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Poroshenko Leads Ukraine Offshore In Paradise Papers



President Petro Poroshenko leads the list of 11 Ukrainians who feature in the Paradise Papers, a new leak of 13.4 million offshore documents from the Bermudas and Singapore. The revelations add to suspicions that Poroshenko was trying to minimize taxes and putting his business interests above those of the state while leading a country at war. Süddeutsche Zeitung, the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project investigated the documents. (ICIJ / Rocco Fazzar)

Poroshenko lawyers deny charges that president is minimizing taxes

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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The Paradise Papers, a major new leak of documents about offshore companies published on Nov. 5, has added to suspicions that President

Petro Poroshenko was seeking tax benefits when setting up Prime Asset Partners Limited in the British Virgin Islands in 2014.

Poroshenko and his lawyers vehemently deny any tax-minimization plans and argue that their aim was to pay as much in taxes in Ukraine as possible.

The Paradise Papers, a leak of 13.4 million offshore documents, mostly came from two offshore services firms in the Bermudas and Singapore, as well as from 19 corporate registries in secret offshore jurisdictions.

more **Poroshenko** on page **3**

Ukraine loses wealth as rich, powerful set up offshore schemes

BY BERMET TALANT
BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

The world's rich and powerful people continue to surprise the rest of the world with how secretly and unfairly their wealth is being secured.

The Paradise Papers, a leak of

13.4 million offshore documents published on Nov. 5 mostly came from two offshore services firms, Bermuda-based Appleby and Singapore-based Asiatic Trust, as well as from 19 corporate registries

more **Offshore** on page **14**

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CURRENCY WATCH
Hr 26.85 to \$1
November 9 market rate



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Reform Watch

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post tracks the progress made by Ukraine's post-EuroMaidan Revolution leaders in making structural changes in the public interest in a broad range of areas, from the defense and energy sectors, to taxation and pensions. Below are the main issues in focus from Nov. 3-10.

Summary

Time is running out for more major reform this year in Ukraine. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, after being forced to support the creation of anti-corruption court on Oct. 4, is stalling for time.

On Nov. 8, a month after the European Commission for Democracy Through Law (better known as the Council of Europe's Venice Commission) provided recommendations for the anti-corruption bill, Poroshenko asked the Rada to form a working group to draft the bill on an anti-corruption court.

The opposition vowed to call off their own bill on anti-corruption court, following the Venice Commission's recommendation that the president should submit the bill himself, and expecting for the president to use their draft. But now that Poroshenko wants to develop one from scratch, the opposition lawmakers accuse him of playing for time.

Meanwhile the creation of an agricultural land market in Ukraine is stalled, and Ukraine's financial backers appear to be resigned to the fact that no progress will be made until next year at the earliest.

The issue of the withdrawal of immunity from criminal prosecution from lawmakers is also shelved for now, lawmakers having voted on Oct. 19 to send two bills on this for scrutiny by the currently non-functioning Constitutional Court.

But there is still a glimmer of hope for progress on electoral reform: Lawmakers on Nov. 7 voted at first reading for a bill that would overhaul Ukraine electoral system — one of the demands of the protesters who have remained camped outside the Rada since Oct. 17.

Electoral reform

The parliamentary elections are to take place on Oct. 27, 2019, the last Sunday of the last month of the fifth year since the previous elections, according to Article 77 of the constitution.

The presidential election is on March 31, 2019, only 17 months away, while parliamentary elections are nearly two years away.

Still, the question of overhauling the electoral system is already becoming more urgent.

The current electoral legislation, introduced in 2011 and used to elect parliament in 2012 and 2014, is a mixed one.

According to it, half of the parliament's 450 seats are awarded to the lawmakers elected in individual simple-majority constituencies, while the other half of the seats are divided between the candidates on the party tickets that got more than 5 percent of the votes in the general voting.



Protesters outside Ukraine's parliament in Kyiv on Oct. 17 demand the creation of an anti-corruption court (Volodymyr Petrov)

The simple-majority part of the system has been heavily criticized for its vulnerability to corruption. Major political parties have been suspected of taking bribes to allow unknown candidates to run under their brand.

Since the EuroMaidan Revolution, the cancelation of the simple-majority system has been among the main demands of the public and reformist lawmakers.

On Nov. 7, the Verkhovna Rada unexpectedly approved the first reading of a new draft of the electoral code that envisages a proportional election system with open party lists. If fully adopted, it would be Ukraine's most progressive system yet.

What will change

Under the proposed system, not only would the number of seats held in parliament by a party be in direct proportion to its share of the popular vote, the open list system would mean that the order of names on the party lists of candidates would be determined by voters rather than party bosses (the more votes a candidate won from the public, the higher their place on the party list.)

Under such system, Ukraine will have just 27 constituencies. In each of them, every party presents a list of five to 12 candidates from its ticket. The voters vote twice: once, for the party, and then for a candidate from its local list. Voting for a candidate won't be obligatory: this part of the ballot can be left blank.

The Central Election Commission will calculate the number of votes required to get one seat in parliament — so-called "electoral quota." A party's result in each of the 27 constituencies is then divided by this quota to get the number of seats won

from each of the regions. The seats won then go to the candidates from the local list that got the most votes on the second part of the ballot.

This would represent an improvement on the current, mixed-voting system which has deep flaws.

What's wrong now

There are three main problems with the current system: Firstly, it produces a non-proportional result. For example, in the 2014 early elections the party that gained the highest share of the vote in party-list voting was the Popular Front, with 22.12 percent. Second was the pro-presidential Bloc of Petro Poroshenko, with 21.82 percent. However, when the seats won in the simple-majority constituencies were added in, the Popular Front ended up with only 82 seats compared to the 123 won by the Bloc of Petro Poroshenko.

Secondly, voting in simple-majority constituencies has almost always been plagued with irregularities. The candidates for these seats are more often than not powerful local political and business figures, who are in turn connected to political and business figures of the regional and national level. They have the resources to run slick campaigns, and bribe or coerce voters (who might be their employees) into voting for them, or to influence the local state bureaucracy so as to sway a result in their favor. This means that around half of the seats in parliament are occupied by lawmakers influenced by national political and business figures — oligarchs.

Thirdly, the present "closed-list" party list system encourages corruption: Those high up on the list have the greatest chance of winning

a seat in parliament, and the order of the list is decided by party bosses. According to Andriy Meleshevych, writing in the Kyiv-Mohyla Law and Politics Journal 2 (2016): 147-170 in an article entitled "The Cost of Parliamentary Politics in Ukraine," businessmen who want a place on a party list (and the potential immunity from prosecution and protection from corporate raiding that comes with a seat in the Rada) can expect to "donate" from \$3 million to \$5 million to party coffers to get on the list. This can rise to \$20 million in some cases, Meleshevych writes.

The system proposed in the new electoral code would thus address all three problems by being proportional, doing away with simple-majority constituencies, and making party lists open rather than fixed.

More problems

However, problems other than the basic voting system also have to be solved. For a start, Ukraine has to amend its criminal code, procedure code and code of administrative offences to impose stiffer penalties for electoral fraud, according to political analyst Brian Mefford, writing for the Atlantic Council on Oct. 4.

"Even one successful prosecution of a blatant act of electoral fraud would have a much-needed chilling effect on others contemplating such illegal actions," Mefford wrote. Hitherto in Ukraine, even blatant violations of election legislation have largely gone unpunished.

A further problem is that Ukraine's Central Election Commission, the body that has powers to oversee the presidential, parliamentary, and local elections, needs to be re-appointed, as only 2 of its 15 members have a current mandate. If the commission is not re-appointed, the validity of future elections could be in question, according to Mefford. The commission members, nominated by the president and approved by parliament, are appointed for seven years.

However, the president has shown no sign of nominating any candidates, and given the highly political nature of such appointments, agreeing them with parliament could be a harrowing process for Poroshenko, who often relies on factions controlled by oligarchs to produce majority votes in parliament. ■

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President's lawyers claim that he wants to maximize taxes

Poroshenko from page 1

The previous evidence of Poroshenko's tax minimization plans was published as part of a leak known as the Panama Papers in April 2016.

Poroshenko, who promised to sell his assets before being elected president in 2014, has failed to deliver on his promise and has faced mounting accusations that he is putting his business interests above those of the state.

Meanwhile, Poroshenko and his companies still haven't fully explained a 4 million euro offshore transaction in Cyprus carried out in March 2016, made when the National Bank of Ukraine had banned cash payments abroad. According to a form filed with the local registry, the transaction constituted a combined payment of cash and shares of his company.

The president's representatives insist that no transfers of cash were involved. But they have failed to provide the annual returns of Poroshenko's Cyprus company, which would document the details of the transaction.

In April 2016 Poroshenko transferred his assets to a blind trust run by Rothschild. But the nature of the trust remains a mystery, since he has so far refused to explain the trust's terms, citing confidentiality rules.

Minimizing taxes?

The Paradise Papers are leaked documents obtained by Süddeutsche Zeitung and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. They were shared with a network of more than 380 journalists in 67 countries, including the Washington, D.C.-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner.

The documents show that Vadim Medvedev, a lawyer working for Ukraine's Avellum law firm, on June 17, 2014 emailed Sean Dowling, managing partner of law firm Appleby on the Isle of Man, on behalf of the president. They discussed creating a corporate structure for "tax purposes," with the offshore holding company "holding shares" and "receiving dividends."

Medvedev said that Avellum preferred a British Virgin Islands jurisdiction for their planned holding company, but that a company on the Isle of Man would also be suitable.

The holding company would own a Cyprus company for tax purposes, as Cyprus typically has one of the lowest corporate tax rates in Europe. The Cypriot company would in turn own a Luxembourg company that would give the business access to international markets. The Luxembourg company would own a Dutch company, which itself would own Poroshenko's Ukrainian assets.

Prior to Medvedev's letter, Appleby was apparently cautious about the tax and corporate structure proposed by Avellum, as the Paradise Papers documents contain a letter in which its officers express doubts about the offer.

"I do not think that there is an



Castle Rushen in the Isle of Man, an offshore jurisdiction that features in the OCCRP investigation of President Petro Poroshenko. (Courtesy)

immediate yes or no answer to the question," Robert Woods, director of compliance at Appleby, said in an e-mail. "The risk assessors of the business would consider all of the facts (and there are not many yet!), such as where are the companies now, why do they want to move, what is their purpose, what is the rationale behind them being in the BVI, what business are they involved in, who else is behind them, what are the benefits to Appleby, I am sure there is much more for this one... It is quite unlikely that this would be worth the risk involved, but without much more information and investigation there is no definitive answer."

Appleby's Rejected Business Log, contains the note on Poroshenko, indicating concern about his plans to retaliate against Russian-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine and likely reputational risk for the firm.

In response to the OCCRP investigation, Avellum argued that their aim was to maximize taxes in Ukraine, not to minimize them. Poroshenko would pay an income tax on dividends received from the offshore firms, Medvedev told the Kyiv Post.

Avellum also said that in 2014 it had been considering either selling the assets or holding an initial public offering, known as an IPO. However, the sale could not have been carried out due to unfavorable market conditions, they argued.

But Kostyantyn Likarchuk, a partner at the Kinstellar law firm, a former partner at Avellum and an ex-deputy head of the State Fiscal Service, was doubtful about Avellum's explanation.

"I can't understand how this structure can maximize taxes," Likarchuk told the Kyiv Post.

In such a corporate structure, no sales tax would be paid in Ukraine if any of the offshore firms in the chain were sold, Likarchuk said.

The only way to pay taxes in Ukraine from such a sale would be for each offshore firm to make a decision on paying dividends to the other ones, with these dividends ending up in Ukraine. But this scheme is improbable, he said.

"The BVI (holding company) is not necessary if you're not going to minimize tax payments," he added.

In the case of an IPO, Poroshenko would not have to pay a sales tax in Ukraine either, Likarchuk added.

"At first sight, the structure mentioned in the lawyers' letter envisages minimizing taxes, which is not illegal," Inna Rudnyk, a senior associate at the Alekeyev, Boyarchukov and Partners law firm, told the Kyiv Post. "...Since the correspondence does not mention what kind of operations members of this structure intended to carry out, it's difficult to say whether they wanted to minimize tax payments in Ukraine or only in European countries."

Poroshenko has also claimed that the offshore firms mentioned in the

Panama Papers did not have any bank accounts.

But in contradiction to Poroshenko's claims, Medvedev said in the leaked emails that the proposed offshore would be handling assets and could receive dividends, which would imply having a bank account. Avellum responded that, though the opening of bank accounts had been planned, it had never happened in reality.

Cypriot deal

Another major issue that arises out of the OCCRP investigation is whether Poroshenko violated Ukrainian law during a corporate transaction made in March 2016.

Prime Assets Capital, a Ukrainian fund owned by Poroshenko, bought 18,000 shares of his Cyprus-registered company, CEE Confectionary Investments Limited, for 3.9 million euros, according to a Cypriot document published by the OCCRP in 2016. According to several Cypriot lawyers and experts interviewed by the OCCRP, the document explicitly says that this was a combined transaction, in kind (company shares) and cash.

One theory, voiced by financial specialist Andriy Gerus, is that the money allegedly transferred to Cyprus was needed for the activities

of Poroshenko's Cyprus company.

A cash payment would indicate that the Cyprus company had a bank account, which Poroshenko and his lawyers have repeatedly denied. Under Ukrainian rules, Poroshenko would have had to declare any such bank accounts. Yet, Poroshenko's income declaration for 2016 lists only one foreign bank account — \$1.06 million at Swiss Rothschild Bank AG. Avellum and the Presidential Administration could not comment on the origin of the funds.

Cash transfers abroad were banned by the National Bank of Ukraine at that time, unless the bank issued a special license. The National Bank of Ukraine said it had issued no such license in this case.

Avellum claims that the document published by the OCCRP does not prove the presence of cash in the transaction, and denies any wrongdoing.

Avellum showed to the Kyiv Post a share subscription agreement between CEE Confectionary Investment Ltd and Prime Assets Capital in which only shares were mentioned as part of the transaction.

However, Avellum's critics say only documents from the official Cypriot register on the transaction

more Poroshenko on page 10

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Editorials

Hidden billions

It is widely known that wealthy Ukrainians prefer to keep their millions in offshore entities. But the public rarely gets a sneak peek at that wealth.

One of those rare opportunities came this week, when investigative journalists around the world released stories based on a massive leak of documents on offshore companies. This second big leak in two years was dubbed the Paradise Papers, a spin on the name of the first big leak, the Panama Papers.

It wasn't surprising to find several high-profile Ukrainians mentioned in the leaked documents, and it says something about President Petro Poroshenko that his name was among the least surprising discoveries.

It says even more about him that in the five days since the release of the documents, which provided more information about his attempts to move his business offshore and evade taxes, Poroshenko has found no time to comment on it.

While Ukraine is struggling to reform its complicated and flawed tax system to stimulate businesses to pay more taxes, the president's personal example stimulates businesses to do exactly the opposite - move offshore, away from the annoying burden of taxes.

And Ukrainians don't even find the information about Poroshenko's affairs revealed in such leaks surprising anymore.

Warning signs

When a democracy is degenerating into tyranny, it is the free press that is the first to be attacked. Vladimir Lenin went from supporting a free press in opposition to smothering it once in power. The Nazis branded the free press of the Weimar Republic the "Luegenpresse" (lying press) to undermine it, and then destroyed it under Adolf Hitler. When Vladimir Putin came to power in Russia in 2000, one of his first decrees was on the Information Security Doctrine of Russia, which made information an issue of national security. Putin's first attack on the free media came just a year later in 2001, when NTV, one of Russia's biggest independent channels, which had been critical of him and the Second Chechen War, was taken over by the state-controlled Gazprom Media. NTV's criticism of Putin was quickly stifled.

So it is disturbing when free journalists are attacked, editorially and especially physically — it is a sign that democracy itself is threatened.

Attacks on journalists are becoming more frequent in Ukraine. The latest incident happened on Nov. 7, when journalists working for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's "Schemes" investigative program were assaulted by bodyguards of Ukrainian multimillionaire and Putin friend Viktor Medvedchuk, a cancer on Ukrainian society for many years, as they tried to film him arriving in Kyiv in his private plane, which had made a direct flight from Moscow.

