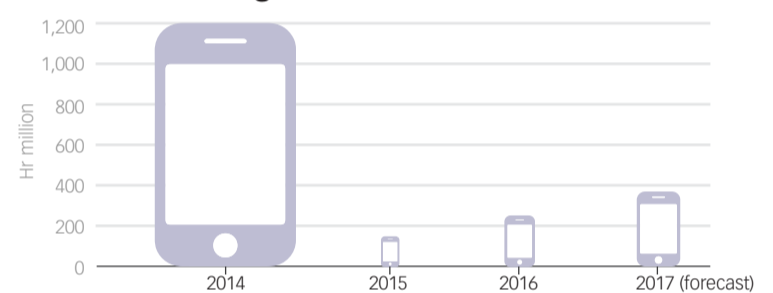
Source: All-Ukrainian Advertising Coalition



## Breakdown of Ukrainian advertising market



## Mobile advertising market in Ukraine



Ukraine's advertising market is expected to grow this year for the first time since 2013.

## Credit Agricole expands to Western Ukraine with a specialized branch for corporate business in Lviv



Western Ukraine has steadily been growing over the past several years by developing its investment potential both to Ukrainian companies as well as attracting foreign investments. In order to help continue and accelerate this important momentum, Credit Agricole Bank decided to help support the region and its investors by opening a new regional branch in the city of Lviv which will greatly facilitate services and communications with its multinational corporate clientele, partners and potential investors.

While we live and work in an online world where almost all can be solved with the simple click of computer button, a proximity to clients and reliable human contact is often more effective and reassuring when dealing with complex, unique and personal banking issues.

For this reason, Credit Agricole Bank is proud to announce that it has just opened an MNC Desk in Lviv. The grand opening of MNC Desk for multina-

tional corporate business and individuals – non-residents in Western region was held on 26th of January 2017.

**Interview with Larysa Bondarieva, Management Board Member of Credit Agricole Bank, in charge of Corporate Business, SME and agri-agro.**

**Why has Credit Agricole Bank opened a specialized branch, MNC desk for corporate business in Lviv?**

It's pleasant to acknowledge that Credit Agricole is seen as the bank of choice for the segment of international companies in Ukraine.

The bank now counts more than 1,000 international customers in its portfolio and an important segment of them are from the Western Ukraine region.

Another reason is that many Ukrainian companies are interested in European market now and we constantly strive to provide those our clients with the appropriate opportunity and tools to take part in the European market place.

Moreover, a close proximity to Poland will help our bank to deliver better services to our clients such as providing relations and synergies with our Polish colleagues from Credit Agricole Bank Polska.

It should be noted that Credit Agricole Bank was the first foreign bank which began operating back in 1993 during Ukraine's early years of independence. Since these times, our bank has maintained strong relationships with international clients of Credit Agricole Group and other international companies. Since these early years in Ukraine, we have successfully served our clients who have businesses or manufacturing facilities throughout Ukraine.

In recent years, we have seen the growth of foreign investments in Ukraine, where the western region has shown a great potential. New and existing investors actively finance new projects, which in turn create new production capacities and employment for the region. Therefore, such level of companies need an experienced and reliable financial partner who they can count on to react quickly and accurately to their unique and individual needs. Understanding their interests and needs led us to the constructive conclusion to open a new branch in Lviv in order to better service them.

The main goal of opening an MNC Desk in Lviv was to deliver a strengthening of the universal banking model based on long-term partnerships, multi-channel approach and the development of relations based on trust and finally – proximity to customers.

**What is the main difference between the MNC Desk and a simple branch?**

Firstly, an MNC Desk is where customers can receive support with a strong focus for international companies. Secondly, the other significant difference is that it provides convenient services to non-resident individual. The support of foreign companies, which include bank customers and international business is the main priority in the development for Credit Agricole Bank. We are in a strong position to answer their particular demands which often requires a high level of expertise and the support of experts with strong professionalisms. Such expertise is reflected by our Head of MNC Desk in Lviv, Andriy Kamenetskiy and Olena Lega, our Head of Customer Service.



**From which countries Credit Agricole Bank clients are? What are your expectations for the future?**

The largest amount of companies in our international portfolio are French, German and US clients. At the present time, we are also seeing an increased interest in cooperation with Polish companies who wish to invest in the region, not only from large corporations but also from the

SME sector (small & medium enterprises). As well, Ukrainian companies have shown great interest in developing their operations in Poland. Apart from this, we work with many corporations which are based in the EU, Japan and other Asian markets.

On the subject of Asian companies, there has been an increase on their part to actively grow their rate of the production capacity near Lviv. Therefore, we can say that we are growing in diversity. For instance, recently we met with Korean companies, some of which are already present in Ukraine and others who are considering coming to our market.

**What currencies do you use? For example, how do you work with Asia?**

It depends on the client's demands. For Ukrainian companies, it's the Ukrainian currency and when dealing with foreign currency, the US dollar and the Euro are the go to funds to operate with. When it comes to working with companies from Asian markets – we are capable of working with some national currencies, but generally speaking, working with traditional currencies such as the US dollar and the Euro works just as well as they are recognized and traded globally.

**Which changes can we expect for business in Lviv after the opening MNC Desk of Credit Agricole Bank?**

Having a specialized branch in the Western region means one more step forward for strengthening our bank's position which will allow us to provide our customers with the best expertise at the local level by meeting their investment expectations and needs. We want to be closer to our customers, because success and beneficial cooperation can be attained only when both parties understand each others needs well and are ready to respond and react accordingly.

It's no wonder that our new corporate slogan "A whole bank just for you" resonates well between Credit Agricole Group and its customers. It means that we mobilize and foster all the efforts to provide our clients with the partner bank they are waiting for. We offer our customers the best professional expertise, our best practices and international know-how. We mobilize all of the bank's business line in order to satisfy any needs of our customers. In a nutshell, we are exactly where our customers are.

Alla Banquy







World in Ukraine

**Editor's Note:** World in Ukraine takes a look at Ukraine's bilateral relations with different nations. To sponsor this news feature, please contact the Kyiv Post's sales team at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

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# Ambassador: Switzerland knows right from wrong

BY BRIAN BONNER  
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Switzerland is famous for its neutrality in foreign policy, especially non-involvement in foreign wars dating back to 1815. It is neither a member of the European Union nor the NATO military alliance.

But it knows right from wrong and, in Russia's three-year war against Ukraine, has stood by Ukraine with annual bilateral aid of \$25 million, additional amounts of humanitarian aid, active participation in peace-monitoring missions and its own sanctions against the Kremlin.

"We are neutral. That's certainly a Swiss quality. At the same time, we respect and expect others to respect international law," Swiss Ambassador to Ukraine Guillaume Scheurer told the Kyiv Post in an interview at the Swiss Embassy, which also houses his residence, in Kyiv. "In the case of Crimea, the decision and the declarations of the Swiss government were fast and very clear that this (Russian) occupation has been made illegally, not according to international law. The same with respect to international borders. The same for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. We respect international law and we expect others to respect international law."

Switzerland has also adopted the same sanctions against Russia as the rest of the European Union – and suffered the consequences in terms of lost trade and investment with Russia. "They are completely in line with EU standards. Switzerland shall not be used to circumvent sanctions," Scheurer said.

## Big investor

Just as importantly, Russia's war has not deterred Swiss companies from doing business in Ukraine. Scheurer counts 100 Swiss companies active in Ukraine, providing \$1.5 billion in cumulative foreign direct investment, usually ranking 8th or 9th among individual countries.

It's an impressive number for a country of only eight million people that, nonetheless, is a European economic powerhouse. Switzerland boasted a gross domestic product of \$662 billion in 2016 – at least seven times higher than Ukraine, accomplished with five times fewer people.

Nestle is, by far, the largest Swiss company in Ukraine, making chocolates and other food, employing 5,000 people – including 2,000 in Lviv.

But Swiss companies are involved in many other aspects of Ukrainian life, from innovative technologies (ABB) to pharmaceuticals (Acino, Sandoz), inspection of products for



St. Moritz's ski resort is shown after sunset on Feb. 6. St. Moritz, one of the oldest and most famous ski resorts in the Swiss canton of Graubünden, is hosting the World Alpine Skiing Championships until Feb. 19 and hopes to host the 2026 Winter Olympics. (AFP)



Switzerland's Ambassador to Ukraine Guillaume Scheurer during an interview with the Kyiv Post at the Swiss Embassy and ambassador's residence. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

export (SGS), manufacturing of sanitary products (Geberit) and glass (Vetropack), health care (Novartis), shipping (Mediterranean Shipping Company), trade in agricultural products (Risoil, Allseeds), eye products (Alcon), iron ore production (Ferrexpo) and other sectors.

"This is a clear statement through

the numbers that Swiss companies do believe in Ukraine and have been active for many, many years and continue to be," Scheurer said, in contrast to other countries that stopped when Russia started its war against Ukraine in 2014.

Switzerland is among a group of non-EU nations including Iceland,

Liechtenstein and Norway that have a free trade agreement with Ukraine that went into effect on June 1, 2012.

## Risoil's case

But Ukraine's hostility towards investors at home is harming its image abroad.

As Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko was touting investment in Ukraine at a Jan. 17 meeting with Swiss President Doris Leuthard, Swiss agricultural company Risoil said it was facing illegal harassment from Ukrainian prosecutors. The bogus case put plans for an additional \$70 million in investment in "great danger," according to a Jan. 30 letter from Risoil S.A. director Marc Gillieron to Poroshenko, asking for presidential intervention.

"All these events occurred at a time when you, Mr. President, were attending the World Economic Forum in Davos (Jan. 17–20), trying to reassure the delegates of the European countries that the investment climate in Ukraine was improving and called on those countries to help Ukraine financially by investing in it," Gillieron wrote.

