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## 6 reasons why May was a very merry month for Ukraine

BY **JOSH KOVENSKY** and **RAHIM RAHEMTULLA**  
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May is usually a spectacular month in Ukraine – a magical time when Kyiv and most of the country is neither too hot nor too cold, and people’s moods rise in step with the increasing amount of daylight. Water fountains are turned on as outdoor cafes open. And the blessed 31-day entree into summer starts with two holidays. But this May, aside from Russia’s war, Ukraine’s fortunes turned for the better in at least six ways – besides the usual three of idyllic weather, the May 1 Labor Day holiday and the May 8–9 Day of Reconciliation and Victory Day. Let us count the ways:

more **Merry** on page **9**

# Life In Ruins

## Civilians try to stay alive in Pisky battleground



A resident on May 15 shows the cellar shelter in his house in Donetsk Oblast’s Pisky, at the frontlines of Russia’s war 700 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. Few civilians have stayed in the area, which is marked by regular fighting in a war that has killed 10,000 people. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY **WILL PONOMARENKO**  
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**PISKY, UKRAINE** – As the third spring of the war in eastern Ukraine turns to summer, eastern Ukraine’s embattled Donbas region is withering. While the frontline dividing the country’s pre-war industrial heartland has remained largely static since the winter of 2014–2015, the exhausting stalemated war continues to depopulate the towns and villages in the war zone, leaving them desolate and ruined.

more **Pisky** on page **12**

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# Russian hijacking of Ukrainian history triggers Twitter tussles

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
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Russia's hijacking of Ukrainian history triggered a Twitter war to go along with the real war that has killed 10,000 Ukrainians after the Kremlin's invasion of Crimea and the eastern Donbas in 2014.

The rhetorical dust-up took place after Russian President Vladimir Putin met with his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron at France's Palace of Versailles on May 29. Putin used the opportunity to appropriate Ukrainian history for Russia by referring to the Kyivan-born French queen Anne of Kyiv as "Russian Anne."

"Enlightened French nationals know about Russian Anne — the queen of France, the youngest daughter of our grand prince Yaroslav the Wise," Putin said, before going on to talk about the queen's contribution to European history, highlighting the bonds between Russia and France.

But Putin's claim of the Kyivan Rus princess for Russia prompted outrage among Ukrainians.

Anne of Kyiv, known in Ukraine as Anna Yaroslavna, came from Kyiv, at a time when it was the capital of the Kyivan Rus state and when Russia didn't even exist. The medieval empire lasted from the mid-9th to the mid-13th centuries. But modern-day Ukraine and Russia trace their ancestry to Kyivan Rus, which historians describe as a loose confederation of eastern Slavs.

Putin's statement made waves internationally mostly because it sparked a fight between the official Twitter accounts of Russia and Ukraine. The spat went viral and attracted media attention worldwide.

## Spat starts

In response to Putin's "Russian Anne" comment, Ukraine's Twitter account, which is managed by the press service of the Presidential Administration and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, tweeted on May 30: "When Russia says Anne of Kyiv established Russia-France relations, let us (recall) the sequence of events."

The tweet included an info box about Anne of Kyiv saying that she became queen in 1051, nearly 100 years prior to the founding of Moscow in 1147. Below the information box a picture of a pristine forest of birch trees, with the caption "Meanwhile, in Moscow" was jokingly used to illustrate the fact that Moscow didn't exist in 1051.



A family walks by the Kyiv statue of Anne of Kyiv on June 1. A park in honor of the Kyivan-born French queen (1030-1075) was opened near the monument on May 26. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

The official Twitter account for Russia, run by Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reacted the same day.

"We are proud of our common history. Russia, Ukraine and Belarus share the same historical heritage, which should unite our nations, not divide us," Russia's Twitter account said.

Russia's post was accompanied by a picture of St. Sophia Cathedral in Novgorod, a Kyivan Rus church built by Anne's brother Volodymyr in 1050. The caption said "Meanwhile, in Novgorod" to show that some modern-day Russian cities already existed in 1051.

Ukraine's account replied to Russia's "shared history" tweet by saying "You really don't change, do you?" and adding a famous GIF from "The Simpsons" that showed a Russian official changing the "Russia" sign on his desk to "Soviet Union" and laughing.

Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs reacted to the GIF by asking Ukraine not to be "jealous."

The spat continued, with Russia insisting on the bond between the "three brotherly nations" again, to which Ukraine demanded that Russia stop "the 'triune nation' nonsense" because the Kyivan Rus state had included "modern-day parts of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland, the Czech Republic and Romania" too.

## Kyiv's reaction

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko reacted during his

speech about the Netherlands' ratification of the political and trade Association Agreement between the European Union and Ukraine on May 30 by noting that both Anne of Kyiv and Yaroslav the Wise were Kyivans.

"Just yesterday Putin tried to steal (Anne of Kyiv) for Russian history in front of the whole of Europe," he said.

Many other Ukrainian politicians also criticized Putin's comments, with Verkhovna Rada deputy Iryna Gerashchenko labeling them as "schizophrenic," and Ukraine's Foreign Minister Pavlo Klimkin tweeting that he might as well now start considering Alexander Pushkin (the 19th century Russian poet and playwright) Ukrainian, as "Ukraine's Odesa and Crimea have inspired his creative genius on more than one occasion."

## Earlier claims

Kyivan Rus has been the subject of many disputes between Ukraine and Russia, with Russia continuously trying to expropriate the ancient federation, which existed between 882 and 1240, referring to it as the "Ancient Russian State" or to Kyivan Rus royals as "Russian princes and princesses."

In July 2015, when Ukraine was marking 1,000 years since the death of the Kyivan Rus ruler Volodymyr the Great, the grandfather of Anne of Kyiv, Putin referred to the prince as to the figure who "paved the way to

building a strong centralized Russian state."

It continued when in November Moscow erected a giant 17.5-meter-high statue of Volodymyr the Great in the center of the Russian capital. Putin attended the opening ceremony and proclaimed the event as a "nod to our remarkable ancestor, a particularly honorable saint and state leader."

## Anne festival

The Twitter feud came shortly after two historic celebration events: the days of Kyiv celebrated on May 27–28 and the start of the Anne de Kiev Fest, an annual festival celebrating the French queen and Ukraine's relations with three French-speaking countries: France, Belgium and Switzerland.

On May 26, a small park opened next to the monument to Anne of Kyiv on Lvivska Square. The Kyiv festival consists of concerts, exhibitions and educational events and will go on until the end of June.

French queen Anne of Kyiv was the daughter of the Kyivan Rus Grand Prince Yaroslav the Wise, who founded one of Kyiv's top landmarks to this day — Kyiv Pechersk Lavra in 1051, and the granddaughter of Volodymyr the Great, the ruler of Kyivan Rus who brought the Christian religion to the state.

She became the queen of France when she married Henry I of France in 1051. The pair had four children, with their eldest son Philip I of France inheriting the throne at the age of 8, following the death of Henry I of France in 1060. Despite the crowning, Anne of Kyiv carried on to act as Regent of France until Philip turned 14.

In 1065, Anne of Kyiv founded St. Vincent Abbey in Senlis, France. The abbey was seized during the French Revolution in 1791 to later be used in various ways: from a military hospital to a prison to a boys' school. These days the building is a part of a private school.

Anne of Kyiv died on Sept. 5, 1075, some 72 years before the founding of Moscow. ■

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# Lyubomyr Huzar, Ukrainian Greek Catholic leader, dies

BY REGINA DICKSON  
REGINA3DICKSON@GMAIL.COM

Lyubomyr Huzar, the former supreme archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, died on May 31 after a long illness. He was 84.

Crux, an independent Catholic news organization, said it expects thousands of followers to attend Huzar's funeral, which has been scheduled for June 5 in Kyiv. The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church office told the Kyiv Post that there will also be remembrance services in the city this Sunday.

Huzar left four nephews, the children of his sister Martha. Three of the nephews will attend the funeral. Martha died in 2001, according to the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church office.

Huzar served as supreme archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church from 2001 to 2011. Usually, an archbishop serves for life, but Huzar stepped down to make way for Sviatoslav Shevchuk, the current supreme archbishop.

In 2013, two years after Huzar stepped down as head of the church, which has 5.5 million Ukrainian followers, the Kyiv Post wrote that Huzar, then 80 years old, was looking frail, his hearing was poor, and his eyesight was fading.

News of Huzar's death brought tributes from friends and colleagues.

Borys Gudziak, eparch of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Eparchy of Paris, who had known Huzar for more than 50 years according to Crux, wrote on Facebook that "Archbishop Lyubomyr was an extremely gifted person — in an intellectual and emotional way, with incredible imagination, a beautiful



Lyubomyr Huzar (L) and Sviatoslav Shevchuk, Huzar's successor, at a fundraiser for the Ukrainian Catholic University on Dec. 6, 2014. (Volodymyr Petrov)

velvety baritone, and a great preaching style."

"He united Ukrainians, becoming their spiritual father and the highest example of morality," Gudziak wrote.

Myroslav Marynovych, the vice rector of the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv, in an article published on June 1, called Huzar a "person of freedom" and a "person of truth."

Huzar was born in Lviv on Feb.

26, 1933, and fled to Austria at age 11 after the reoccupation of Lviv by Soviet forces. His family emigrated to the United States in 1949, where he studied and later taught at St. Basil's College Seminary in Stamford, Connecticut. Prior to his work at St. Basil's College, he studied at the Catholic University of America in Washington D.C., and at Fordham University in New York.

In 1969, he went to Rome, where

he gained a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Urbanian University. Later, he was elected as a superior of the Ukrainian Studite monastic community at the Studion Monastery, near Castel Gandolfo, Italy. Huzar returned to Lviv after the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, and became the spiritual director of the newly re-established Holy Spirit Seminary.

The Ukrainian Greek Catholic

Church, a Byzantine Rite Eastern Catholic Church that is a successor church to the acceptance of Christianity by Grand Prince Vladimir the Great of Kyiv, in 988, is present throughout and in many other nations, particularly those with a large Ukrainian diaspora such as the United States and Canada. In Ukraine, the largest number of parishioners live in the country's western regions.

During an interview with the Kyiv Post, on the eve of the 22nd anniversary of Ukrainian independence Huzar said: "It was not through our specific achievements, through something that we did, but I would call it a gift from God that Ukraine became an independent state — independent of those occupations that we suffered during the 19th and 20th century."

With regard to Russia's war against Ukraine, Gudziak wrote that Huzar "...dreamed of the end of this war, and of reconciliation with the Russians."

Gudziak said near the end of his post that "right now it's very important for us to escort the Most Blessed Lyubomyr with prayer in this unearthly moment of his transition."

## Funeral services for Lyubomyr Huzar

Remembrance services have been set for Lyubomyr Huzar, the former supreme archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who died on May 31 at the age of 84. The services will be in the Monastery of the Holy Family, 5 Mykylso-Slobidska St., in Kyiv. Three services will take place on June 4 at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11 a.m. The funeral is at 11 a.m. on June 5. ■

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Editorials

# Paris ambush

It was a nicely set trap, with bait that Russian President Vladimir Putin could not refuse.

The new French President Emmanuel Macron invited the Russian leader on May 29 to the Palace of Versailles, where an exhibition was to open the next day about 1717 visit of Russian czar Peter the Great to France. Putin displays a portrait of Peter the Great in his office and fancies himself as a leader on par with the czar.

Moreover, Putin's visit came just days after a moody G7 summit in Italy that saw cracks widen in the Western alliance, primarily between the European Union, led by Germany, and the United States and Britain. Putin seeks to divide the West.

And that came after a NATO summit in Brussels at which U.S. President Donald J. Trump had failed to explicitly reaffirm America's commitment to Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty – the bedrock proposition that an attack on one is an attack on all. Putin wants to weaken NATO and Trump is inexplicably playing into his hands.

Ahead of Putin's meeting with Macron, Alexey Pushkov, a Russian senator, crowed that former U.S. President Barack Obama's policy of isolating Russia "has quietly passed away."

Other commentators said this was a chance for Russia and France to "reset" relations, which the Kremlin saw as having come to an impasse under former French President Francois Hollande.

But after two hours of talks, which Macron described as "extremely frank and direct," the two leaders emerged for a press conference. This is when the French president sprang his trap.

With Putin standing beside him, Macron denounced the activities of Kremlin-controlled media RT and Sputnik, which he described as "propaganda tools." He accused them of spreading lies about him and his campaign in order to interfere in the vote in France. Putin, growing tight-lipped and looking increasingly uncomfortable, was then forced to listen as Macron denounced the attacks on homosexuals in Chechnya.

Macron also raised the possibility of escalating sanctions against Russia if the Kremlin continues to ignore the Minsk peace agreement and fails to call off its war against Ukraine. At a press conference following the G7 meeting, Macron did not mince words, stating that "Russia invaded Ukraine." That's no secret, but Western leaders usually waffle around the semantics.

With his direct talk to Putin, Macron made it clear there will be no "reset" of French-Russian relations until Russia starts following the rules of international civilization. Fears in Kyiv that France, historically friendly to Russia, would sell Ukraine out have been assuaged.

Now, amazingly, Ukraine has to worry more about America's position.

# Stranglehold

President Petro Poroshenko is slowly strangling Ukraine's only independent law enforcement agency, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. To do so, Poroshenko needs loyal auditors who will assess the NABU and recommend firing its leadership as a result.

One of these auditors, Mykhailo Buromensky, was appointed by Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, a presidential loyalist, by stealth at a late-night Cabinet meeting on May 26, when many Ukrainians were either relaxing at home, in bars or restaurants, or heading to their dachas. Two other auditors have yet to be appointed. They will be nominated by the Verkhovna Rada and Poroshenko himself.