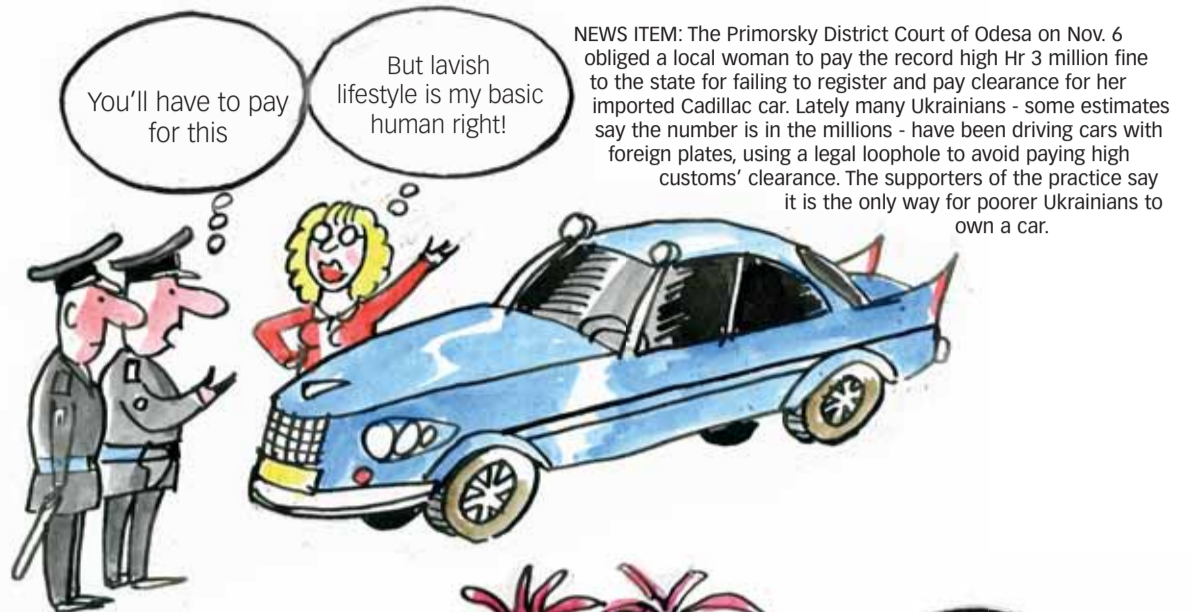
The same team was assaulted and illegally detained by Security Service of Ukraine, or SBU, officers in September 2015 when filming the luxury cars of SBU officers at their headquarters — cars that SBU officers could not afford on their official salaries. Two years later, no action has been taken against the officers; the legal case is continually stalled.

Other journalists, from the Slidstvo.info investigative program, were shot at in April when filming at the estate near Kyiv where a vast mansion is being built by billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. The journalists reported five shots fired at them from within the estate. Police opened an investigation. There has been no progress.

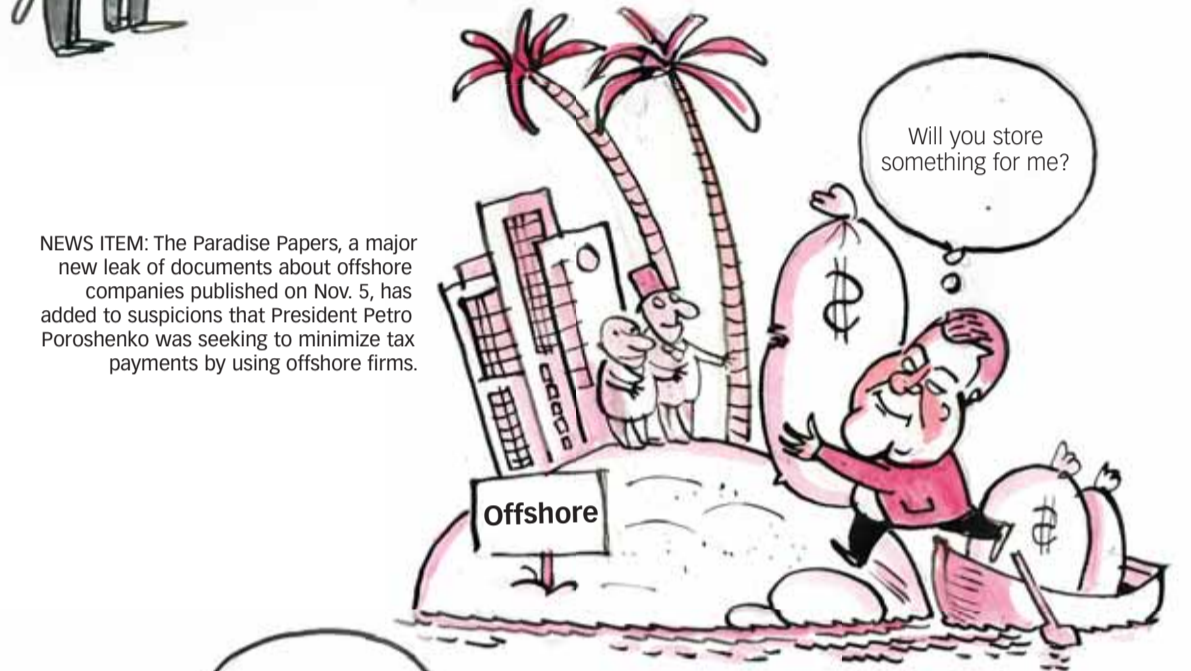
In July 2016, Ukrainian-Belarusian journalist Pavel Sheremet was murdered in a car bomb attack in Kyiv. An independent investigation found that a man connected to the SBU was loitering near Sheremet's car before the bomb was planted, yet there has been no progress in the official investigation into the murder.

There is a long history of attacks with impunity against journalists, going back even before the Sept. 16, 2000 kidnapping and beheading of journalist Georgiy Gongadze, the co-founder of Ukrainska Pravda. Ex-President Leonid Kuchma and his top cohorts remain the top suspects in ordering the crime despite their denials. Yet Yuriy Lutsenko, the prosecutor general, is abdicating his public responsibility to bring the case to an end.

These cases are all warning signs. They must not be tolerated. All those who threaten, assault or kill journalists must be punished for their crimes. Nothing less than democracy is at stake.



NEWS ITEM: The Primorsky District Court of Odesa on Nov. 6 obliged a local woman to pay the record high Hr 3 million fine to the state for failing to register and pay clearance for her imported Cadillac car. Lately many Ukrainians - some estimates say the number is in the millions - have been driving cars with foreign plates, using a legal loophole to avoid paying high customs' clearance. The supporters of the practice say it is the only way for poorer Ukrainians to own a car.



NEWS ITEM: The Paradise Papers, a major new leak of documents about offshore companies published on Nov. 5, has added to suspicions that President Petro Poroshenko was seeking to minimize tax payments by using offshore firms.



NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian prosecutors are currently seeking to extradite Kazakh, Azeri and Uzbek opposition journalists to their respective dictatorships. Their cases are widely seen as political persecution.



NEWS ITEM: Arnold Schwarzenegger, an action movie star and former governor of California recorded a video address to Kyiv's Mayor Vitali Klitschko, calling him a genius for his job as mayor. Schwarzenegger's appreciation of Klitschko fell flat in Kyiv, where many blame the mayor for the irregular heating and hot water supplies amid the cold autumn.

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Reformer of the week

Viktor Chumak

Viktor Chumak, a member of the Verkhovna Rada, has been pushing for legislation to introduce a fairer electoral system.

He co-authored a bill on electoral reform that parliament failed to pass on Oct. 19. But similar legislation based on Chumak's was approved by the Verkhovna Rada at first reading on Nov. 7 as thousands of protesters rallied outside parliament to demand the reform.

The election bill backed by protesters seeks to scrap single-mandate election districts, a major vehicle of political corruption, and introduce "open party lists," which means that citizens will vote not only for parties themselves, but also for specific candidates nominated by the parties.

The demonstrators, who set up a tent camp in front of the Rada on Oct. 17, are also demanding the creation of an anti-corruption court, the lifting of lawmakers' immunity from prosecution, and a bill allowing presidential impeachment.

On Oct. 19, parliament sent two bills on lifting lawmakers' immunity for consideration to the Constitutional Court, but President Petro Poroshenko has so far failed to submit a bill on an anti-corruption court. A bill regulating presidential impeachment has been submitted by lawmaker Yuriy Derevyanko but has not yet been considered by parliament.

Protesters are planning to hold a big march for their demands on Nov. 12.

— Oleg Sukhov



(uacr.org)

Anti-reformer of the week

Olga Stupak

The High Council of Justice on Nov. 9 appointed Olga Stupak, a judge of the High Specialized Court for Civil and Criminal Cases, as a judge of the Supreme Court.

Stupak and 25 out of the 111 new Supreme Court judges appointed by the High Council of Justice in September had been vetoed by the Public Integrity Council due to evidence of ill-gotten wealth or unlawful rulings, but the judicial body ignored the vetoes. President Petro Poroshenko is scheduled to sign the judges' credentials by Nov. 10.

The Public Integrity Council said it had vetoed Stupak because she failed to declare real estate that belongs to her, and her income does not match her expenditures. Stupak denies accusations of wrongdoing.

The High Council of Justice also appointed Oleksandra Yanovska and Vadym Korotun on Nov. 9.

In July the pro-government majority in the Verkhovna Rada unsuccessfully tried to install Yanovska, reportedly a presidential protégé, as an auditor of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, in what critics believe to be an effort by Poroshenko to control the bureau.

Meanwhile, the newly-appointed Supreme Court judges Stanislav Kravchenko and Serhiy Slynko were the ones who released senior police officer Olexiy Pukach from custody, which allowed him to flee in 2003, with Pukach's lawyer saying that this was done on the orders of then President Leonid Kuchma.

Pukach was later caught and convicted in 2013 of murdering journalist Georgy Gongadze.

— Oleg Sukhov



(courtesy)

VOX populi

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What should Ukraine do to improve its e-commerce market?



Elizabeth Poloz
17, consultant
"People in Ukraine should spend more money to promote products they make."

Advertising is important. There are lots of different online stores here, but they remain unknown."



Iryna Chaban
29, manager
"Ukrainian companies should bring their customer support to a new level. Sometimes clients are lost due to rude couriers or call center employees."



Alla Yermak
34, sales manager
"People should be more financially secure in Ukraine. They must be confident in their future to make any kind of purchases, including ones via the internet. If people feel financially insecure, it does not matter what kind of advertising is used on them — they won't be able to afford anything."



Anatoly Avdeev
33, entrepreneur
"It is necessary to simplify payment processes, so that clients can easily pay through online stores. I want to pay without getting a card from my wallet. I can't do it in Ukraine. Yet."



Igor Stolnitsky
38, tech entrepreneur
"It's necessary for Ukraine to make its people more wealthy, so that they can afford to buy more. For example, when pensioners got a bit bigger pensions, it did resonate in the e-commerce. Wealthy people — all we need."



Andrii Kalashnyk
29, marketing specialist
"The e-commerce market is growing and Ukraine just need to continue maintaining the same spirit and work towards automating all the processes and using big data. Generally, e-commerce is doing well here, because everything in this field is liberal and free in Ukraine."

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

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



Bill Browder

After the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, U.S.-born British businessman Bill Browder saw opportunities. Setting up the investment company Hermitage Capital Management in 1996, he and his partners planted seed capital of \$25 million and, over the next 11 years, saw it grow by a staggering 2,697 percent during the period of corrupt and chaotic privatization.

While ordinary Russians saw their savings wither, wages plunge and life expectancy plummet amid the gangster capitalism of Russia in the late 1990s, the company was also fighting the country's ubiquitous corruption.

But by 2005, Hermitage's efforts to disrupt the flow of money from businesses to corrupt Russian bureaucrats had become too successful for the regime of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin to ignore. Browder was banned from the country (rather cynically as a "threat to national security"). The state began to bring the pressure of its state-controlled judiciary to bear

on Hermitage.

Hermitage lawyer and auditor, the Odesa-born Sergei Magnitsky, died in a Moscow jail on Nov. 16, 2009, at the hands of his jailers, a year after his arrest in 2008 for exposing a major theft scheme by top Russian officials. Human rights activists in and out of Russia have concluded that he was tortured by prison staff and denied medical treatment, killing him.

Since Magnitsky's death, Browder has worked to punish the Putin regime. This resulted in the 2012 passage by the U.S. Congress of the Magnitsky Act, which sanctions senior Russian officials for human rights abuses.

This infuriated Putin. Russia has four times tried to issue Interpol arrest warrants for Browder, and on Oct. 19 — the same day Canada passed its version of a Magnitsky Act — Putin attacked Browder in public comments. Then, on Oct. 22, Russia used a legal loophole to issue an Interpol "diffusion notice," which resulted in the United States automatically revoking Browder's U.S. visa. That mistake was quickly fixed.

But Putin's enmity and desire for revenge shows how much the dictator hates Browder and how much the Kremlin leader fears international sanctions on his cronies.

Browder is now in the front ranks in the fight against Putin, although he started out only as a businessman looking to make money. The enemy of our enemy is our friend — and Browder is Ukraine's Friend of the Week, easily winning the Order of Yaroslav the Wise.

— Euan MacDonald



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Carter Page

In a March 21, 2016 interview with the Washington Post, then presidential candidate Donald J. Trump listed five people as being his among foreign policy advisers. One of the names he gave was that of Carter Page, a little-known U.S. oil industry consultant.

Yet six months later, by late September 2016, members of the Trump campaign were denying that Page played any significant role in the Trump campaign, and claiming that Page had "never met Trump, never briefed him," and that he had "zero influence."

The denials came after Page resigned from the campaign due to his name appearing in media reports linking the Trump campaign to the Russian government. According to a report by Yahoo News published on Sept. 23, 2016, U.S. intelligence had earlier started investigating whether Page had set up private communications with Russian officials.

Page had appeared on U.S. intelligence radar when he visited Moscow in early July 2016, ostensibly to give a lecture at a think tank, but

also, it appears from testimony Page gave to the U.S. House Intelligence Committee on Nov. 2, 2017, to meet with Russian government officials.

And, according to a transcript of his testimony, Page admitted to sending an e-mail to several other Trump campaign staffers on July 14, 2016, in which he wrote: "As for the Ukraine amendment, excellent work."

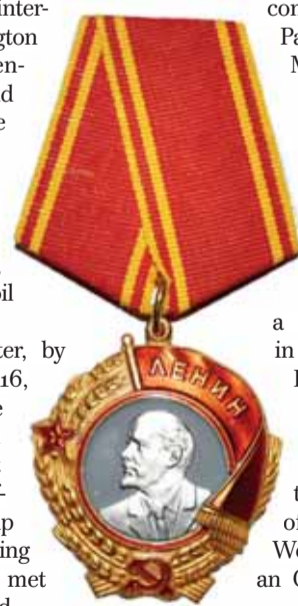
That was two days before the Republican National Convention on July 18, 2016 officially altered its policy stance on Ukraine, softening wording that included "arming Ukraine" to providing "appropriate assistance."

It would be easy to infer from this congruence of facts that Page, during his visit to Moscow, where according to his own testimony to the U.S. House Intelligence Committee he met with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich, had helped arrange a deal that resulted in the softening of the Republican Party's policies on Ukraine.

There is plenty of other evidence to earn Page the title of Ukraine's Foe of the Week, and pin him with an Order of Lenin. He has spoken in support of the murderous Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, Ukraine's chief foe. He has criticized U.S. policies and praised those of the Kremlin. He is regularly quoted by Kremlin propaganda media. Judging by some of his testimony to the House Intelligence Committee, the term "useful idiot" applies.

But we may have to wait for fresh criminal indictments from U.S. Special Counsel Robert Mueller to know for sure whether Carter Page is as bad a foe of Ukraine as he appears to be at the moment.

— Euan MacDonald



Order of Lenin

World Diabetes Day

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In partnership with Farmak

Diabetes threatening to become global epidemic



DR. RICHARD STYLES

With World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14, it is timely to look at this disease and the impact that it is having upon society.

Diabetes is in many ways a “new” disease, in that it was rarely seen 100 years ago and, indeed, when I started practice 40 years ago, only a few patients in very old age had this condition.

We need to understand that there are basically two types of diabetes.

Type 1

The first – sometimes called diabetes Type 1 – can affect people of any age but often children. Of the 400 million people worldwide who have diabetes, Type 1 diabetes accounts for some 5–10 percent of this number. It is thought to be caused by a combination of genetic pre-disposition and an autoimmune process (perhaps triggered by external factors such as viruses). Its incidence is slowly increasing but also varies worldwide.

Type 2

By far the most common type of diabetes is called Type 2, or maturity onset diabetes, accounting for 90–95 percent of all patients. The prevalence of diabetes worldwide has increased from 4.7 percent in 1980 to 8.5 percent in 2014 and shows no sign of slowing. It threatens to become an epidemic. Its cost in the United States alone was \$245 billion in 2012. These figures also hide the fact that there is a large variation of the prevalence across different countries and ethnic groups. This is partly explained by a genetic pre-disposition to the disease (as in the Indian subcontinent) and partly by cultural attitudes to diet (as in Ukraine).

The science of diabetes is not difficult to understand. We are at birth given a set amount of insulin – the chemical that removes sugar from



A medical worker tests a checks the blood sugar level of an man on the occassion of World Diabetes Day on Nov. 11, 2016, in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)

our systems. The more refined sugars we eat the quicker we use this insulin. It is used much more quickly by eating refined sugar than by eating natural sugars in fruits and carbohydrates as in potatoes, carrots, or by eating such foods as bread, pasta, and rice. If we eat large quantities of refined sugars we need to use increasingly more and more insulin to neutralize the sugar in our body. This is called insulin resistance.

