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Stelmashchuk: Ukraine's legal profession partly to blame for corruption

BY BRIAN BONNER
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

When it comes to corruption, bribery and tax evasion in Ukraine, Andriy Stelmashchuk believes lawyers are part of the problem.

They should, instead, be part of the solution, according to the managing partner of Vasil Ksil & Partners, one of Kyiv's leading law firms.

That is one reason why he might run for president of the Ukrainian Bar Association, which claims to unite

6,000 legal professionals in the nation, including lawyers. The election will be held on June 3. Current president Denys Bugay cannot seek re-election because he has reached the two-term limit.

Most Ukrainian law firms, Stelmashchuk says, structure themselves in ways similar to other businesses, with complicated offshore entities designed to minimize or evade taxes. Such practices, he says, include not declaring the full amount of employees' salaries to minimize taxes.

As long as law firms persist in structuring their businesses in this way, Stelmashchuk said, "corruption will prosper and tax evasion and other illegal forms of doing business will prosper in Ukraine."

The financial reporting by law firms, he says, shows that a majority of the top 50 law firms "are structured in a way that allows them to minimize taxes on the edge of tax evasion."

Stelmashchuk, however, doesn't expect his campaign for greater tax compliance and transparency among

law firms to help him win the presidency of the Ukrainian Bar Association. He says many of his fellow lawyers "don't see a problem with" the status quo. "They see it as normal."

He acknowledges some of the practices are "legal from a purely formal standpoint," but unethical.

"They want to achieve some goal with such structure," Stelmashchuk says. "It's obvious for me that such a goal is paying less taxes than they

more **Stelmashchuk** on page 11



The Kyiv Post's 13th Legal Quarterly, published on March 31, focuses on interesting lawyers and their issues. An interview with one of them, Andriy Stelmashchuk, is at left.

Poroshenko's Revenge



Anti-corruption activists on April 13, 2016 protest against a law that they say would give government excessive powers in confiscating assets of people convicted of crimes. Nearly a year later, the introduction of asset declarations for activists, passed by parliament and signed into law by President Petro Poroshenko on March 27, is seen as revenge. Ukraine's robust civil society is considered to be one of the nation's greatest strengths. (Volodymyr Petrov)

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on March 27 signed into law a measure that delivers a severe blow to anti-corruption activists and free speech, according to international and national experts.

According to various interpretations of the vague and ambiguous amendments to the income declaration law, they require activists of anti-corruption non-governmental organizations, their contractors, donors, investigative journalists and potentially even anti-corruption protesters to file publicly accessible electronic asset declarations, similar to those now required of state officials.

People's Front lawmaker Tetiana Chornovol, who introduced the amendments, along with Poroshenko and their supporters, claim that the legislation will increase the transparency and accountability of NGOs.

They argue that they are in line with Western practices, although the Kyiv Post has found that this argument does not stand up to scrutiny.

Given Ukraine's extremely politicized and corrupt law enforcement, the amendments provide vast scope for abuse, and could be used to fabricate political cases against the

more **Corruption** on page 14

Inside:

National 2, 3, 12 – 17 | Business 6 – 11
Opinion 4, 5 | Lifestyle 18 – 22
Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds 23

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Russia's Donbas army is potent fighting force

BY WILL PONOMARENKO
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Anyone with even passing knowledge of events in Ukraine knows that the war in the country was initiated, stoked, and is now being continued by Russia.

From the very first days of the conflict, video was shared of unmarked Russian T-64 tanks appearing in the border areas of Ukraine, rolling west. Other exclusively Russian military hardware has regularly been photographed and videoed in Ukraine.

Russia steadfastly denies being a party to the conflict, despite the masses of evidence to the contrary. Even in 2017, after three years of war and over 10,000 deaths, Moscow has not changed its narrative.

"The main sources of weapons at the rebels' disposal are Soviet-era stores in Ukrainian territory," claimed Ilya Rogachev, a Russian representative testifying at the International Court of Justice said on March 7.

"Most of these stores were left in Donbas coal mines and fell into rebels hands," Rogachev added – an absurd comment that was immediately ridiculed in Ukrainian social media.

Undeniable evidence

But the fact that Russia has armed, equipped, and aided the anti-government forces in Ukraine, and continues to do so, is now undeniable.

For instance, the British pro-Kremlin video blogger Graham Phillips unwittingly videoed T2-3B tanks – a type used by the Russian army but never exported to Ukraine – near Debaltsevo on Feb. 15, 2015, days before the city fell to an assault by Russian-backed forces.

Both Ukrainian and Russian media later found evidence that the tanks

RUSSIA'S SHADOW ARMY IN THE DONBAS

While Russia's war on Ukraine in the Donbas is still sometimes mistakenly referred to as a "civil war," a breakdown of the weapons and forces available to the "rebel" armies in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts shows they have received, and still receive, extensive support from the Kremlin. They are already a match for the armies of many European countries.



Breakdown of Kremlin sponsored forces in eastern Ukraine

		European armies with similar numbers
	Manpower	30,000 troops = Austria / Bulgaria / Belgium / Finland / Norway / Denmark
	Tanks	over 390 = UK / Germany / Spain / France
	IFVs* and BTRs**	over 800 = Albania / Denmark / Norway
	Artillery	630 = France / Greece
	MLRS	over 200 = Greece / Romania / Belarus
	Anti-aircraft systems	over 400

* Infantry Fighting Vehicles ** armored personnel carriers

By Kyiv Post | Sources: Defence Intelligence of Ukraine, Global Fire Power.

had come from Russia's 5th Guards Tank Brigade from the Republic of Buryatia in the Russian Far East.

And UK-based online investigations outfit Bellingcat, in a series of studies, identified and retraced the movements of the Buk TELAR anti-aircraft missile unit that Dutch investigators suspect shot down Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014.

Bellingcat identified the unit as number 332 of Russia's 53rd Anti-Aircraft Missile Brigade, based in Kursk, Russia. Using photographs and video from social media post-

ings, Bellingcat reconstructed the route of the Buk unit as it was transported from Kursk to southern Russia, into Ukraine, to the site of the launch of the missile, and then back out of Ukraine to Russia, via the city of Luhansk.

Evidence is now emerging of the full extent to which Russia has armed its proxy forces in the Donbas. Moreover, Russia appears to be using the Donbas as a testing ground for new military tactics.

'People's militia'

Due to the Russian-backed forces

refusal to cooperate in full with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe monitors, not much is known publicly about the strength of the "rebel" army Russia has built in the occupied parts of Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

But according to figures provided to the Kyiv Post by sources in Ukraine's military intelligence, as of March 20, 2017, Russian-backed forces in eastern Ukraine had at least 390 main battle tanks, 800 infantry fighting vehicles and armored per-

more **Donbas** on page 3

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Russia molds proxy forces in Donbas into advanced army

Donbas from page 2

sonnel carriers, 630 units of heavy artillery, 200 multiple-launch missile systems, 400 anti-aircraft units, and as many as 30,000 soldiers.

If those numbers are accurate, Ukraine's forces in the east are opposed by a military power that has a tank force greater than those of Britain, France, Germany and Spain. The Russian-backed forces also have more rocket and artillery pieces than any of these Western counties.

The Russian-backed forces have more light armor than the armies of Serbia, Croatia, Belgium or Austria. The combined forces of local collaborators and foreign mercenaries include 10 motorized rifle brigades and regiments, 9 special operations and reconnaissance battalions, two separate tank battalions and two field artillery brigades, all with complete logistic support, advanced drone surveillance, and electronic warfare cover.

The core ground force of Russia's proxy army in the Donbas is made up of Soviet T-64 and T-72 main battle tanks, repaired and modified at seized enterprises in Donetsk and Luhansk and in Russian territory, along with BMP-1 and BMP-2 infantry fighting vehicles and BTR-80 armored personnel carriers. The artillery force consists of 122-millimeter D-30 howitzers and C-21 self-propelled guns, together with BM-21 Grad multiple launch rocket systems.