Buromensky was previously delegated by Poroshenko to the Group of States Against Corruption and has been a member of several groups and commissions created by Poroshenko and Groysman.

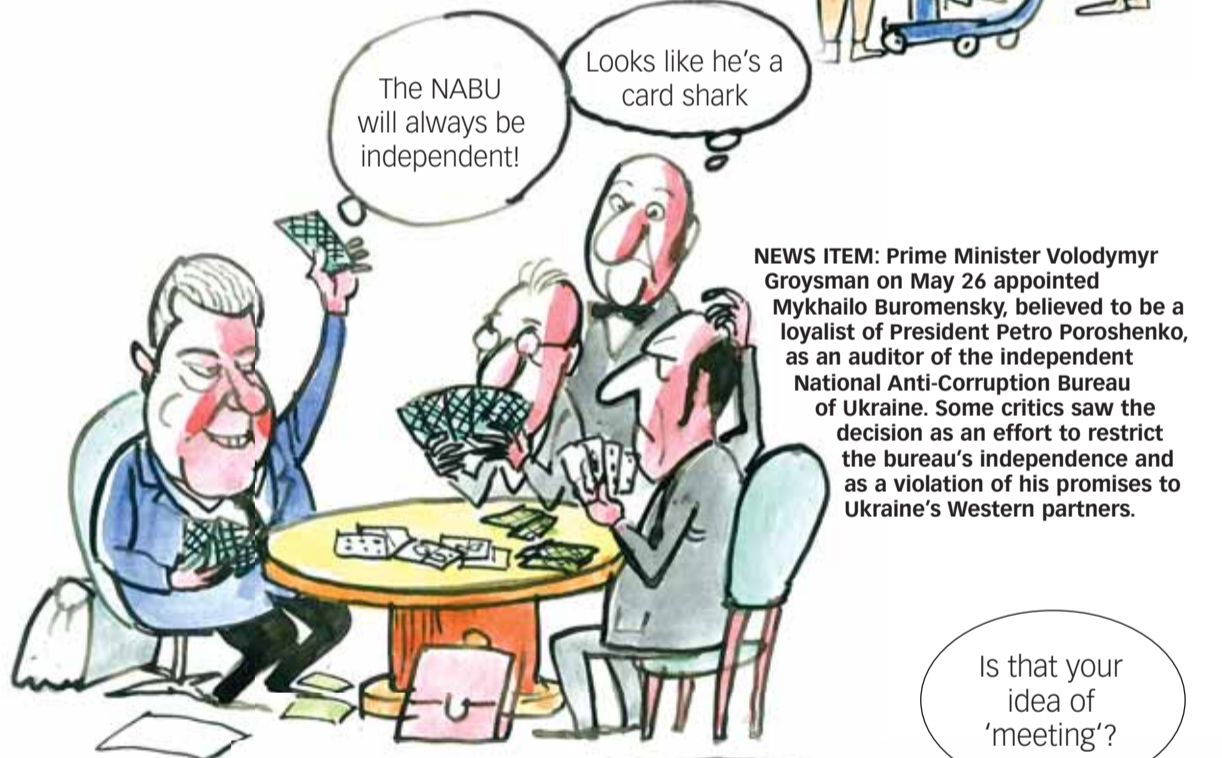
Regardless of Buromensky's alleged achievements, the choice is bizarre, given that several well-known foreign prosecutors with immaculate reputations and superb anti-corruption credentials were rejected. Bizarre, until you understand that Poroshenko doesn't want any independent foreigners nosing around in his kingdom.

At the same time, Poroshenko's loyal prosecutor general, Yuriy Lutsenko, has initiated a criminal case against Gizo Uglava, a deputy chief of the NABU, while parliament is set to consider a bill restricting the NABU's powers and independence. Poroshenko must release his grip on the NABU, which is the only tool for delivering justice. Otherwise, he could pave the way for yet another revolution.



**NEWS ITEM:** Many in Ukraine were outraged when Russian President Vladimir Putin referred to Queen Anne of France, the daughter of medieval Kyivan Rus prince Yaroslav the Wise, as "Russian." Putin made the remark during the joint press briefing with newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron, using it to represent Russia's connection to France as one that goes back a thousand years.

**NEWS ITEM:** On May 24, police and prosecutors arrested 23 former high-level officials that worked under the Tax and Revenue Ministry in the times of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. They were delivered to Kyiv in helicopters in an unprecedented, highly publicized operation that involved 2,000 law enforcement officers and coincided with the anniversary of General Prosecutor Yuriy Lutsenko's first year in office. However, many of them were soon released on bail or even without it.



**NEWS ITEM:** Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on May 26 appointed Mykhailo Buromensky, believed to be a loyalist of President Petro Poroshenko, as an auditor of the independent National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine. Some critics saw the decision as an effort to restrict the bureau's independence and as a violation of his promises to Ukraine's Western partners.



**NEWS ITEM:** When President Petro Poroshenko visited Odesa on May 26, the part of the street where he spoke and met with locals was surrounded by a three-meter-high fence, with only those specially invited being let through to meet the president. In the photo report published by the president's press service, it appears that Poroshenko is meeting with regular people on the street, and the fence isn't visible.

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## Reformer of the week

## Pavlo Polamarchuk

Pavlo Polamarchuk, an Odesa-based activist, has been involved in healthcare reforms in Odesa and nationwide.

Currently Polamarchuk, a top member of the Democratic Alliance party's Odesa branch, is a volunteer, helping Health Minister Ulana Suprun carry out her ambitious reform plans.

The reform aims to eliminate loopholes for graft in the healthcare system, make budget money "follow the patient" and introduce international best practices for treatment and diagnostics.

"If the monster (of the current healthcare system) continues to exist, we don't run a single chance other than the expansion of cemeteries," Polamarchuk, who had also been involved in healthcare reforms in Odesa under ex-Odesa Oblast Governor Mikheil Saakashvili, said on May 18.

However, the Verkhovna Rada, Ukraine's parliament, on May 18 failed to pass Suprun's healthcare reform legislation, with President Petro Poroshenko's Bloc deciding to postpone the issue.

Glib Zagory, a lawmaker from the Poroshenko Bloc, as well as ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's son Oleksander and his Health Minister Raisa Bogatryyova, have been accused of taking part in graft schemes in healthcare, which they deny.

— Oleg Sukhov



## Anti-reformer of the week

## Borys Filatov

Dnipro Mayor Borys Filatov on May 27 said he had appointed Andriy Tkachenko, an ex-commander of Dnipro's Berkut riot police, as head of the city's municipal police.

Filatov, who had previously portrayed himself as a patriot and a supporter of the EuroMaidan Revolution, justified the decision as "Realpolitik" and said he needed "professionals."

Tkachenko took part in crackdowns on protesters during the 2013–2014 EuroMaidan Revolution in Kyiv and was involved in beating protesters on Nov. 30, 2013.

In response to criticism of the appointment, Filatov lashed out at his opponents on Facebook. He called activists and journalists opposed to the decision "sh\*t", "f\*\*\*ng sheep", "bastards", "nobodies" and "scum," telling them to "f\*\*ck off."

Previously Filatov had also appointed Svitlana Yepifantseva, an ex-ally of former President Viktor Yanukovich, as one of his deputies.

Meanwhile, Valery Chornobuk, a former Ukrainian judge who recognized Russia's annexation of Crimea and urged other judges to do the same, is currently an informal advisor to Filatov, according to the Democratic Alliance and the Civic Force parties.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH ANNA YAKUTENKO  
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## Does Russia have the right to call Anna of Kyiv or Anna Yaroslavna a 'Russian princess'?

Anton Koluntaev  
Student

"History is a thing that everyone manipulates. We need to say that Anna Yaroslavna

was Ukrainian. But if you think about it, she was a princess from the 10th century, and at that time neither Russians nor Ukrainians existed."

Anastasia Mazurok  
Project manager

"I think that Russia has the same roots as Ukraine, but I don't think that it's a good

thing for Russian history to appropriate all the achievements."

Iryna Djenjera  
Engineer

"I think she (Anna Yaroslavna) is a native of (our land). Putin talks a lot and tries to glorify

Russia in every sentence. He targets people who don't know Ukrainian history."

Anna Dovgal  
Student

"I think that Russia doesn't have a right to do so — Russia is not the Kyivan Rus. The fact that Putin appropriates

history is caused by his lack of knowledge."

Olga Arbuzova  
Entrepreneur

"It's a difficult question and you need to know history and learn all the details before mak-

ing any conclusions. From time immemorial, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus were almost one thing, their histories are very interconnected."

Anna Kaluger  
Art historian

"Putin hasn't said anything new: his words wouldn't surprise anyone who knows that Russia appropriates

Kyivan Rus. I'm just wondering how people logically explain to themselves that the history of their country begins with the history of another country."

## Ukraine's Friend &amp; Foe Of The Week

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



Jens Stoltenberg

Pact, the Kremlin assumes that the U.S. must have coerced these states into joining, as the Soviet Union did with the seven other Warsaw Pact members.

Luckily for Ukraine, NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg is not confused. The former Norwegian prime minister, who became head of the alliance in October 2014, after Russia had established two proxy states in the Donbas with the aim of destabilizing Ukraine and sabotaging its hopes for European Union and NATO membership, knows what the Kremlin is up to — and where it gets things completely wrong.

Stoltenberg has given consistent support to Ukraine, a non-NATO state. At the most recent heads of state meeting in Brussels on May 25, neither Stoltenberg nor NATO let Ukraine be forgotten. Russia's war on Ukraine, as Stoltenberg repeatedly points out, is the reason why NATO members are increasing their defenses.

Under Stoltenberg, the alliance has rightly suspended cooperation with Russia. NATO also started five trust funds to support reform of Ukraine's security and defense sectors, and enhance Ukraine's defense capa-

bility. The trusts include projects to improve Ukraine's cyber security, provide medical rehabilitation for combat casualties, and upgrade military logistics, command and control functions. Although weakly funded, they are a start. The alliance is also helping Ukraine bring its armed forces up to NATO standards.

Stoltenberg, a principled and diplomatic leader, is Ukraine's friend in this fight. The Kremlin's error is to regard the organization he leads as Russia's inevitable foe. It is not. Russia's invasions of its neighbors are the reason for today's animosity. NATO is needed as much as ever.

— Euan MacDonald



Oliver Stone

Oscar-winning U.S. director Oliver Stone has made some good movies, but he's also made a fair number of turkeys, especially in recent years. Thus, we should probably be getting the knives and forks out for "The Putin Interviews" — a series of interviews Stone has conducted with the Russian leader over the last two years, set to be aired by Showtime over four days in June.

That's because Stone, whenever he's set his lens on contemporary politics, has invariably produced a picture of events so distorted by his own views that it's unrecognizable to anyone acquainted with the real situation.

Take his 2009 feature-length documentary "South of the Border" with seven Latin American presidents, which Stone hoped would win more sympathy in the West for the socialist policies followed in South America by the likes of Hugo Chavez, the late former leader of Venezuela.

Chavez, a self-described Marxist, introduced in his country a new brand of socialism as an answer to capitalism's failure to address poverty, hunger and exploitation.

It hasn't been a success: According to a recent study, Venezuelans have on average lost 19 pounds due to hunger brought from the economic chaos in their country, as Nicolas Maduro continues Chavez's policies.

Yet Stone never bothered to interview Chavez's opponents for "South of the Border," saying he wanted to "balance" the negative coverage Chavez's regime was getting in the West.

Given what Stone has had to say about Ukraine and its EuroMaidan Revolution that drove out a dictator on Feb. 22, 2014, we can expect similar ridiculousness from him in "The Putin Interviews."

According to Stone, the massive public uprising that ousted Ukraine's corrupt, thuggish Viktor Yanukovich was all a U.S. Central Intelligence Agency conspiracy carried out by armed neo-Nazi radicals.

That sounds like a great plot for a fiction movie, but it's nowhere close to reality. The truth is that the revolution had overwhelming popular support for justifiable reasons.

But Stone will no doubt keep parroting Kremlin propaganda in his "Putin Interviews."

In one interview about the upcoming film, Stone says this about Putin: "The man speaks articulately about what the Russian interests are in the world and I would say to you that they're not about empire, or expansion, or aggression, or a return to the old days."

Really? Have you looked at a map of Ukraine recently, Stone? Talk to people in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova, the Baltics and Poland about Putin's so-called lack of imperial ambitions. For his unerring ability to lose the plot, mask the truth and mislead the movie-going public, Stone wins the Order of Lenin.

— Euan MacDonald



Order of Lenin



Order of Yaroslav The Wise

When the Kremlin looks at NATO, it sees an organization equal in form and purpose to the defunct Warsaw Pact. Like NATO, the pact, formed in 1955, was nominally a collective defense organization, headed by a superpower. But there the resemblance ends. Absurdly, members of this collective defense organization were twice invaded by fellow members: Hungary in 1956 (by the Soviet Union), when Budapest attempted to withdraw from the alliance, and Czechoslovakia in 1968 (by the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary and Poland), when Prague attempted liberalization.

And while the United States and the Soviet Union were the leading members of their respective organizations, the Soviet Union dominated the Warsaw Pact militarily, politically and ideologically, in a manner that is unacceptable for the United States within NATO.

Russia is thus confused by NATO, especially when it sees former Warsaw Pact members and even former Soviet republics, joining. Equating NATO to the Warsaw

# After a year, Yuriy Lutsenko proves he's not up to the job of prosecutor general



ALYA SHANDRA

*Editor's Note: This op-ed was originally published by EuroMaidan Press and is being reprinted with the author's permission.*

A bit over a year ago in Ukraine, President Petro Poroshenko appointed Yuriy Lutsenko as prosecutor general.