Symptoms of diabetes

The symptoms of both types of diabetes are easy to recognize. They are increased thirst, loss of weight, increased urination, a feeling of dryness and occasionally blurred vision. Patients often have a first degree relative with the disease. The diagnosis is made not only on the symptoms, but on two simple blood tests – a fasting blood sugar taken in the morning and a test that looks at long term deposits of sugar in red cell over the previous two months. A confirmatory test can be performed by studying how the body handles a dose of glucose over a period of

two hours – this is called a glucose tolerance test. There are a series of more complex immune tests that endocrinologist may use to determine the cause of diabetes. Often patients can be diagnosed before the onset of true diabetes as tests can indicate poor glucose handling rather than complete diabetes. And those with a family history should have regular checks.

No refined sugar!

The treatment of diabetes depends upon the severity of the disease. All diabetics need to lose weight and stop eating refined sugars in the form of sugar in tea and coffee, sweets and confectionary made with refined sugars. Sugar containing drinks also contain large doses of refined sugars. Alcohol is also broken down to sugar in the body. In the stage of pre-diabetes loss of weight, dietary control and lifestyle changes can often prevent the development of more serious symptoms.

Medications help

Where dietary control fails, there

are for Type 2 diabetes a number of medications that, with dietary and lifestyle measures, effectively control the disease. In its extreme form diabetes, if undiagnosed, can cause severe changes in the chemical elements of the blood and even lead to coma. Whilst this is a medical emergency it can usually be successfully treated. Those with Type 1 diabetes often require insulin treatment, whilst historically insulin injections often came from animals they are now almost entirely genetically engineered. Insulin pumps are now available to easily administer small doses of insulin that gives excellent control. Of course with some 400 million patients worldwide the pharmaceutical industry has a huge impetus to develop new treatments and some success has already been achieved with stem cell therapies.

Patients with both pre-diabetes and diabetes need to be regularly monitored by a physician who is conversant with international guidelines. Such monitoring includes control of blood pressure and weight,

monitoring of blood sugars and kidney function and yearly inspection of the retina of the eye by a skilled ophthalmologist who can detect any damage to the blood vessels (that can leak) and repair these with laser treatment.

Challenge of prevention

Perhaps the biggest challenge is the prevention of diabetes, which is the responsibility of physicians, governments, parents and grandparents, and the mass media. Refined sugars are addictive to young children. They do not need it and parents and grandparents should stop using them as a source of energy.

Equally children and adults should drink water, not sugar-containing drinks. Governments need to tax products containing refined sugars. Pediatricians need to work with parents in changing the diet of children, especially those who are already obese.

Dr. Richard Styles is the chief medical officer of American Medical Centers in Ukraine, Georgia and Kazakhstan. ■

People with diabetes

All over the world: 422 million
In Ukraine: 1.38 million
Undiagnosed in the world: 193 million

Undiagnosed in Ukraine: no data
Sources: World Health Organization, Ukrainian Diabetics Federation

Facts about diabetes from World Health Organization

BY KYIV POST

- The number of people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014.
- The global prevalence of diabetes among adults over 18 years of age has risen from 4.7 percent in 1980 to 8.5% in 2014.
- Diabetes prevalence has been rising more rapidly in middle- and low-income countries.
- Diabetes is a major cause of blindness, kidney failure, heart attacks, stroke and lower limb amputation.
- In 2015, an estimated 1.6 million deaths were directly caused by diabetes. Another 2.2 million deaths were attributable to high blood glucose in 2012**.
- Almost half of all deaths attributable to high blood glucose occur before the age of 70 years. WHO projects that diabetes will be the seventh leading cause of death in 2030 (1).
- Healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use are ways to prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.
- Diabetes can be treated and its consequences avoided or delayed with diet, physical activity, medication and regular screening and treatment for complications.

What are consequences of diabetes?

- Over time, diabetes can damage the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys, and nerves.
- Adults with diabetes have a two- to three-fold increased risk of heart attacks and strokes.
- Combined with reduced blood flow, neuropathy (nerve damage) in the feet increases the chance of foot ulcers, infection and eventual need for limb amputation.
- Diabetic retinopathy is an important cause of blindness, and occurs as a result of long-term accumulated damage to the small blood vessels in the retina. 2.6% of global blindness can be attributed to diabetes (3).
- Diabetes is among the leading causes of kidney failure.

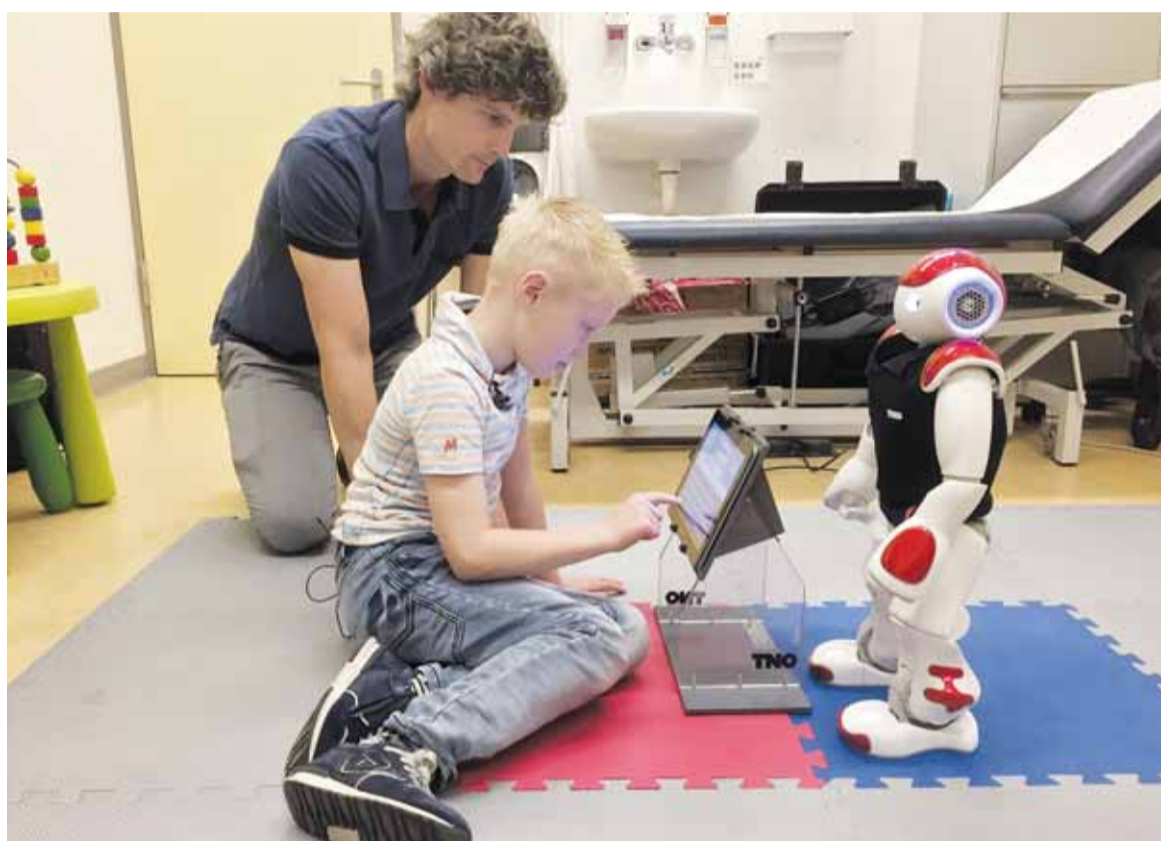
How can burden of diabetes be reduced?

Prevention

Simple lifestyle measures have been shown to be effective in preventing or delaying the onset of type 2 diabetes.

To help prevent type 2 diabetes and its complications, people should:

- achieve and maintain healthy body weight;
- be physically active – at least 30 minutes of regular, moderate-intensity activity on most days. More activity is required for weight control;
- eat a healthy diet, avoiding sugar and saturated fats intake; and
- avoid tobacco use – smoking increases the risk of diabetes and



Researcher Olivier Blanson Henkemans, from TNO the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research, helps Ruben van As, 7, to log on to play with Charlie Robot at the Gelderse Vallei hospital in Ede, the Netherlands, on June 28, 2016. Cheeky Ruben is just seven and learning to read. But thanks to his new knee-high buddy Charlie robot he can expertly measure his blood sugar and count carbohydrates in a glass of milk. (AFP)

cardiovascular diseases.

Diagnosis and treatment

Early diagnosis can be accomplished through relatively inexpensive testing of blood sugar.

Treatment of diabetes involves diet and physical activity along with lowering blood glucose and the levels of other known risk factors that damage blood vessels. Tobacco use cessation is also important to avoid complications.

Interventions that are both cost-saving and feasible in developing countries include:

- blood glucose control, particularly in type 1 diabetes. People with type 1 diabetes require insulin, people with type 2 diabetes can be treated with oral medication, but may also require insulin;
- blood pressure control; and
- foot care.

Other cost-saving interventions include:

- screening and treatment for retinopathy (which causes blindness)
- blood lipid control (to regulate cholesterol levels)
- screening for early signs of diabetes-related kidney disease and treatment.

WHO's-- response

WHO aims to stimulate and support the adoption of effective mea-

asures for the surveillance, prevention and control of diabetes and

its complications, particularly in low and middle-income countries. To this

end, WHO:

- provides scientific guidelines for the prevention of major noncommunicable diseases including diabetes;
- develops norms and standards for diabetes diagnosis and care;
- builds awareness on the global epidemic of diabetes, marking World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14; and & conducts surveillance of diabetes and its risk factors.

The WHO Global Report on Diabetes provides an overview of the diabetes burden, the interventions available to prevent and manage diabetes, and recommendations for governments, individuals, the civil society and the private sector.

The WHO Global Strategy on Diet, Physical Activity and Health complements WHO's diabetes work by focusing on population-wide approaches to promote healthy diet and regular physical activity, thereby reducing the growing global problem of overweight people and obesity. ■

More information is available on the World Health Organization website at <http://who.int/en/>

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Screening for Early Detection of Diabetes Mellitus: Joint Actions against Global Challenges

Diabetes is one of the most common non-contagious diseases. According to WHO, about 4-6 percent of the population in developed countries suffers from this pathology, and the estimated mortality rate from diabetes mellitus (DM) will increase by at least 60 percent by 2030¹. In Ukraine, there are more than 1 million patients suffering from diabetes, which represents almost 3 percent of the adult population². At the same time, according to the International Diabetic Federation, the prevalence of DM in European countries is at least 7-8 percent³. Consequently, it can be assumed that each reported case of DM in our country is accompanied by one or two cases of undiagnosed disease. None of these people receive the required treatment or monitor their glycemic level, and they are at a high risk of developing chronic diabetic complications. As a result, when diagnosing Type 2 DM, complications are detected in more than half of patients. So, should we be surprised at the high prevalence and seriousness of these complications in Ukraine, which, incidentally, state spends a lot of money on? Of course, not. That is why in 2017, under the auspices of the Ukrainian Association of Endocrinologists, a large-scale screening program was launched, with the aim of detecting DM among the Ukrainian population. Throughout March-May 2017, seven pilot visits were completed in Vinnytsya region to test the screening mechanism, and since September, screenings have been actively conducted in Cherkasy, Vinnytsya

and Kyiv regions. From November, screenings will start in Kirovohrad and Volyn regions.

The coordinator of the screening program is the State Enterprise "V.P. Komissarenko Institute of Endocrinology and Metabolism" of NAMS of Ukraine. The program is implemented with the support of the Farmak Pharmaceutical Company.

According to analyses, in Ukraine more than a third of the patients both with Type 1 DM and Type 2 DM receive insulin or tableted hypoglycemic products manufactured by Farmak⁴.

In regions where there are no endocrinologists, periodic visits by regional professionals are arranged, which help general practitioners in screening and the further management of patients.

Regarding Type 2 DM, early detection allows the following:

- Detect the risk of diabetes even at the pre-disease stage
- Diagnose the disease in an asymptomatic period

Such screening programs are aimed at identifying problems and finding solutions for the well-timed detection of and diagnosis of patients with DM, as well as preventing complications among this group of patients, which is very important in the current economic situation in Ukraine, because early detection of the disease contributes to not only the efficacy of treatment, but also is economically beneficial for both the state and citizens. "Being a socially responsible company, Farmak provides support in conducting the screening program for

the early detection of diabetes," said Pavlo Lukashevych, the head of the Farmak Hospital Drugs Department. People with undiagnosed type 2 diabetes are at a high risk of strokes, fungal infections, eye problems, coronary heart disease, foot ulcers, peripheral vascular disease, and pregnant women have a high risk of having a baby with hypoglycemia. Early detection and well-timed treatment of diabetes reduces the severity of the disease and its complications. Diabetes is often diagnosed only after complications occur, making treatment difficult. Screening is thought to help detect about one third of all people who have diabetes. Although sample studies have not been conducted, there is a large number of facts demonstrating the benefits of early diagnosis by screening individuals who are asymptomatic.

"The screening programs conducted in recent years have shown that the actual number of people with diabetes mellitus is at least two times higher than official statistics. Therefore, it is important that financing for patients with DM within the State Medicine Cost Reimbursement System should cover not only the purchase and provision of insulin preparations, but provide patients with tableted drugs as well," Lukashevych said.

1 – www.who.int/diabetes/en/
2 – www.idf.org/e-library/epidemiology-research/diabetes-atlas.html

3 – Довідник основних показників діяльності ендокринологічної служби України за 2016 рік.

4 – За даними Proxima Research в 2016 р.

Ukrainians talk about their lives with Type 1 diabetes

BY JACK EVANS
EVANSJWM@GMAIL.COM

There are an estimated 1.38 million people with diabetes in Ukraine according to the International Diabetes Foundation and Diabetes Atlas.

Up to 10 percent of them live with Type 1 diabetes. In this form of the disease, the body doesn't produce enough insulin, the hormone that regulates blood sugar levels. Therefore, sufferers have to follow a healthy diet, exercise, monitor their blood glucose levels, carry insulin with them and regularly go through medical check-ups.

As World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14 approaches, the Kyiv Post talked to four Ukrainians living with Type 1 diabetes.

Olena Pogorelova, 37, financial analyst, Kharkiv
Olena Pogorelova believes that life with diabetes has an unusual advantage: It has improved her thinking.

This is because, she says, she's "got used to analyzing, searching for causes and effects, and detecting and feeling signs."

It has also given her a deep understanding of food and nutrition. While for most non-diabetics fruit, salads, bread or wine are simply food and drink, when she sees them her mind fills with thoughts of "healthy fats, protein, and fiber, daily requirements, absorption times and their correlation to the time of day, and graphs and ratios."

To keep her blood glucose levels stable, she has to ensure she doesn't consume more sugar than her body can absorb.

Monitoring and managing this level requires her to take blood samples and inject insulin several times a day.

"Injections and pricks with needles are a part of me," she says.

Roman Vlasenko, 33, political analyst, Kyiv
Roman Vlasenko has lived with type 1 diabetes for 27 years and feels he too has benefited from the self-discipline required to manage his disease.

Injections, measurements and dosages aside, he doesn't think his daily routine is that different to an ordinary person's. These measures are "like brushing your teeth — they don't take much time or effort," he says.



Roman Vlasenko measures his blood sugar level, a step he takes at least four, sometimes more, times a day on Nov. 8 in Kyiv. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

The stress of his work does however sometimes call for extra blood sugar tests.

Moreover, he incorporates exercise into his day, ranging from cycling to simply walking, "to keep the diabetes under control."

Vlasenko also runs a club for children with diabetes. He's proof of its message that "diabetes is just a way of life."

"Does diabetes prevent people from being successful and happy? As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't," he says.

Anna Lavrinenko, 16, student, Kyiv

Since Anna Lavrinenko was in preschool, her mother had to come to her daughter's kindergarten every day, as the staff had no idea how to cater to her specific needs. She would



Anna Lavrinenko

come and do blood glucose tests and administer insulin herself. Anna also had a special meal prepared for her at lunchtime.

Things didn't get any easier in junior school: Her fellow pupils didn't understand her illness, and called her a drug addict for taking blood samples and injecting herself. The teasing upset her, Lavrinenko says.

At the same time, her struggles with diabetes provide her extra motivation to succeed, she says.

"I want to be an example for others of how you can live a normal life with diabetes. That's why I figure skate, dance, sing, and act. I'm fluent in Polish. I'm trying to develop in a number of directions", she told the Kyiv Post.

And if a diabetes-friendly restaurant ever opens in Kyiv, it may be Lavrinenko's.

"I dream of becoming a famous

restaurateur and opening a restaurant for people with diabetes," she says.



Andriy Shalaev

Andriy Shalaev, 8, student, Lviv

Anatoliy Shalaev, Andriy's father, told the Kyiv Post that his son's condition was diagnosed when earlier this year he started to display classic signs of the disease.

"He started to lose weight, tire quickly and drink lots of water", his father said.

The young boy soon adapted to the strange routine of "blood-sugar sampling, injections in his fingers, and constant introduction of insulin."

However, the family struggled to establish a suitable diet for their son.

"He wanted to eat all the time and it was hard to regulate the spikes in blood glucose — up, down, up, down,"

said Shalaev.

Tools to deal with the disease are expensive and hard to acquire in Ukraine.

They started using sensors to monitor blood sugar, but "this product isn't certified in Ukraine so we had to get them from Italy, and they are not cheap: 60 euros a piece," Shalaev explained.