Many of the weapons used by the militants are operated by Ukrainian forces as well, although the Kyiv Post's sources in Ukraine's intelligence services say only from 5–8 percent of the militants' hardware was captured from Ukraine on the battlefield. A large amount of the military equipment at the militants disposal, mostly T-64s and armored personnel carriers, was supplied to them from captured Ukrainian military bases in Crimea after Russia invaded the territory in 2014.

Shadow army

Online sleuths in Ukraine have tracked the growth and development of the Russian proxy armies in the Donbas.

"In summer 2014, amid the heaviest battles in the region, the militant forces were united into two so-called army corps," says Simeon Kabakaev, head of the Stop Terror volunteer project, which follows the activities of militants in Donbas using open-source intelligence methods.

"These 1st and 2nd army corps were responsible for the campaigns in Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts respectively, and they coordinated the numerous paramili-

tary troops, supported by Russian regular units."

After the second Minsk cease-fire and subsequent seizure of the Ukrainian-held town of Debaltsevo in February 2015, the frontline eventually stabilized, and the Russian-backed army in the Donbas had to adapt to the new reality of static warfare against Ukraine.

In summer 2015, Russia transformed the army corps into two "operational tactical command units" in Donetsk and Luhansk, with the combat units further split into local task forces. For instance, the Donetsk operational tactical command unit became the core of a network of combat teams deployed in the occupied cities of Novoazovsk, Komsomolske, Donetsk, Makiivka, Snizhne and Horlivka.

"This process was finished by spring 2016, and this was a huge leap forward from old Soviet doctrines," Kabakaev says. "The troops increased their mobility and interoperability all along the frontline, so shifting and commanding forces became much easier for the Russian generals."

Amid these changes, many of the Donbas warlords heading pro-Russian militant forces were assassinated – allegedly by the Russian secret services. Among them were commanders like Alexey Mozgovoy, Pavel Dremov, Arsen Pavlov (known as Motorola), and Mikhail Tolstykh (known as Givi).

These commanders had from the early days of the war fought to create "Novorossiya" in south-eastern Ukraine. When the Kremlin dropped that idea and switched to its new approach, they became expendable.

"When the idea of 'Novorossiya' was ultimately abandoned by the Kremlin, many of those useful idiots were simply taken out – and their people sent to reinforce other combat units," Kabakaev says.

Advanced warfare

The eliminated warlords have now been replaced by more reliable Russian army commanders. According to Stop Terror estimates, currently up to 80 percent of all commands in the "rebel" army are occupied by Russian officers, although in public they are claimed to be commanded by high-ranking local militants.

"Russian military advisors, specialists or career officers are deployed on 3- to 4-month rotations," says Kabakaev. "And over the past three years, we've seen people from virtually every Russian security agency – the FSB, GRU, army, elite special forces like Vypel and so on. In the occupied territories, nobody hides the fact that Russian officers are



Russian-backed troops withdraw from Petrovske, some 50 kilometers from Donetsk, on Oct. 3. (AFP)

deployed in the Donbas to gain what they call 'invaluable combat experience on the ground.'"

As the Russian air force gets combat experience in Syria, in the Donbas Russia is practicing a new military doctrine – network-centric warfare. This model of war implies establishing a wireless computer network between all combat units on the ground, converting an information-sharing advantage over the enemy into an advantage in combat.

Connected by a robust network, all units engaged in military operations rapidly share all reconnais-

sance and command data with each other, thus establishing near-total battlefield awareness. With such advanced networking in combat, all units can be under centralized command and control in real time, which gives them an enormous advantage in battle.

The network-centric warfare concept was developed by Pentagon think tanks in the 1990s and initially put in action by U.S. forces in Iraq in 2003–2011. In particular, during the 2003 invasion, the principal assault forces of the U.S. 5th army corps shared real-time data on the

locations of Iraqi forces via satellite links between all combat units from the company level upward.

Practicing these tactics, Russian military specialists restructured the militant forces in Donbas into smaller operational tactical units and enhanced their electronic warfare and drone surveillance support. In particular, drone and electronic warfare battalions have been formed for both the Donetsk and Luhansk forces, and unmanned aerial surveillance is now used to direct precise artillery fire against Ukrainian army positions. ■

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Editorial

Regression

Ukraine's post-EuroMaidan Revolution political leaders still haven't gotten around to reforming the nation's police, prosecutors and courts – despite the grandstanding PR shows they put on before Western audiences.

The fact remains that, aside from mostly cosmetic changes, most of the same old police, prosecutors and judges are in place from deposed President Viktor Yanukovich's era and earlier ones.

The key statistic remains: Ukraine, three years after the revolution, has not tried and convicted anyone for any high-profile murders or large-scale corruption. It's worth repeating: Nobody has been brought to justice. In the process, they have propped up and protected a corrupt oligarchy with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko at its rotten head.

They will try to obscure this fact with a smokescreen of charts and long discussions about the "process," but that's not what matters most: results do.

The main person to blame for the dreadful lack of progress is Poroshenko, who not only is the nation's chief executive but commands parliament's largest faction.

And while we're on the issue of parliament, they still can't find the time to lift their own legal immunity from criminal prosecution.

Yet in blazing speed this month, they enacted sweeping demands that all non-governmental organizations disclose not only their sources of funding, which is a very reasonable request, but also requires each individual employee to disclose their incomes and assets, which is not.

The argument of Poroshenko and his shills is that NGOs should be treated no differently than publicly elected officials paid by taxpayers or powerful public officials with the power to tax, arrest, try and convict ordinary citizens – while, in the case of parliamentarians and others – put themselves above the law.

This is ridiculous. What's really happening is another smokescreen to mask what authorities are really after – another "legal" tool for intimidating or suppressing non-governmental organizations and investigative journalists who receive funding from them.

Russia's Vladimir Putin and other world dictators are not the only ones taking advantage of Western disarray, led by the unstable and possibly criminal U.S. President Donald J. Trump.

Leaders like Poroshenko, who obviously envies the autocratic powers he sees all around him by counterparts in Turkey, Belarus and Russia, also seize upon Western and U.S. weakness.

He sees that Trump doesn't care about human rights, freedom of the press or transparency in government, so why should he? The danger is that weakness at the top in America will filter down to the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, which appears to be reluctant to publicly criticize Ukraine's leaders for backsliding on democracy and the anti-corruption fight.

The fundamental problem in Ukraine, as exiled ex-Russian lawmaker Ilya Ponomarev told the Kyiv Post in an interview this week, is that Ukraine's politicians are even less patriotic than Russia's kleptocrats.

"In Russia, we have our mother, but we have Mother Russia as well," he said. "Ukrainians don't have Mother Ukraine. They have their own mothers and their own house. That's why politicians make their sacrifices for their personal benefit, not for the nation."

"They are not behaving as Russian elites either," he said. "They want this country for themselves to rob. They don't want Russians to rob it. They don't want Europeans to rob it. They don't want Americans to rob it. They want to pillage it for themselves."

Poroshenko's supporters also believe that a president at war should not be criticized, in effect asking everyone to excuse all the corruption. For the umpteenth time: Corruption weakens the state. Patriotic Ukrainians and their supporters will not let this happen.

We don't want revolution because we see the enormous costs, but we do want real change and improvement.

Poroshenko got a majority of Ukrainians to vote for him in 2014 with the slogan: "I'm not as bad as Yanukovich." It worked splendidly then – he won 54 percent of the vote in a first-round victory that should have been his signal to attack the corrupt oligarchy. He failed to seize the moment.

This slogan won't work again in 2019, mercifully only two years away, when he is up for re-election. He will have to prove himself as a democrat who delivered results. So far he's earning a failing grade and rapidly running out of time as he keeps abusing a nation's patience.



NEWS ITEM: President Petro Poroshenko's approval rating took a considerable blow since he was elected in 2014. While he got 54.7 percent of the votes in the election, the polls in the past months show that his support is below 10 percent.

Poroshenko is in the middle of his term, with the next presidential election scheduled for March 2019.