The thing Lutsenko has done best during the subsequent year was to generate good public relations for his activities, experts say.

In the pursuit of impressive headlines (like the recent helicopter-assisted raid against tax officials conducted precisely at the time Lutsenko was reading his report to parliament), substance has been tossed out the window.

Appointed after the dismissal of the scandalous Viktor Shokin on March 29, 2016, Lutsenko, Poroshenko's man, had the parliament vote to change the law specifically to make it possible for someone without a legal education to be prosecutor general.

He promised to do what other prosecutor generals had failed to do — to investigate who is guilty of killing EuroMaidan Revolution protesters; to bring ousted President Viktor Yanukovich and his accomplices to account and to return the assets they stole; and to reform the Prosecutor General's Office, renewing trust in it and appointing truly independent prosecutors.

Let's see what he achieved.

## 'Trial of century'

As Yanukovich fled to Russia following the Euromaidan Revolution on Feb. 22, 2014, Lutsenko chose to speed up proceedings in absentia.

However, his subordinate Serhiy Horbatiuk, who heads the Office of Special Investigations, which dealt with Yanukovich's crimes, doesn't agree with the haste with which Lutsenko started the "Trial of the Century."

According to him, Ukraine's current law on trials in absentia goes



A EuroMaidan Revolution rally on Dec. 15, 2013, drew a crowd estimated at more than 200,000 people, taking up Khreshchatyk Street and the hillside overlooking Maidan Nezalezhnosti. The revolution came to an end on Feb. 22, 2014, when President Viktor Yanukovich fled power after four years of corrupt, authoritarian rule in which an estimated \$40 billion was stolen from Ukrainians. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

against the Ukrainian Constitution and European conventions, as a result of which it's even possible that Yanukovich will sue Ukraine in the European Court of Human Rights. In response to Horbatiuk's skepticism, Lutsenko reformed the Special Investigations Department, transferring the investigation of the economic crimes of Yanukovich to a more loyal subordinate.

Meanwhile, Anatoliy Matios, head of the military prosecution, took on Yanukovich's case, suggesting that Ukraine make use of Yanukovich's "invasion letter," shown by Russia's representative to the United Nations on March 3, 2014, in which Ukraine's fugitive ex-president asked Russia to deploy troops to Ukraine, to prove

Yanukovich had committed treason. But critics say this approach is far from being leakproof — to commit an act of treason, Yanukovich would need to be in a position of authority; however, at the time, Yanukovich was had been stripped of presidency by a parliamentary decision.

So, despite Lutsenko's grand accusations of treason at the start of the trial, which received great publicity, the case actually looks quite shaky.

## \$40 billion stolen

Recently, Ukrainian Justice Minister Pavlo Petrenko announced that, during the four years of Yanukovich's reign, the ousted leader and his associates stole \$40 billion from Ukraine — a number equal to the annual state budget.

Of this \$40 billion, \$1.1 billion was arrested in Ukraine. The rest is now under different jurisdictions in different states, spirited away through complex schemes. Ukraine has not yet adopted a special confiscation mechanism that would enable there to be the kind of international cooperation that would make it possible to return these funds.

Lutsenko proclaimed that prosecuting people who enriched themselves at the expense of ordinary Ukrainians was of prime importance. A year later, nothing has happened.

Vitaliy Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center, claims that the "trial in absentia" novelty made it possible to open proceedings against them. Despite this, the corruption crimes of Yanukovich, his son Oleksandr Yanukovich,

ex-Minister of the Interior Vitaliy Zakharchenko, ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka and his son, ex-Minister of Justice Olena Lukash, Yanukovich associates Andriy and Serhiy Klyuiev, ex-National Bank Head Serhiy Arbuzov and many others have not been proven (although a petition on the conviction of Azarov in absentia was submitted to the Pechersk court days ago).

"Nothing is confiscated, the cases are falling apart before our eyes. (...) These people are still under the sanctions of the European Union and other countries. Each day of delay of the criminal cases against the figures on the sanction list gives more reasons for international institutions to consider these cases to be politically motivated and reduces the value of the evidence already found," Shabunin says.

## No longer wanted

Proving Shabunin's point, Interpol announced it was taking Yanukovich and his son off its wanted list.

Many of the 27 Ukrainian officials that were in Interpol's database in August 2014, suspected of embezzlement of public funds and property, are no longer wanted abroad.

It is important to prove to Interpol that the suspect is implicated in criminal activity and is not merely facing political persecution.

Yanukovich's defense is to argue that Ukraine's case against him is purely political — and in the absence of a proper investigation, this tactic seems to be working.

Prosecutors stated that Interpol's

decision was caused by flaws in the Ukrainian legal framework on applying preventive measures to wanted persons. But over the last year, prosecutors have not raised the issue of amending Ukraine's legislation to bring it into accordance with the demands of Interpol. Lutsenko shrugged off the incident, suggesting that Ukraine would submit a repeat application to Interpol after the final verdict of the court in Yanukovich's case.

Underlining the lack of action against criminals of the old regime within Ukraine, the Ukrainian parliament on May 18 remarkably failed to approve sanctions against Yanukovich allies.

## Yuriy Boiko scandal

Another cause for indignation inside Ukraine were Lutsenko's actions to cover up a major corruption scandal involving Yuriy Boiko, currently the leader of the Opposition Bloc (the successor to Yanukovich's Party of Regions).

Boiko is suspected of stealing \$180 million from the Ukrainian budget through the purchase of drilling rigs in the Black Sea in 2011 and participating in the criminal schemes of Serhiy Kurchenko, a fugitive oligarch evading prosecution in Russia.

Now there is a petition calling for a vote of no confidence in Lutsenko in the Ukrainian parliament, which currently has 44 signatures out of the necessary 150.

Transparency International,

more Shandra on page 10



Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko speaks to journalists after reading a notice of suspicion for ex-President Viktor Yanukovich in a treason case on Nov. 28, 2016. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# Who rightfully owns Kyiv's Sofiyskiy Fitness Center?

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV  
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

The owners of the Sofiyskiy Fitness Center, an elite fitness club in the heart of Kyiv near Sofiivska Square, lost control of their 13-year-old business after another company, waving a court order, simply walked into the premises and took it over on May 25.

Trouble started brewing at the end of last year.

The Ryabchenko family, which owns the club, was told by a company called BF Group on Dec. 30 that they were in default on a \$15 million loan – a loan that they say they don't owe.

Moreover, property rights to the fitness club, which were claimed to be collateral to the loan, had been seized.

The very next day, BF Group took over the mortgage and the property rights of the club. The company is led by Yuriy Hryshchenko, an aide to People's Front lawmaker Andriy Ivanchuk.

Over the last five months, the Ryabchenkos have been trying to convince the courts that the right of ownership was transferred to BF Group illegally and that the case was based on forged documents.

"The company Sofiyskiy has never taken any loans," Iryna Ryabchenko says, referring to the company she owns that runs the fitness center. "They've simply stolen our home."

Ryabchenko says that Cyprus-based Efenes Properties Limited, another of her companies, which officially owns the building of the club, doesn't owe any money either. The company running the club rents the building from Efenes Properties Limited, while Ryabchenko owns both companies.

Ryabchenko, with Efenes Properties Limited, in a parallel court process, appealed the court decision about granting BF Group the ownership on the part of the building arguing that their claims about Ryabchenko's loan debts were based on forged documents. The appeal was satisfied on May 24.

Despite this, BF Group claims the Supreme Economic Court of Ukraine issued a final ruling on May 29 stating that Sofiyskiy was in default on a loan.

However, this case cannot be found in the state register of court decisions – there's only an invitation for the May 29 court hearing.

Ryabchenko says she and her lawyers didn't get any invitation to the hearing and didn't attend. She doesn't even know if it actually took place.

BF Group says they still have not received the court documents from the May 29 hearing and promised to publish them as soon as possible.

The next day after the court decision on refusing BF Group in ownership due to the falsification of documents, on May 25, police and the company's representatives stormed in and occupied most of the building – about 1,300 square meters.



A man looks through the steel bars welded across a stairwell in the Sofiyskiy Fitness Center in Kyiv. Part of the building where the fitness club is located was seized by a company called BF Group on May 27. The company claimed it was acting under a court order. (Volodymyr Petrov)

The clients of the club could not even retrieve belongings they had left inside.

Olga Ryabtseva, a long-time client of Sofiyskiy Fitness Center, told the Kyiv Post she hadn't been allowed to take her swimsuit with her.

"Some guy grabbed my hand and pressed it against the wall," Ryabtseva said. "It was so painful, I started screaming."

Eventually her friend was allowed in to pick up her belongings.

After everyone was forced out, the company representative began installing bars on the staircases to block access to the second and third floors of the building, which BF Group claims to own.

Ryabchenko says her lawyers are trying to counter each of BF Group's actions in the courts and reestablish ownership.

But for the moment, Ryabchenko says BF Group won't even agree to rent the space to her sports club while the dispute is being resolved. She claims that the BF Group told her he would make the building the People's Front headquarters.

BF Group CEO Hryshchenko denied this, saying, "That's just absurd!"

Hryshchenko told the Kyiv Post that BF Group was the rightful owner of the property, and that the premises would be exploited in accordance with its proper use – as a sports and recreation center. But under a different brand name, he said.

Hryshchenko claims the Ryabchenkos were slinging dirt at BF Group and trying to give the case a political spin in order to divert attention from their own debts and fictitious bank and rent operations,

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Ukraine's ex-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk (L) and member of parliament for the People's Front Andriy Ivanchuk talk in the Verkhovna Rada in Kyiv on Jan. 16, 2015. (UNIAN)

## Fitness center fight: Raider attack or rightful seizure?

Sofiyskiy from page 7

which he claimed they have been carrying out for many years.

"Let them pay their debts to the banks first," Hryshchenko said. "What do the political parties have to do with it?"

Lawmaker Ivanchuk, who lives next to the club's entrance, called Ryabchenko's attempts to connect his party to this case defamation of both himself and the party. Ivanchuk says he intends to file a liable case against her in court.

"I have never neither met her nor talked to her. Soon I will send a petition to the court to protect (my) honor and reputation and will demand an apology and the retraction of the false claims," Ivanchuk wrote on Facebook. "She will have



Sofiyskiy owner Iryna Ryabchenko on May 27 talks to the Kyiv Post in a cafeteria located in a part of the fitness center building which she still controls. (Volodymyr Petrov)

the honor of speaking to me in court for the first time in her life."

Currently, officers of the Security

Police of Ukraine and security guards hired by BF Group's Hryshchenko are sitting inside the building behind the welded bars, defending it from the Ryabchenkos, the fitness center's previous owners.

Sitting in the part of the building that she still controls, Ryabchenko watched strangers welding shut the doors of the fitness club, while buses full of people in sports outfits were parked outside.

"They have made a cage with 30 animals inside out of our elite fitness club," she said.

When a Kyiv Post reporter tried to talk to the people in the barred part of the building they laughed, and said they did not know whom they were working for.

Kyiv Post editor Alyona Zhuk contributed reporting to this story. ■



### World No Tobacco Day is good time to quit smoking

Ukrainian lawmakers Nataliya Veselova (fourth from left), Pavlo Unguryan (C), political analyst Oleksandr Solontai (second from right) and anti-tobacco activists campaign in Kyiv during World No Tobacco Day on May 31. Since 2012, Ukraine's law officially banned smoking cigarettes, hookah and also electronic cigarettes from all public areas, including public buildings, restaurants, bars and clubs. However, Ukraine is still a heavy tobacco-using country, according to the World Health Organization. Some 38 percent of Ukrainians smoke regularly, December polls show. Activists are seeking higher taxes, better enforcement of public smoking bans and prohibition of displays of cigarettes in retail stores to curb smoking, which prematurely kills up to 100,000 people per year in Ukraine. (Courtesy)

## Ukraine's infrastructure needs major overhaul to modernize economy



MICHAEL DATSENKO

Ukraine's current state of infrastructure does not answer all the needs of modern business.

In fact, in some areas the cargo shipping capacity have declined since Soviet times, namely, river cargo transport.

Only one private company, Nibulon, is continuously working on improvements of river transport by constructing a fleet of barges and tugboats fleet for own needs as well as to transport cargo from other entities.

The state-owned railways and the mostly private trucking industry do not have sufficient capacity for delivering cargos from producers/manufacturers to the ports because of years of theft in the railways and the lack of investment by Ukrzaliznytsya.

Certain officials use Ukrzaliznytsya as a means to extort bribes for preferential access to railroad cars for shippers, rather than allowing private companies to own railroad cars and locomotives to compensate for the inadequate supply by Ukrzaliznytsya.

Restrictions on per axle load for railroad cars and trucks are outdated. This doesn't happen in the United States, even though the loads are higher, perhaps because the quality of the roads is better.

Port infrastructure is improving because of private investment. State agencies responsible for approvals for dredging, construction etc., are moving slowly.

In fact, if this year's crop is higher than in previous years, even more serious bottlenecks are expected in the ports when it comes to agricultural commodity exports.

The port, canal and other fees and levies are higher in some cases than anywhere in the world, which makes Ukraine less competitive, yet funds going into the state coffers are not distributed equitably when it comes to improving the infrastructure (e.g. excise tax collected from fuel for tugboats and barges goes to fix the roads, not the river infrastructure; port fees from all ports are used mostly in some, but not others, thus putting some ports at a disadvantage).

Airports are not up to the standards which would allow the international operators to invest into them and derive a reasonable income.

The postal service, while showing some improvement, is still not up to the challenge. Naturally, we all understand that business always wants the best conditions for operating, but the state is not moving as fast as business wants or as the state says it moves.