They switched to using dipsticks for testing, which proved cheaper.

Now they get them from the government, but still not enough. The family find the 600 dipsticks provided by the Health Ministry per year are not nearly enough, and "in reality two or three times this amount is required."

Andriy's carbohydrate-controlled diet is typical of diabetics, and special precautions have to be taken during the school day. He must always keep a little carton of juice with him in case his blood glucose falls too low, his father said. At a break time, one of his parents checks what he's eaten, tests his blood glucose and tops up his insulin as required.

On his birthday, Andriy will have to settle for a cake made of fruit, as his body can't cope with a traditional one.

He's dreaming of getting an insulin pump, an unusual thing to dream for at his age. One of these would remove the need for constant insulin injections and glucose measurements. Nor would he have to watch his diet so carefully.

However, the cost of the pump, at 2,000 euros, is beyond his parents' means. ■



Olena Pogorelova

Ukrainian Diabetics Federation head urges improved treatment

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Valentina Ocheretenko, head of the council of the Ukrainian Diabetics Federation, told the Kyiv Post ahead of World Diabetes Day on Nov. 14 that the Ukrainian government needs a more effective treatment policy.

An estimated 1.38 million people in Ukraine – with the numbers rising fast – are potentially facing the lethal consequences of the disease.

“People in Ukraine are still not informed properly on how to prevent diabetes. Those who are already sick get no insulin, no proper treatment and even sometimes have no professional doctor for help,” Ocheretenko said on Nov. 8.

Diabetes is still being diagnosed too late in Ukraine, Ocheretenko said, and the true number of diabetics in Ukraine is not known – but could be double the 1.38 million estimate.

Globally, the number of people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980s to more than 422 million in 2014, the World Health Organization reported. More than 156 countries have adopted comprehensive policies to reduce diabetes or help those with the disease.

A key feature – ensuring insulin to people – is not working well in Ukraine. “We have insulin reimbursement system in Ukraine. But it is far from perfect and not enough,” Ocheretenko said.

Money is life

Ocheretenko said that the average cost per month of insulin is more than Hr 3,000, about the same as the minimum wage of Hr 3,200.

The government spends approximately Hr 6,000 for every insulin-dependent patient a year, Ulyana Suprun, acting health minister said during a cabinet meeting on



Valentina Ocheretenko, head of the council of the Ukrainian Diabetics Federation, speaks in Kyiv on Nov. 9 during a press conference dedicated to World Diabetes Day, which is Nov. 14. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Aug. 23. In April 2016, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a plan for reimbursement of the costs of insulin and other drugs needed for patients with chronic diseases.

Insulin-dependent people can bring a prescription from a doctor to a pharmacy and get the insulin for free. The health ministry will compensate the pharmacies. However, only those patients registered in the insulin-dependent patients' registry will get the free insulin.

The Health Ministry reported on Aug. 29 that, although the cabinet ordered creation of the registry in March, it did not fully operate until August.

“Insulin is a hormone, responsible for glucose splitting, which

gives us energy, needed for survival. Diabetics just can't produce this hormone naturally,” Ocheretenko said.

People with the first type of diabetes (5–10 percent from the 422 million people) need insulin every day, and sometimes a couple of injections, she added. “Even a single missed dose can have consequences. A couple of days can lead even to death. No insulin means no life,” Ocheretenko said.

The Ukrainian government spends more than Hr 600 million every year to purchase insulin, the health ministry reported on Aug. 29. That sum covers about half of the needs. Local councils were responsible for supplying the insulin, buying it through long and sometimes nontransparent

tender procedures, which sometimes can last more than three months.

As a result, many people still have no timely access to insulin and have to purchase it with their own money, Ocheretenko said.

“The government's reimbursement allowed the doctors, who have secret agreements with pharmacies, to intentionally prescribe the most expensive drugs. There are no price and quality control over the insulin,” Ocheretenko said. “All this must be changed. As the person's life must not depend on the amount of money in his wallet.”

Mess with data

Not all diabetics need insulin. Only a doctor can decide, Ocheretenko

said. However, in Ukraine, the system is slightly different, according to Suprun.

“Before the register, the government had been allocating money to buy insulin for more than 50,000 people, who are not among the insulin-dependent diabetics,” the minister said.

However, Suprun admitted that Kharkiv, Lviv and Dnipro authorities still hadn't put data about their insulin-dependent inhabitants in the register as of August.

Already, however, 170,000 patients are in the register. The government will spend Hr 6,000 per patient or Hr 1 billion, Suprun said.

National policy

Ocheretenko said that reimbursement and a register are not enough. Better physician care is needed, she said. There are not enough endocrinologists in Ukraine.

“The situation is very unstable. It is still hard to find a credible endocrinologist whom a diabetic could entrust his or her life to,” Ocheretenko said.

No reliable statistics exist about number of deaths caused by diabetes in Ukraine, she said. “People here being diagnosed with diabetes too late to find the proper treatment,” Ocheretenko said.

The government blames people for not seeking medical care earlier. While true, Ocheretenko said that people need to be educated first about diabetes and the dangers they face.

Also, Ukrainians don't pay enough attention to healthy lifestyles, including diet and exercise. “People still think tackling with the health problems can be postponed, which is wrong,” Ocheretenko added.

To improve the situation, the nation needs a more comprehensive policy to reduce diabetes, she said. ■



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Elena Voloshina
Head of IFC's operations in Ukraine

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Pinchuk hides acquisition of pricey London landmark

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Grand Buildings, a landmark historical building on Trafalgar Square in London, is secretly owned by Victor Pinchuk, the billionaire Ukrainian oligarch, through a chain of offshore firms.

This fact was revealed by the Paradise Papers — 13.4 million leaked documents obtained in 2016 by the Süddeutsche Zeitung newspaper and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. They were shared with an international team of investigative reporters, including the Washington, D.C.-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, a Kyiv Post partner.

The investigation of the leaks was published by Slidstvo.info, an investigative show and OCCRP partner, on Nov. 8.

The records also mentioned other Ukrainian top officials, including President Petro Poroshenko; Serhiy Oleksiyenko, a board member of



Grand Buildings, formerly the Grand Hotel, a landmark historical building on Trafalgar Square in central London is secretly owned by Ukrainian billionaire Victor Pinchuk. (AFP)



Ukrainian billionaire Victor Pinchuk. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Ukrtransgaz, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state oil and gas company Naftogaz; and Serhiy Kivalov, a member of the Opposition Bloc faction in parliament.

Pinchuk obtained the office building, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, and a smaller building nearby as part of a settlement in his lawsuit against fellow Ukrainian billionaire oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Hennadiy Bogolyubov in 2013.

Neither Pinchuk nor Kolomoisky agreed to comment on the leak, citing a confidentiality clause in their agreement.

Pinchuk and the two partners clashed in the High Court in

London over the Kryviy Rih Iron Ore Enrichment Plant, a major ore mining company in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, which was privatized in 2004 for \$40 million.

Pinchuk, now Ukraine's fourth richest man, with a fortune was estimated at \$1.3 billion by Focus magazine in 2016, claimed that his partners breached a contract and trust by failing to place the major asset under his ownership.

He insisted that Kolomoisky and Bogolyubov served as proxies for himself. As the son-in-law of then-Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, an autocrat who ruled from 1994–2005, Pinchuk couldn't privatize the plant himself. Kolomoisky and

Bogolyubov were supposed to privatize the plant and secretly pass it to him, but didn't do so.

He sued the pair for \$2 billion in compensation for his stake in the plant and the profit he would have received had the plant in his possession. Pinchuk claimed that he had paid \$143 million for shares he never received, according to the court papers.

However, in 2016 the trio settled their dispute days before the hearings were to start. The details of the settlement were confidential, and no one knew what Pinchuk received to drop the case.

But it's not a secret anymore.

According to leaked emails from

Appleby, an offshore international law firm based on the Isle of Man, and Pinchuk's lawyers from the British law firm Hogan Lovells, the lawyers in early 2016 — days before the settlement — requested the opening of a series of bank accounts so that Boholyubov and Kolomoisky could transfer money to Pinchuk. The exact sums are unknown.

A few days after the dispute between the oligarchs was settled, Appleby received another email from Hogan Lovells. They claimed that the parties had agreed to give Pinchuk two valuable London properties in addition to the money. In the leaked data, they explained that the properties had been registered by offshore companies on the Isle of Man, but would have to be re-registered to a new owner, and so they needed to set up a trust on the Island of Jersey that would take over ownership of the buildings.

One of the two properties was a multimillion-dollar office block overlooking Hyde Park at 27 Knightsbridge in London's Belgrave Square. It was worth more than 75 million pounds as of the end of 2015.

The other building is the luxurious Grand Buildings on Trafalgar Square, overlooking Nelson's Column and serving as the headquarters for several companies. It also houses a number of restaurants and boutiques. The Independent reported in 2013 that Bogolyubov originally paid 173 million pounds for the building in August 2010, buying it from Dubai-based investment firm Istithmar.

According to Slidstvo.info, both buildings are owned by a chain of offshore companies that leads to a trust on the Island of Jersey. ■

Poroshenko remains silent as accusations swirl about reasons for his business deals

Poroshenko from page 3

would provide definitive proof. Such documents include annual financial reports and a resolution by the board of directors, which must show under Cypriot law how much cash and how many shares were transferred as part of the 4 million euro transaction.

The Ukrainian documents could turn out to be fake if the Cypriot firm files documents that contradict them, Likarchuk said.

"The documents that are submitted to Cypriot authorities are better proof (than Ukrainian documents)," he added.

Since 2014, Cyprus' CEE Confectionary Investment Ltd. has not published a single annual return and missed two deadlines for such reports.

Avellum told the Kyiv Post it could not provide the resolution of the

board of directors on the transfer of shares and could not say why the company had not published its annual return, or when it would be published.

The law firm also cited a June 2016 memorandum by Baker & McKenzie's Kyiv office that concluded that there had been no violations in the Cyprus deal, and that only shares had been involved in the transaction.

One problem is that Baker & McKenzie's Kyiv office based its conclusion on the Ukrainian documents provided by Poroshenko's representatives, which was confirmed by Avellum. No evidence has been provided that Baker & McKenzie saw any documents from the Cypriot register.

The June 2016 memorandum was signed by Serhiy Piontkovsky and Olyana Gordiyenko, partners

at Baker & McKenzie's Kyiv office. In September 2016 Poroshenko appointed Gordiyenko as a member of the National Securities and Stock Market Commission. She resigned from the post in March 2017.

In a strange coincidence, an investigation by OCCRP and its Ukrainian partner Slidstvo.info shows that Avellum lawyer Medvedev, who worked on Poroshenko's case, helped Serhiy Oleksiyenko, an official at Ukrainian state gas firm Ukrtransgaz, to set up an offshore fund on the Isle of Man specifically to bypass the National Bank of Ukraine's currency regulations and transfer \$1 million in cash to Cyprus. The scheme involved the Ukrainian subsidiary of Russia's Alfa Bank and its affiliated firm in the UK, with an offshore ownership structure.

Medvedev denied doing anything illegal but refused to explain in

detail why he believes the scheme was lawful.

Blind trust?

Avellum also showed the first and last pages of Poroshenko's blind trust agreement to the Kyiv Post, albeit for less than a minute. The lawyers also said they cannot show the rest due to confidentiality rules. Under the trust deal, Rothschild cannot disclose any information to Poroshenko except for information on the sale of assets and information necessary for Ukrainian disclosure rules.

But Likarchuk argued that a proper blind trust cannot provide information to the client even on the sale of assets.

By definition, the trustee of a blind trust must be an independent professional with no relation or affiliation with the politician, and must have full control over buying and selling

the assets in the trust.

Sergii Zaitsev, Poroshenko's acquaintance and long-time top manager, is still a director of Roshen Europe B.V., which holds Roshen's Ukrainian companies. This raises the question of whether Poroshenko still influences the management of the assets.

Moreover, Poroshenko's dealings with his assets prior to the blind trust's creation could have violated Ukrainian anti-corruption law.

Under this law, a state official must either sell his or her assets or transfer them to a management firm, and his relatives cannot run these assets. However, Poroshenko's father was the CEO of Ukraine's Prime Assets Capital, which ran the president's assets until 2016.

Avellum and the Presidential Administration did not comment on the accusations. ■

Documents in Paradise Papers expose schemes of wealthy elite



Andriy Verevskyy
Founder and Board Chairman of Kernel, a Ukrainian diversified agriculture company

Member of Parliament during 2002–2013

Offshore Links

Leaked emails and documents from Appleby show that Verevskyy is the beneficial owner of an Isle of Man company, AV Aviation Ltd. The company is the registered owner of a Dassault Falcon 2000 private jet, which was bought for \$25,000,000 in August 2014 using a combination of Verevskyy's personal wealth and a loan from BNP Paribas.



Anton Prygodskyy
Ukrainian politician and businessman who was a member of parliament from 2006 until 2014

Offshore Links

According to records leaked from Malta's company registry, Prygodskyy owns shares in two local companies: Ala Int. Limited and Tuc Limited, registered, respectively, in February 2011 and October 2013. According to financial reports, the companies were involved in building the Dutch-made luxury yacht Santa Maria T. Prygodskyy did not mention the companies in his wealth declarations to parliament.



Igor Nikonov
Construction businessman, informal advisor to Mayor of Kyiv Vitaliy Klitschko

Offshore Links

In April 2016, the Ukrainian law firm Avellum started the process of creating a foundation for Nikonov. According to a leaked email, an Appleby manager, Sean Dowling, traveled to Kyiv at some point prior to April 5, 2014, to meet Nikonov about creating the foundation. It is unclear what purpose the foundation was intended for, or if it was ever established.

In an email response to OCCRP, Nikonov's company KAN Development confirmed it had hired Avellum for the purposes of an investment in the European Union, but said that the deal never went ahead.



Kostyantyn Zhevago
Chief Executive Officer of Ukrainian mining company Ferrexpo

Member of Parliament since 1998

Finance director of Finance & Credit bank in 1992, eventually bought the business, which went bankrupt in 2015

Offshore Links

Leaked documents from the Bahamas company registry show Zhevago as the sole director, between 1997 and 1998, of Pharma Distributing Corp. It is unclear what the company's business activities were or if it is still active.



Petro Poroshenko
President of Ukraine

Owner of Roshen, Ukraine's largest confectionery company

Interests in automotive plants, a shipyard, a television channel, and the country's largest confectionery company

Offshore Links

Poroshenko's name turns up in correspondence between the Ukrainian law firm Avellum Partners and the Appleby law firm in the Isle of Man in June 2014. In the leaked correspondence, lawyers at Avellum asked Appleby for help in setting up an offshore holding company as part of a restructuring of Roshen. When contacted, Poroshenko's presidential press office directed OCCRP's questions to Avellum. In a written response, Avellum said the offshore restructure was necessary for the planned sale of Roshen and to ensure that the maximum amount of tax would be paid in Ukraine.



Vadym Gurzhos
Businessman who has headed the country's State Road Administration and served as the deputy head of the Kyiv Regional State Administration from 2006 to 2008

Offshore Links

Leaked Maltese registry documents show Gurzhos named as director of two local companies, Alu Idea Co. Ltd. and Worldfone 1 Co. Ltd., since March 2011 and September 2013 respectively. It is unclear what activities the companies may have undertaken.



Valeriy Voshchevskyy
Ukrainian entrepreneur

Vice Prime Minister of Ukraine from December 2014 until September 2015, overseeing national ecology, infrastructure and construction.

Offshore Links

Voshchevskyy appears in leaked records from the Malta company registry as a director and shareholder of the Maltese company Marfa holding Ltd. The company was established in December 2013 and was dissolved in January 2016. Its purpose was unclear; there are no publicly disclosed activities in Ukraine or elsewhere. Voshchevskyy did not disclose his interest in the company in his asset declaration as vice prime minister, as required by law.



Sergiy Oleksiyenko
Board member of Ukrtransgaz, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the state oil and gas company Naftogaz

Former advisor to Naftogaz's chief executive officer, Andriy Kobolyev

Offshore Links

In December 2015, the Ukrainian law firm Avellum Partners, acting on Oleksiyenko's behalf, sought Appleby's help in creating "a foundation or a trust"

on the Isle of Man. The plan, outlined by Avellum lawyers, was to use the entity to set up a foreign bank account in order to avoid strict currency controls implemented in Ukraine in 2013. In 2016, Oleksiyenko planned to use Isle of Man lawyers to transfer \$1 million to the foundation, named Pioneer Foundation, according to leaked documents.

In an interview with OCCRP, Oleksiyenko confirmed he had the foundation set up, but said no bank account was created. He shared with OCCRP a document from Estera, a "fiduciary and administration services" arm of Appleby, showing that Pioneer was dissolved in April 2017.



Serhiy Kivalov
Member of Parliament

Head of the Ukrainian Central Election Commission during the 2004 presidential election, disputes over which prompted the country's Orange Revolution

Offshore Links

Kivalov appears in the leaked Bahamas business registry as a director, from 1998 to 1999, of the company Golden Gate Bay Ltd. The documents list Kivalov as having an address in Nassau, Bahamas. It is unclear what the company's business activities were or if it is still active.