NEWS ITEM: Viktor Shokin, who served as Ukraine's prosecutor general for a little over a year in 2015-2016, wants to win back his job in court. He filed a suit against President Petro Poroshenko and the Verkhovna Rada to declare his resignation illegitimate. Shokin resigned in April 2016 after a lot of criticism from the civil society and the media and was replaced by Yuriy Lutsenko.



NEWS ITEM: A yet another wave of mass anti-government protests rolled through Russia on March 26, inspired by opposition politician Alexey Navalny. The authorities detained hundreds of the protesters, including Navalny himself.

NEWS ITEM: President Petro Poroshenko signed on March 27 a law that forces employees of anti-corruption NGOs and their contractors to publish detailed declarations of their assets and income. The law is seen as an attempt to crack down on the activists and was criticized by the G7 group of nations.



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Reformer of the week

Maryna Mrouga

Maryna Mrouga, a deputy head of the Health Ministry's testing board, is reformer of the week for seeking to improve the quality of medical education in Ukraine.

Mrouga has worked in the field for about 20 years. Among the main problems Ukraine's medical education faces, she says, is a shortage of international textbooks and scientific journals, and faculty members' poor knowledge of English.

In order to solve these problems, Mrouga and her team in 1999 introduced national standard medical licensing exams in Ukraine's medical schools. These not only assess the competence of individual students, but allow schools in Ukraine to be compared.

This has led to some notable success. Over the years, some medical schools have closed, and some universities have canceled their medicine programs because they were uncompetitive.

With the schools at the bottom of the class closing down, the overall quality of the medical education system in Ukraine has improved. On May 12, Ukrainian medical students will for the first time ever take an international comparative examination to compare their skills with fellow students around the globe.

The so-called "International Foundations of Medicine" exam measures two things: clinical knowledge and basic science knowledge. This examination was developed by a U.S. organization that sets state-recognized examinations for medical students in the United States.

— Isabel Lerch



Anti-reformer of the week

Tetiana Chornovol

Tetiana Chornovol, a lawmaker from the People's Front party, authored controversial amendments to crack down on anti-corruption activists and investigative journalists. The amendments were signed into law on March 27.

Chornovol has followed the path from anti-corruption activist and journalist to a controversial politician allying herself on key votes with the very associates of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich she used to criticize, and with other lawmakers accused of graft. At the same time, she has aggressively attacked many anti-corruption activists, lawmakers and reformers, accusing them of graft and labeling them as agents of the Kremlin, Yanukovich and his allies.

Chornovol is a close confidante of Serhiy Pashynsky, who has been investigated over alleged embezzlement of oil products and is accused of illegally seizing the Zhytomyr Confectionary, which he denies. In 2016, Chornovol got into the car of an anti-Pashynsky activist during a protest against him at the parliament, and refused to get out.

Meanwhile, Chornovol has flip-flopped on the blockade of trade with Russian-occupied territories several times, in line with the government's policy. She went from supporting it in 2014 to vehemently opposing the activists' blockade in early 2017, to backing it again when President Petro Poroshenko sanctioned it on March 15.

Chornovol also used to be a member of the UNA-UNSO far-right group and the Azov Battalion military unit, which also has ties to the far right.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX
populi

WITH ISABEL LERCH

What qualities do you look for when making hiring decisions?

Editor's Note: The question was asked of recruiters participating in the March 25 Kyiv Post Employment Fair.



Yana Levchuk,
ControlPay
"We are looking for people with an analytical mind and good English because we

are working with international clients. Math and data are very important for us, so we are trying to find someone who likes this. But people who combine math and English skills are kind of hard to find."



Polina Strizhevskaya,
Auchan
"There are 90 vacancies in Ukraine, with 76 of them being in Kyiv. So that is

why right now we are looking for young, talented specialists in commerce, IT and finances. Our company offers challenging tasks, a motivated team and a great social package."



Iryna Fedotiuk,
ProCredit Bank
"Young people who are interested in working with us should be responsible,

ready to go abroad, able to work in a team and eager to develop since we have a lot of trainings. In return, we offer many possibilities for self-development, international practice and the opportunity to work in a very professional team."



Tetiana Bohdanova,
Ukrtelecom
"We are searching for young specialists from all kinds of disciplines:

financial, IT, technical, just to name a few. Since we are a very big company, we can offer them a lot of experience but also good benefits such as free further education and training."



Andriy Rudenko,
ACCA
"We are offering a professional qualification for people in finance and we are looking to meet young,

ambitious professionals to give them the opportunity to get this internationally recognized qualification. Previously, it was not easy to get the ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) qualification but now applicants can get it in Ukraine, without going abroad."

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.



Curtis Scaparroti

Momentum may be shifting decisively for greater Western support of Ukraine in its three-year battle to defeat Russia's war in the eastern Donbas and the Kremlin's illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014.

If it does, one of many persons to thank will be U.S. Army General Curtis Scaparroti.

Scaparroti, the U.S. military commander in Europe, on March 28 spoke in favor of sending advanced weaponry to Ukraine.

"I personally believe we need to consider lethal defensive weapons for Ukraine," Scaparroti told a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Armed Services Committee.

Ex-U.S. President Barack Obama rejected calls to send lethal defensive weaponry, including Javelin antitank missiles, fearing escalation from Russia. And while U.S. President Donald J. Trump has heaped lavish praise on Russian President Vladimir Putin and seems indifferent to Ukraine, ongoing investigations into his finan-

cial ties with Russia and his 2016 campaign's alleged collusion with Russia appear to have hamstrung him politically, preventing any foreign policy reversal.

Also, some of his top appointees, including U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, have taken a tougher stance rhetorically against the Kremlin.

And, at the NATO foreign ministers summit in Brussels on March 30-31, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will reportedly ask allies to get tougher against Russia.

A Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty March 28 report quoting "a senior U.S. official" said Tillerson will discuss the need to pressure Russia over "aggression against

its neighbors" and fulfill its commitments to end the war in Ukraine. The same report also says Tillerson will be "consulting with allies about our shared commitment to improve the security situation in eastern Ukraine and the need for NATO to continue to push Russia to end its aggression against its neighbors, and to fulfill the Minsk commitments with regard to Ukraine," according to the official.

Scaparroti, who also heads NATO forces, also told members of Congress that Russia remains one of his top three threats to U.S. military interests in Europe. He called on the United States to do a better job of countering Russian misinformation.

"I think one of the most important things we can do is get organized on the information campaign," said Scaparroti, according to the Daily Caller. "We have to compete in that environment." The general said that the U.S. must "show strength that supports our values" when countering Russia's influence.

All things considered, things are looking up for Ukraine this week.

— Brian Bonner



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Milos Zeman

A tip of the hat to The Daily Caller's freelance writer, Gabriel Meyr, who on March 27 called attention to U.S. President Donald J. Trump's invitation to Czech President Milos Zeman to visit the White House in April.

Zeman is seeking to broker a meeting between Trump and Putin.

A Nov. 21, 2014, Washington Post editorial, which called Zeman "a virtual mouthpiece" of the Kremlin, is even more relevant to remember today.

"The current Czech government has distanced itself from Mr. (Vaclav) Havel's human rights agenda and is dismantling a program he created to support democratic transitions in other dictatorships. President Milos Zeman has become a virtual mouthpiece for Russian President Vladimir Putin, denouncing Russian political prisoners in vulgar terms and denying Russian aggression in Ukraine."

Meyr notes that "Zeman is a frequent star of Kremlin outlets that amplifies and supports Putin's policies. He even notoriously supported the Russian claim that Kyiv is ruled by fascists."



Order of Lenin

Moreover, The Daily Caller opinion writer notes, "Zeman has denied the presence of Russian forces in Ukraine, stating that 'I take seriously the statement of [Russian] foreign minister Sergei Lavrov that there are no Russian troops [there] and calling the Russian invasion of Ukraine ... a 'civil war'. He even proposed the 'Finlandization' of Ukraine, meaning that Ukrainian defense and foreign policy would be subject to Moscow."