Such shakedowns or state-san-

tioned illegal raids on companies are a familiar story to many companies who consistently say that Ukraine's corruption and lack of rule of law hinder the nation's economy.

Without commenting on the merits of Risoil's claims, Scheurer said that such complaints are noticed globally and hinder Ukraine's ability to attract badly needed foreign direct investment.

"When there are cases of suspicions of raid or illegal activities, done by whoever it is – by Ukrainian citizens or Ukrainian authorities – this should be immediately investigated in bona fide. The reaction should be swift and according to the rule of law," the ambassador said.

Switzerland in January hosted a Swiss-Ukraine business forum in Zurich, timed for the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, to help promote investment.

"Despite the good investment that I mentioned, there is nevertheless a lack of understanding about the new Ukraine among foreign investors," Scheurer said. The twin themes were Ukraine's "brain bank" – pro-



# Swiss company, Ukrainian prosecutors trade accusations, work to end conflict

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA  
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The Ukrainian branch of Swiss company Risoil S.A. went public with a claim that Ukraine's prosecutors were putting illegal pressure on it.

But a week after the Kyiv Post and other media began making inquiries, the company's problems may be settled, at least for now. Prosecutors rejected the company's accusations, but indicated to the newspaper that they will close criminal cases against the firm.

However, on Feb. 7, the Security Service of Ukraine – in an apparent reference to Risoil – reported on its website that an international company seized three hectares of land worth \$4 million that belonged to the state port in Chornomorsk, a city 495 kilometers south of Kyiv in Odesa Oblast. The SBU post accused the company of trying to evade justice with the help of Ukrainian and international officials.

Risoil had, in a letter to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Jan. 30, accused Ukrainian prosecutors of targeting its business for a shake-down or state-sanctioned corporate raiding.



Anatoliy Matios. (Courtesy)

The Risoil Group, which specializes in agricultural commodities, has invested about \$70 million in Ukraine since 2015 and created more than 1,000 jobs, Marc Gillieron, Risoil's director in Ukraine, wrote in an official letter to Poroshenko.

"However the investments are now in danger," Gillieron wrote.

"Since January 2016, the Crimean Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, in the person of Anatoliy Matios, the deputy prosecutor general of Ukraine and the chief military prosecutor, has been illegally destroying the business activities of Risoil S.A. in Ukraine," Gillieron wrote.

The Kyiv Post asked for a response from prosecutors. On Feb. 6, Matios agreed to an interview. Then on Feb. 7, a Risoil representative contacted the Kyiv Post and said prosecutors had decided to close the criminal cases against the company and didn't want to talk about the matter anymore.

A few hours later Matios cancelled the interview. The Kyiv Post was given this official response instead: "The company will have to pay a fine to the state for occupying a land plot, and after that, the pre-trial criminal proceedings will be closed."

According to the United Court Registry of Ukraine, the Crimean department of the Prosecutor General's Office accused Risoil S.A. and the Risoil Terminal company of illegally trading with Russian-occupied Crimea. Other accusations include bribing an official of the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine, and the unauthorized occupation of land for construction.

## Risoil: Baseless claims

Risoil S.A. does business in a number of areas: the production, sale and transportation of vegetable oils; the sale of grain and oilseeds in contain-



The oil storage tanks of Risoil S.A. based in Chornomorsk, a city in Odesa Oblast 495 kilometers south of Kyiv. (Courtesy of Risoil)

ers; and the processing and storage of agricultural products.

In April 2016, the Crimean department of the prosecutor's office filed a claim in court seeking to confiscate Risoil documents as part of several criminal pre-trial investigations.

Prosecutors accused the company of giving a Hr 10,000 bribe to the State Sanitary and Epidemiological Service of Ukraine's deputy chief medical officer in order to pass an annual inspection in 2015.

The same claim, published in the United Court Registry of Ukraine, includes accusations that the company has been doing business illegally in Russian-occupied Crimea, based on allegations by an unnamed Security Service of Ukraine officer. But prosecutors didn't even open a case on that accusation due to lack of evidence.

And although Risoil's lawyers

managed to show that the bribery accusations were baseless as well, prosecutors kept the case open – along with the legal authority to wiretap Risoil's management.

## Land rental agreement

Prosecutors also claimed that Risoil illegally seized three hectares of land in 2015 that belonged to the State Trading Sea Port Chornomorsk.

Georgian citizen Shota Khajishvili, Risoil S.A.'s permanent representative in Ukraine, who received a notice of suspicion from prosecutors in December, told the Kyiv Post on Feb. 6 that all of the prosecutors' charges were baseless.

"By the time we supposedly 'seized' the land, we were in the process of signing a rent agreement for that plot. We were forced to start construction to save some oil storage tanks, which were located on a

slope, from falling into the sea," said Khajishvili.

Risoil S.A. rents land on the edge of Chornomorsk Port. It filed rent documents for three hectares of land in 2014 and gained approval from the port management and the Infrastructure Ministry, according to an official letter from the ministry dated August 2014. Then in October 2014, the port filed an official notice on leasing the land with Odesa Oblast Council.

The Zn.ua news website reported that the official reason for renting the three hectares to Risoil is that the land had no value to the port and "developing it was too expensive for the state enterprise."

In 2015, Odesa Oblast Council demanded the cadastral number of the rent agreement to finalize the

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# Swiss businesses prosper, but new investors wary

BY YULIANA ROMANYSHYN  
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Swiss businesspeople and their local partners say Ukraine is a land of opportunity. The challenge is how to realize that opportunity.

Swiss business is attracted to Ukraine by the country's cheap but well-qualified labor force, its raw materials and its mineral resources. Cumulative foreign direct investment from Switzerland to Ukraine as of October reached \$1.48 billion, according to figures from the Ukrainian state statistics service Ukrstat.

Switzerland is one of the richest nations in Europe, powered by its financial clout.

With 100 companies in Ukraine, Swiss citizens are actively taking part in changing Ukraine, especially in the medical and banking sectors. It also contributes \$25 million annual in financial aid.

But economic factors, lack of state support and absence of rule of law are preventing new Swiss investors from entering the market.

## Swiss outsourcing

Marco Mannhart, a Swiss entrepreneur with Ukrainian roots, established JK Development in 2009. Today his company provides customer support and marketing service to Swiss businesses, employing 100 workers in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv. It plans to double its staff within the next few years.

At first, Mannhart recalls, Swiss business had little trust in the quality of Ukrainian workers, but no longer. Ukrainians' success in doing business abroad – people from the country were involved in launching the WhatsApp messenger service and the PayPal online payment system – helped build a bridge between the nations.



A man works on a Vetropack glass plant line, producing glass for various drinks. Ukraine's Vetropack Hostomel Glass Factory, partly owned by Swiss investors, produced three kinds of glass bottles in the Kyiv suburb of Hostomel. (Courtesy of Vetropack)

But Mannhart's main office in Switzerland, which is responsible for quality, often has to reassure foreign clients about Ukrainians. "It compensates the negative image currently generated by Ukraine," Mannhart said.

He said one Swiss employee can work much more efficiently than a Ukrainian one, which he attributes to differences in mentality and culture. But a Swiss employee costs from five to six times more than a worker in Ukraine.

"We can make money from this difference," Mannhart said.

The economic turmoil of the last three years has affected JK

Development, with well-qualified personnel leaving the company and moving abroad to look for better opportunities. The stress of Russia's war is also taking its toll.

Mannhart said he has acquaintances that are ready to invest between \$500,000 and \$1 million in various areas, but they would currently prefer to go to Romania or Bulgaria, where law enforcement is better.

Ukraine has tremendous potential, he said, "but the problem is that you come with some amount of money and have to pay a 30 percent cut from every dollar. It's so crazy!"

Mannhart thinks that citizens will determine Ukraine's path – either they will decide to follow the law or they won't.

## Paper industry

In the Zhytomyr Oblast city of Malyn, Swiss Paper Mill Weidmann produces electrical insulation paper and cardboard.

The mill has a 140-year history, and has been owned by the Swiss company for more than a decade. Over the last five years, the parent company has been transferring its production from Switzerland to Ukraine, said the head of the factory's board, Andriy Panchenko.

In 2016, Weidmann invested \$5 million in renovation and relocation. Market experience and the support the company is getting from the Swiss Embassy is reassuring, Panchenko said.

"When we have a tax system and courts that behave unexpectedly and you cannot defend the rights of your business, as we have today, I wouldn't be so optimistic about new investors coming," he said. "But if you have support from the embassy, you can start a business here."

His factory produces paper for export, leaving only 10 percent for internal needs. Some 30 percent of

one of eight glass plants in Europe that are partly owned by Swiss Vetropack. Its Ukrainian branch is a leading producer of glass packaging on the domestic market, occupying a 31 percent share.

Swiss investments and experience helped the company to build a new glass furnace, modernize its production line, and improve standards, according to the company's communications manager Irina Pinishchuk. Today, the plant's three furnaces produce transparent, green and brown glass containers.

The glass factory, which has around 630 employees, is located in Hostomel, a northern suburb of Kyiv. As the production of glass bottles requires workers to have specific skills, it is difficult to hire professionals, as there are only two institutions in Ukraine teaching these skills, Pinishchuk said.

With a slowing domestic market, the company's strategy has been to build an export network through Europe and other former Soviet countries apart from Russia.

## Dependent on state

Ukraine's crumbling road network raises logistics costs and reduces margins. In 2017, the government plans to allocate \$1.1 billion to road repairs, according to Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan.

That's good news for the Ukrainian division of Swiss mechanical engineering company Ammann, which supplies road-making and repair equipment. The road construction industry in Ukraine is dependent on state contracts, according to Ammann Ukraine's managing director, Anatoly Bytsenko.

The distribution office in Ukraine of the 150-year-old Swiss company was founded in 2008, and since then it has provided equipment to 10 asphalt plants in Ukraine. However, the pace of road construction and repair in Ukraine is a lot slower than in other countries that Ammann also supplies.