Vadim Shulman
Businessman with interests in mining, chemicals, energy, and telecommunications

Close associate of Ukrainian oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennady Bogolyubov

Since 2006, chair of Ukraine Tennis Federation

Offshore Links

According to Appleby records, Shulman, who lives in Monaco, bought a brand new Gulfstream G450 jet direct from the manufacturer for \$35,000,000 in 2012. Appleby helped Shulman set up a network of companies in the Isle of Man and British Virgin Islands for the purposes of operating and servicing the aircraft. In internal documents, the firm refers to the aircraft deal as of "high risk."

Shulman did not respond to reporters' requests for comment.



Ihor Urbanskyy
Member of Parliament from 2006 to 2007

Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications between 2007 and 2009

His son Aleksandr Urbanskyy is a member of parliament aligned with President Petro Poroshenko.

Offshore Links

Leaked Malta registry documents show Urbanskyy as director of two local firms, G.A. Shipping Co. Ltd. and South Pole Navigation Ltd. G.A. Shipping is listed as being owned by Kaalbye Group, a shipping company founded by Urbanskyy.

Urbanskyy did not respond to reporters' requests for comment. ■

Source: Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

VOX populi

WITH DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM



What do you think about offshores?



Alla Yermak
34, sales manager

"As a conscientious citizen, I'm against offshores. It's unethical. I understand, though, that the legislation,

taxation and working conditions in Ukraine often force people to run companies from abroad."



Andrii Kalashnyk
29, marketing specialist

"Why should a company pay more tax if it can legally pay less? That's what offshores do, and they work."



Andrii Sokolov
22, IT specialist

"I don't see what's so shameful about offshores. If I needed to choose between a good lawyer or utter corruption – in fact, both are used to optimize tax payments – I'd choose lawyers and offshores."



Anatoly Avdeev
33, entrepreneur

"If offshores exist, then there's a reason – they help the business. I don't see any problems with them. It's

better to use offshores than to be corrupt."



Igor Stolnitsky
38, tech entrepreneur

"Offshores are a reasonable scheme to operate business, including a Ukrainian one. Offshores save money. Everybody in the world understands it."



Iryna Chaban
29, manager

"My income and sphere of activity make it irrelevant for me to talk about offshores companies."

Thanksgiving

Black Tie Dinner & Award Ceremony

November 18 | Hilton Kyiv Hotel

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Nov. 15



Patricia Kaas (pop, chanson)

French singer and actress Patricia Kaas has had the greatest success in Germany, Switzerland, Canada and she is well-known in Ukraine, too. In her music she mixes pop, cabaret, and French chanson. Born in a small village on the border with Germany, since the very young age Kaas knew how to rock the stage with millions people watching her performance. And that is what she plans doing in Kyiv.

Patricia Kaas (pop, cabaret). Palace Ukraine (103 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Nov. 15. 7 p.m. Hr 1,000 - 5,000

Friday, Nov. 10

Classical music

Three S. Skoryk, Stankovych, Sylvestrov. National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 50 - 600

Live Music

All Music is Jazz (festival). Closer. 8 - 11 p.m. Hr 450 - 800

Babuci and Brothers. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 100 - 750

Clubs

Mujuice (electronic live set). Atlas. 11 p.m. Hr 250 - 900

5 years Indigo Anniversary: Milk and Sugar. Indigo. 11 p.m. Hr 100 - 200

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

Nomad. She is no Mad (art exhibition). Tryptykh. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Feel the Mood (art exhibition). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

Kill Bill (art exhibition about advertising). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

ing). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Shows

Alexey Kogan. Anniversary Concert. Zhovtnevy Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 300 - 1,400

Paul Manandise (pop). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180 - 850

NeAngely (pop). Palace Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 650 - 1,950

Saturday, Nov. 11

Classical Music

Valentina Matyushenko (soprano). National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 50

Kyiv Chamber Orchestra. Music by Tchaikovsky. National Philharmonic of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 300

Sax in the Big City. Playing Tchaikovsky, Piazzolla, Khachaturian. Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 150 - 300

Live Music

All Music is Jazz (festival). Closer. 8 - 11 p.m. Hr 450 - 800

Alexey Kogan. Blues Afterparty. Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 200 - 790

Clubs

Decadance Birthday with Rampa in Chi. Chi by Decadence House. 9 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

Nomad. She is no Mad (art exhibition). Tryptykh. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Kill Bill (art exhibition about advertising). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Feel the Mood (art exhibition). America House. 10 - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Winter Clothes. Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Book Club: Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer. America House. 12 - 2 p.m. Free

Movies

Carrie (drama, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Murder on the Orient Express (crime, drama, mystery). Ukraine Cinema. 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Zhovten. 2:30 p.m. Hr 50 - 95

Shows

Scorpions (rock). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 1,390 - 1,990

Che Malambo (men's band). Zhovtnevy Palace. 3 p.m., 7 p.m. Hr 200 - 2,000

Yarmak (hip-hop). Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 200 - 550

Theater

Iolanta (opera). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 400

Sunday, Nov. 12

Classical music

Inspiration Classic. Music by Czech and Polish composers. Actor's House. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 150

Live Music

Poetry. Letters. Jazz. About Love. Cinema House. 8 p.m. Hr 100 - 300

VIII International Blues Festival. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 150 - 450

All Music is Jazz (festival). Closer. 8 - 11 p.m. Hr 450 - 800

Fantastic Jazz Band. Mambo, Cha - Cha, Swing. Fantastic Home. 7 p.m. Hr 90 - 150

Clubs

R'n'B Boom. Forsage. 10 p.m. Hr 40 - 60

Miscellaneous

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

First Dachshund Parade. Ivan Franko Theater. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Free

Nomad. She is no Mad (art exhibition). Tryptykh. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Winter Clothes. Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 300

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Nomad. She is no Mad (art exhibition). Tryptykh. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Movies

La Sociologue et l'Ourson (documentary, in French). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 40

Tuesday, Nov. 14

Classical music

Jerusalem Quartet. Playing Mozart and Bartok. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 350

Live music

International Competition of Saxophonists. Gala Concert. Petro Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine. 8 p.m. Hr 150 - 350

Mark Gross Quartet feat Benito Gonzalez. Playing jazz. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 400 - 900

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free



Nov. 11, 12

'Murder on the Orient Express'

The new adaptation of the renowned novel by Agatha Christie "Murder on the Orient Express" is about to hit the world's cinemas, and Ukraine is no exception. The story unfolds around 13 strangers that become suspects of the murder committed in the train, where they all are stranded. The cast of the film gathered acclaimed actors: Kenneth Branagh, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Willem Dafoe, Michelle Pfeiffer and Penélope Cruz.

"Murder on the Orient Express." Ukraine Cinema (5 Horodetskoho St.) Nov. 11, 12. 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Hr 50 - 70. Zhovten (26 Kostiantynivska St.) Nov. 11, 12. 2:30 p.m. Hr 75 - 95

Movies

Carrie (drama, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Murder on the Orient Express (crime, drama, mystery). Ukraine. 2 p.m., 4 p.m. Zhovten. 2:30 p.m. Hr 50 - 95

Shows

Benjamin Clementine (avant-garde, experimental pop). Zhovtnevy Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 700 - 2,000

Theater

Lady of the Camellias (opera). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 500 (48)

Monday, Nov. 13

Classical music

Mykhailo Yanovytzky (piano). Playing Beethoven, Schumann, Skryabin and Prokofiev. National

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

Nomad. She is No Mad (art exhibition). Tryptykh. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Kill Bill (art exhibition about advertising). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition).



Alessandro Safina (classical crossover)

He is the kind of singer who successfully mixes opera and classical pop music. He contributed to Baz Luhrmann's film Moulin Rouge where he performed Elton John's "Your Song" with Ewan McGregor, recorded a duet with Sarah Brightman, and now he arrives to Kyiv together with symphonic orchestra to present his new program.

Alessandro Safina (classical crossover). Palace of Sports (1 Sportyvna Sq.) Nov. 18. 7 p.m. Hr 150 - 2,750

bition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Movies

Super Size Me (documentary, comedy). American Library. 5 p.m. Free

From Dusk Till Dawn (action, crime, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50 - 70

Theater

Scheherazade + Carmen Suites. National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 500

Wednesday, Nov. 15

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

7:30 p.m. Hr 150 - 350

Live music

Poetry. Jazz. Yuriy Andrukhovych. Artist's House. 8 p.m. Hr 150 - 275

All Star Jazz. Playing compositions by Louis Armstrong, Edith Piaf, Duke Ellington, George Gershwin and Ella Fitzgerald. Bel étage. 8 p.m. Hr 150 - 450

Big Yellow Band. Playing jazz. Actor's House. 7:30 p.m. Hr 80 - 200

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Kill Bill (art exhibition about advertis-

Clubs

Student's Day Tao. Tao. 11 p.m. Hr 100

Karaoke Friday. SkyBar. 11 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Swan Lake (ballet). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 2,500

Saturday, Nov. 18

Classical music

Boris Bloch (piano). Playing Bach, Schumann, Liszt. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 345

Classics for Children. Sand animation and live music. Cinema House. 11 p.m. Hr 250

Clubs

Afterparty (student's day). Atlas. 11 p.m. Hr 100

Karaoke and Disco. Indigo. 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 250

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Smako Boom (food festival). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Soft Market (furniture market). Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Kyiv Vinyl Music Fair. Sentrum. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free

Movies

From Dusk Till Dawn (action, crime, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Shows

Alessandro Safina (classical crossover). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 150 - 2,750

Brutto (rock). Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 225 - 1,200

Boombox (funk, hip-hop, rock). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 449 - 1,499

Larry Gus (alternative, indie). Sentrum. 8 p.m. Hr 300 - 700

Monatik (pop). Indigo. 10 p.m. Hr 300

Theater

Faust (opera). National Opera of



David Lynch in Kyiv

The iconic American director David Lynch, who is best-known for his series "Twin Peaks," comes to Ukraine on Nov. 16 - 18 to open the branch of his charitable David Lynch Foundation in Kyiv. Lynch will meet with Ukrainian students, officials and politicians and will hold two meetups with fans in Planeta Kino cinema and a dinner at Fairmont Hotel on Nov. 17.

Gala Dinner. David Lynch (meetup). Fairmont (1 Naberezhno - Khreshchatytska St.) Nov. 17. 6 p.m. Hr 55,000

Meeting with David Lynch. Planeta Kino (34 Stepan Bandery Ave.) Nov. 17. 2 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m. Hr 400

Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 500

Sunday, Nov. 19

Classical music

Artehata Chamber Orchestra. Playing Vivaldi and Marcello. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 300

Modern Classics for Everyone. Kyiv Virtuosity playing Shostakovich, Vivaldi, Ravel, Schnittke, Britten and others. Cinema House. 8 p.m. Hr 120 - 370

Clubs

Jerome Isma, EightKays, Miss Monuque, Spieler, Skinner DJ Set. Forsage. 10 p.m. - 6 a.m. Hr 40 - 60

Miscellaneous

Playing the Past (interactive photo exhibition). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art

14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Smako Boom (food festival). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Soft Market (furniture market). Vsi Svoi. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Movies

From Dusk Till Dawn (action, crime, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m. Hr 50

Shows

Big Dance Show. Caribbean. 5 p.m. Hr 150

L'Electrophorese (darkwave, synth-pop). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 200

Ruslan Kuznetsov (pop). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 200 - 500

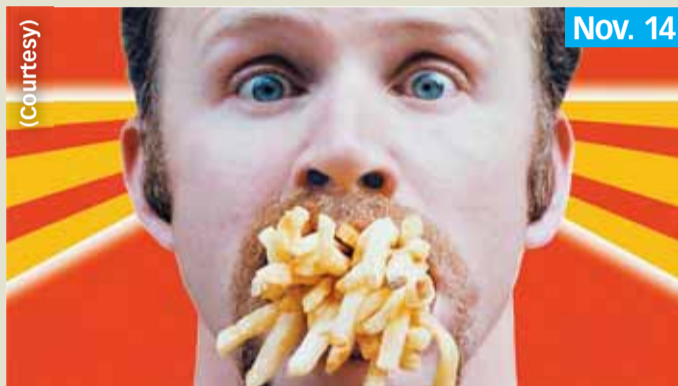
Amatory (metal). Sentrum. 8 p.m. Hr 350 - 550

Theater

Faust (opera). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 500

'Super Size Me'

American Library continues its Documentary Film Festival with screening of the controversial film "Super Size Me." The documentary shows American filmmaker Morgan Spurlock eating only fast food from McDonald's restaurant chain for a month. The film features the director's diary and the changes that his physical and psychological well-being has taken during this month. **"Super Size Me." American Library (8/5 Voloska St.) Nov. 14. 5 p.m. Free**



Fragile State (art exhibition). Pinchuk Art Center. 12 - 9 p.m. Free

International Biennale (art exhibition). Center of Visual Culture. State Scientific Library of Ukraine. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Kill Bill (art exhibition about advertising). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Ubik Litvin. Contemporary Architecture Photography (photo exhibition). TsUM. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Movies

Justice League (action, adventure, fantasy). Planeta Kino. 9 p.m. Hr 145 - 205

Shows

Patricia Kaas (pop, jazz). Palace Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 1,000 - 5,500

Theater

The Nutcracker (ballet). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 500

Thursday, Nov. 16

Classical music

Cello and Piano Concert. Playing Ginastera, Dvorak, Stravinsky, Rachmaninoff and Piazzolla. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 345

Egor Grushin. Together. Playing modern classics. Architect's House.

ing). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Indigoterra (photo exhibition). Art 14. 12 - 7 p.m. Free

Zoom In and Zoom Out (art exhibition). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Movies

From Dusk Till Dawn (action, crime, horror). Kinopanorama. 3 p.m., 9 p.m. Hr 50 - 70

Shows

Oxxxymiron (rap). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 399 - 1,799

Theater

Zaporozhets za Dunayem (opera). National Opera of Ukraine. 7 p.m. Hr 20 - 400

Follies (British Theater Live). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 9 p.m. Hr 175 - 225

Friday, Nov. 17

Classical music

Violin and Piano Concert. Playing Mozart, Schubert, Verlaene, Brahms and Szymanowski. Tauvers Gallery. 7 p.m. Hr 200

Mariia Vikhliaieva (piano). Playing Mozart and Prokofiev. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 50

National Academic Brass Band of Ukraine. Playing Gulda, Schwartz. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70 - 300

Yo Lo Vi: Lovely Postcards From Donbas (photo exhibition). Educatorium. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Imaginary Guide. Japan (art exhibition). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 60 - 130

Roman Mykhailov. Fear (art exhibition). Lavra. 12 - 6 p.m. Free

Gala Dinner. David Lynch (meetup). Fairmont. 6 p.m. Hr 55,000

Meeting with David Lynch. Planeta Kino. 2 p.m., 2:15 p.m., 2:30 p.m., 2:45 p.m. Hr 400

Movies

Silent Movie and Jazz. Big City Lights (screening to live music). Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 175 - 275

Shows

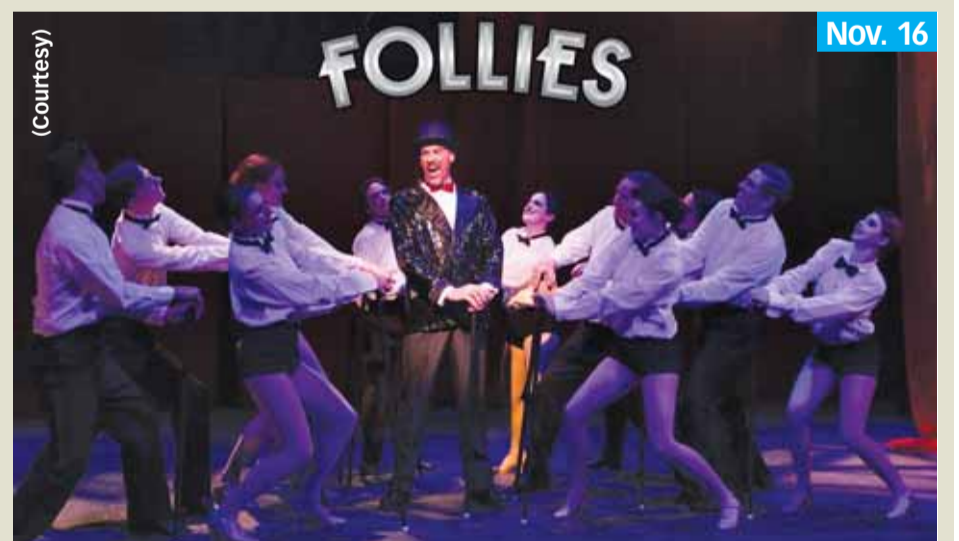
Epolets (rock). Sentrum. 7 p.m. Hr 220 - 560

Theater

'Follies' (theater recording)

One of the most renowned musicals with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, "Follies" is about the reunion of the former performers of Weismann Theater on the night before building's demolition. The musical focuses on two couples who are deeply unhappy in their marriages. The play will be screened in English with Ukrainian subtitles.