Zeman has also opposed European assistance to Ukraine, Meyer writes, even advocating for the European Union to recognize that Crimea is part of Russia and he opposes Western sanctions against the Russian Federation, calling them "ineffective" and "stupid."

In 2015, Zeman broke ranks with a boycott by Western leaders and visited Moscow to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Victory Day, marking the defeat of Nazi Germany.

Zeman is not the only troublesome leader in Central Europe. Other Kremlin stooges include Slovakia Prime Minister Robert Fico, who has blamed victim Ukraine for not living up to the Minsk peace agreements. He also calls for an end to sanctions on Russia.

Hungarian President Viktor Orban is also an immoral Kremlin apologist.

But Zeman is probably the most obnoxious among the three leaders.

Moreover, Zeman is a heavy drinker and heavy smoker. According to a Reuters report in 2013, was told to cut back — Health Minister Martin Holcat told the news agency he smoked up to 50 cigarettes a day and drank too much alcohol. Other news reports cite public drunkenness. Maybe his lack of sobriety explains his terrible judgment, but it doesn't excuse it.

— Brian Bonner

Industrial Parks in Ukraine

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Industrial parks bank on future investment

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine now has a grand total of 18 industrial parks, following the addition of Pavlohrad Industrial Park to the national register by the Ukrainian Economy Ministry on Feb. 14.

But that's de jure. De facto, Ukraine has, in the last four years, seen plans for 28 such parks. Most of them are still desperately looking for

investors as they try to build up their infrastructure.

Money is not the only shortage. Knowledge of industrial parks remains weak. Only six of the planned 28 have managed to open their gates. The others, some officially registered as industrial parks and others not – are only under construction. Nobody knows when they will finally be launched.

This situation is a direct consequence of an unhealthy invest-

ment environment in the country, says Mirotkske Industrial Park CEO Stanislav German.

"The market is sickly and immature still, but I'm in – someone has to do it here."

Millionaire Vasyl Khmelnytsky, owner of the unfinished and unregistered Bila Tserkva Industrial Park, agrees. "Investment activity in Ukraine leaves much to be desired," he says.

Immature market

Mirotkske's German looks to Romania, Turkey, Poland and the Czech Republic for inspiration, noting that these countries have hundreds of industrial parks due to better tax incentives and customs policies.

Roughly speaking, industrial parks are umbrella companies that allocate other space to other firms on the premises they run. They are usually built in green zones in suburbs, and have roads or railways that connect

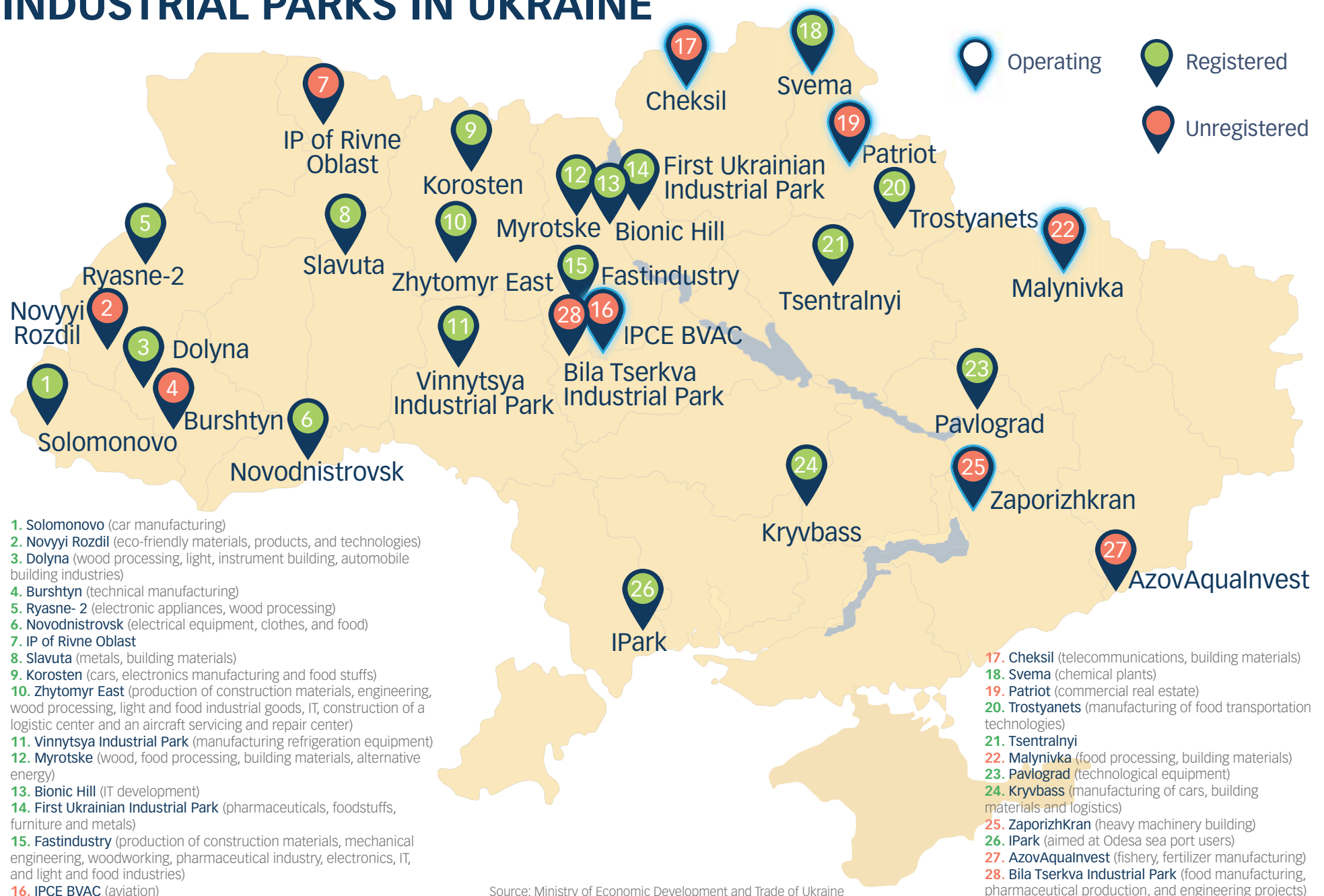
them with nearby cities or seaports.

The light or heavy industry firms that move to the parks only have to pay rent for the space and provide their own equipment. There's no need for them to build facilities from scratch, pave roads or install, say, electricity or gas lines – the lessor manages all that for them.

Typically, the companies in industrial parks form business clusters,

more **Investment** on page 8

INDUSTRIAL PARKS IN UKRAINE



Industrial parks are umbrella companies that cluster various industries together. They are usually built in green zones in suburbs, and have roads or railways that connect them with nearby cities or seaports. They are often located away from urban areas to allow for greater space. Successful ones create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in targeted regions.

Industrial parks boost economies in many countries; Ukraine lags

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
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Industrial parks have yet to take off in Ukraine although, at least on paper, the country possesses many of the characteristics such developments often rely on to attract investment, including cheap labor and cheap energy.

The country is also well-placed geographically, with the markets of Russia to the east and Europe to the west, as well as some 40 million consumers at home.

But the problem is that in Ukraine "there is no culture of industrial parks, no understanding of the entire process and no particular motivation to organize them," according to Stanislav German, the CEO of Mirotske Industrial Park.

German's own park 15 kilometers from Kyiv is among the 30 or so industrial parks in Ukraine which are in various states of development and functionality.

Nick Cotton, managing director at consultancy DTZ Ukraine, puts it simply: "There are no true operating industrial parks in Ukraine." But this, he says, has less to do with a lack of understanding on the part of companies of the benefits of locating in such parks and more about a lack of financing.

"Poor political and judicial processes in Ukraine affect overall foreign direct investment confidence and critically restrict the appetite and capacity of banks to lend long term development finance," he told the Kyiv Post. "This is critical for large developments such as industrial parks, which can take many years to develop slowly to maturity."