In 2016, the company saw a sharp rise in machinery repair work. But the company's Swiss headquarters don't have near-term plans to invest in the Ukrainian branch, Bytsenko said. The Asian market, particularly India and China, is booming now.

"This is only a prospect for the future," Bytsenko said of his Swiss colleagues' chances of investing in Ukraine. ■



Slavomir Novak, head of Ukravtodor state transport agency, came from Poland to lead the renovation of roads in Ukraine. (Andriy Gudzenko)

the goods still goes to Russia, "where there's a big market."

Weidmann provides 600 jobs in Malyn, a city of 30,000 residents. The mill also headhunts former Malyn citizens with experience in paper production who might be interested in moving back to their hometown, Panchenko said.

## Glass leaders

Another company that has been in business for over a century, JSC tropack Gostomel Glass Factory is

## Switzerland-Ukraine ties at a glance

**Population:** 8.3 million people (2015)

**Head of government:** President Doris Leuthard, since Jan. 1

**GDP:** \$662 billion in 2016.

**Main industries:** machinery, chemicals, watches, textiles, agricultural products, precision instruments, tourism, banking, and insurance.

Ukrainian-Swiss economic relations:

**Bilateral trade:** \$581 million in 2015; \$293.6 million in first half of 2016

**Exports from Switzerland to Ukraine:** pharmaceutical products, machinery, chemicals, gemstones, jewelry, and watches.

**Exports from Ukraine to Switzerland:** gemstones, jewelry, machinery, agricultural products, and paper.

**Swiss investment in Ukraine:** \$1.5 billion as of October.

Sources: CIA World Factbook, World Bank, Ukrstat

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Swiss investor: Prosecutors waged illegal campaign of harassment

Company from page 11

transaction, but the new head of the port, Serhiy Kryzhanivskiy, refused to provide it. Kryzhanivskiy and the press service of Chornomorsk Port did not comment.

But prosecutors told the Kyiv Post that Risoil got the three hectares land plot for rent on Sept. 29, while the Odesa Oblast Council signed the rent agreement on Sept. 14.

According to a Kyiv Pechersk District Court ruling, prosecutors wanted Khajishvili to pay a fine of \$108,000 for causing harm to the state. In December, the court seized cars that belonged to Khajishvili to ensure payment.

Prosecutors deny claims

Risoil lawyers told the Kyiv Post on Feb. 3 that the Crimean department of the Prosecutor General's Office has no right to investigate in Odesa Oblast, where Risoil is located.

Moreover, Risoil claims that Matios had no right to change the jurisdiction of the cases, as he has done several times in the proceedings against Risoil.

In the letter to Poroshenko, Risoil claimed the prosecutors and the Security Service of Ukraine had carried out illegal armed raids, the seizure of documents and items without returning them, illegal bugging and more.

Risoil also asked Ukrainian lawmakers for help in bringing the case to the attention of Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko.

Samopomich Party lawmakers Ivan Myroshnichenko and Pavlo Kostenko then filed requests with Lutsenko demanding information about Matios' actions. The lawmakers got an official response in January from Matios himself, essentially telling them that there was no reason for Lutsenko to intervene, and that the case was none of the lawmakers' business. ■

Switzerland trying to help Ukraine reclaim \$70 million taken in Yanukovych times

BY JOSH KOVENSKY  
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Swiss banks have frozen \$70 million in assets allegedly stolen by ex-President Viktor Yanukovych and his cronies.

It's a small amount of the estimated \$40 billion taken during Yanukovych's corrupt reign, which the EuroMaidan Revolution ended on Feb. 22, 2014.

Ukraine's prosecutors, however, view the money held in Switzerland as recoverable. "It's a priority for us," said Eugene Yenin, head of international cooperation at the General Prosecutor's Office.

Former officials who stashed suspicious cash in Swiss banks include: Yanukovych, the former president; Mykola Azarov, the former prime minister; Andriy Klyuev, the former head of Yanukovych's administration; and Yuriy Ivanyushchenko, an ex-member of parliament.

President Petro Poroshenko and Swiss President Doris Leuthard spoke on the phone twice since the beginning of 2017, both times reaffirming their commitment to speeding up the asset recovery process and agreeing on "further steps."

But Andriy Sliusar, an expert at Transparency International Ukraine, suggested that the statements were more a reflection of the lack of progress made than anything else.

"There should be a concrete dialogue between the law enforcement organs of both countries," Sliusar said.

Crucial steps

Switzerland first froze the money of former Ukrainian top officials in February 2014, days after Yanukovych fled Ukraine, for three years.

Swiss Ambassador to Ukraine Guillaume Scheurer said that the country had granted a year-long



Protesters outside the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv in October protest Ukraine's money laundering. The demonstration was an attempt to pressure foreign governments into stepping up efforts to return money stolen by ex-Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovych. (UNIAN)

extension of an administrative freeze on around \$70 million out of the \$100 million identified by prosecutors, which will expire in February 2018.

Yenin came into office in June, after the ouster of former Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, who was not active in asset recovery. Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko hired Yenin, who served in Ukraine's Embassy in Rome and the country's security service.

Since then, Yenin says he's focused on speeding up cases by restoring trust with foreign law enforcement, a step towards ensuring effective cooperation on asset recovery.

"We're stepping up in directions where we lagged behind," Yenin said, adding that prosecutors are getting approval from Ukrainian courts to freeze the money.

Swiss law makes the process slightly easier. Evidence of an underlying crime doesn't need to be established in order to conduct

a money laundering investigation.

But to make progress, prosecutors need to send a formal motion to a Swiss court for a judicial freeze, as administrative sanctions expire. So far, Ukraine has not yet asked for such a judicial order. To do so, evidence will need to be presented.

Yenin said Ukraine faces a tough fight from Yanukovych's lawyers, who "postpone the process, rais[ing] challenges to every one of our actions."

Yenin said that there are five separate investigations involving Yanukovych-era money in Switzerland.

Geneva prosecutors opened an investigation into money laundering by Yanukovych in 2014, a case that could help Ukraine. The Swiss have sent around 15 requests to Ukraine as part of the investigations.

Yenin said that he would go to Geneva for the Basel Institute for Governance's International Center for Asset Recovery in two weeks to

meet with Swiss authorities on how to speed asset recovery.

He promised "to meet every investigator" and ask "what they need from our side to move forward."

Long-term process

Anti-corruption activists have criticized the government for failing to formally ask the Swiss and other authorities to freeze the money.

Sliusar, the Transparency International expert, said that political will is lacking at the top to return the money.

In the best of circumstances, results take years.

"We've seen from cases in Africa, Asia, and South America that it takes eight to 10 to 12 years until the legal aspects are clarified," said the Swiss ambassador.

Sliusar said that time has been wasted due to inaction. "Spending time on constructive actions is different from spending time on empty actions," he said. ■

Ambassador touts Switzerland's roles in building peace, prosperity in Ukraine

Switzerland from page 10

moting information technology and start-ups – and the more famous "breadbasket" of the world, touting agricultural investments.

The response "could have been stronger" if not for some bad experiences in Ukraine among existing Swiss investors. He said investors want swift and sure justice "within the rule of law. Here this is sometimes, unfortunately, a question mark," he said.

Big donor

Switzerland is also a major aid donor to Ukraine, committing \$25 million a year over the course of a four-year program that ends in 2018.

The amount does not include

additional humanitarian aid, mainly to the war zone. As a neutral country, aid workers operating under the Swiss flag can work both sides of the war, he said, giving Switzerland a more complete picture of the situation on the ground in the disputed Donbas.

"It sends an important message to work on both sides of the contact line. They are Ukrainians, part of Ukraine (even in separatist-controlled Donbas)," Scheurer said. "It's a positive message of inclusion."

The focus of the financial aid program includes peace-building, health care, energy efficiency and decentralization of government.

In these priority areas, "we see things are moving very much in the right direction," Scheurer said.

"We are very satisfied with the prime minister's office and what he does and what the ministers are doing."

Additionally, several Swiss nongovernmental organizations are active in Ukraine.

Those include: Help Point Sumy, with medical and firefighting assistance; Sunshine Kyiv, which provides education and entertainment to street children in Kyiv; Forum Ost-West, which delivers medical supplies to Kharkiv and Dnipropetrovsk oblasts; Ostchristliche mission, which delivers food and hygienic products to internally displaced persons; Innovabridge, which helps implement e-governance in eastern Ukraine; Skat, which assists in municipal governance; Swiss Church

Aid, which raises money for IDPs; MSF Suisse, which provides medical help; and Handicap International Suisse, which helps people with handicaps.

Cultural events

Ukraine is celebrating the 25th year of diplomatic relations with many countries, Switzerland among them. Scheurer said a year-long series of cultural events, in Switzerland and in Ukraine, are planned.

"The idea is to promote values and principles," he said.

Swiss community

The Swiss community is small in Ukraine, numbering only 300 or so people. But many of them can be found on the first Thursday of the

month in the Golden Gate Pub or in one of Kyiv's Swiss restaurants, including Le Komora on 2/4-7 Pushinskaya Street.

Many more Ukrainians – some 8,000 – live in Switzerland, which also issues at least 10,000 tourist visas to Ukrainians each year.

While not part of the EU, Switzerland is part of the Schengen Zone that unifies travel rules for 26 European nations.

Scheurer said that Switzerland favors visa liberalization – meaning visa-free travel for Ukrainians for visits of up to 90 days – for Ukrainians this year.

"We do hope the visa requirements will be lifted," Scheurer said. "We have no reservations at all. The political gesture should not be underestimated." ■



# Ukrainian government looks ready to compromise to end Russia's war

Peace from page 1

## Unusual statements

The Kyiv Post's diplomatic and security sources say that Poroshenko's administration intensified negotiations on the Donbas earlier this year as U.S. President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly praised Russian dictator Putin, took office.