The largest surprise and bewilderment for the international business community, when it comes to Ukraine's infrastructure, is the desire of Ukraine's executive and legislative branches to keep the old system going as long as possible, perhaps for their own private benefit, with the reforms being nominal and not systemic.

The state's desire to keep state-owned enterprises that drain the state budget and compete with private business rather than allowing private businesses do it in the most cost-efficient and timely way is best illustrated by the monopoly of Ukrzaliznytsya on locomotive ownership and traffic. Its leaders seem to think that allowing private ownership of just railroad cars will make the transport system much better.

The prevalence of the lingering bias in favor of state-owned firms is also illustrated by the various reincarnations of the Bread of Ukraine Corporation and state-run corporation, which intends to sell equipment to farmers and others.

At the same time, accusations of trying to monopolize the Dnipro River fly toward companies who are dredging the river to allow all, not just their, fleets to navigate and transport cargo and passengers.

The infrastructure system does not have sufficient resources, but the state does not seem to want the private entities to complement what the state can't provide to the shippers.

The immediate result is decreased export revenue, and the longer term result is the stifling of the economy and lost opportunities for further investments from the companies already in Ukraine and those who would come if they understand a clear signal that they are wanted in Ukraine.

Michael Datsenko is director of information and member programs for the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council. ■



Rail cars stand near Darnytska Railway Station in Kyiv on May 30. Corruption and bureaucracy make Ukraine's railroads inefficient for business. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



# May 2017, we'll remember you fondly; hope June is even better

Merry from page 1

**1** **Macron wins**  
The month got off to a good start for Ukraine as 39-year-old Emmanuel Macron recorded a convincing victory in the second round of France's presidential election on May 7. Macron looks to be a solid ally for Ukraine, having said in recent days that he does not exclude the possibility of tougher economic sanctions against Russia if it does not end its war in Ukraine's Donbas region.

Things could have turned out much worse for Ukraine had Macron's opponent Marine Le Pen been victorious. Having met Russian President Vladimir Putin a number of times and borrowed millions of

euros from a Russian state bank, the nationalist politician Le Pen was an apologist for the Kremlin's military invasion, even going as far as to deny its invasion and occupation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

**2** **Visa-free travel**  
Ten days after Macron's victory there was more good news: On May 17, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko attended a signing ceremony at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France where it was finally confirmed that from June 11 Ukrainians will be able to travel to 34 European countries without a visa.

European nations retain the right to check the financial status and travel plans of incoming



Ukrainians line up to receive biometric passports for visa-free travel to the European Union at a passport office in Kyiv on May 23. Visa-free travel to most European nations will start on June 11. More than 3.2 million Ukrainians have biometric passports required for such travel and more are applying for them daily. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Ukrainians, as part of an effort to prevent illegal immigration into the European Union. The decision came after several years of negotiations, with Poroshenko calling the move Ukraine's "final farewell to the Soviet and Russian empire."

The visa-free status gives Ukrainians a huge psychological lift and is likely to prompt other nations to drop remaining visa barriers eventually. Additionally, the cost of international travel is likely to plummet as competition increases, especially among airlines, for the expected surge in Ukrainian tourists.

was top, with 33.5 percent of the total volume of Ukraine's service exports going to its eastern neighbor. According to the ministry, Ukraine exported \$805.3 million worth of services to Russia, while the corresponding figure for the second-placed EU was \$725.3 million.

Aleksandr Paraschiy, an analyst at financial services firm Concorde Capital, said that although the first quarter results were good for 2017, that was largely due to the low base for comparison provided by export numbers in 2016, and that export growth for the rest of the year was likely to be more modest.

explaining that the Association Agreement — which is already provisionally in force — does not guarantee Ukraine EU membership and does not mean Ukraine is entitled to military support, neither of which had actually been offered under the deal anyway.

Still, following the positive outcome in the Dutch Senate, EU Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker stated that the vote, "sends an important signal from the Netherlands and the entire European Union to our Ukrainian friends: Ukraine's place is in Europe."



Dutch senators ratify the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement on May 30 in The Hague, the last step in adopting the far-reaching political and trade Association Agreement with the 28-nation bloc. (AFP)

**3** **Exports up**  
Ukraine's Ministry of Trade and Economic Development released new figures on May 26 showing that exports of Ukrainian goods and services reached \$12.4 billion in the first quarter of 2017, an increase of 28 percent compared to the same period in 2016.

In the goods sector, the European Union was the top destination, with 38.4 percent of all Ukrainian goods exported in the first quarter of 2017 going to the 28-nation bloc.

In services, however, Russia

**4** **Free trade deal**  
On May 30, Dutch senators voted in favor of Ukraine's trade and political Association Agreement with the European Union. The vote came more than a year after a referendum in the Netherlands on the EU-Ukraine deal, in which Dutch citizens rejected the pact, although the result of the referendum was non-binding. Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte eventually found a compromise by convincing the EU's 27 other nations to support a text


**5** **Gazprom loses**  
A Stockholm arbitration tribunal handed Naftogaz an unexpected victory this week in a ruling that nullified claims from state-owned Russian gas giant Gazprom that Ukraine owed it \$45.7 billion in unpaid gas bills; nearly half of Ukrainian gross domestic product.

Gazprom had filed suit under a 2009 contract signed by former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, which included a stipulation that

more Merry on page 21


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# Shandra: Showboat Lutsenko will not deliver justice that Ukrainians deserve

Shandra from page 6

Ukraine's leading international anti-corruption NGO, is unimpressed by Lutsenko's efforts. In its statement on May 24, it claims that Ukraine is losing the last opportunity to demonstrate to the world the effectiveness of its anti-corruption program.

"There is no case in a court against Yanukovich, who is the most famous corrupt official in the world, according to a poll conducted by Unmask the Corrupt, which directly deals with corruption offenses. The total amount of stolen money is still unknown, but the sum ranges from approximately \$7.5 billion up to \$40 billion. It seems that officials and the authorities are not performing well and depend on society. Another year has passed, but there has been no action to set up an anti-corruption court. Such a court is the only opportunity to break the cycle of impunity," said Jose Ugaz, the chair of Transparency International.

Lutsenko reacted angrily to Ugaz's statement, accusing the anti-corruption organization of "defaming the entire country."

Neither does Transparency International have much faith in Lutsenko's efforts to return Ukrainian assets stolen by Yanukovich and his allies. In an interview with the Kyiv Post, Ugaz said they are considering filing civil cases concerning the \$40 billion that Yanukovich and his accomplices stole from the Ukrainian people.

This comes after Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council on April 28 announced the sensational news that a court had allowed the transfer to the state budget of \$1.5 billion of the money Yanukovich and his cronies had stolen.

Widely hailed as a victory, the move raised questions among anti-corruption activists.

## Secret court order

Lawmaker and journalist Serhiy Leshchenko contends, without citing his sources, that the court, which



A protester rests in an armchair in the mansion of former Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka on Feb. 24, 2014, next to his portrait with ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. Just as Pshonka was loyal to Yanukovich, current Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko is seen by his critics as faithful to Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko as the nation's law enforcers continue to fail to stop corruption and bring justice. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

turned out to be located in the remote city of Kramatorsk, has confiscated the money from another criminal proceeding in the case of Arbutov, through a case against a certain Arkadiy Kashyn, which was started two years ago. The decision of the Kramatorsk court has not yet been made publicly available.

Leshchenko notes that in September Lutsenko said that it was previously impossible to return that \$1.5 billion, because it was impossible to establish the owner of the offshore companies that were acting as nominal holders of the securities. Cyprus still hasn't provided that information.

This makes Daria Kaleniuk from

the Anti-Corruption Action Center fear that the absence of the decision of the Kramatorsk court in the public domain will mean that Ukrainians might need to pay this sum back:

"Lutsenko announced that this confiscation of a mythical \$1.5 billion that was in securities of offshore companies and which was supposedly connected to Yanukovich, is a victory for the prosecutor's office, and for him personally. But in violation of all legal norms and standards, he somehow managed to hide this court decision from public scrutiny. We would like to professionally assess this document and understand whether (and when, if it is so) we will need to return this confiscated \$1.5 billion to the Yanukoviches? If the confiscation procedure is violated, returning it is only a matter of time."

## Lutsenko's PR platform

Confirming Kaleniuk's fears, on May 12-17, seven offshore Cyprus companies appealed against the Kramatorsk court decision, according to their lawyer.

Kaleniuk says that this case is emblematic of the work of Lutsenko as prosecutor general: the Prosecutor's Office has become his PR platform and a springboard for his political career.

Lutsenko's empty words about returning stolen assets to the government were also recently pointed to by the nongovernmental financial transparency organization "Nashi Hroshi."

The NGO embarked on a mission to fact check Lutsenko's impressive statement about returning Hr 10 billion (\$380 million) of corrupt money to the state budget in 2016, though analyzing 51 volumes of court decisions that prosecutors provided in

response to an official request from a member of parliament.

It turned out that, of the declared Hr 10 billion, only 12.6 percent — Hr 1.26 billion — could be verified by court decisions.

While Lutsenko had not sabotaged the investigation, he had not taken any actions to assist it. His lack of interest in progress in this field is demonstrated by populist statements in which he urges investigators to submit the cases to court more quickly, thus increasing the danger that the hastily put together cases will fall apart during hearings.

As mentioned above, after the conflict with Horbatiuk, Lutsenko split up the Special Investigations Department, stripping it of graft cases against Yanukovich and his entourage. This has not helped to establish justice, according to Pavlo Dykan, a lawyer of the relatives of slain EuroMaidan protesters. Coordination, as well as the effectiveness of the investigation, has suffered. Neither did prosecutors initiate the harmonization of Ukraine's laws with international humanitarian law, like the ratification of the Rome statute, and resolve the legal implications of holding trials in absentia.

## No reform

However disappointing the previous assessments may be, they are dwarfed by the troubling transformations inside the Prosecutor General's Office itself over the last year.

Lutsenko was appointed to head a corrupt system which made the crimes of Yanukovich and company possible in the first place, which was, following a short-lived rebellion of new faces against the system, crushed by the old regime.

The reform of the local prosecu-

tors announced under Shokin was essentially destroyed: virtually all of the people heading the newly created local prosecutor's offices are representatives of the old system.

Without honest prosecutors, there can be no justice.

It is the Prosecutor General's Office that can put an end to large-scale organized crime. And "restoring confidence" in prosecutors through lustration was one of Lutsenko's stated goals. One year later, there is little to celebrate, according to Oleksandr Banchuk from the Center of Political and Legal Reforms, and Tetyana Pechonchyk, Head of the Human Rights Information center.

Banchuk and Pechonchyk state that democracy in the Prosecutor General's Office was tossed out the window in the formation of the very organs which were supposed to ensure it — the Qualification Disciplinary Commission and the Council of Prosecutors, which were formed as prosecutorial organs of self-governance that would decentralize the appointment, promotion, and dismissal of prosecutors.

Sadly, this didn't happen.

The candidates that the All-Ukrainian Conference of Prosecutors appointed to the self-governance organs in 2016 were dismissed and others were chosen in a hastily held conference on April 27, with the participation of military prosecutors, apparently loyal to Lutsenko, who have a totally different system of governance and are in no way related to the functioning of the prosecutors.

Although it has been argued that the 2016 conference elected loyalists of the previous compromised Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin, the 2017 conference ostensibly elected loyalists of Lutsenko, which begs the question: how is he any different to his predecessor?

Neither does Lutsenko make publicly available, as the law prescribes, his orders on appointments, dismissals, orders and financial spending, making public scrutiny over law and order inside the institution impossible.

## Power grab

The Prosecutor General's Office, instead, seeks more power, contrary to the Constitution.

Amendments adopted to Ukraine's Constitution on June 2 convert the Prosecutor General's Office from a separate oversight structure into an organ of the system of justice. But to this day, the institution has not only failed to adopt a plan on how to limit its functions, it has lobbied for a law that extends them, contradicting the constitutional amendments (it was not adopted), Banchuk and Pechonchyk say.

Additionally, they state, the institution seeks to extend its control by lobbying for a law to create a subsidiary university, which would be at odds with academic freedom and create endless corruption opportunities.



Opposition Bloc lawmaker Yuriy Boiko (L) fights with Radical Party leader Oleg Lyashko on Nov. 14. Boiko has escaped justice on allegations of stealing \$180 million from the state, charges he denies. (UNIAN)

# Shandra: Lutsenko delivers no reform, failed investigations and political loyalty

Shandra from page 10

## Ghosts of Shokin

Despite Lutsenko's announcement of an overhaul, the compromised deputies of the previous prosecutor, Shokin, still work inside the system, Banchuk and Pechonchuk write.

Yuriy Stoliarchuk and Yuriy Sevruck still hold high positions and are busy launching campaigns against anti-corruption activists, while genuine reformers like Valentyna Telychenko and Petro Shkutiak were not appointed to any positions that give them any real influence.

This personnel policy essentially means that after being appointed as prosecutor general, Lutsenko decided not to go against the system.

The promised renewal didn't happen: even though there was a contest for 627 vacancies in the local prosecutor's offices held in 2016–2017,

this is only 5 percent of the total number of prosecutors in the system. Moreover, Lutsenko did not hold any similar contests for the higher positions. They are all occupied by old faces.

## Mission failed

Lutsenko's love for populism has manifested itself in the strategy to fight corruption inside the Prosecutor General's Office according to Banchuk and Pechonchuk.

Ukrainian law specifies that prosecutors shall be subject to secret tests of integrity.

Although Lutsenko has developed such a procedure, it is neither secret nor establishes the integrity of prosecutors.