Outside help

Elsewhere in Europe the initial funding for an industrial park has in many cases come from the European Union, often in partnership with local or regional authorities. Such is the case in Poland, which can today boast of a dynamic industrial and technology park sector. The country's first such development, the Poznan Science & Technology Park, was founded in 1995. But from 2004, when Poland became of a member of the European Union, investment stepped up considerably.

"At the beginning it was mostly European money and there was a lot of money from local government," said Marzena Mazewska, the president of the Polish Business and Innovation Centers Association, a Warsaw-based non-governmental organization which works to promote small and medium-sized enterprises.

According to Mazewska, in recent years E.U. funding has decreased significantly but the success of industrial parks means they now make enough money to support themselves and many firms still want to join them, even if they have to do so without financial help from the 28-nation bloc.

But foreign companies attracted to Poland a decade ago by the ready availability and low cost of labor now

A bird's eye view of the Muuga Harbor, 17 kilometers from the Estonian capital of Tallinn. Estonia's state-owned port authority manages an industrial park at the harbor which counts logistics firm Katoen Natie as its main tenant. The Belgian company says the park's highly-developed infrastructure, customs free zone and proximity to Russia were key factors to locate there. (Courtesy of Port of Tallinn)



have reason to look elsewhere. The country's economic success means the current unemployment rate of 8.5 percent is near its lowest-ever level in Polish post-communist history and wages have gone up.

"Some firms will go but many will stay in Poland because the legal, social and economic environment is quite good," said Mazewska. "Once you weigh up the risks of moving, it can often be better to stay, although of course some will try to move east."

Mobile capital

The challenge of fending off global competition to attract foreign investment is something entirely familiar to Margus Viham, the chief operating officer at Port of Tallinn, Estonia's port authority. The state-owned company manages an industrial park at Muuga Harbor, some 17 kilometres from the Estonian capital. Viham told the Kyiv Post that a great deal of investment has been made at the harbor so that it will stand out in what is a crowded marketplace.

"We don't have many competitors in Estonia but of course all the ports of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea are our main competitors," he said.

"Our advantage is that we are close to Russia and we have very good connections to Scandinavia. Anyone ready to make investments there but who might be looking for cheaper labor conditions and slightly better tax conditions, they would be our target groups."

Muuga Harbour's proximity to Russia was a key factor for Belgian logistics firm Katoen Natie, which ships large volumes both to and from the country. The company's managing director in Estonia, Mart Melles, says establishing operations in Russia itself was considered but ultimately rejected.

"We did a very serious study into establishing our own logistics center in Russia," he said. "But we decided not to go there because the political and business environment is not acceptable."

For similar reasons Ukraine does not currently feature on Katoen Natie's list of potential investment destinations,



Nick Cotton, managing director at DTZ Ukraine.

with Melles citing the Kremlin's military aggression against the country as the main stumbling block.



Margus Viham, chief operating officer at Port of Tallinn.

"It's war over there, it's a warzone. If they can stop the war in Ukraine first, then we might consider looking

around to find out if it's interesting for us or not," he said.

Emulation not simulation

The success of industrial parks in neighboring countries has not gone unnoticed by Ukraine's Investment Promotion Office. Ivan Yuryk, a relationship manager at the agency, believes that if Ukraine is to see similar results it will need to introduce legislation in order to deepen existing laws which grant businesses located in industrial parks preferential treatment in terms of administration, tax and customs.

But that, he says, is still only part of the puzzle, with foreign investors likely to hold off on entering Ukraine until they are convinced that fundamental values like the rule of law and the protection of property rights are being "maintained to the highest EU standards." ■



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Investors tout clusters of similar businesses

Investment from page 6

such as food manufacturers, chemicals companies, building materials producers, information technology firms and so on.

"These are territories for investment," says Igon Nykolyin, the director of Ukraine's Association of Industrial Parks, a public organization. "Business should think only about production, not about how to pay bribes to obtain a land lot and get all sorts of permits."

Offering perks

The government and local authorities are in favor of building such parks, as it gives them the chance to relocate industrial zones from urban areas to the suburbs, create new jobs and stimulate economic activity in targeted regions.

But it may take more than five years for results of such policies to become visible, and even longer for industrial park owners to break even.

So in order to support this promising industry, the government is offering perks, such as lowering land rents and even funding the building of communications (roads, electricity, water, gas lines and data cables) for registered industrial parks.

Local governments around the country have responded by initiating a total of 17 industrial park projects around the country.

But that figure doesn't impress Nykolyin. "Each oblast (Ukraine has 24 oblasts) could have two or three industrial parks. They're a tool to bring in investment and jobs."

And Mirotke's German is skeptical about the prospects for the industrial parks registered by the local authorities. He believes only privately initiated industrial parks – like



ZaporizhKran industrial park engineers work on construction of heavy machinery in Zaporizhzhya, 500 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. (ZaporizhKran CJSC)

his Mirotke or Khmelnytsky's Bila Tserkva – have a chance of thriving. The reason? The government lacks the money to build top-class parks that would attract investors.

While the Ministry of Local Development has budgeted just \$160,000 for building infrastructure for industrial parks in 2017, local governments are spending even less – only \$24,000.

German, by contrast, has already plowed more than \$10 million into his own venture.

"Those initiated by the government are stillborn," he says. "These parks are territories of not less than 15 hectares, with infrastructure – that costs money. It's impossible to do without a special financial program."

No incentives

And even these modest financial injections and other assistance from the government come with strings attached.

The government will only provide help if the project is at its initial stages of breaking ground, with constructors preparing to provide utilities and erect premises, says Andrii Melnyk, the director of the investment department at the Economy Ministry.

According to him, parks that were built earlier don't qualify for any help from the government and can't be included in the register if they have already started building.

Bila Tserkva's Khmelnytsky thinks these perks won't help anyway. He believes that Ukraine's priority should be to adopt the kind of stimuli used by Poland and Turkey to bring investors to the country – a broad range of tax and customs incentives, along with a simplified regulatory regime.

"Then it would be possible to compete for investors, even despite the risks inherent in Ukraine," he said. "But currently there are no incentives like this here." ■

Top 10 industrial parks by size

Industrial parks	Area (hectares)	Year Founded
IPCE BVAC	250	2000
Pavlograd	250	2016
Tsentralnyi	168	2013
IP of Rivne Oblast	145	2013
First Ukrainian Industrial Park	105	2014
Svema	92	2014
Solomonovo	66	2013
Vinnitsia Industrial Park	60.7	2014
Bionic Hill	56.7	2014
Slavuta	50	2013

The table shows top industrial parks included in the list compiled by the Economy Ministry and measured by the size of the land allotted to them.



Mirotke CEO Stanislav German talks to the Kyiv Post with a blueprint of his planned industrial park on March 30 in Kyiv. (Anastasia Vlasova)



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Farming exotic animals is a growth business in Ukraine

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA
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YASNOHORODKA, Ukraine – Early in the morning on March 29, two employees of the Ostrich Valley farm, some 30 kilometers west of Kyiv, harness up a pair of draft horses to a wagon and fill the tank it carries with water. More than 400 ostriches are waiting for their morning drink.

It takes several trips to ferry the heavy load around the pens to water all the birds at the farm, which also functions as wildlife park.

Founded in the 2000s, Ostrich Valley was one of the first farms in Ukraine to start breeding the giant African birds. Over a decade later, more and more Ukrainian farmers are choosing to farm ostriches, snails and other exotic animals rather than plain old cattle.

Moreover, Ukraine's government has upped its support for farming exotic animals. The 2017 state budget earmarks Hr 4 billion (\$148 million) in state support for farmers who produce vegetables and breed cattle, poultry and, for the first time, exotic animals. In 2016 state support for agriculture was worth only Hr 2 billion (\$74 million).

Hennadiy Chyzykhov, the president of Ukraine's Chamber of Commerce president, gave the Kyiv Post the official statistics for ostrich farming in the country.

"There are more than 60 ostrich farms in Ukraine with a total 6,500 birds, and the number is growing," Chyzykhov said.

But Ludmyla Zhuk, the Ostrich Valley farm's manager, said there are actually many more ostriches in Ukraine than the government thinks.