This coincided with a flurry of unprecedented statements by officials indicating that Ukraine would start reintegrating the Russian-held parts of Donbas in 2017.

Interior Minister Arsen Avakov said on Jan. 17 at a meeting with the State Border Guard's leadership that they should be prepared to take control over the border between the Donbas and Russia in 2017.

"I want each one of you to understand that this is not a propagandist statement, not some sort of fixation – this is an objective reality that we will face in the near future," Avakov said.

And Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's representative in the Minsk contact group, said in a Feb. 6 interview with the Liga.net news site that Ukraine is approaching a "painful stage" in the peace talks, during which it will have to compromise.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet on Jan. 11 approved a plan to make it easier to cross the border between the Ukrainian-controlled and Russian-occupied areas of the Donbas, and to ease the access of the occupied territories' residents to Ukrainian government services, health care, education and Ukraine's taxation system.

The plan was prepared by Occupied Territories Minister Vadym Chernysh, who also gave a rare interview to gazeta.ru, a Kremlin-linked news site, on Jan. 19.

His deputy Georgy Tuka surprised many by saying in late December that Ukraine would start reintegrating the Donbas in the fall of 2017.

In an interview with the Kyiv Post on Feb. 7, Tuka said that the process may begin even earlier, when Russia starts withdrawing its heavy weapons from the area.

## Plan for militants

Tuka attributed his predictions to a drop in Russia's financing of the occupied territories, intelligence reports about an alleged increase in pro-Ukrainian sentiment there, and Russian-separatist forces' reluctance to continue fighting.

He said hundreds of armed separatists have already defected to the Ukrainian side over the last two years. "There are entire armed units ready to lay down arms if they receive guarantees from Ukraine that they will not be prosecuted."

Tuka added that Russia seems to be ready for concessions "given how fast militants have started leaving this world." Tuka, as well as other observers, implied that the Kremlin was killing off uncontrollable hot-headed separatist leaders to make a deal with Ukraine easier.

Since 2014, at least a dozen separatist leaders have been killed or died



Ukrainian soldiers stand by an armored car in the Ukrainian-controlled city of Avdiivka, site of a major escalation in Russia's war against Ukraine, on Feb. 5. (Volodymyr Petrov)

in mysterious circumstances. The most recent ones include Donetsk-based Somalia Battalion commander Mikhael Tolstikh, known by the nickname Givi, Luhansk-based Oleg Anashchenko, and Valery Bolotov, ex-head of Luhansk's separatists.

Tuka also voiced a plan on how Ukraine may get rid of armed militants when it takes the occupied territories back.

"There are approximately 40,000 combatants, who are divided into three groups of the same size: citizens of Ukraine, non-Ukrainian paramilitary units (99 percent of them are Russians) and regular Russian troops," he said.

The Russian troops will leave Ukraine's territory as soon as they receive the order, and local militants will mostly agree to lay down arms, but the Russian mercenaries will pose the biggest problem, Tuka said.

"Specialists say that it would be enough to liquidate 50–100 of the (mercenaries') leaders, and the rest of them will disband," he added.

## Plan for civilians

Civilians who collaborated with the Russian-separatist authorities, including public officials, judges and teachers, should be given an amnesty from prosecution, but should lose their jobs and be deprived of the right to participate in elections, Tuka believes.

The local elections envisaged by the Minsk deal should take place in the Russian-occupied areas a few years after Ukraine takes the territory back, Tuka said. Before that, the area should be governed by Kyiv-appointed military governments without elected legislatures, similar to the arrangements in Kramatorsk and Severodonetsk, he argued.

Tuka said that tycoon Rinat Akhmetov or allies of ex-Presi-

dent Viktor Yanukovich could be appointed to run these transition governments. They are seen as compromise figures, acceptable to both the Ukrainian and the Russian authorities.

## Western pressure

Western diplomats' statements also indicate that major concessions to the Kremlin are being discussed.

Ernst Reichel, Germany's ambassador to Ukraine, said on Feb. 7 that local elections in the occupied territories could be held even before Russia withdraws its troops from the area – an idea also voiced by Pinchuk. That would allow the Kremlin to hold sham elections and appear to legitimize its puppets.

Balazs Jarabik, a nonresident scholar at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, said that if Ukraine fails to implement the Minsk deal, the West could drop the Donbas-related sanctions against Russia this year, leaving just the "largely symbolic" sanctions over the Kremlin's annexation of Crimea. The lifting of sanctions was also one of the concessions proposed by Pinchuk.

Pinchuk also suggested removing Crimea from the agenda of the peace talks as one of Ukraine's possible concessions. This has been variously interpreted as Ukraine ceasing to raise the Crimean issue at international organizations, keeping silent about human rights violations in the peninsula, or not recognizing the Crimean Tatars' rights as an indigenous people.

Aider Muzhdabayev, a vice president of the Crimean Tatar ATR TV channel, said that, if implemented, a deal on the reintegration of the occupied territories would likely lead to the Ukrainian authorities effectively ceasing to protect his community's

interests in Crimea.

But it will be not easy to make parliament adopt legislation on unpopular concessions to Russia – moves that could trigger street protests and civil unrest.

The Samopomich party is the most vehement critic of any talks about the reintegration of separatist-held Donbas. However, the government may count on the support of the Opposition Bloc, the People's Will and Vidrozhennya – offshoots of Yanukovich's Russia-friendly Party of Regions.

## Trojan horse

Critics say that the reintegration of the occupied parts of the Donbas could be part of a Kremlin plan to bring Ukraine back into its sphere of influence – in line with Pinchuk's idea of the country dropping all plans to join the European Union and NATO.

Politician Viktor Medvedchuk, a close friend of Putin, is playing a key role in Russian-Ukrainian negotiations on the Donbas, the Kyiv Post's sources say.

"They're preparing a Trojan horse that will be integrated into Ukraine," Muzhdabayev said. "...The Federal Security Service and Russian military headquarters will keep working (in the occupied territories of the Donbas). It's just a puppet theater."

The Kremlin will replace more hardline separatist leaders with more moderate ones, but Russia will keep its troops and political presence in the Donbas, he argued.

As a result of reintegration, "Russia will also be able to delegate its puppets into Ukrainian politics," Muzhdabayev said.

Tuka agreed that Russia would try to use its leverage in the Donbas to influence the whole of Ukraine. "I have no doubt (Russia) will not leave them alone," he said. "But (Russian agents) are already present everywhere in Ukraine, and they will continue doing their dirty job anyway."

Viktor Trepak, an ex-deputy chief of the Security Service of Ukraine, said in a Feb. 1 interview that Russian-Ukrainian "diplomatic ties have allegedly been downgraded to zero but in reality top-level relations, with (Medvedchuk) acting as an intermediary, are very active."

"(The authorities) are playing with the West, but are at the same time leading Ukraine towards Russia," he added. ■

## ON THE MOVE

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Anastasia focuses on complex antitrust matters, including abuse of dominance, cartels, commercial and pricing practices. She also assists clients with merger notifications in Ukraine, and has experience in the coordination of multi-jurisdictional merger filings in the CIS and the EU. In addition, Anastasia deals with unfair competition issues, such as misleading advertising. She also assists international and Ukrainian companies with the development of competition law compliance policies, and holds training sessions for company employees on competition issues. Anastasia has an impressive track record in advising international and local clients on various

issues of Ukrainian competition law, including merger control cases, competition compliance, AMC investigations, and sector inquiries. Before joining Redcliffe Partners, Anastasia practised competition law for more than eight years at leading law firms in Ukraine and Belgium.

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# Avdiyivka hopes fighting stops and it can rebuild

Avdiyivka from page 1

silence, a lot can improve here now in Avdiyivka.”

## Heavy clashes

Avdiyivka is only 10 kilometers north of Russian-controlled Donetsk. A sharp escalation in fighting started on Jan. 29 and lasted for a week.

As Russian-backed forces and the Ukrainian units defending the city clashed in its southern outskirts, civilians in residential areas came under attack by heavy artillery, including deadly and indiscriminate salvos of Grad rockets.

At least 20 people, both soldiers and civilians, were killed and the ferocity of the battle again put Russia's war against Ukraine in the headlines around the world.

The fighting also caused a week-long blackout and cut supplies of water, gas and heating in much of the city, even as temperatures plunged to -20 degrees Celsius.

More fighting could create a humanitarian catastrophe.

Even before the latest surge in fighting, nearly three years of war had left marks on the city. Many buildings bear the scars of shrapnel from artillery shells or Grad rockets. Many of their windows are broken, boarded up with plywood or covered with tarpaulin or plastic sheeting.

One shell fired by Russian-backed forces narrowly missed a local public school building, gouging a huge crater in the schoolyard.

In city's private housing sector, situated close to the frontline near the southeast industrial zone, there are shell craters up to 1.5 meters deep – evidence of the use of heavy caliber artillery forbidden under the Minsk peace agreements.

Natalia Honcharenko, a housewife living in Avdiyivka's private housing sector, looks out on her yard, which was shattered by the impact of a Grad rocket on Feb. 1. Her grain store, fence and outdoor kitchen were blown away by the explosion.

“Of the 11 rabbits I used to have, only one survived that shelling,” she said. “After the explosion blew away half of my house, I was so shocked



Men repair the roof of a house in Avdiyivka on Feb. 5. City officials say 114 houses suffered damage from shelling over six days of Russian-backed attacks on the Ukrainian-controlled Donetsk Oblast city, some 700 miles southeast of Kyiv. Electricity, heat and water supplies were also lost in many parts of the city as temperatures plunged to -18 degrees Celsius. Fighting had subsided by Feb. 7. (Volodymyr Petrov)

and terrified that I couldn't stop shouting. I was just standing among the debris by myself and yelling.”