The 12,500 declarations on the site of the Prosecutor General's Office feature yes/no checkmarked answers to a few questions like "have you ever committed acts of

corruption," which could hardly be considered effective methods to eradicate these acts. Questions like "where have you vacationed in the last three years?" and "who paid for it?" would go a lot further, and even more effective would be not questions but secret tests to see whether a given prosecutor would take a bribe.

Now, however, even if the public submits facts testifying to a lack of integrity of a prosecutor, an investigation can only be launched under the approval of the chief of the local prosecutor's department. Moreover, the GPU is involved in conflicts with newly created anti-corruption organs, most notably with the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

## Poroshenko's man

During Lutsenko's time in office, the functions of departments were arti-



A protester holds a poster with the faces of Prosecutor General Viktor Shokin and President Petro Poroshenko and a sign which reads 'Poroshokin, the face of corruption' on Oct. 31, 2015, outside the president's home. Although Shokin was fired a year ago, many of his key appointees remain in their jobs. (Volodymyr Petrov)

ficially altered. The military prosecutor's office, despite being created in August 2014 to investigate actions on territories where warfare is conducted, is now investigating corruption crimes, but not overseeing crimes in which representatives of the Ukrainian army or volunteer battalions are implicated. In many cases, the National Police, and not the military prosecutor, are investigating crimes of which servicemen are suspected.

Lutsenko, an opposition figure in the times of Yanukovich, who was imprisoned by the ousted ex-president, is still a representative of the old system, as revealed by the way he was appointed. He is another

one of Poroshenko's men inside the system. Despite being a victim of police and prosecutorial lawlessness himself, he has not managed to implement the reform of the chief law enforcement organ in Ukraine, and instead is using his position as a PR launchpad for re-entering politics, and covering up his inaction with demonstrative raids designed only for the cameras.

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# Russia's war depopulates, desolates parts of Donbas

Pisky from page 1

Pisky is one of the many Donbas towns on the front line that has been devastated by Russia's war against Ukraine. A quiet settlement, bounded by several ponds and dense vegetation, it lies just northwest of Russian-occupied Donetsk, the stronghold of Russia's proxy forces, some 700 kilometers east of Kyiv.

Pisky was home to over 2,000 people before the war. Many of the locals used to work in Donetsk, commuting there and back by public transport.

But in 2014–2015, the town found itself right on the front line of fighting for the nearby Donetsk Airport, a strategic position that both sides were determined to control. The nearest government-controlled settlement to the besieged Ukrainian defenders of the airport, Pisky was used as a supply base, and came under regular shelling by Russian-backed forces.

In January 2015, the last survivors of the airport garrison, nicknamed by their Russian enemies as “cyborgs” for their almost superhuman resilience, retreated to Pisky after 242 days of fierce fighting. Amid the battle, 95 percent of the town was damaged, and it was mostly abandoned by local civilians.

## Abandoned homes

Officially, 12 civilians still live in the town, although only four can be found in their ruined homes.

Sofiya Tolmacheva is one of them.

A woman in her 80s, Tolmacheva has nowhere else to go — her seriously disabled son needs constant care, and she has no contact with other relatives. Amid the mayhem of war in 2014, her other son sustained a severe head wound. He was hospitalized, and has since gone missing. She does not even live in her own



An elderly woman, Sofiya Tolmacheva, cries among damaged houses in the front-line town of Pisky on May 15. Tolmacheva is one of the few residents remaining in the town, unable to flee because she has to care for her disabled son. Another of her sons, injured in shelling, has since gone missing. She also cares for a dog left in the town by her neighbor. (Volodymyr Petrov)

house — she and her son had to move into an abandoned building.

“On Sept. 3, 2014, a Ukrainian checkpoint not far from my home was shelled,” she says, wiping away tears. “Seven houses burned to the ground that day. And we had no

chance to save our property — these were white phosphorous shells, and there's no way you can put out the fires they cause.”

In her own yard alone, Tolmacheva found at least 34 impact craters, and some unexploded shells still remain



Ukrainian servicemen clean their weapons after a clash with Russian-backed forces in the town of Pisky on May 15. The town, close to the ruins of Donetsk airport, a former Ukrainian stronghold that fell to the enemy in January 2015, is now right on the front line. (Volodymyr Petrov)



A Ukrainian soldier is seen on combat duty at a machine gun firing point in the Donetsk Oblast town on Pisky on May 15. The town is a hot spot in fighting between the Ukrainian army and Russian-backed forces, and has been left largely in ruins. (Volodymyr Petrov)

in the ground there, she says.

“This war has no end in sight,” Tolmacheva says, crying. “And its main victims are us, ordinary local people. What are we guilty of?”

All of her neighbors fled the town long ago. Apart from caring for her son, she goes to her friend's house every day to feed a chained dog — whose owner was driven insane by the endless shelling.

Her only sources of income are her tiny pension, brought to her every month by bank clerks from the nearest city, and some aid from

others. Ukrainian soldiers say they bring food to the old woman and her son. They call her “Grandma Sonya.”

Another family of two elderly people who would identify themselves only as Svitlana and Anatoliy, live in the building next door. Their house was not seriously damaged, although several Grad rockets and mortar shells exploded in their garden, blasting down trees and fences.

The couple says there was a time

# Front-line town left devastated by Russia's war in the Donbas

Pisky from page 12

in Pisky when the lightbulbs in their house would be knocked out of their fittings by the impacts of the shells. Many times they had to hide in their tiny cellar, spending sleepless nights on a mattress as the war raged above them.

"This cellar shelter has become a kind of local landmark," his wife Svitlana says.

Although Anatoliy is unhappy with the army's presence in the town, he says that the Ukrainian soldiers are friendly and helpful.

"Over the past year, the situation has been much quieter, and life has become slightly easier," he says. "The Ukrainian soldiers connected our house to their electricity supply, so we're plugged in all the time, we can listen to the radio to learn what's going on. Besides, they sometimes give us some fuel for our car, so I can go shopping somewhere outside the town."

## Dead town

Pisky has never recovered from the massive devastation it suffered in 2014–2015.

No building is untouched. Entire streets were flattened by artillery shelling. In the private housing sector, some of the rusty yard gates, riddled with holes from Grad rocket shrapnel, bear signs reading "People live here." Ukrainian servicemen marked the houses with the last surviving civilians.

However, almost all of them have since been abandoned. The town's three- and four-storey buildings are mostly heaps of bricks, with round holes in the walls that are still standing — evidence of direct hits by enemy tank shells. Hardly a window in the town is unbroken, and many balconies have collapsed.

The walls of the local school still bear painted farewells from children. None will come to study there this September — its roof was torn off by a massive explosion.

Most of the abandoned apartments have been looted. Caught under artillery fire, people fled their homes in a frantic rush, taking only bare essentials with them. In trashed apartments, clothes still hang in wardrobes, and dishes, furniture, dusty toys, books, and photo albums lie on the floor.

In some flats, smashed windows are covered with carpets that the last remaining civilians used to try to keep themselves warm amid relentless battle for the town, without heating or electricity. But only blackened walls remain in many flats.

Without people, Pisky's narrow streets have become grown over with grass and bushes. Asphalt sidewalks are cracking, and silence has fallen over the empty town.

## Mechanical beasts

The only signs of life are the combat units of Ukraine's 80th Airmobile Brigade, who defend the town from positions just a kilometer from Donetsk Airport's runway.

Soldiers manning trenches near a red brick church can see their enemy, just a few hundred meters away. Red flags, like Soviet-era military banners, hang over the Russian-backed fighters' positions.

"Mind this — from our side, the church is mostly undamaged," soldiers say. "But it's been pummeled to dust by shooting from the Russians' side."

The Ukrainian fighters defending Pisky live in and fight from basements, rarely coming outside in daylight, their machine guns constantly trained on enemy positions.

"Here in Pisky, we've got two big problems — the enemy howitzers and their snipers," says a Ukrainian officer who would identify himself only as Volodymyr and his code-name "Doc."

"Our defenses here are strong — we won't let a mouse in — but we have to be alert all the time. Sometimes the Russians bring in their trainee snipers to test their skills on us. Those who get three successful shots are considered good enough for their elite forces."

The 80th brigade in Pisky has several second-hand U.S. Hummer armored vehicles, provided by the United States to the Ukrainian army in 2015.

The Hummer's side armor protects occupants from standard 7.62-millimeter rounds, and even from the more powerful 12.7-millimeter rounds fired from sniper rifles or machine guns, the soldiers say.

Although on the outside the vehicles are painted dark green as per Ukrainian standards, some are still painted yellow inside — a desert camouflage legacy from their time in Iraq.

"There was an incident with our Hummer, when its front windshield was cracked by tank shell fragments," says the vehicle's gunner, Senior Sergeant Olexander Shklyaruk. "It's a beast of a machine, but they're not supposed to be engaged in this type of warfare. These Hummers would be great in urban war like in Iraq or Afghanistan, but not against Russian tanks in the open."

"The separatists are freaked out when the American vehicles are thrown into battle against them in Pisky," the soldiers say, laughing. "We often hear them talking via radio that it would be a matter of honor for them to knock out at least one Hummer with guided anti-tank missiles."

However, not a single Hummer has been lost in battle yet, they say. ■



A Ukrainian soldier looks at his helmet while inspecting a heavily damaged apartment building in Donetsk Oblast's Pisky, a town on the frontlines of Russia's war some 700 kilometers southeast of Kyiv, on May 15. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Stray dogs roam near a heavily damaged and abandoned apartment building in Donetsk Oblast's Pisky, nearly 700 miles southeast of Kyiv, on May 15. After more than three years of Russia's war, civilians continue to flee cities near the frontlines where fighting remains routine. (Volodymyr Petrov)

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### Kyiv club members share their love of Italy

Every Sunday, instead of relaxing at home for the weekend, members of a speaking club called Parliamo Italiano gather to practice the language, share knowledge and spend time together.

Members are from a wide range of ages, occupations, and lifestyles, but they are united by their shared passion for all things Italian.

#### How it started

Olga Voitsekhova, the founder of Parliamo Italiano, first visited Italy at the age of eight, through a program for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

Voitsekhova, who was born in Vyshhorod, a town located 8 kilometers north of Kyiv on the edge of the Chernobyl zone, went to Italy nine times under the program, and by the age of 16 was completely in love with the country.

After that, she tried to find suitable language classes in Kyiv, but there was always something missing. Used to face-to-face communication from a very young age, she missed it, and therefore joined the Language Exchange Club, which was organized by a group of Ukrainians and foreigners. She spent some time with the club.

Years later, she realized that she missed such meetings, so she gathered together some of her old friends who shared her interest in Italian culture. They have been meeting every week for more than a year now.

#### Club rules

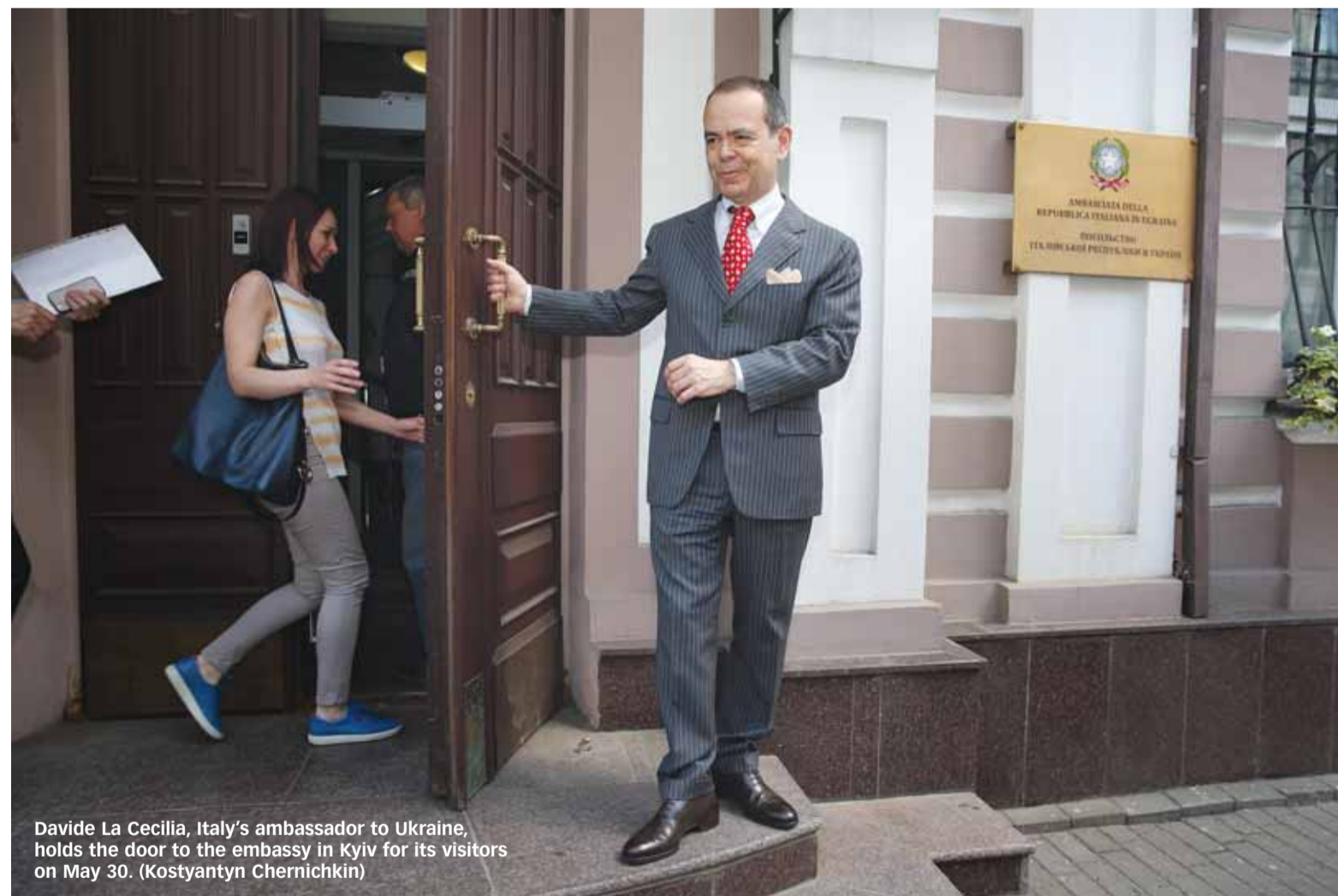
The club gathers every Sunday at 3 p.m. in the food court of the Gulliver shopping mall. It is open to everyone and is free of charge, the only requirement is that attendees are able to speak some Italian, as at every meeting there is at least one native speaker.