"We know about more than 100 commercial farms. But, according to Ukrainian law, a businessperson only has to register a family ostrich farm as a commercial farm if they keep more than 12 birds," said Zhuk.

While the ostrich business is still only developing and can't even produce enough ostrich meat for export, another exotic farm animal – the edible snail – has seen its exports from Ukraine rise by 115 times since 2013. The snails are supplied to the markets of France, Lithuania, Romania and other countries.

According to the Ukrainian Snail Association, in 2016 Ukraine exported more than 380 tons of snails – seven times more than Ukraine's signature product, lard, known in Ukraine as salo. Ukraine exported just over 51 tons of salo (lard) in 2016.

Feathered profits

Alexey Doroshenko, a Samopomich Party lawmaker and the head of the Retail Trade Suppliers Association of Ukraine said that the map of Ukraine is now dotted with ostrich farms that have started up in recent years.

"There are ostrich farms in practically every oblast of Ukraine – they can be tracked down by special road signs," Doroshenko said.



Three curious female ostriches check out a photographer from their pen at the Ostrich Valley commercial farm in the village of Yasnohorodka in Kyiv Oblast on March 29. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Ostriches are hardly the easiest birds to farm.

An adult bird can weigh up to 150 kilograms, and stands from 1.2 to 2.8 meters in height. The birds' small heads contain 40-gram brains and they are quite aggressive – they can kill large animals (including humans) with a powerful kick from their clawed feet. They can also run at up to 70 kilometers per hour.

So why are so many Ukrainian farmers interested in breeding these giant, dangerous birds?

"It's waste-free production," Zhuk explained. "You can sell everything, starting with live ostriches, to ostrich meat, the claws, skin, feathers and even the eyelashes – which are often used for making cosmetics brushes. One ostrich egg weighs 1.5 kilograms and can feed ten people."

A three-month-old ostrich chick costs Hr 2,500 (\$92), and the price for a bird grows by Hr 1,000 every month after that.

Even Ukraine's fugitive President Viktor Yanukovich bought some of the birds for his private zoo at his luxurious Mezhyhirya estate. It's not known if he ate any of them.

Yanukovich bought some adult birds in 2010, and, as he said in an interview he gave to the BBC in June 2015, "supported" them until he was forced to flee to Russia after the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2014.

Yanukovich bought his ostrich flock for around Hr 80,000 (\$2,960) – a fairly average price for a small flock of live birds. An egg costs Hr 300 (\$11), while meat costs Hr 300–500 (\$11–18) per kilogram.

Many farms, like Ostrich Valley, also take advantage of the public's curiosity about the quirky avians to run an ostrich zoo as a side business. Zhuk said more than five tourist groups usually visit Ostrich Valley every day to take pictures and sample some ostrich meat and eggs in the farm's restaurant.

It's even possible to ride a bird.

"Every summer we put on an ostrich race, though for adults only and only after the client signs a consent agreement. Such races are pretty dangerous, but entertaining," said Zhuk.

Wealthy Ukrainians also buy ostriches instead of guard dogs to protect their mansions.

"An adult male ostrich faithfully guards his territory, and will even kill an intruder. But they can only remember things for about five days, so owners have to frequently interact with their pets to stay safe," Zhuk said.

Snails outpace ostriches

Although snails are the zoological opposite of ostriches in many respects, the growth of the snail-farming business has outpaced that of farming the giant birds. Chyzykhov said Ukrainian ostrich traders, for now, only supply the domestic market, as they can't produce enough meat or eggs for export.

Meanwhile, the Ukrainian Agrarian Business Club reports that Ukrainian export of snails have grown from a mere three tons in 2013 to 380 tons in 2016.

The Snail Ukraine Association press service told the Kyiv Post that there has been a ban on collecting Burgundy snails in most of the Western European countries since 2010, as over-harvesting of the gastropods was damaging the balance of ecosystems.

Despite that, France has lost none of its appetite for "les escargots" – in that country alone people munch their way through 25,000 tons of snails a year.

The UK's Daily Mail reported in 2014 that since 2013, Western Europe has been importing most of its edible snails from Eastern Europe – mostly Romania, Belarus, Lithuania, and Poland.

However, Dmytro Butenko, the founder of snail farm "Eco Ulitka"

may actually be Ukrainian-raised Burgundy snails.

"Our (Eastern European) neighbors buy Ukrainian snails as a raw material for \$1.50 per kilogram, process them, and re-export them to the West for \$5–6 per kilogram," said Butenko.

On his farm, Butenko raises up to 70 tons of snails per season (from spring to summer). The snails on his farms are processed by hand, but he dreams Ukraine will one day build its own snail processing plant. However, he said such a plant would only turn a profit if it processed more than 500 tons a season.

"Last year the Europeans increased the snail import quota for Ukraine, so everybody started breeding snails. But people have been breeding and collecting snails since 1991. Buyers just didn't trust Ukrainian snails because of the Chernobyl disaster," said Butenko.

The Snail Association press service said there are up to ten commercial snail farms in Ukraine.

Still, most Ukrainian-produced snails are not farmed, but are illegally collected in the forests of western and central Ukraine, the association said. ■

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Legal firms compete in rankings to lure clients

BY ELENA SERDYUK
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In Ukraine, one of the oldest and most respected legal ratings is “50 Leading Law Firms of Ukraine,” which celebrated its 20th anniversary in November. It’s researched and published by Yuridicheskaya Praktika, a prominent industry publication founded in 1995.

Asters has come in first place six years in a row. Its senior partner, Armen Khachaturyan, said that the ratings “are important for keeping team spirit high, as it’s always inspiring to know that your workplace is the best.”

But there’s no such thing as a perfect ranking, especially when it comes to making subjective judgments.

The “50 Leading Law Firms of Ukraine” research methodology mixes quantitative and qualitative criteria. Some quantitative factors are: number of lawyers employed at the firm and financial revenues. Qualitative rankings try to assess the complexity of cases handled, and a company’s reputation among industry experts.

Funny numbers

Oleksiy Nasadyuk, the head of the ratings program for the past 10 years, told the Kyiv Post that one of the key challenges is that financial data provided is not always supported by documentation. In such cases, Nasadyuk says, analysts adjust the figures, which may leave the law firm with a lower-than-expected final rating.

In 2016, out of the top 50 law firms, only seven provided official revenues and felt comfortable with making them public. Thirty-six provided financial revenue data, but requested that it be kept confidential and undisclosed to the public. The figures of seven more were adjusted and assessed, using Yuridicheskaya Praktika’s methodology. Wn it comes

Oleksiy Nasadyuk, head of the ratings program for Yuridicheskaya Praktika, speaks to the Kyiv Post on March 21. (Volodymyr Petrov)



to specific cases that law firms worked on, these can’t be disclosed sometimes either, due to confidentiality agreements with their clients.

These limitations don’t make it easy to rank law firms, Nasadyuk admits. “Getting good quality and complete information is one of the hardest things about creating the top 50 rating,” he said. He thinks more transparency is required from law firms.

Client awareness

Among those who benefit the most from increased transparency are clients, who would have more informa-

tion to help choose a law firm.

Larysa Syvak-Anina, public relations manager at Baker McKenzie in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post that the firm participates in the Top 50 rating because it builds client awareness.

“Within the legal community we know the situation, but for someone from the business side, it is important to know who the key players in the legal field are today, and how they compare,” Syvak-Anina said.

Many clients, however, still base their decision on the cost of legal services.

In an interview with Yuridicheskaya Praktika, Ernest Gramatskiy, president of Gramatskiy & Partners, said that “service price will remain the key factor for choosing legal counsel for a while in our ever-changing reality, but little by little, reputation and acknowledgement by fellow market players will become a serious driving force of evolution, which will stimulate healthy competition.”

In the shadows

At the end of 2016, delo.ua, a Ukrainian business publication, presented a ranking based on reported revenues of law firms by 100 leading practitioners. The ranking is part of a special issue called “500 Leading Service Sector Companies.”