"Follies" (British Theater Live). Multiplex (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkoverstka St.) Nov. 16. 9 p.m. Hr 175 - 225



Venues

Classical Music

● National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Descent) +38044 278 1697
● Petro Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine
● Tauvers Gallery (6 Olhynska St.) +38044 220 0692
● Architect's House (7 Borysa Hrinchenka St.) +38050 386 7410

● Actor's House (7 Yaroslaviv Val St.) +38044 235 2081

Live Music

● Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.) +38067 224 4111
● Cinema House (6 Saksahansko St.) +38063 873 7306
● Bel étage (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) +38067 171 1 616
● Dockers' ABC (15

Khreshchaty St.) +38044 278 1717
● Artist's House (1 - 5 Lvivska Sq.)
● Fantastik Home (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.)

Clubs

● Mezzanine Club (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306
● Forsage Club (51A Harmatna St.) +38063 497 9606
● Closer (31

Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38044 492 9203
● America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119
● Pinchuk Art Center (1 500 0011
● Chi by Decadence House (16 Parkova Rd.) +38044 466 2013
● Tao (2A Baseina St.) +38097 511 5555
● SkyBar (5 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 223 8888
● Mystetsky Arsenal (10 - 12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225

● Lavra Gallery (9 Lavrska St.) +38044 280 9549
● Tryptykh Gallery (24 Andriivsky Uzviz) +38044 279 0759
● Center of Visual Culture (44 Hlybochytka St.) vrcr@vrcr.org.ua
● State Scientific Library of Ukraine (180 Antonovycha St.) +38044 521 2351
● Educatorium (8B Reitarska St.) +38044 279 5788

● Art 14 gallery (14 Mykhailivsky Ln.) +38044 461 9055
● TsUM (38 Khreshchaty St.) 0800 600 202
● VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) +38044 596 9101
● Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater (3 Ivana Franka Sq.) +38044 279 5991
● Fairmont Grand Hotel (Naberezhno - Khreshchatytska St.) +38044 322 8888

● Kinopanorama cinema (19 Shota Rustaveli St.) +38044 279 6301
● Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 234 7381
● Multiplex cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkoverstka St.) 0800 505 333
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● Ukraine cinema (5 Arhitekora Horodetskoho St.) +38044 279 6301
● Planeta Kino cinema (Blockbuster, 34B Stepana Bandery St.) 0800 300 600
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● Atlas (37 - 41 Sichovkyh Striltsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
● Sentrum (11 Shota Rustaveli St.) +38097 115 0011
● Palace of Sports (1

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● Stereo Plaza (119 Lobanovskiy Ave.) +38044 222 8040
● Palace Ukraine (103 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) +38044 247 2476
● Zhovteny Palace (1 Heroviv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279 7482
Theater
● National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrska St.) +38044 234 7165

Ukraine loses billions due to secret offshore schemes

Offshore from page 1

maintained by governments in secret offshore jurisdictions.

Among those exposed were U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, pop star Madonna, tech giant Apple, Queen Elizabeth and at least 11 Ukrainian business and political heavyweights, including President Petro Poroshenko.

Weeks before the Paradise Papers became public on Nov. 5, Appleby announced that it had been hacked and that their documents were leaked to journalists of *Suddeutsche Zeitung* and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

Billions gone

It's hard to say how much developing countries like Ukraine are losing due to offshore tax evasion. But the figure is in the billions.

Kostiantyn Lykarchuk, senior partner at Kinstellar, says that Ukraine's state budget is deprived of at least tens of billions of dollars due to offshore tax evasion. The *Economist* suggests a similar number, estimating roughly 10 percent of the country's gross domestic product, standing at

\$93 billion in 2016, has been lost this way during the 1990s and 2000s.

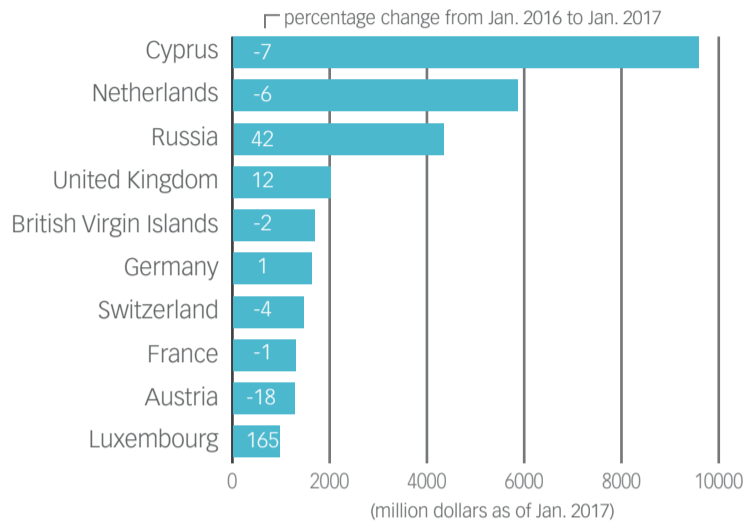
The Tax Justice Network, a non-profit advocacy group, suggests that globally, annual tax losses are at \$500 billion or more. This represents over 20 percent of corporate tax revenues which have not been paid. Global estimates of wealth hidden by individuals via offshores are astounding, ranging anywhere between 7.6 trillion to \$32 trillion.

Why offshore?

Offshores can be used for various purposes such as securing patents and intellectual property, but for many the principal attraction of these tax havens is secrecy and the low-tax or no-tax business environment. Although setting up an offshore company isn't necessarily unlawful, it is considered unethical by many.

"No one would go to the trouble of setting up an offshore company if they could do this at home or onshore," George Turner, a researcher at Tax Justice Network, told the *Kyiv Post*. "In this way, offshores allow them to do things they can't do otherwise."

Foreign direct investment in Ukraine



The majority of foreign direct investment comes to Ukraine from countries known for being centers for corporate tax avoidance like Cyprus, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, the British Virgin Islands, Switzerland, and Luxembourg. This means the investors may well be Ukrainian companies with Ukrainian beneficiaries registered in those jurisdictions.

Source: Ukrstat By Yuliana Romanyshyn, *Kyiv Post*

Offshore companies, often dummies, are used not only to avoid paying taxes but also hide cash flow and ill-gotten property.

Moving activities offshore isn't

cheap. One of the firms operating in Bermuda, Healy Consultants Group PLC, advertises some of its services online for \$16,980. This would include offering registration

of an exempt company that would not have to pay taxes or act according to the usual regulations of its home country. One can register their offshore in three weeks with a minimum capital deposit of \$1. No physical office is required and no corporation tax is applied.

Bermuda is a famous tax haven, but some European countries also offer tax relief and little regulation.

Transparency International found 766 companies registered in the United Kingdom that had been directly involved in laundering over \$100 billion out of at least 13 countries, including Ukraine.

This widespread use of offshore jurisdictions also distorts the statistics of foreign investment flow. Ukraine's top foreign direct investors come from Cyprus, British Virgin Islands, Netherlands as well as Belize, Panama, Seychelles, Luxembourg, and Switzerland, according to the State Statistics Services.

Non-tax reasons

Kinstellar's Lykarchuk says that there are many purposes of an off-

more Offshore on page 15



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Why is Ukraine so poor? Look at wealth that goes abroad

Offshore from page 14

shore. One reason is to secure a business under British law since it is more “convenient and flexible” when resolving a dispute.

“Most people, even very powerful and influential want to bring their disputes out of Ukraine and have them resolved somewhere abroad in London, Stockholm or elsewhere,” Lykarchuk said. This assures a higher level of security and stability as well as provides companies with more access to foreign banks that often will not accept Ukrainian law-governed documents.

Another reason would be to secure business operational activity such as protecting patents and intellectual property.

“From an operational perspective, you would establish structures outside of Ukraine,” Lykarchuk said. “It’s quite normal.”

It becomes more controversial when one structures a mergers

and acquisitions transaction. “That’s when people try to avoid taxes,” Lykarchuk said. This way one can transfer large amounts of money immediately avoiding the need to pay taxes. “That’s when these kind of British Virgin Islands and Cyprus holdings kick in.”

Another aspect is confidentiality and the option to hide behind trust declarations such as if an owner of an expensive yacht or car would want to avoid declaring the expensive asset.

Avoidance vs. evasion

The distinction between tax avoidance and tax evasion is clear. Tax avoidance means taking advantage of loopholes in legislation, while tax evasion is an absolutely illegal action where an entity does not declare income, property, or commits fraud in order not to pay taxes. But both are the same in a sense that someone deliberately sets out to not pay taxes.

“It is important to remember that



People walk past the Roshen confectionery shop belonging to President Petro Poroshenko on Khreshchatyk Street in Kyiv on June 26. Roshen appears in the latest leak of offshore documents, the Paradise Papers. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

both start with the same intention and in the end have the same result — societies lose money. Both practices are abusive and governments need to challenge them,” Turner said.

Fighting the system

The Tax Justice Network suggests several ways to combat tax dodging via offshore jurisdictions.

One way is to set up an automatic exchange of banking information. If a Ukrainian citizen sets a bank

account on the British Virgin Islands, the offshore bank would have to pass on the information to the Ukrainian authorities.

Full disclosure of beneficiaries is another step. Today, most company registries list owners and directors, who may not be the ultimate beneficiaries of the company.

In 2017, Ukraine integrated its national registry of beneficiary ownership to integrate with the global Open Ownership Register. The web-

site combines data from company registers around the world where anyone can search for information on specific companies.

Finally, multinational corporations must publish financial reports on revenues, sales, staff, taxes paid, losses based on every country. This way, it will be easy to see the discrepancy between operations and profits of a company in the particular country in which it operates. ■

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Growing debts in utility sector threaten Kyiv heating season

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
MELKOZEROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Winter comes every year in Ukraine – that's guaranteed.

Unfortunately, there's no guarantee that when temperatures drop, the centralized systems will start pumping out the heat.

While Kyivenergo, the capital's energy and electricity supply monopolist, and the Kyiv City Council both assured the Kyiv Post that the heating season has started successfully, there were more than 800 buildings in Kyiv without heating and hot water on Nov. 1.

But it's not just pipe bursts that stop the heat. Debts on heating bills, and the fact that Kyivenergo pays more for the gas it uses to create heat than what it can charge consumers, are bigger problems, according to Kyivenergo.

"The gas prices and heating tariffs for state-owned companies, and the consumers' debts are the biggest threats to the heating season in Kyiv," the press service of Kyivenergo told the Kyiv Post on Oct. 27.

According to Kyivenergo, its customers in Kyiv owed Hr 2.6 billion (\$96 million) in debts for heating and hot water as of Oct. 1.

The biggest debtors are the public (Hr 1.3 billion or \$48 million) and housing management associations (Hr 682 million or \$25 million).

State-financed organizations owe Hr 34.2 million (\$1.2 million). The government has failed to pay Hr 430 million (\$16.2 million) in compensation to Kyivenergo.

Many people are not happy with Kyivenergo.

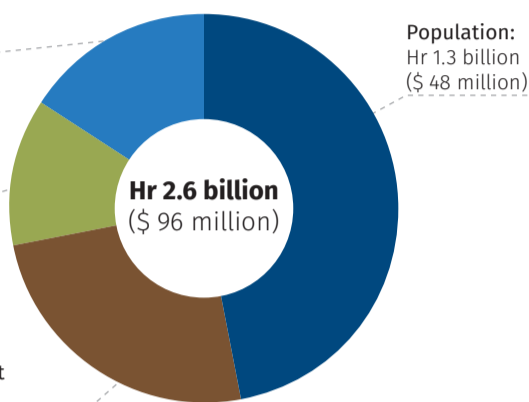
In August, residents of four housing complexes even blocked the Kharkivske Highway in Kyiv, demanding that a company representative review their debts for utilities of Hr 3 million (\$113,000), which they said were unjustified.

Kyiv's debts to Kyivenergo for heating and hot water as on October

The government (in unpaid subsidies and compensations):
Hr 430 million
(\$ 15.9 million)

The state-financed organizations:
Hr 34.2 million
(\$ 1.2 million)

Housing management organizations:
Hr 682 million (\$25 million)



Population:
Hr 1.3 billion
(\$ 48 million)

Source: Kyivenergo

Debts to Kyivenergo, which supplies most of the heating and hot water to the city, threaten the financial stability of the provider.

Even those who pay regularly and have no debts got no heat in October. Pavlo Kostur, who lives in Sviatoshynskiy District, said on Nov. 3 that he was still waiting for heat.

"They promised to turn the heating on on Nov. 1, but failed to do it for some reason," Kostur said. "It was plus 14 degrees Celsius in my flat until the day before yesterday."

Authorities also have gripes with the company mostly owned by billionaire oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. In fact, the Kyiv City Council decided on June 20 to cancel the city's contract, although not until April.

Payment indiscipline?

Kyivenergo's press service said that the company's only source of revenue is from consumers, so unpaid bills make Kyivenergo unable to pay its suppliers.

While gas bills for the public have

more than doubled since 2014, the public's income hasn't kept up.

The minimum wage in Ukraine is Hr 3,200 (\$118), while the average utility check is between Hr 1,500 (\$55) and Hr 2,500 (\$92).

The State Statistics Service reports that in 2017 utility services around Ukraine had already charged the public more than Hr 60 million (\$2.26 million) for services. As of September, Ukrainians had paid Hr 56 million (\$2.11 million) of that amount. In September the public's bill was Hr 3.5 million, and they paid Hr 3.8 million – meaning that they were paying back debts as well.

Rebalancing prices

Nevertheless, Kyivenergo's utility debts are growing not just because

of the public, but because of the way that gas prices have been fixed by the government. It loses money on the gas it sells to some consumers, the company contends.

Naftogaz Ukraine, the state-owned oil and gas company, told the Kyiv Post on Oct. 28 that the company sells gas for residential use to Kyivenergo for Hr 4,940 per 1,000 cubic meters. Kyivenergo charges the same when calculating bills. "So there are no problems there," Naftogaz's press service said.

However, the Ukrainian government set another price for the gas Kyivenergo needs to provide heating to state-financed organizations – Hr 7,900 per 1,000 cubic meters, according to a cabinet regulation (No. 187) adopted in March.

Meanwhile, the National Regulation Commission has ordered the company to use a gas price of around Hr 7,000 per 1,000 cubic meters when calculating its gas bills for state-financed organizations.

"Because of that, the heating producers had an increasing gap between expenditures and profits, as they buy the raw material (gas) for more than they sell the heating," Naftogaz's press service said. "This situation is also unprofitable for us, as we understand that the heating producers just won't have enough money to pay for our services, and their debts will grow."

Due to the gap between prices, Kyivenergo suffers Hr 1.2 million in losses daily from selling gas to government-funded enterprises.

Gas supply companies are already taking action in response to Kyivenergo's growing debts. In

summer, national gas supply company Ukrtransgaz shut off supplies to Central Heating and Power Plant 6 in Kyiv, leaving three districts of Kyiv without hot water for a month because Kyivenergo had run up a Hr 61 million (\$2.2 million) debt. Ukrtransgaz reconnected Central Heating and Power Plant 6 under pressure from local government.

After appeals from Kyivenergo, the cabinet on Oct. 25 decreased the gas price for the company to Hr 7,400 per 1,000 cubic meters. But the changes still need to be approved by the Finance Ministry, and the company will still pay more for gas than it can charge for heat.

Break up the monopoly

City authorities have decided to introduce market forces. To create a competitive market in Kyiv, the council this year created a competitor to Kyivenergo – the public company Kyivteploenergo.

It has obtained a heating supplier license from the National Regulation Commission and has been operating since June. Kyivteploenergo supplies heating to consumers in the Dniprovskiy and Darnytskyi districts.

Kyiv City Council's press service also told the Kyiv Post on Oct. 31 that in 2017 the council had not only cancelled its contract with Kyivenergo, but was also working to return its assets to state ownership.

From the state, Akhmetov's company bought Kyiv's two giant central heating and power plants, the 2,600-kilometer heat distribution network, 200 boiler stations, and a waste incineration plant. ■

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

VITALII ODZHYKOVSKYI joins Sayenko Kharenko as a counsel



Vitalii Odzhykovskiy

Vitalii Odzhykovskiy has joined leading Ukrainian law firm Sayenko Kharenko as a counsel.

Vitalii Odzhykovskiy has over eight years of experience across a range of international and domestic tax issues, tax litigation, customs law and currency regulation. Vitalii has a solid record of expertise advising multinationals and

local companies at all stages of tax controversies during both out-of-court and court proceedings, including with the tax, customs and other state authorities. He offers expert advice to taxpayers in the process of tax audits and consideration of complaints and objections of taxpayers by the tax authorities. His specific areas of experience include sectors such as FMCG and the agricultural sector.

Vitalii Odzhykovskiy studied law at the Kyiv Mohyla Academy (Bachelor in law degree) and Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Master's degree in law). He is a certified attorney-at-law admitted to the bar in Ukraine. Before joining Sayenko Kharenko, Vitalii worked at KM Partners (WTS Consulting) and Baker McKenzie.