While the Ukrainians get a chance to practice the language and get to know more about the culture, Italians enjoy the meetings just as much.

Alberto De Marco, an international and transnational business and strategic expert from Italy, who currently lives in Ukraine, says that the club is "a lot of fun." The meetings

more Club on page 19

# Italian ambassador to Ukraine feels at home



Davide La Cecilia, Italy's ambassador to Ukraine, holds the door to the embassy in Kyiv for its visitors on May 30. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY ALYONA ZHUK  
ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM

When Davide La Cecilia, Italy's newly-appointed ambassador to Ukraine, came to Kyiv last fall, he soon got to know how fast the seasons turn here.

"Winter fell on us so soon," he says, adding that "it was difficult." However, the cold winter seems so far to be the only thing he does not love about Kyiv.

La Cecilia, 55, says he enjoys going for long walks with his two kids,

especially in the Gryshko Botanical Garden, which is near their home. He says he is also impressed with Kyiv's other parks, churches and squares.

"It's a beautiful city," he says. "And one of the greenest cities I've been to."

The first word La Cecilia learned in Ukrainian was kava, which means coffee.

"It's something that we Italians need a lot of," he says, smiling. "And

more Ambassador on page 15

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**KyivPost**

# Italy's Ukraine envoy finds parallels between countries

Ambassador from page 14

Ukraine has a great coffee culture."

The ambassador also praised Ukrainian cuisine, saying that he has tried traditional dishes, like borscht and varenyky, and loved them. He says Italian food in Ukraine is also top notch, and not only in restaurants, because Kyiv's supermarket chains stock lots of Italian products.

## Promoting tourism

La Cecilia expects up to 40,000 Italian tourists to visit Ukraine this year, since Italian airlines resumed direct flights in early May. Flights had been halted since 2014 for commercial reasons.

Although he doesn't mind promoting Ukraine among Italians, his main mission is to encourage Ukrainians to visit Italy, including lesser-known destinations. La Cecilia says his embassy issues about 70,000 visas to Ukrainians every year.

"We care personally that every application is reviewed correctly," he says. "We want you to go to Italy."

Now, with Ukraine's visa-free travel regime with the European Union countries coming into force on June 11, even more Ukrainians will be able to enjoy trips to Italy.

"There was a lot of skepticism — a lot of people didn't believe it would happen," he says, adding that Italians supported the move. "Now we're happy that it has actually happened."

Another positive achievement of Ukraine that might help boost economic growth and attract foreign investors will be the final ratification of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU, La Cecilia says.

The upper chamber of the parliament of the Netherlands, the Senate, voted to ratify the agreement at a meeting on May 30. To complete the process, the Dutch government still has to formally ratify the agreement, which has already been approved by the other 27 nations of the EU.

"The challenge for Ukraine is now to make the most of the association agreement," the Italian ambassador says.

## Reforms needed

According to La Cecilia, about 300 Italian companies operate in Ukraine.

UniCredit, a global Italian banking group, sold UkrSotsbank and left the market at the end of last year because of problems in Ukraine's business environment, the ambassador says.

"This is why we insist that Ukraine improve the level of legality in business," La Cecilia says, adding that the justice reform is crucial to building confidence among investors.

He says Ukraine also has to reform public administration, health-care, and land market. The fight against corruption is also vital, as well as privatizing large state-owned enterprises.

"We see a lot of progress in terms of legislation, but we would like to see more progress in implementa-



People row during the masquerade parade on the Grand Canal during the Venice Carnival on Feb. 12 in Italy. (AFP)

tion," La Cecilia says.

He adds that "Ukraine has made huge progress," but mostly due to "the very strong civil society."

## Strong support

Italy, which holds the presidency of the G7 this year, fully supports the sovereignty and integrity of Ukraine, La Cecilia says. He believes there should be a diplomatic solution to Russia's war in eastern Ukraine, saying that sanctions are "one of the instruments in this regard."

"Italy is committed to international values and principles, and we will apply sanctions until there is a solution to the conflict," he says.

But according to La Cecilia, the Italian government is concerned with the humanitarian situation in Ukraine's war-torn Donbas.

Early in 2017, Italy transferred \$1.25 million to the United Nations Children's Fund as humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians affected by the war in the Donbas. Italy also has more than 20 monitors working for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Special Monitoring Mission in eastern Ukraine.

Apart from that, La Cecilia says, Italy supports Ukraine through its obligations to the International Monetary Fund and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Italy contributed \$100 million for the construction of the New Safe Confinement, a massive, arched, steel structure to cover the ruined remains of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, the fourth reac-

tor of which exploded in 1986.

The Italian company Cimolai Technology was involved in building part of the structure, which was moved into position over the destroyed reactor in November.

## Easy collaboration

"Ukraine is the center of Europe, and

the center of Europe is central to Europe," La Cecilia says, explaining why Italy is interested in Ukraine. "It's fundamental to Europe that Ukraine is a partner."

The granting of visa-free travel, he says, is a signal that Europe is interested in furthering that partnership.

According to La Cecilia, Italians

and Ukrainians collaborate easily, as they have many qualities in common: "We're romantic and do things in an unconventional way, and we have the capacity to solve problems with a lot of flexibility."

"When you come here, you feel at home. You don't need time for adaptation." ■



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# Ukrainians in Italy for work first, but also find pleasure

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO  
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Ukrainians move to Italy for a range of reasons: Some are seeking a degree from a European university, while others want to join family or loved ones living in the country.

But most go for work. According to Ukrainian Embassy in Italy, more than 66 percent of the 240,000 Ukrainians who are in the country legally are employed.

Viktoria Drembluga, who moved from Kyiv to Milan in 2012, said that it was easy to find a job in Italy, because most of the shops are looking for Russian-speaking staff all year round. Drembluga said that it took her a month to get a job in retail, but the most difficult part was to get an official work permit, because it took a lot of paperwork.

"Even opening a bank account was difficult," she complained. "You don't have the documents required to open an account, but to obtain those documents you need a bank account. It's a vicious circle."

However, in the end, it was worth it, she said.

"If you work here and you're good at what you do, you're always well-paid – that's the difference between Ukraine and Italy," she said, adding that in her field, retail, people make around 1,400 euros a month net – only slightly less than the average net salary of 1,762 euros a month.

More than 85 percent of the Ukrainians employed in Italy work in the services industry, according to the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. Drembluga said that



Lily Petrangovska, who has lived in Italy since 2016, poses for a photo in the country's fashion capital Milan. Petrangovska is one of 240,000 Ukrainians who live in Italy. (Facebook/Petrangovska)

Ukrainians often get jobs in stores, restaurants, beauty salons, and as cleaners or nurses.

A lot of money they make is sent home to help their families in Ukraine. Given the difference in prices between Ukraine and Italy, the savings of a waiter in Italy can

feed a whole family in a Ukrainian province.

Ukrainians working in Italy send a total around 125 million euros a year back to their families in Ukraine, according to the Italian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy.

## A worker's life

Svitlana Babyna, who lives in Liguria region in northwestern Italy, said that the move to Italy has split her life into "before" and "after."

Babyna, 56, was diagnosed with autoimmune disease 12 years ago and needed a liver transplant that her family couldn't afford. Luckily for Babyna, the Italian family who once hosted her daughter stepped in.

They wrote an open letter to then-President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, and Babyna ended up having her transplant operation free of charge in Liguria. Members of the public in Ligurian also donated money to Babyna for her trip.

"My case proves how generous Italians are," Babyna told the Kyiv Post.

After her operation, Babyna stayed in Italy and found a job as a nurse for elderly people. She said she missed home, but "she feels calmer here because of the social welfare." She socializes with the Ukrainian diaspora in Liguria and often attends the various celebrations and events they organize.

Babyna said that there are lots of Ukrainians in Liguria, especially from the western regions of Ukraine, who moved to Italy for jobs that are better-paid than any they can find in Ukraine. Many of them, like herself, have a university degree, but their education doesn't help them in Italy, where a Ukrainian diploma isn't highly valued.

"We do the work that Italians won't do," Babyna said. "Many Ukrainians came to Italy to earn money, but it doesn't mean that they are happy here and don't miss their homes."

## Younger generation

However, Babyna said that her 25-year-old daughter Olga, who moved to Italy in 2010, sees everything in a different light and "doesn't know the life of a laborer."

Olga Babyna, 25, graduated this year from the medical faculty of the prestigious University of Bologna. She speaks fluent Italian and has lots of Italian friends.

"I'm very happy to spend my student years in Italy," the young woman said. "Studying is very hard, but people never complain. Even when they study for 10 hours per day, they do it with a smile and with confidence. I truly respect them for that!"

Another student from Ukraine, Eugenia Shpakovska, who studies communications and business administration in Rome, said that she didn't have any difficulties in getting on with people as there were many non-Italians at her university.

"We're all like fish out of water, so we took it not as a problem, but funny to be different from the locals," she said.

Shpakovska said that she loved Italy because it's "emotional, fun and simple."

She said that the main difference of living in Italy compared to Ukraine is that people "don't dedicate their



Eugenia Shpakovska, who has lived in Rome for four years, poses in Rome's Botanic Garden. (Facebook/Photoshoot in Rome)

life to work, but spend evenings with their family, and appreciate relationships more than money."

## Love is the key

Fashion blogger Lily Petrangovska, who moved to Milan in 2016, agreed that "in Italy people live their lives to the full, while in Ukraine they are just surviving."

For Petrangovska, it was easy to find a job in Milan: The city is one of the world's fashion capitals and she gets many offers of work. She also said that she previously lived in Poland and the United Kingdom, but so far Italy has been her favorite place to live. She said it flattered her when people call her Ukrainian-Italian.

"You just have to love Italy, admire Italians and speak Italian with pleasure – and then everything is going to be fine," she said. ■



## Thousands join charity Chestnut Run in Kyiv

Athletes start running in the 5-kilometer Chestnut Run on May 28. The annual sports event in Kyiv with a 25-year-old history is more than just one race. The run that took place in Kyiv on May 28 included five races: 10 meters for toddlers, 300 meters for children up to 15 years, 300 meters "for the bravest" people in wheelchairs and two races of 5 kilometers each for professionals and amateurs. Every year since 1993, the Chestnut Run is held as part of the Days of Kyiv celebration during the last weekend of May. Apart from sports, the Chestnut Run promotes charity. The organizers raise money for the Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery Center in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)



# 2 Italian expats fall in love with Ukraine at first sight

BY MARIA ROMANENKO  
MRO@UKR.NET

The Kyiv Post asked two Italians in Kyiv what they love about Ukraine and its capital.

## Luciano Scambiato Licciardi, three years in Ukraine

Luciano Scambiato Licciardi, a 33-year-old strategic communications adviser who moved from the Sicilian town of Mazzarino to Kyiv three years ago, has an eye for style. He wears Ukrainian-designed clothes every day, and can occasionally be seen wearing vyshyvankas – traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirts.

“There are lots of Ukrainian designers in every field, and I think it’s important to support their creativity and innovations,” he says while admiring the cityscape from the terrace bar on the eighth floor of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Kyiv.

Scambiato Licciardi says he fell in love with Ukraine after moving to the country in May 2014, just months after Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea.

“We have to move a lot for our work, and whenever you move from places, you move on fast. But with Ukraine, it was different. I fell in love with everything – apart from the cold,” he laughs.

Winters have been the biggest challenge.

“I now understand why Kyiv has so many underground shopping centers – it’s for warming up,” he smiles knowingly. “For me –20 to –25 degrees is very, very cold.”

Another challenge for Scambiato Licciardi was reading Ukrainian.

For the first few days, he was lost at the sight of Cyrillic letters “But step-by-step you get used to the



Luciano Scambiato Licciardi poses on the terrace of his office in historical Kyiv area of Podil on May 30. Ever since his move to Kyiv three years ago, Scambiato Licciardi has embraced Ukrainian culture by wearing mostly Ukrainian clothing and accessories. (Volodymyr Petrov)

language, I also did a little course in Russian, so now I can order taxis, food and things like that.”

He says that today 60 percent of his friends are Ukrainian.

“What I find most impressive is that if people don’t speak English, they will take you by hand and

lead you to the places you need,” Scambiato Licciardi says. In other big cities, people are “always in a rush.”

He likes learning about Ukrainian culture and exploring different cities.

“The other day I learned that Ukrainian unity was proclaimed

from the balcony of a building near where I live. That’s why I like going out with Ukrainians. You learn culture and history from them, and you never get bored.”

He says that lately there have been even more positive changes in Ukraine, with the nation passing its most recent test by hosting the Eurovision Song Contest in May.

Scambiato Licciardi likes Ukrainian food, but when he feels like eating Italian, the city has a lot of good options. He is not planning to leave Ukraine soon but understands that it will happen eventually.

“I’m working in a field that advises (the government) on reforms, so I want to see where the country will go,” he says. “But these things take time.”