Delo.ua’s top firm – Alekseev, Boyarchukov & Partners – ranks only No. 24 on Yuridicheskaya Praktika’s list, while Yuridicheskaya Praktika’s No. 1, Asters, is No. 13 in delo.ua’s rating.

In the foreword, delo.ua’s team points out the limitations of the study.

Ukrainian Bar Association

Motto: “The Strong Voice of Legal Profession of Ukraine”
The organization unites 6,000 lawyers, notaries, attorneys, judges, scholars in law and lawmakers. A student branch has another 1,000 members.
Established in 2002.
President: Denys Bugay, attorney, partner of VB PARTNERS
Association’s values: independence, openness, political neutrality, democracy, equality of members.
What association does: lobbies, builds relationships with government, participates in the lawmaking process, improves existing legislation, cooperates with other bar associations and societies; protects rights of members; monitors public authorities.
Since 2006, the Ukrainian Bar Association has been a member of the International Bar Association.
Former presidents:
• Valentyn Zagariya, managing partner at Spenser & Kauffmann, former head of Qualification and Disciplinary Commission of Ukraine
• Sergei Konnov, senior partner at Konnov & Sozanovsky
• Igor Shevchenko, founder, attorney and ex-ecology minister

Two publications rank Ukraine’s top law firms

Yuridicheskaya Praktika’s 50 Leading Law Firms of Ukraine (Top 10 here)	Delo.ua’s Top 100 Biggest Law Firms of Ukraine (Top 10 here based on revenue)
1 Asters	Alekseev, Boyarchukov & Partners
2 Sayenko Kharenko	Sayenko Kharenko
3 Baker McKenzie	Egorov Puginsky Afanasiev & Partners
4 Ilyashev & Partners	DLA Piper Ukraine
5 Arzinger	CMS Law (CMS Cameron McKenna LLC and CMS Reich-Rohrwig Hainz)
6 Aequo	Redcliffe Partners
7 Integrites	Vasil Kisel & Partners
8 Vasil Kisel & Partners	Arzinger
9 Avellum	Avellum
10 GOLAW	Shkrebet & Partners

Yuridicheskaya Praktika, a legal journal, attempts to rank the best law firms while business website delo.ua ranks by reported revenue.

Many legal firms often practice aggressive tax optimization, casting doubt on the reported income. Therefore, the publication views the ranking as identifying the “most honest” law firms in providing financial data. Delo.ua estimates that a third of Ukraine’s legal market operates in the shadows.

Oleksandr Onishchenko, managing partner at Pravochyn, told delo.ua that “even the leaders on the market have a portion of income in cash, while at smaller companies such a portion is even bigger. Regional legal services players and lawyers practicing alone work largely for cash, therefore, this segment is not included, yet it is substantial.”

Price versus quality

Based on the official financial data declared by law firms, the size of

the legal market was \$500 million to \$700 million prior to the 2014 crisis, while 2015 results show a steep decline, reports delo.ua.

Delo.ua also surveyed clients and found they weren’t much interested in ratings, innovation or personal acquaintance with one of the legal firm’s lawyers as factors in choosing legal counsel.

The deciding criteria turned out to be: price-quality ratio, a legal firm’s experience with similar cases and professionalism. Additionally, communication quality, business-oriented approach, a project team’s professionalism and adherence to deadlines were named as important.

Continuing the relationship with a law firm depended on positive experience, price, billing transparency, and providing added value for business. ■

Stelmashchuk: Clients will eventually demand ethics

Stelmashchuk from page 1

could. In the USA, it's not a crime to say you want to optimize your taxes. But there is a thin line between tax optimizing and tax evading."

He's gotten into arguments with other lawyers, who rationalize not paying taxes because "you never know how the government uses the money....It's a poor justification for not wanting to change yourself and to start a different business environment in Ukraine."

Tale of 2 rankings

He says comparing two rankings illustrate his point.

One is of top law firms, done by Yuridicheskaya Praktika, a legal publication, and another is a ranking of revenue by Delo.ua, an online business magazine.

Top-rated law firms show only part of their revenue in "officially submitted information" to the State Statistical Service, Stelmashchuk contends.

"Delo took information only from one legal entity, believing that all law firms were acting through one legal entity," rather than the 5 to 15 entities that some operate, he says.

Culture of bribery

Another frustration for Stelmashchuk is the legal community's complicity in Ukraine's culture of bribery – both demanded and paid to settle legal disputes. He says bribery would wither if law firms simply stopped "being intermediaries in corruption – bribing judges and officials," he says. "Law firms can play a crucial process in transformation. We are advising clients on how to structure businesses, run businesses. That's why we have a huge impact on our clients."

He said that Vasil Kisl & Partners,

Andriy Stelmashchuk, managing partner of Vasil Kisl & Partners, speaks to the Kyiv Post on March 20 from the law firm's headquarters. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



among at least a handful of law firms that he knows, have persuaded clients that they can win disputes "without exploiting some illegal methods."

"When you want to get a result from your brain, not with cash you got from the client, it's possible to structure (a case) in a legal way so the court will not be able to render a decision against your client," he says.

For these reasons, Stelmashchuk says, he is thinking about running for president of the Ukrainian Bar Association. Altogether, he says, Ukraine has 40,000 attorneys admitted to the bar. He estimates that Kyiv has 100 active law firms, with a top tier of 50 firms, a secondary tier of

30 law firms and another 20 firms "we do not know well, but are also very active."

'Ambitious goal'

If he runs for president, he must declare his candidacy by April 3, two months before the June 3 election. The contests, he says, are usually competitive.

"I am thinking about it, frankly speaking," he says. "I want to change the legal market. It's a very ambitious goal. I realize that many law firms who comprise the Ukrainian Bar Association do not act in a way that our law firm acts. That's one problem."

Win or lose, he says, he expects that it will eventually become a competitive advantage rather than a liability to operate cleanly. He says nations that take a tough stance on bribery will inflict criminal cases and financial penalties on enough law firms to change their habits.

"The market will put pressure on law firms," he predicts. "Sooner or later clients will prefer to work with those law firms who are ethical, transparent and compliant. It's a matter of time."

He says the legal community must enforce a tougher code of ethics among members. In America, for instance, disbarment for ethical vio-

lations ends a lawyer's career and ability to practice.

"This should be an evolutionary process. You cannot pass a law and everyone will change," he says. "Ukraine is a very young democracy, in fact, but a very young country in terms of independence from its Soviet heritage...Each of us should understand the necessity to change himself or herself. We have to realize from personal experience that there are benefits to being transparent: You sleep better; you can easily run for president. Nobody can get any 'kompromat' against you." ■

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Ponomarev says Kremlin policy is clear: Kill traitors

BY BRIAN BONNER
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

Exiled ex-Russian member of parliament Ilya Ponomarev called Denys Voronenkov a “pilot case” into whether former Kremlin supporters with insider knowledge of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s corrupt ways and his war on Ukraine could help Kyiv authorities.

If so, the “pilot case” ended catastrophically when an assassin fired several gunshots into Voronenkov, who like Ponomarev is also an exiled ex-member of the Russian parliament.

Voronenkov, who became a naturalized Ukrainian citizen and a vocal Kremlin critic after relocating to Kyiv in October, was killed instantly about 11:30 a.m. on March 23 outside the Premier Palace Hotel in Kyiv.

“Ukrainian authorities missed the importance of him as a witness, of protecting him and as a symbol,” Ponomarev said in interview with the Kyiv Post on March 26, the day after Voronenkov’s funeral in Kyiv.

Ukraine’s authorities “never understood who was Denys Voronenkov, why he was here and what was his main value. Voronenkov had a huge understanding of Putin’s regime — how the corruption and money laundering worked, the financial links of top officials,” Ponomarev said. “That was his greatest value.”

Ponomarev said that he also knows other Russians who want to give information against the Kremlin’s crimes. He doubts that many will be willing to take Voronenkov’s risks now.

‘No. 1 enemy’

If Ponomarev is right, a longtime enemy of Voronenkov is to blame for his assassination.