Honoring US ambassadors to Ukraine

Morgan Williams, president of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, a 200-member association, presents a framed page from the Kyiv Post advertisement in which the organization honors all nine American ambassadors to Ukraine since national independence in 1991. Seated beside him is U.S. Ambassador Marie L. Yovanovitch, a veteran diplomat who replaced her predecessor, Geoffrey R. Pyatt, last year. Pyatt served from 2014-2016. Yovanovitch spoke to USUBC members on Nov. 7 in Kyiv on recent developments in Russia's war against Ukraine and Ukraine's progress on reform issues. The other seven ambassadors to Ukraine have been: Roman Popadiuk (1992-1993), William Green Miller (1993-1998), Steven Pifer (1998-2000), Carlos Pasqual (2000-2003), John Herbst (2003-2006), William B. Taylor Jr. (2006-2009) and John F. Tefft (2009-2013). (Photo is courtesy of U.S. Ukraine Business Council)

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November is rich with shows, so don't miss the opportunity to see world-known singers, such as Scorpions, Patricia Kaas, Alessandro Safina and more performing in Kyiv. Check out the full schedule in the Kyiv Post Entertainment Guide on pages 12-13.



Kids with disabilities now have play areas

City Life

WITH TOMA ISTOMINA
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Warm up on Kyiv's cold days with hot drinks

As winter comes, Kyiv's bars, cafes and restaurants have closed their summer terraces and are now tempting guests to come inside for seasonal hot drinks. City residents now start the day with a cup of spicy coffee or herbal tea, and sometimes end it with a hot alcoholic beverage. The Kyiv Post has picked out some of the best places:

London

This cozy London-themed cafe in Kyiv's Podil district serves various types of tasty coffee. London also offers a range of other hot drinks, including its house specialty – a herbal drink made with linden-flower, chamomile, or sea buckthorn with rosemary, as well as lots of different teas. In addition, the cafe sells hot drinks with alcohol – traditional mulled red and white wine, and Irish coffee. The menu also includes London's signature drink – the Juicy Strudel – made with rum, apple juice, cranberries, and spices. The cafe sells desserts – cakes, cookies, muffins – as well as pies with savory fillings, including spinach, cheese, turkey, salmon, ham and vegetables.

Prices: herbal tea – Hr 55–69, mulled wine – Hr 75, Irish coffee – Hr 89, Juicy Strudel – Hr 79.

London coffee house (18 Verhnii Val St.) Mon-Fr: 10 a.m. – 10 p.m. Sat-Sun: 11 a.m. – 10 p.m. +38068 773 7315

Milk Bar

Milk Bar is a favorite among Kyiv's young people: They flock here to have breakfast, pick up a dessert, or meet up with friends over a cocktail. The place has a diverse food menu, and offers a wide range of drinks. As Milk Bar's name hints, the venue serves hot milk – flavored with chocolate, lavender, vanilla, and lemongrass. The cafe's specialty is a drink called "tea without tea" – a hot vitamin drink made of ginger and citrus, sea buckthorn and orange, cranberry or rhubarb, and linden-flower. In addition, the cafe serves Irish coffee and mulled wine. Milk Bar also serves a range of breakfasts, salads and soups to sate the appetite, as well as lots of tasty desserts with which to pamper oneself.

Prices: Tea without tea – Hr 75, hot milk – Hr 55, Irish coffee – Hr 115, mulled wine – Hr 115.



Children enjoy merry-go-round on Nov. 8 that was installed in a playground on Peizazhna Alley by charity organization Friendly People. It has a rubberized surface and accommodates wheelchairs and walkers. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

Editor's Note: This article is a part of the "Journalism of Tolerance" project by the Kyiv Post and its affiliated non-profit organization, the Media Development Foundation. The project covers challenges faced by sexual, ethnic and other minorities in Ukraine, as well as people with physical disabilities and those living in poverty. This project is made possible by the support of the American people through the U.S. Agency for International Development and Internews. Content is independent of the donors.

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA AND TOMA ISTOMINA

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It's rare to see children with disabilities on the playgrounds in Ukrainian cities – not because there are no such kids, but rather because most city play areas are simply not accessible for them.

There are some 8 million children in Ukraine, according to UNICEF, of

whom some 167,000 have physical disabilities. Every year this number increases by 0.5 percent.

Now a group of dedicated volunteers is working to ensure there are more places for kids with disabilities to play in the Ukrainian capital.

The charity organization Friendly People has raised \$7,532 to build inclusive playgrounds at three locations in Kyiv – Mariinsky Park, Taras Shevchenko Park and Peizazhna Alley.

Fundraising

Olesia Ogryzko, one of the founders of Friendly People, has always wanted to help people with disabilities.

Ogryzko worked in Ukraine's Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and in 2014 helped to bring to Ukraine support from Save the Children, an international non-governmental organization that helps support children in developing countries.

After Russia launched its war on Ukraine in the Donbas in 2014, Save the Children launched a direct emergency response in Ukraine and has so far supported more than 89,000 children and adults living in gov-

ernment-controlled and Russian-occupied areas of Ukraine.

Now Ogryzko is helping to raise awareness about kids with disabilities and make Kyiv a more inclusive city.

Ogryzko, with the help of other volunteers, including community leaders from civil organizations Progressive Citizens of Ukraine and Dostupno UA, have put their heads together to find a way to get playground equipment that every kid can enjoy.

"First, we wanted to fundraise for people with disabilities in general, but then we narrowed our focus to

more **Playgrounds** on page 22



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KyivPost

more **Drinks** on page 19

Forgotten Ukrainian Impressionist artist gets rediscovered

BY MARIYA KAPINOS
KAPINOS@KYIVPOST.COM

When Russian tsar Nicholas II visited France in 1909 he was expected to present something valuable and memorable to French President Armand Fallieres.

So he brought Fallieres two paintings by Ukrainian artist Mykhaylo Tkachenko.

Tkachenko was an Impressionist artist, born in 1860 in Ukraine. After studying in Saint Petersburg Academy of Arts, he moved to France in 1887 to continue studying and work there. Several years later, in the 1890s, he was recognized in Paris as an exceptional Impressionist artist, winning gold medals at the biggest art exhibitions.

He spent the last years of his life in Ukraine, and died in his home city of Kharkiv in 1916. When Ukraine became a part of Soviet Union, Tkachenko was forgotten. Yet his legacy still exists, and the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the Yale Club of Ukraine, the Cambridge Society of Ukraine and the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council organized a series of events in Kyiv, Lviv and Kharkiv to restore the memory of the artist.

They invited James Rubin, one of the leading experts on Impressionism from France, to remind Ukraine



French expert on Impressionism James Rubin gives a lecture in Hyatt Regency Kyiv about Ukrainian painter Mykhaylo Tkachenko on Nov. 1. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

about Tkachenko.

Professor Rubin gave a lecture on Nov. 1 at the Hyatt Regency Kyiv, where 20 paintings by Tkachenko were presented in a special one-evening exhibition organized by the Korners Art Gallery.

French perception

Rubin specializes in history, theory and criticism of 19th century European art, especially French art, yet when he saw Tkachenko's paintings for the first time, he could not take his eyes off them and was very surprised that he had never heard of Tkachenko before. Rubin decided to

make the painter well-known again.

"It is exciting to rediscover an Impressionist painter of such a fine quality, who was so highly recognized during the Impressionist period, but who, due to historical circumstances, has since been forgotten," says Rubin.

Rubin is convinced that if Tkachenko had stayed in Paris and made it a center of his career, he would not be forgotten. But the artist spent a lot of time in Ukraine and that is why he disappeared from the European view.

During his speech, Rubin showed pictures of Tkachenko's paintings and explained their value. Most of the

drawings presented at the exhibition at Hyatt Regency Kyiv were Ukraine's 19th century countryside landscapes, with typical for Impressionism small, thin yet visible brushstrokes. However, in France Tkachenko was mostly known for his waterscapes.

Susanna Chakhoian, the soloist of National Opera of Ukraine, was among the guests who came to listen to Rubin and to look at Tkachenko's paintings. She could not stop herself from comparing Tkachenko's artworks to other world-known artists.

"My favorite place in Paris is Musée d'Orsay with its collection of artworks by (Claude) Monet, (Pierre-Auguste) Renoir and (Edgar) Degas, so Impressionist esthetics are very close to my heart," says Chakhoian. "Yet I was impressed how precisely Tkachenko reflected even the smallest details in his works, they are full of love to his motherland."

How it all started

The first one to rediscover Tkachenko's art was the Chairman of the British Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce Bate C. Toms. In 2012, he found his initial inspiration by visiting Korners Gallery in Kyiv, where he saw Tkachenko's pieces for the first time.

"I was actually looking for something else, but was astonished by the quality of the Tkachenko's painting," recalls Toms.

The British-Ukrainian Chamber of

Commerce then invited James Rubin to Kyiv in 2013. He confirmed the high standard of Tkachenko's paintings and expressed his astonishment that he had never heard of this artist before.

"After professor Rubin spoke to us in the summer of 2013, the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce created its Tkachenko project," recalls Toms. "However, with the invasion of Crimea, we suspended this initiative — which we are now restarting."

Toms expressed regret that very often Ukrainian artists are only exhibited in obscure art galleries in the West.

"Our project is for a Ukrainian artist to be exhibited in major museums and galleries abroad."

The next step for the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce is publishing of a new comprehensive book on Tkachenko and his paintings in English, French and Ukrainian, for which Rubin plans to write an essay as a preface. The second step is to bring together all of Tkachenko's works, with a catalogue in all three languages. They plan to take this exhibition to London, Paris and New York. ■

To see Mykhaylo Tkachenko's paintings, go to Korners Art Gallery in Kyiv at 8A Kudriavska St. from 11 a.m. — 6 p.m. daily.
+38-044-272-1856

City Life: Time has arrived for hot drinks

Drinks from page 18

Milk Bar (16 Shota Rustaveli St.)
Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. — 11 p.m. Sat-Sun. 9 a.m. — 11 p.m. +38044 237 0907

Hlinterveinia

This spot is located on Bessarabska Square and is all about mulled wine. Made of Ukrainian red and white wine, it's spiced with star anise, cardamom, ginger, cinnamon, carnation, pink pepper, nutmeg, and honey. The white wine version can be made with vanilla, buckthorn or tangerine, while the red one is also available with coffee and chocolate. In addition, Hlinterveinia sells tea — with ginger with rosemary, buckthorn with cardamom, and raspberry with star anise. The cafe's food menu offers breakfasts, soups, salads, pasta, the traditional Ukrainian dish banosh, and desserts.

Prices: mulled wine — Hr 55-65, tea — Hr 40

Hlinterveinia (2 Bessarabska Sq.)
Mon-Thu, Sun. 11 a.m. — 11 p.m. Fri-Sat. 11 a.m. — 1 a.m. +38099 040 7520

The Blue Cup

This cozy shop with comfy sofas and an eye-catching design is a popular place for a cup of coffee, breakfast or lunch, or even just taking some stylish pictures. The Blue Cup offers mulled wine made with red wine, orange peel and spices. The coffee shop also serves milk punch, a mixture of dark rum, milk, nutmeg, vanilla syrup and spices. Their drink menu includes Irish coffee and house-specialty tea with masala spice mix, hibiscus-rosemary, plum with currant and sage, and viburnum-rosemary. The Blue

Cup also serves breakfast, soups, salads and desserts.

Prices: mulled wine — Hr 79, milk punch — Hr 89, Irish coffee — Hr 109-119, tea — Hr 49-59.

The Blue Cup (5 Pushkinska St.) 9 a.m. — 10 p.m. +38050 315 6869

Teplica

Teplica is a restaurant with a rich food menu and reasonable prices. The restaurant serves dishes of various cuisines — appetizers, soups,

salads, steaks and even sushi rolls. Apart from that, Teplica makes some unusual hot drinks — caramel brandy, apple Jack and strawberry grog, as well as traditional Irish coffee. In addition, they make hot berry drinks with strawberry and pear or raspberries, and ginger or sea buckthorn tea.

Prices: caramel brandy — Hr 85, apple Jack — Hr 95, strawberry grog — Hr 85, Irish coffee — Hr 95, tea — Hr 58.

Teplica (13 Starovokzalna St.) Mon-

Thu, Sun. 11 a.m. — 1 a.m. Fri-Sat. 11 a.m. — 3 a.m. +38044 229 0060

Lubov-Morkov

Another cozy restaurant on Podil, Lubov-Morkov, serves Belgian waffles with sweet and savory toppings of various types. The venue also makes hot alcoholic drinks — sea buckthorn punch, cider with spices, white and red mulled wine, and Irish coffee. In addition, Lubov-Morkov offers hot chocolate, and cocoa

with chili pepper and marshmallow. The restaurant sells breakfasts (eggs, croissants, oatmeal), appetizers (hummus, cheese sticks), meat, salads, soups, and desserts.

Prices: mulled wine — Hr 60-70, cider — Hr 60, sea buckthorn punch — Hr 75, Irish coffee — Hr 80, tea — Hr 45-65.

Lubov-Morkov (23/8 Petra Sahaidachnoho St.) Mon-Fri. 9 a.m. — 11 p.m. Sat-Sun. 10 a.m. — 11 p.m. +38096 013 1333 ■

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Then & Now

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post feature "Then & Now" takes a look at how places in the city have changed over time. To be an advertising partner of this special coverage, contact an advertising representative at advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788.

In partnership with Premier Hotels and Resorts

Tracing evolution of Kyiv's grand Peremohy Square

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO
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It's simple to guess that one of Kyiv's biggest squares, Peremohy Square or Victory Square, was named so after the Allies won World War II in 1945: Dozens of streets and squares all over the countries of the former Soviet Union bear the same name.

However, before turning into a symbol of the victory over Nazi Germany, Peremohy Square was one of the capital's most important markets.

Today's Peremohy Square is located on the crossroads of several major streets near the Kyiv's center: Saksaganskoho Street, Taras Shevchenko Boulevard, Zhylianska Street, Bulvarno-Kudryavska Street and Peremohy Avenue - one of the longest and broadest avenues in the city.

Back in the 19th century, however, the square was located in the outskirts of Kyiv, closer to its western edge. The square hosted a popular street market with the unofficial name Evbazar, a short form of Evreysky Bazar, which in Ukrainian means "Jewish Market."

Imperial Russian general Illarion Vasilchikov allowed Jewish people to sell their goods on the square three days per week because it was located within the Pale of Settlement - a region in the western part of the Russian Empire where Jewish people were allowed to live. The Pale of Settlement was introduced by Russian Queen Catherine the Great in 1791 and officially existed until the 1917 October Revolution, which brought Bolsheviks to power.

In 1869, the place was named Halytska Square, as it stood on the road to the western region of Galicia, or Halychyna, the area of Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Ternopil oblasts along with eastern parts of Poland.

Since the square is close to the Kyiv's central railway station, which started operating in 1870, the market soon became one of the biggest and most significant ones in the city.

People started to build new houses and shops near the market. Kyiv



ed to build the orthodox church of Archbishop of Constantinople John Chrysostom on Halytska Square. It was the first church built from iron plates, so people called it the Iron Church. The design of the church was experimental: It was built from iron to withstand fire, but the building was very hot in summer and cold in winter.

The church actually did survive a fire in 1884, and remained on the square for another 50 years: it was demolished by the Communists in 1934, when Kyiv regained its status of Ukraine's capital from Kharkiv.

Market's end

The market continued working even during the German Nazi occupation in 1941-1943: People went there to exchange their possessions for food. The Interesting Kyiv website also notes that Nazis used to raid the market and arrest young people to send them to labor camps in Germany. After the war, however, the Soviet authorities ordered the demolition of the market.

In 1946 they developed a plan to reconstruct this area of Kyiv without the market, but it took them three more years to start work - and the market kept working until then. Finally, authorities moved the market to the end of Zhylyanska Street and built a large flower bed in its place.

Three years later, in 1952, the square was renamed Peremohy Square.

Reconstruction

A couple of years later the authorities started constructing the three most noticeable buildings on the square - the State Circus of Ukraine, the biggest mall in Soviet Ukraine - Univermag Ukraina - and hotel Lybid, one of the highest buildings in Kyiv at the time at over 60 meters tall.

The construction work went slowly, because the square was close to an underground section of the Lybid River, and the workers had to pump water from the building foundations.

Today only these three buildings - the mall, circus and hotel - have Peremohy Square as their address.

In the 1980s, the square was reconstructed again, and the authorities built a huge, 30-meter-tall obelisk with a gold star on top. The monument commemorates Kyiv's status as a hero city, which the Soviet authorities gave to cities in which there were major battles during World War II. In Ukraine, Odesa, Sevastopol and Kerch also received the same title.

Moreover, the authorities also renamed the former Brest-Lyvtovsk

Halytska Square in Kyiv was renamed into Peremohy Square in 1952. City authorities built the state Circus of Ukraine in late 1950s, some 10 years before the upper picture was taken. In 30 years, the square was reconstructed again, and the 30-meters-tall obelisk with a gold star on top was built. (Courtesy/Oleg Petrasiv)

historian Oleksandr Anisimov writes in his book "Kyiv and Kyivans" that criminal gangs fought to control the market, and there were stolen goods on sale.

By the end of the 19th century, Kyiv's authorities launched tram services, with lines running near the market so that vendors could easily transfer their goods.