## Vincenzo Robustelli, two years in Ukraine

When he first came to Kyiv about seven years ago, Vincenzo Robustelli was 22. He also fell in love with the city immediately.

“I play football and I’ve been a big fan of (footballer) Andriy Shevchenko since I was a child. I wore his shirt and had a poster of him by my desk at school, so that’s why living in Kyiv has always been my dream,” he says.

Now 29, Robustelli says he couldn’t stay in Kyiv any longer than 10 days due to his work commitments in Brussels. But then in December 2014 a job offer came from an Italian company in Kyiv, and he agreed without hesitation.

He says Kyiv felt completely differ-

ent than in 2010. The EuroMaidan Revolution that drove President Viktor Yanukovich from power in 2014, triggering Russia’s war against Ukraine and the loss of Crimea and parts of the Donbas, have brought tangible changes.

“I think people have changed a lot, and they’ve started to want to do things better. But the problem with the city is that while some people want to grow, others think there’s nothing they can do. This just makes me angry, because it’s not true.”

Robustelli thinks that Ukrainian people are similar to people of his hometown of Catania and Sicily in general.

“For some reason there is a stereotype about Eastern Europeans being cold. I don’t know about other nations, but that is definitely not true for Ukrainians. They are very friendly and share everything with you, especially after they get to know you.”

Robustelli says he does not miss Italian food that much because he thinks Ukrainian cuisine is just as good. But the winters are another matter.

“The winter here is terrible, especially for me as a Sicilian – at home we have summer all year round. I also lived near the sea and it was so easy to go for a swim whenever I was feeling low.”

Now Robustelli speaks Ukrainian quite well and hopes to become a Ukrainian citizen one day. Ukraine has truly become his home, and he has four patriotic Ukrainian tattoos now. ■



Vincenzo Robustelli, from the Italian city of Catania, speaks with the Kyiv Post at Kyiv’s Shevchenko Boulevard on May 28. Robustelli says that Ukrainian people are very similar to Sicilians, who are also very warm and friendly. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# Italian chefs reveal secrets, favorite restaurants in Kyiv

BY MARIYA KAPINOS  
 KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

Good pizza should take less than two minutes to make. Good olive oil costs at least 15 euros per bottle. Good recipes can sometimes be hundreds of years old.

Those are just a few of the titbits of knowledge that can be gleaned from Italian chefs working in Kyiv. Coming from different parts of Italy and experts in a variety of dishes, they all have one thing in common: for them, cooking is not just work, but a very important part of their culture. The Kyiv Post spoke with four of them.

**Fabrizio Righetti, 30. Chef at Mille Miglia in Radisson Blu Kyiv hotel (22 Yaroslaviv Val St.):** "Classy food up to Roman standards."

Mille Miglia prides itself on serving up absolutely authentic Italian cuisine, and its chef, Fabrizio Righetti, doesn't pander to clients by adjusting Italian recipes for the Ukrainian palate. He serves his dishes according to the standards one would expect in Rome, strictly following the recipe, and upholding the highest standards of good, traditional Italian cuisine.

Righetti came to Kyiv in February 2013. Before coming, he knew almost nothing about Ukraine: "For Italians, Eastern Europe is like a secret place. At school, we only learned about the Soviet Union, and that's pretty much all we know."

Righetti tells the story of a client who came to his restaurant and was surprised by the menu, which didn't strike him as particularly Italian. "What the man didn't know is that Italy is very vari-colored," says Righetti. "The north is famous for using a lot of butter and onions, while in the south, Italians prefer to use garlic and olive oil. Rome, from where I come, is known for its pasta dishes."

Most of the products he uses in his kitchen are imported — only some of the vegetables are locally produced.

Righetti prefers to eat at home and avoids Italian restaurants. He says he finds them too boring.

Talking about Italian cuisine, Righetti advises Ukrainians to try dishes in which all of the ingredients are familiar. "If you have pasta — you'll be fine," he smiles.

**From his menu he suggests ordering:**

Rigatoni Cacio E Pepe: a typical pasta dish from Rome. Hr 285

Tagliata Di Manzo: simple and classy — grilled beef with rocket lettuce and cherry tomato. Hr 480

Filetti Di Branzino: sea bass fillet with white wine, onions and mashed potatoes. Hr 480

**Restaurants he goes to in Kyiv:** Ukrainian cuisine at Spotykach (16 Volodymyrska St.) and Kanapa (19A Andriyivskiy Uzviz), Georgian cuisine in Cha-Cha Bar (11 Volodymyrska St.), Korean food at Arirang (160 Antonovycha St.)

Fabrizio Righetti, an Italian chef at Mille Miglia in Radisson Blu Kyiv hotel, poses for a photograph at his workplace on May 29. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Andrea Nori, chef and owner at Casa Nori, shows an old book of original Italian recipes on May 30. (Volodymyr Petrov)

**Andrea Nori, 46. Chef at Casa Nori (1 Borisohlybska St.):** "Serves dishes from old Italian fairytales."

Andrea Nori regards Italian cuisine as a treasure, and compares his own work to conducting an orchestra. Some of the dishes he serves are from an old book of Italian recipes that are at least 100 years old.

"Every dish has a history. For example, we serve octopus with champagne. Not everybody knows that this recipe is described in an old fairytale, in which two fishermen cook octopus with wine."

While Nori works by the motto "Good old traditions can be modified without spoiling the original taste," he sometimes reverts to cooking dishes the way they made in the past.

He is from Veneto region in northeastern Italy, which includes such cities as Venice, Verona and Padua, and

he mostly specializes in that region's cuisine. He says Italian cuisine has to be made with Italian products grown under the Italian sun, so he uses products ordered from Italy in 90 percent of the dishes he makes. He buys Italian olive oil for the restaurant for 15 euros per bottle.

He has been living in Ukraine for about 10 years, but opened his restaurant only in 2016. Asked what is important for a restaurant to succeed, he says, "everything is important, even the cleaning woman who cleans up in the morning."

Nori likes Ukrainian cuisine, especially pea soup, but doesn't visit restaurants very often, preferring simple food cooked at home. In the summer he barbeques food outdoors with his family.

**Dishes he recommends from his restaurant:**

Oca in Pighata — stewed goose with risotto and green peas. Hr 225

Ravioli Verdi e Ricotta (Nori's mother's recipe): spinach extract with ricotta whey cheese, olive oil and grated Grana Padano cheese. Hr 165

Gnocchi al Sugo di Carne e Grana Padano (served only on Fridays): small dumplings with a meat sauce and Grana Padano cheese. Nori says the dish reminds him of the carnivals back home in Verona. Hr 135

**Restaurants he visits in Kyiv:** Petrus restaurant, famous for its traditional Ukrainian varenyky (28 Esplanadna St.)

Passalacqua uses are from Italy, but the vegetables and meat are mostly Ukrainian-produced.

What differentiates his restaurant Pantagruel from the others is that it has one of the best wine cellars in Ukraine.

The menu in Pantagruel changes every two weeks. Dishes are added, others removed depending on the season. Passalacqua says he finds inspiration everywhere. Sometimes he goes to the market and is suddenly inspired to put a new dish on the menu: "Now it is the season for asparagus, and we'll make a risotto with it."

Originally Passalacqua is from Italian region of Liguria — the strip of coast that runs from the south-eastern coast of France to the north of the Italian peninsula, centered around the city of Genoa — but when cooking his tastes include all of the regions of Italy.

Passalacqua says Ukrainian cuisine is also diverse: In Odesa, there are many Jewish influences, and in the West — Hungarian.

"I like Ukrainian cuisine. I like working with Ukrainians. If I didn't, I wouldn't have spent 16 years here."

**Dishes he recommends from his restaurant:** Any dish that includes the 10 home-made pastas he makes, such as spinach fettuccine with anchovies, asparagus and tomatoes, for Hr 249, or fettuccine with seafood in a light tomato sauce, for Hr 299.

**Restaurants he visits in Kyiv:** Passalacqua says he eats everywhere, but prefers Pizzeria Napule



**Costantino Passalacqua, 48. Chef at Pantagruel (1 Mykoly Lysenka St.):** "A good wine saves the day."

Costantino Passalacqua was one of the first chefs in Kyiv to teach local cooks what real Italian cuisine should be like.

Passalacqua has lived in Ukraine for 16 years, and has his own style of cooking. He knows a lot about Ukrainian cuisine but knows even more about Italian food and wine. Some of the ingredients

## Perfect pizza in less than 2 minutes? The best reveal how it is done

Chefs from page 18

(9 Mechnikova St.), Mille Miglia (22 Yaroskavyy Val St.) and Casa Nori (1 Borishlybska St.)



**Giuseppe Irollo, 44. Chef at Pizzeria Napule (9 Mechnikova St.):** "Perfect pizza in less than two minutes."

Pizzeria Napule was born after Sergiy Gusovsky decided to create a proper Italian restaurant in Kyiv. The restaurant was originally designed to a paragon of what a pizzeria should be like: with an oven that heats up to 450 degrees, and an indisputably Italian chef. Giuseppe Irollo became that chef, and he has been proudly in charge of the kitchen for about 10 years.

Irollo orders most of the products — such as flour, salami and olive oil — from Italy, and buys fresh vegetables in Ukraine. It is little surprise that Irollo is so fascinated with pizza given that he is from the Campone region in the south of Italy, centered around the city of Naples, which is famous for pizza.

Apart from pizza, Irollo likes local Ukrainian cuisine, such as Chicken Kyiv, Olivier salad, and Napoleon cake.

Irollo shared a couple of secrets with the Kyiv Post on what perfect pizza is supposed to look like: When a customer takes a slice, it should immediately bend down under the weight of its filling. He also insists that pizza should be eaten immediately after being prepared.

With the right stove and at the right temperature, Italian pizza can be prepared in less than two minutes.

**Dishes he recommends from his restaurant:**

Marinara — the oldest type of pizza in Italy, with lots of basil, garlic and olive oil. Hr 450

Calzone: folded pizza, in the shape of the Moon, with ricotta, mozzarella and prosciutto. Hr 490

Lava del Vesuvio — a variation of another pizza called Diavolo, with hot pepper, and special cherry tomatoes that grow near the Vesuvius, the famous volcano near Naples. Hr 450

**Restaurants he visits in Kyiv:** Brazilian restaurant Grill de Brazil (24 Lesi Ukrainki St.) and Italian restaurant Panna Pasticceria (6/11 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.) ■



Members of Parlamo Italiano speaking club talk during a meeting at Gulliver food court on May 28. (Volodymyr Petrov)

# Food, culture and language of Italy fascinate club's members

Club from page 14

are especially valuable for him as he mostly speaks English, French and Japanese during his business hours.

"It's nice to use my native language," he said.

The club members are of different ages, nationalities, and occupations. They include Italian expat Alessandro Bottini, a 75-year-old retiree, Yulia Zubchuk, a 21-year-old Ukrainian psychology student, and 42-year-old Nodar Chigo, who comes from Georgia and plans to move to Italy.

Some participants leave soon, but there is a core group of both Ukrainians and Italians who have met together regularly for a while and who have become real friends. They don't just attend the official meetings of the club, but also cook dinners, go bowling and go on excursions together.

Voitsekhova says that Italians can always ask for help with translation or advice about living in Kyiv. Ukrainians in turn can ask their foreign friends to bring some products from Italy.

"We all feel support," Voitsekhova told the Kyiv Post.

### Lifetime love

Once people visit Italy, they get addicted for life, club members say.

"It's a drug," Nataliia Yakovleva, a journalism student and member of the speaking club said. Like many other members of Parlamo Italiano, she is currently planning another trip and already has tickets to go to Milan this summer. Club mem-

bers like the Italian temperament, lifestyle, traditions, and cuisine, and they can talk about these forever.

Yakovleva says that she likes the Italian attitude to the world. They are very friendly and open, and family means the world to them.

"The mother is the most important person to an Italian man, no matter if he is 15 or 75," she said.

Italians often have big families, and Yakovleva loves their tradition of gathering together for big family dinners.

Daria Zolotareva, a beauty and travel blogger who joined the club a month ago, has been to Italy 17 times over the last three years.

"I fell in love (with Italy) and I felt so good there — like never before," she said.

Zolotareva says that Italians are debonair and have generous souls. She was won over by their talent for enjoying every day to the fullest.

"They don't save themselves for a better time," she said.

Yulia Maistrenko, a lawyer who has been to Italy many times under the program for children affected by the Chernobyl disaster, says that Italians are very "impulsive, bright, enchanting and emotional."

She agrees with Zolotareva, and says that Italians' life is like a continuous holiday.

"They know how to live beautifully," she added.

Yakovleva believes the reason for this is that people who grow up surrounded by the beauty of Italian architecture, cathedrals, frescoes and sculptures have a special way of seeing the world.

### Gastronomic paradise

Italian is one of the most popular cuisines in the world, due to their love of food and the high-quality products they use.

Yakovleva says that cooking is like art for Italians.

Voitsekhova says that if Italians don't like a dish, they won't eat it. They cook fresh food every day, and will never understand the Ukrainian habit of making a big pot of borscht and eating it over a week.

"I know one Italian who checked the expiration date on every egg, because he wouldn't eat stale products," she said.

### Learning Italian

Parlamo Italiano members say that most Italian language classes in Kyiv provide a basic knowledge, but for those who already know the basics there are few options.

To improve language skills, the first thing members are advised

to do is watch Italian videos on YouTube.

Yakovleva says that Italian bloggers make excellent video lessons on grammar and conversational language. She also follows Italians on Instagram and reads their comments and watches Instagram Stories.

"It is not some stereotypical material prepared for you, it is real life," she said.

Voitsekhova says that she loves listening to Radio Italia on a mobile app, as it is a great way to keep up with the news in Italy, as well as good language practice.