## Humanitarian aid

The clashes between the sides significantly decreased, both in intensity and in frequency from Feb. 5. In Avdiyivka, any day of relative peace is an opportunity to repair damage to the city and stave off disaster from its people.

After several failed attempts, during which they came under fire

by Russian-backed forces, Ukrainian repair crews managed to fix downed power lines. By the morning of Feb. 6, power had been restored across the city, according to Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman.

Ukraine's Emergency Situations Service reported that five schools and four kindergartens reopened that day. Local authorities say that since supplies of liquefied gas arrived at Avdiyivka's famous coking plant, the biggest in Europe, the average temperature in residential housing has gradually increased to 22 degrees Celsius. It had sunk as low as 12 degrees Celsius at the height of the shelling. The plant's furnaces are the source for much of the city's centralized heating system.

“As of now, we consider the humanitarian situation in the city to be acceptable,” Valeriy Kobush, an official from Donetsk Oblast State Administration overseeing aid efforts, told the Kyiv Post.

“Avdiyivka has received over 230 tons of humanitarian aid so far, including over 5,000 food packages,” he said. “Aid is constantly being sent from all around Ukraine, and from all of the world's biggest charity agencies. Every day we deliver at least 1,500 food packages, which is pretty much enough to be sure that people aren't starving in Avdiyivka.”

Kobush also said that only 250 residents asked to be evacuated.

Avdiyivka's residents go to one of the two schools used as distribution points or to a tent camp set up on the city's football field, where the government provides hot food, fresh water, tea and shelter from the cold. Police in vans distributed food to elderly who could not reach the tent.

Residents are grateful for the aid, but sorry about the circumstances.

“I wish I had a normal job,” said Maria Romanchenko, a young woman standing in line for an aid package near a police van. “Our coal plant used to employ nearly all of us. Now it's suspended due to the war, and we have nowhere to earn a living. Those who were able to left the city a long time ago, and those weren't – like me – are standing in this bread line.”

“To be honest, I feel terribly embarrassed about this,” said Mykola Patrushev, a 28-year-old father of two children. “But I've got children, and my low-paid job doesn't always allow me to earn enough money.”

## Enemy within?

The people in line sometimes quarrel with each other. The frayed tempers are signs of mental exhaustion amid the hardship and horror of shelling.

“We need peace and quiet more than anything else,” says one old woman in the line, who refuses to give her name. “Set us free of war, and normal life will be restored in this city in weeks.”

She shows her passport to one of the officials distributing the aid from the van, and is given a package of food – buckwheat, oil, tinned meat and fish. She turns and walks away.

But while the fighting in Avdiyivka has subsided, there's no sign of an end to Russia's war on Ukraine. Both sides mistrust each other. Ukrainian troops defending Avdiyivka even think there might be traitors hiding among the civilian population.

“What was happening a week ago was a kind of nightmare,” says one Ukrainian officer, who refused to identify himself for security reasons. “The city was being shelled relentlessly. But we also know that there's a rat. When the shelling beings, someone starts striking both military forces and civilian objects with a mortar from within the city. There's probably someone with a mortar in a hiding place who hits us when the time is right for him. We've been trying to flush this shooter out for weeks, but we can't just search every house over there.”

That's life in Avdiyivka, still on the edge of war. ■



A honor guard holds medals of a killed soldier during the farewell ceremony for seven soldiers killed near Avdiivka on the Independence Square on Feb. 1. (Volodymyr Petrov)



# At least 21 Ukrainian soldiers killed Jan. 11 – Feb. 8 in Russia's war

**BY OLENA GONCHAROVA**  
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Full-scale war returned to eastern Ukraine in the last month, claiming the lives of at least 21 Ukrainian soldiers and leaving 138 injured. On the morning of Feb. 9, the Ukrainian army reported that its positions in the Donbas were attacked more than

80 times in the past 24 hours.

The deadliest flare-up in fighting in the Donbas started on Jan. 29, when Russian-backed separatists started shelling Ukrainian positions in the government-held city of Avdiivka in Donetsk Oblast, some 700 kilometers southeast of Kyiv.

*Read the full story at [www.kyivpost.com](http://www.kyivpost.com)*



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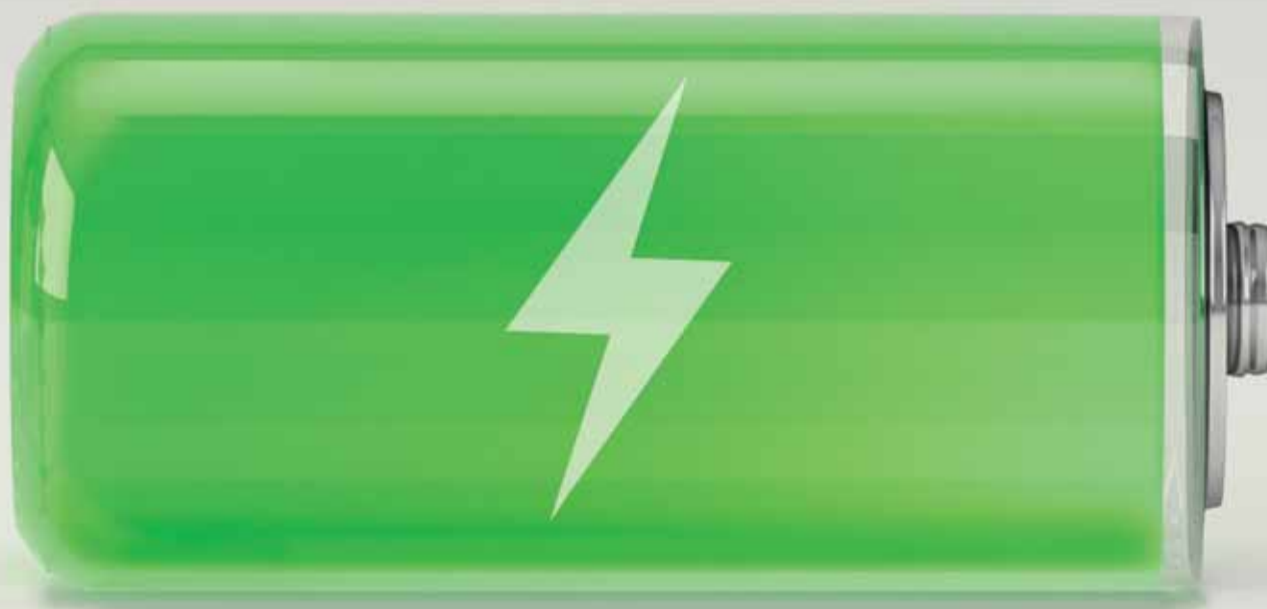


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# Avdiyivka survives Russian-backed assault killing at least 20 people

(1) A social worker hands out aid to a woman in Avdiyivka on Feb. 5. officials say at least 114 private houses were damaged by recent shelling. (2) A woman helps to move a sled with humanitarian aid. The distribution started after fighting subsided on Feb. 5. (3) Ukrainian priests hold a service in a temporary church. (4) Avdiyivka residents get hot food and tea at a tent camp set up by the government. (5) Local women collect wood to warm their homes at the eastern city of Avdiyivka on Feb. 4. Heating was lost in part of the city due to damage from fighting. (6) A heavily shelled building in Avdiyivka. (7) Local residents warm themselves up and recharge their phones in tents set up by the government. Power, heating and water were cut for several days. (8) Residents wait near portable army field kitchens brought in by the government to provide food to people affected by the recent fighting. (Volodymyr Petrov)







## 24-hour Kyiv where to go for food, drink, entertainment and shopping

### Book Review



WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO  
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

### Lviv is featured in new English- language guide for visitors

"The city of coffee drinkers, leisurely strolls and bizarre restaurants." That's how the authors of the new English-language guidebook "Awesome Lviv" describe this Ukrainian city some 540 kilometers west from Kyiv.

"Awesome Lviv" is the third book in a series of English-language travel guidebooks by Osnovy publishing house. Like its two predecessors, "Awesome Kyiv" and "Awesome Ukraine," the book lists most famous places and tourist attractions in the city but also mentions non-mainstream places popular among Lviv's natives.

Lviv, the city at the crossroads of Eastern and Western Europe, is one of the Ukraine's most popular tourist destinations – probably the main reason why the authors decided to publish a book about it right after the one about Kyiv.

Each book of the series has a city's symbol on its cover. The one about Lviv has a cup of coffee as the city is famous for its passion for this drink. One can easily find there coffee-themed places such as Kopalnya Kavy (Coffee Mine) in the heart of the city.

Apart from history and places to visit, the book also gives a reader a sense of Lviv's prominent venues, such as Virmenka Café at 19 Virmenska St. that was a popular spot among artists during the 1980s. The guidebook also mentions some must-tries for foodies: Galician borscht, sweets from Bun Shop on Slovatskoho Street and liquor Staryi Rynok.

"Awesome Lviv" also mentions must-see modern art spaces like Agrafta Art Studio and cultural events such as annual Lviv Jazz Festival and Book Publishing Forum.

The book's authors, Anna Kopylova and Dana Pavlychko, say in the introduction that "Awesome Lviv" isn't a traditional tour guide.

That is true: The book doesn't have any maps, and the addresses of the venues are written in small letters on the margins. Strangely, the first must-see section for a newcomer to the city – "Places to visit" – is put in the middle of the book.

On the other hand, "Awesome

more **Book** on page 21



People enjoy the drinks in Alchemist bar at 12 Shota Rustaveli St. that works till 3 a.m. The Kyiv Post tracked down the Kyiv venues that work round-the-clock. (Anastasia Vlasova)

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO  
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

While Kyiv has a plethora of cafes, bars and shops to choose from in the daytime, the selection narrows markedly after dark. All the same, there are places in the Ukrainian capital that will cater to night owls well into the wee hours – if you know where to find them.