According to Interesting Kyiv, a website about the city's life and history, people used to sell clothes, food and drinks at the market. Kyiv historian Dmitry Malakhov writes that people "could find everything at Evbaz: from a needle to another person," referring to the fact that the area hosted several brothels.

In the 1860s, the authorities decid-

more Peremohy Square on page 21

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Peremohy Square was once a Jewish market at western edge of capital city

Peremohy Square from page 20

Avenue, one of the longest avenues in Kyiv at 11.8 kilometers long, as Peremohy Avenue. Historians say that Soviet soldiers walked along this street during the Battle for Kyiv in

1943, when the city was freed from German occupation.

Less than a year before Ukraine gained its independence, in November 1990, Peremohy Square hosted the last Soviet military parade in Soviet Ukraine. Such



People sell food, clothes and other items at a market on the Halytska Square in Kyiv in 1942, which is now called Peremohy Square. (Courtesy)



A woman walks across Halytska Square in Kyiv in early 1900s, which is now called Peremohy Square. The orthodox church of Archbishop of Constantinople John Chrysostom on Halytska Square, built in 1860s, was the first church built from iron plates, so people called it the Iron Church. (Courtesy of oldcards.kiev.ua)

parades, which marked the anniversary of the October Revolution, were usually held on Kyiv's central Khreshchatyk Street. However, the Soviets were forced to move the parade to Peremohy Square because of massive public protests against the regime.

Peremohy Square today

Today's Peremohy Square looks almost the same as it does in old black-and-white photos from the 1980s.

The most notable difference is

the modernized Ukraina shopping mall, which has a new glass facade. The mall was reconstructed by U.S. company NCH Advisors Inc., which invested around \$17 million in rebuilding the center in 2003.

While the square itself is spacious, some of the streets leading to it are much more narrow. On one of those streets, Bulvarno-Kudryavska, there is a stunning new mural showing a dark, stormy Black Sea, painted by South African artist Jake Aikman as part of the Art United Us project.

While Peremohy Square is located not far from the University and Vokzalna metro stations, Kyiv's authorities also plan to build a metro station under the square in future. The metro station Peremohy Square is already listed as one of the stations of the future Podilsko-Vykhurska metro line (which is to run from the village of Hatne, 5 kilometers to the southwest of Kyiv Zhulianiy International Airport, to Kyiv's Troshchynna district on the left bank). Construction of the line is to begin after 2020. ■

Advertisement

Premier Hotel Lybid – history that meets today's standards



Standing dominantly on Peremohy Square at 55 meters high (17 stories), the hotel was opened on December 25, 1970 and received the name of Lybid which was inspired by the spirit of ancient Kyiv. According to legend, it was founded by the Kyi, Shchek, Khoryv brothers and their sister Lybid. The hotel had a second birth when it became a part of the Premier Hotels and Resorts chain of hotels in 2016, thus becoming Premier Hotel Lybid.

Rich in History

On May 2, 1964, the Kyiv City Executive Committee issued an order to allocate a land plot for the construction of a hotel with the working name "Intourist".

Those involved in this project were Kyiv architects N. B. Chmutina, A. M. Onishchenko, O. H. Stukalova and Y. L. Chekan. At the early stages of construction, it was discovered that the construction site area was located where the groundwater that flows into the Lybid river appeared to be just below it. 250 twelve-meter piles had to be driven in order to lay the foundation properly. In 1976, during an earthquake with a magnitude of close to 4 points with the epicenter being in Romania, the hotel was subjected to its first real test and passed it with flying colors.

The hotel was opened on December 25, 1970 and received the name of Lybid. The name of the hotel is closely linked to the history of the capital of Ukraine. According to the legend, Kyiv was founded in the 5th century by three brothers princes, Kiy, Shchek, Khoryv and their sister Lybid. In honor of the woman founder who became the legendary symbol of the city, the hotel was named after her, and the facade of the building was decorated with a bronze high relief depicting Lybid.

In its first years of operation, the hotel could accommodate 208 rooms, 14 of which were suites. Rooms were equipped with German furniture, as well, high-speed Finnish elevators and plumbing were installed. Booths for the sale of souvenirs and tobacco products were located in the lobby of the building; the press, including foreign newspapers were sold in the news stand of Soyuzpechat agency. As well, currency exchange points were also available.

As a component in the structure of VAO Intourist (the All-Union Joint Stock Company "Intourist"), the Lybid hotel was mainly focused on the reception of foreign citizens. However, the specific Soviet character & charm were felt to an extent at this hotel as well.

To fight against speculators and unwanted guests, the staff of the hotel created a Voluntary People's Guards.



Premier Hotel Lybid, Kyiv, Ukraine

Foreigners and Soviet citizens immediately selected the hotel due to its safety for being located in the city center. In the 70's, The Prime Minister of Canada, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, held a press conference at the hotel. Many guests from the United States and Canada were among the Ukrainian Diaspora who came to see the homeland of their ancestors.

Vladimir Spivakov, the head of Moscow Virtuosi orchestra, always stayed in suite No.1704 on the 17th floor. And the theater director Mark Zakharov during the Kyiv tour of the Lenkom theater preferred room No.1701.

The hotel staff recalls how the movie director Nikita Mikhalkov once came out of his room

and saw how the maids were moving a heavy sofa. Mikhalkov called a friend, and taking matters into their own hands, they moved the sofa from one end of the corridor to another.

During the filming of the feature film "Make a Clown Laugh" in Kyiv, the hotel became the home for a long period of time for the film actress Galina Polskikh, which was very loved by the hotel's employees.

Another interesting fact is that many Dynamo Kyiv football players during the time of USSR championship celebrated their weddings at the hotel.

In 1986, the hospitality and goodwill of the hotel Lybid staff were awarded by the International

Association of Hotels in Europe with presentation of the Oscar International Award.

During 1998 to 2002, the hotel rooms and guest areas were renovated and in May 1998, the hotel was honored to receive an honorary delegation for the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) that was held in Kyiv that year.

In 2016, the Lybid hotel replenished the collection of the Ukrainian hotel operator Premier Hotels and Resorts and received the name Premier Hotel Lybid.

The hotel was reconstructed with special attention to the façade that became hard to overlook due to its strategic lighting clearly seen during the nighttime.

«Although that was the period when buildings mainly were constructed without decoration, the architects planned to place some elements on the facade. At first, the idea was to make the inscription «Lybid» in the Old Cyrillic style, but we, i.e. I and Mykhailo Hrytsiuk, offered to place Lybid herself. They made the Lybid figure which in its rhythm, mass and grace resembles a river. Initially, the Artistic Council did not accept the project, since it wasn't in line with the overall tone of socialist realism.

But, most comments were caused by the fact that our Lybid was barefooted. But it was necessary to transfer the rhythm of waves and river. Eventually, the project was approved.»

Today the Premier Hotel Lybid is one of the best three-star hotels in the capital. Comfortably located in the heart of Kyiv with a convenient traffic junction. It has 274 comfortable rooms of various categories with beautiful panoramas of the city center, 3 conference halls, a restaurant of modern European and Ukrainian cuisine, a summer terrace and a lobby bar.

Premier Hotel Lybid
Peremohy Square, Kyiv, Ukraine
lybid-hotel.phnr.com
+38 (044) 391 00 98

Kyiv activists working to make it easier for children to get around

Playgrounds from page 18

children," she said. "That's a friendly thing to do, and thus came the name of our organization."

They launched a Friendly People Night in May, a charity event organized by the graduates of the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University, Ogryzko's alma mater. Around 250 attendees dug into their pockets to donate Hr 200,000, or \$7,532. It enabled Friendly People to start negotiations with the Creative Active Playground, a contractor to equip three playgrounds in Kyiv with accessible playground equipment.

The next step was to get approvals from Kyiv City Council.

"I was worried that this would be the most time-consuming part," Ogryzko said. But it went smoothly enough, and they received the required approvals quickly.

In early fall, a playground in Peizazhna Alley was equipped with

accessible swings that are designed for children in wheelchairs. The activists also installed playground slides, tubaphones made from a series of metal tubes, an information board with a sign language alphabet, and a merry-go-round with a rubberized surface that accommodates wheelchairs and walkers.

"For us, it's a pilot, our first baby, and now we're thinking about how to expand the project," Ogryzko explains, adding that an "inclusive narrative" should become the norm in Ukraine.

Apart from the three central locations, some inclusive playground equipment has also been installed in some of the capital's other playgrounds, such as the one in Kyiv's Gryshko Botanical Garden, a play area at the Department of Social and Medical Rehabilitation for Children in Voskresenka district, and a playground in Holiivsky district.

As for other cities: western Ukraine's Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk,



Viktoria Panasyuk and her 10-year-old son Yehor who uses a wheelchair walk in Kyiv on Aug. 8. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Berdychiv in central Zhytomyr Oblast and Pokrovsk (formerly known as Krasnoarmiysk) in Donetsk Oblast can now boast of having inclusive playgrounds, too.

Conquering slides

Viktoria Panasyuk, who has a 10-year-old son Yehor who uses a wheelchair, is something of an expert on the city's inclusive playground infrastructure. Her son — despite suffering from severe cerebral palsy — spends around eight hours every day training, studying and visiting cultural events.

"If he has the desire, and his mother has the inspiration, we conquer every slide, because he enjoys them the most," Panasyuk says. "Just like every other kid, he wants to be self-sufficient."

Panasyuk admits that not every family will want to travel from the left bank just to "ride a swing" but agrees that such playgrounds can brighten children's lives.

She says that Kyiv still has to learn not only to become more accessible, but also to be tolerant.

On July 28, Yehor and his mother were prevented from joining a group of children on a tour of the Roshen confectionery factory in Kyiv because he was in a wheelchair. His mother wrote a post on Facebook describing the situation, which was shared over 7,000 times and triggered a public discussion.

"I wrote that post to protect Yehor's rights and happiness," Panasyuk told the Kyiv Post.

The whole situation demonstrated the range of problems that people with disabilities face living in Ukraine, including the failure of law, architectural inaccessibility and society's rejection, Panasyuk said.

She said that a Roshen representative told her that she and her son would hold up the rest of the group. According to Panasyuk, the employee also said that she didn't want to take responsibility for Yehor, as there were stairs inside the factory. The family was asked to wait outside

until the end of the excursion, which lasted an hour-and-a-half, and wait for a gift of candy.

"I asked (the Roshen representative) if she thought (the offer) was adequate. She said that it was the only option, and closed the door," Panasyuk said.

Roshen, which is owned by President Petro Poroshenko, gave a different reason for not letting Yehor tour the factory in a post on their official Facebook page. According to the post Yehor wasn't let inside because his wheelchair would break sanitary norms.

They also claimed that the family was offered to watch a movie and attend a candy tasting, which Panasyuk said was untrue.

Although Roshen conducts excursions for children with disabilities, they have a separate program, according to the company.

However, this contradicts the principle of inclusion, promoted by First Lady of Ukraine Maryna Poroshenko, under which people with disabilities should be given an equal chance to participate in all activities.

Panasyuk said that now they plan another group excursion to Roshen for children from the school where Yehor studies with other children with disabilities.

"The kids are studying professions now, so we plan to show them different workplaces, and the Roshen factory will be a good place to check as well," she said.

"We're working on organizing it, and we'll see if anything has changed." ■

Where to find inclusive playgrounds in Kyiv

- Kyiv's Gryshko Botanical Garden, 1 Tymiryazevska St.
- Department of Social and Medical Rehabilitation for Children, 7A Kurnatovskoho St.
- 1 Akademika Hlushkova Street
- Peizazhna Alley
- Shevchenko Park



POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, seeks a Ukrainian professional for the following position on the USAID Nove Pravo-suddya Justice Sector Reform Program in Ukraine:

COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANT

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Assist in designing, maintaining and updating the program's website and social media account(s) on a regular basis;
- Collect and prepare information for the program's newsletter and other out-reach materials, and maintain distribution lists;
- Participate in organizing media and public outreach events and maintain a media database;
- Collect and archive press-clippings and maintain program's photo and video archive;
- Perform other tasks consistent with qualifications and program's requirements.

Job Qualifications:

- Degree in public relations, journalism or other relevant discipline from a Ukrainian university.
- Three years of experience in public relations or communications, including maintaining websites and social media accounts, media relations, preparation of public outreach materials.
- Excellent writing and speaking skills in English and Ukrainian.
- Previous USAID or other international donor experience preferred.
- Knowledge of the Ukrainian legal and judicial system preferred.

Application Instructions: Please send a CV and a brief cover letter in English in the email body to office@new-justice.com. Please include the name of the position in the subject line. Candidates will be reviewed on a rolling basis until

Application Deadline: November 27, 2017 at 6 P.M. Kyiv time

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CLASSIFIEDS

The U.S. Embassy will hold a motor vehicles closed bid sale at 44 Mashinobudivna St. on Wednesday, November 15, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All subject vehicles are being sold "as is", are not customs cleared and have no expressed or implied warranties on the condition of the vehicles. For more information, please see our website:

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U.S. EMBASSY IS LOOKING TO FILL THE POSITION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST (ADDICTION)

Basic Function of Position:

Under supervision of the Regional Substance Abuse Treatment Attaché, the incumbent serves as the Public Health Specialist on addictions in Ukraine and Central Asia Region implemented by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The incumbent is responsible for developing, organizing, implementing, coordinating, and supervising activities supported by SAMHSA-UA Region in collaboration with Offices of USAID and CDC along with Host Country Counterparts and the region, NGOs and/or universities. The incumbent provides technical assistance, oversight, and management support.

Required Qualifications:

- Master's degree in one of the following disciplines: Public Health, Health Policy, Health Management, Behavioral Sciences, Public Administration or a Medical Doctor (MD) diploma is required;
- Minimum of three years of experience with governmental and/or non-governmental institutions in implementation of public health projects in the field of chronic diseases related, but not limited to, substance use disorders and/or infectious diseases;
- Level IV (fluency in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluency in speaking/reading/writing) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Familiarity with drug addiction treatment, HIV/AIDS and drug use situation and programs, knowledge of health systems within the region. Demonstrated skills in program management, monitoring and evaluation. Translation skills (oral and written), research, analytical, and presentation skills to deliver information within scientific community are also required.

The compensation is set at 29, 500\$ (gross per year) plus benefits package.

Application deadline: November 21, 2017

How to Apply: Full version of the vacancy announcement, e-application form and instructions are available at E-Recruitment website <https://usembassy.org.ua/ER/>.

We also accept application for employment form (DS-174 English - <https://ua.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/>) sent to: KyivHR@state.gov or faxed to: +38-044-521-5155.



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

NDI-Ukraine is currently seeking a Program Officer for Women's Political Participation Program. The position will be based in Kyiv and require some local travel.

Interested applicants should submit CVs and motivation letters in English together with the contacts of at least three referees by email to the following email address:

ukraine@ndi.org

Deadline:

The deadline for the submission of the required documents has been extended to **November 27, 2017 (by COB)**. Only selected candidates will be invited for a **written test and an interview**.

Full text of the advertisement can be viewed here:

www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/womens-political-participation-program-officer-2



The Kyiv Post is seeking the public's help in recovering its lost archives.

Dig into the closets, attics and long-forgotten storage compartments to help us recover some editions that were not kept in the newspaper's archive.

The Kyiv Post is missing the following editions from the following years:

- 1995 - # 2, 3, 7, 8, 10 and 12-52
- 1996 - # 1-16, 19-21, 23-26, 28, 29, 31, 33-35, 48, 49, 51, 52
- 1997 - # 2-11, 17-21, 23-25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34-36, 38, 40-43, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52
- 1998 - # 4-11, 13, 16, 19, 20, 23-25, 36, 38, 39, 42, 46, 49, 50, 52
- 1999 - # 1-35
- 2000 - # 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16
- 2007 - # 8, 14

Please contact news@kyivpost.com if you can help or Kyiv Post chief editor Brian Bonner at bonner@kyivpost.com



Professionals for Reform Support Mechanism (PRSM)

provides human resource support – from managers to technical experts – to critical reform initiatives undertaken by national governmental agencies. PRSM is currently seeking candidates to fill the following expert positions for the Government of Ukraine:

For the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine (MoJ):

- Legal Advisor.

For the Ministry of Health of Ukraine (MoH):

- Technical Writer.

For the Reform of State Fiscal Service (SFS):

- Communications Expert;
- Tax Expert.

For the National Deinstitutionalization Reform Office (NDIRO):

- Social Services Specialist;
- Education Expert Specialist.

For the Project Office for Sectoral Decentralization (POSD):

- Sector Lead of Secondary Education Reform;
- Finance Manager of Secondary Education Reform;
- Sector Lead of Primary Medicine Reform;
- Finance Manager of Primary Medicine Reform;
- Finance Manager of Road Infrastructure Reform.

For more detailed information about preferred qualifications and skills, indicative duties and responsibilities, as well as applying procedure, please visit web-site:

edge.in.ua/vacancies/



PART OF THE CBRE AFFILIATE NETWORK

CBRE Ukraine, part of the CBRE Affiliate Network, is seeking candidates for the position of HR Director.

More information here www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/

Please send your CV to ukraine@cbre.ua with a title name of the vacancy in the subject line.

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