But the best way to learn is to talk to native speakers — by visiting speaking clubs and traveling to Italy.

Just don't take to heart one of the most popular Italian phrases — *bel far niente* — which means "the beauty of doing nothing."

Parlamo Italiano gathers every Sunday at 3 p.m. at the food court of the Gulliver shopping mall (1A Sportyvna Sq.) ■

### Italy at a glance

**Total area:** 301,230 square kilometers

**Population:** 59.9 million

**Government type:** Republic

**Head of state:** President Sergio

Mattarella

**Head of government:** Prime

Minister Paolo Gentiloni

**GDP:** \$1.895 trillion (2017 estimate)

**GDP per capita:** \$30,891 (2017

estimate)

**Main sectors of the economy:** machinery, chemicals, food processing, textiles, tourism

**Ukrainians in Italy:** 240,000 (2016)

**Italians in Ukraine:** 420 (2001)

### Ukraine-Italy relations

**Trade:** \$3.28 billion

**Exports from Ukraine to Italy:**

grain, ferrous metals, wood

**Exports from Italy to Ukraine:**

nuclear reactors, machinery, mineral

fuels, textile

**Italian direct investment in**

**Ukraine:** \$209 million

Sources: State Statistics Service

in Ukraine, International Monetary

Fund, Italian Embassy to Ukraine

# Italian restaurants in Kyiv



**ФАМІЛІЯ**

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**ФАМІЛІЯ**

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WE HOST SUMMER!

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RESTAURANT AT DRUZHBY NARODOV AVENUE NEAR THE METRO STATION WAS OPENED IN 2008 AND BECAME A REAL ISLAND OF PEACE AND CALM IN THE CROWDED PLACE. ESPECIALLY COMFORTABLE IS THE REAR TERRACE WHICH ALLOWS YOU TO FORGET THAT JUST SEVERAL METERS SEPARATE YOU FROM A BUSY HIGHWAY.

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RESTAURANT AT  
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**ФАМІЛІЯ**

RESTAURANT AT  
1A, NIKOLSKO-SLOBODSKA STR.  
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**ФАМІЛІЯ**

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10, VERHNIY VAL STR.  
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**Vero Vero**  
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WE HOST SUMMER!

**ФАМІЛІЯ**  
WE HOST SUMMER!

# Best outdoor music shows to enjoy in Kyiv this June

BY TOMA ISTOMINA  
ISTTOMA@GMAIL.COM

An outdoor concert is a perfect way to spend time in summer, listening to good live music in the cool of the evening.

Concert platforms and clubs in Kyiv have prepared a rich program of events coming up in June.

Kyiv Post has picked some of the most interesting ones.

## Classics in the garden

Svitlo (Light) Concert initiative is aimed to start the new concert culture in Ukraine. The motto of the team is "We make magic concerts." It has announced four outdoor musical events for the first month of summer – a concert by the orchestra Kyiv Virtuosos on June 2, two Serenades evenings on June 9 and 16, Harp and Orchestra concert on June 17. All of them will be held in a beautiful and relaxing place – Gryshko National Botanical Garden – where the visitors can enjoy both music and nature.

*Classics in the garden. June 2, 9, 16, 17. 8 p.m. Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazev St.) Hr 300*

## Poems and Jazz on the roof

Kasha Saltsova, a Ukrainian singer, and leader of the Krykhitka band, will read literary works to jazz music. The program includes love letters of Ukrainian writers, poetry written in Kyiv and poems about the love to Kyiv. A singer will also tell the secrets of a relationship between two prominent Ukrainian writers – Lesya Ukrainka and Olga Kobylanska. The



Kyiv Virtuosos orchestra performs in Gryshko National Botanical Garden in Kyiv on May 20. (Courtesy)

evening is to be held in the concert hall located on the roof, where the charming panoramic view on the city opens.

*Poetry and Jazz on the roof. June 7. 8 p.m. Roof (37-41 Sichovyh Striltsiv St.) Hr 150-450*

## Classics on the terrace

D12 terrace is a great place to

spend the night – relax, drink wine, and watch the sunset listening to classics. National Chamber Orchestra "Kyiv Soloists," which includes violins, violas, and cellos, will play the music of 20th century – famous compositions by Strauss, Shostakovich, Britten, Schnittke, and Andersen.

*Classics on the terrace. June 13.*

*8 p.m. D12 (12 Desiatynna St.) Hr 150-350*

## Jazz on the roof – Love Songs

This romantic evening on the roof was prepared for all those who want to dive into the love mood. The event is a great occasion to spend time with the loved ones

and enjoy a summer night. Ruslan Egorov Quartet, which consists of four talented jazz musicians, will play compositions saturated with love.

*Jazz on the roof – Love Songs. June 14. 8 p.m. Roof (37-41 Sichovyh Striltsiv St.) Hr 150-450*

## Jazz at the beach

The club South Coast of Kyiv sets two events this month that will unite the lovers of summer and jazz. On June 15 National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine will entertain the visitors with the music of jazz legends – Ella Fitzgerald, Shirley Bassey, Frank Sinatra, James Brown, Ray Charles, Herbie Hancock. On June 22 Ruslan Egorov Quartet will play Brazilian music Bossa Nova, which combines hot samba and jazz. The events will take place on Trukhaniv island right at the beach, which is 200 meters from Pishohidnyi (Pedestrian) Bridge.

*Jazz at the beach. June 15, 22. 8 p.m. Trukhaniv island. Hr 200. On June 15 – Hr 300.*

## Poems and Jazz on Terrace

The thematic evening will try to create an atmosphere of Paris in 1920s, when everyone wanted to have fun. It was also a golden time for jazz, which was in bloom. The visitors will have an opportunity to listen to Pavlo Ignatiev playing the piano, Lana Merkulova singing and Ivan Yakimov reading poetry at the beautiful terrace.

*Poems and Jazz on Terrace. June 22. 8 p.m. D12 (12 Desiatynna St.) Hr 150-450 ■*

## Does a good May mean Ukraine's luck is turning?

Merry from page 9

Ukraine pay for gas that it did not use, under a so-called "take-or-pay" clause. Gazprom moved for arbitration against Naftogaz in June 2014, demanding that Ukraine pay for the extra gas as well as interest on the payment.

Naftogaz CEO Andriy Kobolyev celebrated the ruling in a Facebook post that played the Queen song "We Are The Champions."

Now that Gazprom's legal challenge has been vanquished, Kobolyev and his management team have no procedural obstacles to unbundling Naftogaz and turning the state-owned hydrocarbon monopoly into separate, competing companies, creating an open, European gas market here as a goal.

Politically, it remains unclear how that will proceed. But European Bank of Reconstruction and Development's regional managing

director, Francis Malige, said that the ruling would "enable the company to move forward on restructuring," and that "the time to move on unbundling is now."

## 6 Eurovision success

For the first two weeks of May, Kyiv successfully hosted the annual European song contest, with 64,000 people attending nine different shows and an estimated 20,000 tourists flocking to the city from abroad to take part in the festivities.

Reviews from visitors, contestants and officials were generally positive, and local businesses said Eurovision brought them more customers. For Ukraine, which budgeted \$32 million for the event, it was a chance to advertise itself to the world and boost its image as more than just a country with a war in its eastern regions. ■



## Traditions and fashion merge at Vyshyvanka March in Kyiv

A woman walks with Ukrainian flag at the Vyshyvanka March during Days of Kyiv celebrations on May 27. This year, about 400 people wearing Ukrainian traditional embroidered shirts have attended Kyiv's Vyshyvanka March. The yearly rally is a part of the Days of Kyiv – last weekend Ukraine's capital celebrated its 1,535th anniversary. Participants, young and old, met near the Golden Gates monument, sang Ukraine's anthem and walked down to Khreshchatyk Street, to Maidan Nezalezhnosti Square, and to Yevropeyska Square. Some people brought their pets, also dressed in vyshyvankas. (Volodymyr Petrov)

June 9



(Courtesy)

## Black Business (party)

Enough with the boring office meetings, let's talk at a party. Black Business party invites managers and business owners. According to organizers, this is the first party where one can sell or buy business, as well as find new staff members or simply make new business contacts.  
**Black Business Party, June 9. 7 p.m. SkyBar (5 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 300**

## We Love '90s (party)

Leggings and weird hairstyles, sports costumes and men's handbags – it's time to fish these 1990s attributes out of the closet and wear for the We Love 90s party. Guests will take part in entertaining quests and dance to the hits by Dr. Alban, Army of Lovers, Scooter, Mr. President and Backstreet Boys.

**We Love '90s party, June 2. 7 p.m. Carribean Club (4 Petlury St.) Hr 120 – 250**

June 2



(Courtesy)

June 8



(Blood Brothers/facebook)

## Blood Brothers (music show)

For those who love Iron Maiden but don't have any chance to watch their show live, there is an opportunity now. Blood brothers not only play the songs of the famous British heavy metal band, but also dress like them and copy their manners.

**Blood Brothers music show, June 8. 8 p.m. Atlas club (37-41 Sichivyh Stryltsiv St.) Hr 150 – 450**

## ATB (music show)

ATB is a German electric band. DJ Andre Tanneberger, band's frontman, has remixes of Moby, Ellie, Goulding, Tiesto, Ferry Corsten and Above&Beyond in his repertoire. During the show in Kyiv, he will present his new, 10th album NeXt, which was officially released on April 21.

**ATB music show, June 2. 9 p.m. Stereo Plaza, (119 Chervonozoryanyi Av.) Hr 599 – 3000**



(ATB/facebook)

June 2

## Ievgeniy Pugachov Trio (jazz concert)

Ievgeniy Pugachov trio is a combination of three Jazz giants: American drummer Frank Parker, guitar tamer Evgeniy Pugachov, and fortepiano and pipe organ master Mikhailo Lyshenko. The trio promises the best songs ever with the high quality jazz sound.

**Ievgeniy Pugachov trio Jazz Concert, June 6. 8 p.m. Carribean Club (4 Petlury St.) Hr 150 – 350**



(Courtesy)

June 6

# KyivPost

## CITY OF ODESA CONSULTANT

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**Compiled by Mariya Kapinos**



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**KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Master's Degree in Public Administration, Business Administration, Finance or a relevant field
- A minimum of 7 years of experience working in local government budgeting and financial management or related field;
- Prior experience working with USAID or other international donor-funded infrastructure projects, preferred.
- Successful track record advising local governments on budgeting and financial management or related issues
- Ability to establish strong working relationships with government officials, civic leaders, business people and international donors.
- Professional proficiency in written and spoken English, and Ukrainian and/or Russian.

**PROGRAM OFFICER IN DNIPIRO**  
The Program officer will implement direct activities of DOBRE in partner consolidated communities (CCs), including working with local government officials, councils, local NGOs/CBOs and others. He/she will deliver technical assistance, training and other program implementation to local governments, CBOs/NGOs and communities, work closely with RCSOs/LCSOs and other DOBRE partners, maintain effective working relationships with local government and CBO/NGO counterparts, help maintain effective, accountable and transparent grants management.

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS**

- Bachelor's degree in public administration, economic development, business administration, planning or related field;
- At least 4 years of experience in a related field;
- Understanding of strategic planning, local economic development, service delivery, local government operations, citizen participation and/or NGO strengthening;
- Good organizational and inter-personal skills;
- Proficiency in English preferred. Ukrainian and/or Russian communication skills required.

Full job descriptions are available at:  
**Local Government Budget & Financial Management Specialist** (<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/local-government-budget-financial-management-specialist-2>)

**Program officer in Dnipro:** <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/program-officer-dnipro>  
Candidates are asked to provide their CVs as well as salary history and the names and email addresses of three references, preferably direct supervisors, to [UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org](mailto:UkraineHR@globalcommunities.org) by June 16, 2017, indicating the position title in the subject line.



KfW, the German development bank, is seeking a qualified consultant. The position is project-related with a contract duration of one year. The volume of work will comprise approx. 11 working days per month. The focus will be on developing several projects related to socially orientated financing (e.g. social housing, small business start-ups), which will partly be channeled via the Ukrainian banking sector. Within the framework of Ukrainian-German financial cooperation, KfW's portfolio in these areas is expanding. The consultant shall be based in Kyiv and report to the Director of the KfW office in Ukraine as well as to the responsible Project Managers in KfW headquarters in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

**The main responsibilities in relation to the above mentioned projects shall include:**

- To liaise with, advise and coordinate the national project partners and other stakeholders of financial cooperation projects;
- To discuss with, advise and support the responsible sector teams at KfW HQ in the processes of identification, preparation and implementation of financial cooperation activities;
- To monitor and report on relevant developments, policies and donor activities;
- To contribute to the fulfillment of supervisory and reporting requirements;
- To provide organizational support to, and participate in, KfW missions visiting Ukraine.

**The required qualifications are:**

- University Degree in Business Administration, Banking, Economics or Law;
- At least seven years of working experience, of which at least five years directly related to social and municipal investments and/or SME finance;
- Excellent Ukrainian/Russian and English or German language skills, including the ability to produce reports in these languages;
- Project management, organization as well as oral and written presentation skills;
- General understanding of banking and finance as well as development cooperation;
- Ability and readiness to travel in- and outside Ukraine.

**The following experiences and skills will be considered as additional advantages:**

- Longer professional experience;
- Experience in other fields of development cooperation;
- Working experience in an international environment / team;
- Good knowledge of the financial sector;
- Excellent English and German language skills.

Please address your applications in German or English, which must include CV and compelling motivation letter, electronically to [vacancies-kyiv@kfw.de](mailto:vacancies-kyiv@kfw.de) no later than 14th of June 2017. Only short-listed candidates will be invited for interviews. Questions should be directed to the email address named above.



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