The Kyiv Post has picked out some of the best venues open after midnight in Kyiv's central districts.

#### Eat

For those seeking a late-night binge on Italian food, Under Wonder is just right. Located in the city center at 21 Velyka Vasylkivska St., this place

is open 24/7. Italian food is also available day-and-night in many of the restaurants of the Mafia chain. Those in the heart of Kyiv are located at 6 Khreshchatyk St., 76 Velyka Vasylkivska St. and 27/1 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. Apart from a large variety of pizzas and pasta, many of these restaurants also offer karaoke (the entrance fee is Hr 100).

Fellini at 5 Architekt Gorodetsky St. also offers pasta, as well as meat and fish courses. The average price of a dish is around Hr 400 -500. The place is located not far from Independence Square in Kyiv – about as central as it comes.

Another central place open around-the-clock is the Shalena Mama (Crazy Mama) café at 4 A Tereshchenkivska

St., just across from Taras Shevchenko Park. The café offers a range of main courses, snacks and drinks, to the musical accompaniment of hits by world famous rock bands such as the Rolling Stones.

For hungering for late-night fast food could head to the Burger café at 5 Velyka Vasylkivska St., which is open 24 hours. The Yellow Taxi Bar at 1 Peremohy Ave. also serves reasonably priced burgers and drinks day-and-night. More meat options and Mexican dishes are available at the Dejavu restaurant at 30 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. until 4 a.m.

Meanwhile, at 19 Shota Rustaveli St. the Dogs&Tails café serves hot dogs and cocktails until 3 a.m., and American cuisine can be found at

the all-day restaurant Martin at 73 Olesya Honchara St.

Café Chainyk at 1 Peremohy Ave. offers large variety of meat and fish dishes along with hookah options from Hr 155.

Ukrainian traditional dishes such as borscht and dumplings are served all day at the Petrus restaurant at 28 Esplanadna St., and Ukrainian and European cuisine also can be found in Miami Blues restaurant at 114 Velyka Vasylkivska St. and the Non-Stop restaurant at 6 Peremohy Ave. These last two both work round-the-clock.

Asian food can be found at night at the Eurasia restaurants at

more **Kyiv** on page 20

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**KyivPost**



# Rejoice night owls: Kyiv has plenty of places to eat, drink, be merry

Kyiv from page 19

5/14 Rohndynska St. and 15/35D Mezhyhirska St. and the Sushi Ya

restaurant at 1-3/2 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (all three close at 5 a.m.). Just Café at 39 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. also offers sushi sets until 6 a.m.

Some venues of Nikolay Tishchenko's "Nasha Karta" restaurant chain, such as Turgenev at 40 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., Richelieu at 23 Velyka Vasylkivska St. and Bar Seif at 23A Velyka Vasylkivska St. also work 24/7. Tishchenko's Velur on Lva Tolstoho St. closes at 6 a.m.

### Drink

Several independent beer bars and several chains of bars offer alcohol all night long. Pyvna Bochka pub at 19A Khreshchatyk St., the Barrel Pub at 3B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St. and the Copper Pub at 2 Mykhailivska St. serve drinks and snacks all-day. Bar Babai at 25 Pushkinska St. also works 24/7.

Another pub offering many types of beer, cider and classic cocktails at affordable prices is Tolsty Lev, located at 18 Velyka Vasylkivska St., not far from Lva Tolstoho metro station. Beer lovers can also enjoy a craft beer in Brewery Slavutych Shato at 24 Khreshchatyk St., which also serves main dishes, appetizers and salads round-the-clock.

ProRock pub at 32 Pushkinska St. works all night, although the staff are not too welcoming after 3 a.m.

Those in the mood for a midnight cocktail can visit Alchemist bar at 12 Shota Rustaveli St. or Barmen Dytkat at 44 Khreshchatyk St. However, note that those are not all-day bars: Alchemist works only until 3 a.m., and Barmen Dytkat closes at 6 a.m. Classic cocktails are served in the Budu Pozhe bar near Besarabska Square (6/2 Krytyi Uzviz St.) until 3 a.m. Hashtag bar in Podil is also famous for cocktails, but it also only works until 3 a.m.

Those who want to dance in a club and then chill with a cocktail or sing karaoke can do all three at the Avalon entertainment complex at 3 Leontovycha St.

Hookah lovers should check out the Fiji Lounge Bar at 14B



People dance in Buena Vista Latin House at 8 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., which usually holds salsa nights until at least 4 a.m. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Sahaidachnoho St., the Lozha bar at 13 Sichovykh Striltsiv St. or Smoky at 12 Mezhyhirska St. — all of these places close at 6 a.m.

### Party

Late-night karaoke is on offer at Beeze Restaurant at 3 Bulvarno-Kudriavska St., which works until 6 a.m. Another option is Gorilla bar at 34 Lesi Ukrainky Blvd., which offers a large variety of drinking options, hookah and karaoke until 6 a.m. Opera Restaurant near Kyiv's Opera Theater also holds karaoke nights every day until 6 a.m. In Podil, clients of the Cashemir karaoke bar at 11/7 Andriivska St. can sing along to their favorite songs until 6 a.m.

The Cameleon bowling club at 3 Peremohy Square works until 6 a.m. and often holds salsa dancing parties for beginners and advanced dancers. Salsa, bachata and Cuba libre cocktails are also available at the Buena Vista Latin house at 8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St., which works until 4-5 a.m. every night.

For those who prefer more traditional clubbing, Indigo club holds DJ sets every week from Thursday until

Sunday. Right in the city center, at 5 Velyka Vasylkivska St., there is also the Sky Bar nightclub, which throws parties for night owls. Shooters nightclub at 22 Moskovskaya works all-day and also has salsa dancing from 7 p.m. until 11 p.m.

Underground rave parties are held at 31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St. in the nightclubs Closer and Mezzanine. Plivka club, which opened a year ago at 1 Vasylkivska St., often holds electronic music performances and DJ sets until morning (the club's schedule is available at [www.facebook.com/pg/plivka.prostir](http://www.facebook.com/pg/plivka.prostir)).

### Shop

Late-night retail therapy is available at several 24 hours shops in the city center: Le Silpo near Palats Sportu (6 Baseina St.) operates around the clock, Billa at 2 Besarabska Square St. works until 3 a.m. and three Velyka Kyshenya supermarkets in the center, at 15/5 Instytutska St., 1 Pecherska Square and 3 Peremohy Square, work day and night. In Podil district there is late-night shopping at Silpo at 41 Sahaidachnoho St. and Furshet at 56 A Yaroslavska St. ■

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# Kyiv's 24-hour venues

This map shows places in the center of Kyiv where one can eat, drink, dance, sing karaoke, shop and even bowl all night.



### Dining places

- Eurasia (10 a.m. – 5 a.m.), 15/35D Mezhyhirska St.
- Turgenef (24 h), 40 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.
- SushiYa (24 h), 2/1 Borysa Hrinchenka St.
- Mafia (24 h), 6 Khreshatyk St.
- Non-Stop (24 h), 6 Peremohy Ave.
- Chayinyk (24 h), 1 Peremohy Ave
- Yellow Taxi Bar (24 h), 1 Peremohy Ave
- Martin (24 h), 73 Olesya Honchara St.
- Dejavu (11 a.m. – 4 a.m.), 30 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.
- Mafia (24 h), 27/1 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.
- Shalena Mama (24 h), 4A Tereshchenkivska St.
- Velur (10 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 43 Lva Tolstoho St.
- SushiYa (24 h), 3 Georgiya Kyrpy St.
- Under Wonder (24 h), 21 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Richelieu (24 h), 23 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Seif (24 h), 23A Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- The Burger (24 h), 5 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Eurasia (10 a.m. – 5 a.m.), 5/14 Rohndynska St.
- Dogs&Tails (12 p.m. – 3 a.m.), 19 Shota Rustaveli St.
- Petrus (24 h), 28 Esplanadna St.
- Mister Cat (24 h), 72 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Mafia (24 h), 76 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Miami Blues (24 h), 114 Velyka Vasylykivska St.

### Drinking places

- Smoky (11 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 12 Mezhyhirska St.
- Fiji Lounge Bar (11 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 14B Sahaidachnoho St.
- Hashtag bar (5 p.m. – 3 a.m.), 48 Vozdvyzhenska St.
- Lozha bar (2 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 13 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.
- Copper Pub (24 h), 2 Mykhailivska St.
- Avalon Lounge Bar (24 h), 3 Leontovycha St.
- Shato Robert Doms (24 h), 24 Khreshatyk St.
- Pyvna Bochka pub (24 h), 19A Khreshchyatky St.
- Barrel Pub (24h), 3 B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.
- Babai (24 h), 25 Pushkinska St.
- Barmen Dytkat (6 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 44 Khreshchyatky St.
- ProRock pub (24 h), 32 Pushkinska St.
- Budu Pozhe (6 p.m. – 3 a.m.), 6/2 Krytyi Uzviz St.
- Fat Lion (24 h), 18 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Alchemist (12 p.m. – 3 a.m.), 12 Shota Rustaveli St.
- Star Bars (5 p.m. – 4 a.m.), 69 Volodymyrska St.

### Supermarkets

- Furshet (24 h), 56A Yaroslavska St.
- Silpo (24 h), 41 Sahaidachnoho St.
- Velyka Kyshenya, 3 Peremohy Square St.
- Velyka Kyshenya, 15/5 Instytutska St.
- Billa (4 a.m. – 3 a.m.), 2 Besarabska Square St.
- Le Silpo (24 h), 6 Baseina St.
- Velyka Kyshenya, 1 Pecherska Square.

### Dancing places

- Mezzanine (6.30 p.m. – 5 a.m.), 31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.
- Closer (8 a.m. – 5 a.m.), 31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.
- Buena Vista (12 p.m. – 4 a.m.), 8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.
- Sky bar (12 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 5 Velyka Vasylykivska St.
- Shooters (24 h), 22 Moskovska St.
- Indigo club (10 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 3 Kudryashova St.

### Karaoke

- Kashemir (8 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 11/7 Andriivska St.
- Beeze (12 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 3 Bulvarno-Kudriavska St.
- Opera Restaurant (11 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 51/53 Volodymyrska St.
- Gorilla (7 p.m. – 6 a.m.), 34 Lesi Ukrayinky Blvd.

### Bowling

- Khameleon (11 a.m. – 6 a.m.), 3 Peremohy Square.



## Book critic: 'Awesome Lviv' shares secrets of Ukraine's western capital

Book from page 19

Lviv" will be interesting not only to foreigners. Kopylova and Pavlychko filled the guidebook with things that aren't commonly known even among Ukrainians, let alone foreigners.

For instance, in a chapter dedicated to the city's history during World War II, one can find a heart-breaking story about a group of imprisoned Jewish musicians who were forced to play during the mass executions in a concentration camp. The song they played later became known as "Death Tango."

The book praises famous historical characters and artists who were born or lived in Lviv. Few know that Franz Xaver Mozart, the youngest son of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, lived in Lviv for and even established the first music school in the city, the Institute of Singing.

Although the "Awesome Lviv" might be a bit puzzling for those who visit the city for the first time, its strongest point is a non-banal approach that gives a reader a feeling that he knows the city's secrets. ■

### Where to buy:

"Awesome Lviv" can be purchased online at the publisher's website [www.osnovypublishing.com](http://www.osnovypublishing.com) for Hr 150 or in the Knyharnya Ye and Bukva book store chains for Hr 170 and Hr 225 respectively.

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# Ukrainian designers embrace girl power at Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days



WITH MARIA ROMANENKO  
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Taking selfies and using emojis, but caring about international affairs and women's rights, a new generation of teenage girls is already here

Ukrainian designers are clearly taking note.

That was apparent from some of the fall-winter 2017-2018 fashion shows presented at the Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days on Feb. 1-5, where the image of the modern teenage girl was a key inspiration.

On Feb. 4, Ukrainian brand Anna K models were smiling, holding hands and taking selfies as they strolled the catwalk. They were wearing t-shirts with slogans such as "don't love me do" – a take on the Beatles' "Love Me Do," which was playing during the show. They also wore shirts with "trust me" on the front and "don't" on the back. The image was young, fun and techie.

Anna Karenina, the designer behind Anna K, who traditionally models in her own shows, also opted for a "don't love me do" t-shirt. At 21,

Karenina is one of the most innovative Ukrainian designers. She also recently became the first Ukrainian designer to make it into the Forbes magazine "30 under 30 in Europe" list.

Karenina is a representative of the "fourth-wave feminism," a movement associated with online feminism and sometimes referred to as "Tumblr feminists." The British style magazine Dazed in April described it as "the wave of young female artists who seek to 'normalize the teen girl experience' through their artwork."

During the Anna K show, the models had smartphones in hand and filmed the audience from the runway. Backstage they posed for photographers while holding their phones as if they were about to take a selfie.

When it comes to clothes, Karenina keeps them soft and feminine by constantly introducing new cuts, elements, and silhouettes, without taking away anything from comfort. Her models most often wear sporty shoes - Anna K insists that girls don't need to suffer in the name of beauty.

Another headliner of the Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days that conveyed the girl power trend was young Ukrainian fashion brand Navro.

At the fall-winter show on Feb.



Models hold a mock protest for women's rights after presenting creations by Odesan brand WeAnnaBe during the Mercedes-Benz Fashion Days in Kyiv on Feb. 5, 2017. (Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days)

2, Navro models wore crowns, unicorn prints and t-shirts that read "Unicorns don't cry" – a reference to the need of today's young women to stay strong and united.

In the Navro show the feminine color red was combined with denim, and denim with leather, adding assertiveness to the models' appearance. The thunderbolt prints on a few items were symbols of power and divinity – in Greek mythology, the thunderbolt was a weapon given to the god Zeus by the Cyclops.

The models' crowns sported slogans like "Diversity," bringing attention to important issues of today.

Speaking of which, another fall-winter 2017-2018 fashion show by the young Odesa-born brand WeAnnaBe also carried a deeper message than fashion shows usually do.

After the catwalk show on Feb. 5, the WeAnnaBe models joined together to recreate a protest similar to the Women's March held worldwide on Jan. 21. Holding posters that

read "Females are strong as hell," "My body, my choice," "We are not things" and "True freedom," they also danced around and had fun, dispelling the stereotype of "angry feminists."

World-famous Ukrainian model Alina Baikova, who appeared in one of the latest Dolce & Gabbana ad campaigns, was chosen by WeAnnaBe designer Anna Sokol to open and close the show - the perfect women's rights ambassador thanks to her popularity.

WeAnnaBe is a young Odesan brand, and the fall-winter show was its first individual runway event, quickly putting Odesa on the fashion map, along with a several talented Odesan designers like Larisa Lobanova and Masha Reva.

The fall-winter 2017-2018 WeAnnaBe collection was dedicated to the female personality and her concerns. The clothes that WeAnnaBe has produced recently are comfortable, functional but original, which gained them attention from Kyiv fashionistas like the former chief editor of Vogue Ukraine, Masha Tsukanova.

"We have an idea about what a modern and progressive girl needs, and that's what we base our brand on," the WeAnnaBe website reads. ■

## Employment

Німецька урядова компанія **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** оголошує тендер №83249602 на закупівлю Послуг кейтерінгу (укладання рамкового договору на строк до 1,5 років) в регіонах України.

Тендерну документацію можна завантажити з сайту [www.giz.de/ukraine-ua](http://www.giz.de/ukraine-ua) (Розділ «Закупівлі») або надіслати запит із вказанням номера тендеру в темі листа на електронну адресу [procurement-ua@giz.de](mailto:procurement-ua@giz.de).

До відома: **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** підтримує уряд Німеччини в досягненні цілей у сфері міжнародного співробітництва заради сталого розвитку.

Пріоритетними напрямками німецької співпраці з Україною є: демократія, громадянське суспільство, державне управління, децентралізація, енергетика та сталий економічний розвиток.

Окрім пріоритетних напрямів німецька співпраця охоплює, зокрема, підтримку подолання кризових ситуацій на сході України, а також співробітництво у сфері запобігання ВІЛ/СНІД.



### Global Communities

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

#### PROCUREMENT OFFICER

The Procurement Officer will assist and support implementation of both administrative and operations-related procurement, assist in implementing procurement tracking and management systems and ensure that procurement functions are efficient and well-coordinated and integrated with other teams within the DOBRE Program.

Full job description is available at:

<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/procurement-officer>

Candidates are asked to submit resumes and cover letters in English to: [UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org](mailto:UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org) indicating the position title in the subject line by February 19, 2017.

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

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## KyivPost

### CITY OF LVIV CONSULTANT

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**We are looking for a self-starting energetic person in the city of Lviv to represent us for the following responsibilities:**

- Grow the distribution of the newspaper to new locations
- Quality control with regional partners for the purpose of advertising sales and cooperation of events

Candidate should be fluent in English and Ukrainian.

A car would be a plus but not mandatory.

Send your CV's to [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)



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

#### Policy Officer

For further information about this and other current vacancies at the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine please consult the website:

[https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/search/site\\_en?f%5B0%5D=bundle%3Aeeas\\_job\\_vacancy&f%5B1%5D=im\\_field\\_regions%3A232](https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine/search/site_en?f%5B0%5D=bundle%3Aeeas_job_vacancy&f%5B1%5D=im_field_regions%3A232)



**The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) is a non-profit organization working to strengthen democracy worldwide.**

NDI-Ukraine is currently seeking two **Regional Program Coordinators** for its Women's Political Participation Program, who will be based in Dnipro and Ternopil.

Interested applicants should submit CVs and motivation letters in English by email to the following email address: [ukraine@ndi.org](mailto:ukraine@ndi.org).

#### Deadline:

The deadline for the submission of the required documents is by COB on **February 16, 2017**. Only selected candidates will be invited for written and oral tests and an interview.

Full text of the advertisement can be viewed

<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/womens-political-participation-program-coordinator>



### Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM)

provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts - to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. Anticipated opportunities include:

- **Senior Expert and Junior Expert on the Human Resource Management (HRM) and capacity building (2 positions)** responsible for developing HRM function vision and mission for a reformed agency, organization and functional structure of the HRM function, key business processes of

HRM functions, as well as competencies model and positions profiles.

- **Regional investment promotion experts (3 positions) and a Kyiv coordinator** responsible for support local authorities in implementing investment promotion programs, preparing basic promotional materials, organizing and implementing investment and road shows with investors in the regions.

The expected vacancy opening date: February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017

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





**Ukraine ARDS Project  
Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Expert**

The USAID Agriculture and Rural Development Support (ARDS) Project is seeking a qualified professional to fill the position of **Monitoring and Impact Evaluation Expert**.

For more information on this vacancy, please visit the link <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/monitoring-impact-evaluation-expert-2>

Send electronic submissions to [ards.hr@ukraineards.com](mailto:ards.hr@ukraineards.com) by February 20, 2017. Please submit your CV and cover letter with "M&IE Expert [+YOUR NAME]" in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Only finalists will be contacted.



Chemonics International Inc. is an international development consulting firm headquartered in Washington, D.C. with more than 22 years of experience

implementing programs in Ukraine. We are seeking experienced professionals for the anticipated USAID-funded Safe, Affordable, and **Effective Medicines for Ukrainians (SAFEMed) project**. The five-year, \$12-15 million program will aim to strengthen the pharmaceutical system in Ukraine to ensure transparency and cost-effectiveness for desired health outcomes, as well as address policy and legislative barriers and offer technical solutions to create sustainable health pharmaceutical financing and strengthen the pharmaceutical supply chain. We are looking for individuals who have a passion for helping people lead healthy lives around the world. Please note that all positions are subject to program award. We are seeking candidates for the following positions:

**Deputy Chief of Party**

- Advanced degree in public health, medicine, public administration, or related discipline preferred;
- At least five (5) years of experience in implementing activities related pharmaceutical management systems strengthening issues in developing countries; experience with one or more disease-specific programs (e.g. HIV/AIDS, T, etc.)
- Demonstrated competence in managing and providing technical assistance in key areas of pharmaceutical systems (such as product selection, forecasting, procurement, distribution, relational use, pharmaceutical services, etc.);
- Experience interacting with Ukrainian government officials at national and local levels;
- Strong interpersonal, writing and oral presentation skills in English; and fluency/proficiency in Ukrainian and/or Russian.

**Technical Advisor, Pharmaceutical Financing**

- Minimum five years of experience working on healthcare policy, including funding formulas and pooling mechanisms preferred;
- Demonstrated competence in managing and providing technical assistance in key areas of medicines pricing and reimbursement policies in developing countries;
- Advanced degree in economics or related discipline with a focus on healthcare preferred;
- Strong interpersonal, writing and oral presentation skills in English; and fluency/proficiency in Ukrainian and/or Russian.

**Technical Advisor, Pharmaceutical Policy & Governance**

- Advanced degree in public policy, finance, accounting, law, or related discipline preferred;
- Five to ten years of experience serving as technical advisor to governments or donors on public sector tender processes, including bulk purchasing;
- Demonstrated competence in managing and providing technical assistance in key areas of evidence-based pharmaceutical laws, policies, regulations, guidelines, and standard operating procedures (SOPs) to institutionalize pharmaceutical procedures and structures and promote accountability, including but not limited to Essential Medicines List and rational drug procurement in developing countries;
- Strong interpersonal, writing and oral presentation skills in English; and fluency/proficiency in Ukrainian and/or Russian.

**Technical Advisor, Supply Chain Management**

- Advanced degree in public health, supply chain management, business administration or related discipline preferred;
- Five to ten years of experience serving as technical advisor to governments or donors on pharmaceutical policy, laws, and regulations;
- Demonstrated competence in managing and providing technical assistance in key areas of supply chain management, including product selection, quantification, procurement, and distribution in developing countries;
- Demonstrated leadership, versatility, and integrity;
- Strong interpersonal, writing and oral presentation skills in English; and fluency/proficiency in Ukrainian and/or Russian.

**Chemonics seeks additional specialists in the following areas:**

- Capacity Building/Training
- Health Systems Strengthening
- MIS/Analytics
- Pharmaceutical system reform
- Finance & Operations
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Communications
- Short-term technical experts

Application Instructions: Please submit a CV and brief cover letter in English to [UkraineSAFEMedRecruit@gmail.com](mailto:UkraineSAFEMedRecruit@gmail.com) by February 17, 2017. Please note the position title in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Finalists will be contacted.



**International Law Firm Integrites  
Is looking for a position of Associate/Senior  
associate Arbitration Practice  
For our office in Kyiv**

**REQUIREMENTS TO CANDIDATES:**

- Successful work experience as a (senior) associate for at least 2 years in a reputable international or leading Ukrainian law firm.
- Outstanding analytical thinking, stress resistance, multitasking, legal writing and research skills.
- Master degree in law (reputable Ukrainian university, LLM or internship abroad is a plus).
- Good practical knowledge of arbitration proceedings (ICAC at the UCCI, UNCITRAL, ICC, VIAC, SCC, LCIA, ICSID etc.).
- English: Advanced

Please send your CV with a photograph and a cover letter

to [anna.kuzenkova@integrites.com](mailto:anna.kuzenkova@integrites.com)

**International Law Firm Integrites Is looking for a  
position of Associate/Senior associate (Pharma and  
Real Estate Practices)  
For our office in Kyiv**

**REQUIREMENTS TO CANDIDATES:**

- Successful work experience as a (senior) associate or in-house.
- Outstanding analytical thinking, stress resistance, multitasking, legal writing and research skills.
- Master degree in law (reputable Ukrainian university, LLM or internship abroad is a plus).
- Post-graduate experience starting from 4 years, legal experience in pharmaceutical or real estate company will be a plus
- English: Advanced

Please send your CV with a photograph and a cover letter

to [anna.kuzenkova@integrites.com](mailto:anna.kuzenkova@integrites.com).



**Chemonics International**, an international development consulting company, seeks technical specialists for the anticipated USAID Trade

and Competitiveness Activity in Ukraine. The objective of this five-year project is to encourage start-up businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises, increase domestic competition, and support the competitiveness of Ukrainian firms in international markets.

Chemonics seeks experts in the following areas:

- Business enabling environment
- Trade policy and trade facilitation
- Government advising and institutional strengthening
- Business and trade development
- Export promotion
- Value chain facilitation
- Public-private partnerships
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Grants and procurement management

Advanced degree in a relevant field (e.g. business, trade, economics) required.

Knowledge and minimum five years of leadership experience required. Prior experience working on a USAID-funded project strongly preferred. English fluency strongly preferred.

Please send a CV to [UkraineTACRecruit@chemonics.com](mailto:UkraineTACRecruit@chemonics.com) by March 31, 2017, including the candidate's surname and area of expertise in the subject line. Applications will be considered on a rolling basis. Early applications are encouraged. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. No telephone inquiries please.

Німецька урядова компанія  
**Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
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оголошує тендер №83249549 на закупівлю послуг письмового перекладу (шляхом укладання рамкової угоди терміном до 2 років).

Тендерну документацію можна завантажити з сайту [www.giz.de/en/worldwide/38393.html](http://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/38393.html) (Розділ «Закупівлі») або надіслати запит із вказанням номера тендеру в темі листа на електронну адресу [procurement-ua@giz.de](mailto:procurement-ua@giz.de).

До відома: **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** підтримує уряд Німеччини в досягненні цілей у сфері міжнародного співробітництва заради сталого розвитку.

Пріоритетними напрямками німецької співпраці з Україною є: демократія, громадянське суспільство, державне управління, децентралізація, енергетика та сталий економічний розвиток. Окрім пріоритетних напрямів німецька співпраця охоплює, зокрема, підтримку подолання кризових ситуацій на сході України, а також співробітництво у сфері запобігання ВІЛ/СНІД.



**International NGO Safety Organisation (INSO)** is looking for an experienced individual to join our team as a Deputy Safety Advisor. Fluent English, Ukrainian nationality, minimum three years of working in humanitarian/security sector (required).

Candidates should send a **COVER LETTER** and **CV** to [cam@ukr.ngosafety.org](mailto:cam@ukr.ngosafety.org) by **21 February 2017**.

LINK: <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/deputy-safety-advisor-ukraine>

Німецька урядова компанія  
**Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit  
(GIZ) GmbH**

оголошує тендер № 83250269 на закупівлю Конференц-послуг шляхом укладання рамкового договору строком до 2-х років. Тендерну документацію можна завантажити з сайту [www.giz.de/ukraine-ua](http://www.giz.de/ukraine-ua) (Розділ «Закупівлі»)

або надіслати запит із вказанням номера тендеру в темі листа на електронну адресу [procurement-ua@giz.de](mailto:procurement-ua@giz.de).

До відома: **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** підтримує уряд Німеччини в досягненні цілей у сфері міжнародного співробітництва заради сталого розвитку.

Пріоритетними напрямками німецької співпраці з Україною є: демократія, громадянське суспільство, державне управління, децентралізація, енергетика та сталий економічний розвиток. Окрім пріоритетних напрямів німецька співпраця охоплює, зокрема, підтримку подолання кризових ситуацій на сході України, а також співробітництво у сфері запобігання ВІЛ/СНІД.

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### Vsi svoi. Big Sale

Vsi svoi, a market of exclusively Ukraine-produced clothes, gifts and homeware, is back with a grand winter sale. Discounts are up to 70 percent. Interesting offers, lotteries and competitions are also on the program.

**Vsi Svoi Big Sale. Feb. 11-12, 10 a.m. 12 Desiatynna St. Admission free**



Feb. 11-12

### Movie: The Space Between Us

The movie "The Space Between Us" is an interplanetary love story between a girl from Earth and a guy from Mars. Their romance sparks online, and now the Martian, Elliot, travels to the planet Earth for the first time in his life to meet his online lovebird.

**The Space Between Us, showing on Feb. 10-12, 9:15 p.m. Kyiv cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 80**



Feb. 10-12



Feb. 14

### Valentine's Day at Atlas Club

The atmosphere of Valentine's Day will be created at Atlas Club by one of the most successful Ukrainian rock bands, O. Torvald. The band started performing in pubs in 2005. Since then, they have released five albums, played hundreds of gigs, and performed at over 20 festivals - a good indicator of the high quality of their live performances.

**Valentine's day at Atlas Club. Feb. 14. 7 p.m. Atlas Club (37 Sichovyh Striltsiv St.). Hr 250-900**

### Electronic music party

Apollonia is a French trio consisting of DJs Dyed Soundorom, Dan Ghenacia and Shonky. Their music is a mix of house and groove that is guaranteed to get partygoers onto the dance floor.

**Closer: Apollonia. Feb. 11 11:55 p.m. Closer nightclub (31 Nyzhniourkivska St.). Hr 200-300**

Feb. 11



### Stand up magic show

Roman Bondarchuk is an actor, TV host, but most of all, a magician. He had an interest in carrying out psychological experiments and a knack for creating illusions from a young age. His Feb. 18 show will feature some of his latest jaw-dropping illusions.

**Stand up magic show. Feb. 18. 7 p.m. Freedom event hall (134 Kyrylivska St.). Hr 150-1,000**



Feb. 18

Compiled by Maria Romanenko

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