Ukrainian authorities identified the gunman as a Russian agent — 28-year-old Pavel Parshov — who died after being fatally shot by Voronenkov’s bodyguard, who is recovering from gunshot wounds he also suffered in the shootout.

Voronenkov followed a path with similarities to Ponomarev, who splits his time between Washington, D.C., and Kyiv, and advises American investors interested in Ukraine. Both Voronenkov and Ponomarev switched from being part of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin’s system to Kremlin critics.

Voronenkov was a lawmaker from the pro-Kremlin Communist Party from 2011 to 2016. He supported prohibitions on foreign ownership of Russian media. In 2013-2014, he criticized Ukraine’s EuroMaidan Revolution and voted for Russia’s annexation of Crimea.

Voronenkov became a Putin critic and fled to Ukraine only after becoming a suspect in a fraud case, which he believed to be political, and losing re-election to parliament in September — and hence, losing his legal immunity from criminal prosecution.

Meanwhile, Ponomarev was the only Russian lawmaker who voted against Russia’s annexation of Crimea



Ukrainian police investigators work next to the body of former Russian member of parliament Denys Voronenkov at the scene of his assassination in Kyiv on March 23. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called the murder “an act of state terrorism” by Russian President Vladimir Putin’s regime. (Pavlo Podufalov)

in March 2014. He was banned from Russia that year by court order after becoming a suspect in an embezzlement case. Ponomarev says the case is politically motivated.

Ponomarev said he was not a close friend of Voronenkov, but shared circumstances as exiled Kremlin critics and former Russian lawmakers brought them together in Ukraine.

Voronenkov and Ponomarev were supposed to meet in Premier Palace the same day that Voronenkov was assassinated. Ponomarev said that Voronenkov was seeking advice on how to sell his properties in Russia, including three apartments and luxury automobiles, and what to do if he got placed on Interpol’s “red notice” of internationally wanted suspects.

Voronenkov was under criminal investigation for fraud in Russia. Ponomarev called the accusations against Voronenkov “artificial, based on one guy in prison” and part of a vendetta against him by ex-Russian FSB security services general Oleg Feoktistov. It is Feoktistov who Ponomarev blames for ordering the assassination, calling him Voronenkov’s “No. 1 enemy.”

Feoktistov could not be reached for comment.

Putin knew?

Feoktistov was, however, no ordinary FSB general. He served as deputy head of the internal security department, which gave him the power to investigate anybody in the former KGB agency — the most powerful institution in Russia — and to report directly to Putin, Ponomarev said.

Ponomarev traces the enmity between Feoktistov and Voronenkov to the early 2000s fallout over the “Three Whales” corruption investigation by the Federal Drug Control Service — a giant smuggling scandal that led to the firing of 29 FSB generals. Among them, Ponomarev said, was Feoktistov’s mentor. Voronenkov



Ilya Ponomarev



Denys Voronenkov

played a role in the case as an investigator of the Federal Drug Control Service in 2004 to 2007.

Feoktistov was also thought to be responsible for an assassination attempt on Voronenkov in 2007, according to Ponomarev.

Voronenkov told the Gordon.ua site in March that Feoktistov “had ordered” a criminal case against him, and their feud goes back to 2007. This Federal Drug Control Service, where Voronenkov worked, was later disbanded and its head Aleksandr Bulbov was arrested for illegal wiretapping in 2007. Bulbov blamed Feoktistov for fabricating the case against him.

Feoktistov is reportedly close to Igor Sechin, CEO of Rosneft and Putin’s closest ally.

In early March, Feoktistov lost his job as head of security at Rosneft and returned to the “military service,” although it is not clear if it means the military or the FSB, Russia’s Vedomosti newspaper reported.

After leaving Rosneft, Feoktistov “needed some action to prove his usefulness” to the Kremlin, Ponomarev surmises.

Eliminating the talkative traitor

Voronenkov, a new enemy of the state and an old enemy of Feoktistov, would be one way to do it.

Ponomarev has little doubt Feoktistov organized the assassination with help from the Russian FSB security services — and that means, he said, Putin knew and approved.

“For me, there is only one question: Did he call Vladimir Putin before the trigger was pulled or after?”

Repeated attempts to locate Feoktistov for comment were unsuccessful.

‘Face of a flea’

In January, Russian Kommersant published news that Voronenkov had started giving testimony in Ukraine’s investigation of deposed President Viktor Yanukovich, who is accused of many crimes, including asking Russia to send troops to invade Ukraine.

In response to that article, Ponomarev said Voronenkov became the target of a Kremlin smear campaign. The breaking point came when Russian President Vladimir Putin’s confidant Vladyslav Surkov dismissed Voronenkov as “some guy

with the face of a flea.” The wives of Surkov and Voronenkov were close friends, Ponomarev said.

Voronenkov “was so pissed off. ‘I have the face of a flea? OK, I will show them,’” Ponomarev recalls Ponomarev telling him.

So, from his exile in Ukraine, Voronenkov started stepping up his public criticism of the Kremlin regime, giving interviews with journalists right up to his death.

Ponomarev said that Voronenkov had an “important meeting” that morning, before the one scheduled with him, but he wouldn’t even tell his wife, Maria Maksakova Jr. Ponomarev said he doesn’t know who Voronenkov was supposed to meet with either. But the meeting never happened. It turned out to be a ruse to ensure that Voronenkov was at the corner of Pushinska Street and Shevchenko Boulevard, outside the Premier Palace Hotel, at the appointed time.

‘Almost perfect’ hit

Security camera footage from the Premier Palace Hotel shows the assassin Parshov rushing up on foot from behind on Shevchenko Boulevard to catch up with Voronenkov, who turned around to see the man who was confronting.

The gunman shot him and the bodyguard and then calmly shot Voronenkov two more times before walking away on Pushkinskaya Street.

The killer’s only miscalculation in an otherwise “almost perfect” hit was thinking that he had killed Voronenkov’s bodyguard also. Instead, the bodyguard killed Parshov.

‘Another Litvinenko’

Ponomarev said Putin’s logic is simple: Kremlin traitors must be killed.

Alexander Litvinenko, a former Russian FSB security service agent who exposed the crimes of Putin’s Russia, was killed in a polonium poisoning case in London, where he was living in exile, in 2006. Many other Kremlin insiders-turned-critics have been killed or died suspiciously. In that sense, he said, Voronenkov is just “another Litvinenko.”

For Russians to “switch sides and be successful...that was totally unacceptable for Putin’s system,” Ponomarev said. “In the Litvinenko case, his presumed murderers are members of parliament, decorated with awards, highly reputable and wealthy.”

Voronenkov’s legacy

Despite Voronenkov’s pro-Kremlin past, Ponomarev says Ukrainians should respect what he tried to do in his last six months of life.

“He has done, with his death, so good for Ukraine,” Ponomarev said. “He died in this war. He paid with his blood for his new country and also for Russia by trying to remove the regime which is dangerous, traitorous and totally corrupt.”

Kyiv Post staff writers Oleg Sukhov and Oksana Grytsenko contributed to this story. ■

Kyiv's top hotels raise prices in hopes of capitalizing on Eurovision tourists

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
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It's a law of economics that if demand rises while supply remains the same, prices will go up.

And while the Eurovision Song Contest, with its expected inflow of tourists, comes to the capital only in May, the law of supply and demand is already effecting the prices of hotel rooms in Kyiv: many have doubled rates for the period of the event – May 9–13.

At the five-star Premier Palace hotel in central Kyiv, for instance, the price of a night in a standard room is currently around \$170. That rises to \$333 for the five-day period of the contest, and then drops down to \$187 afterwards, according to the hotel's online booking system.

Some 20,000 people are expected to come to Kyiv for Eurovision, but not all of them are expected to book rooms in the capital's swankiest hotels. And Oleksiy Reznikov, the deputy head of Kyiv City State Administration, believes that even with the increased demand, there's no shortage of supply, and thus no justification for hotels to jack up prices.

"In the three- to five-star hotels alone there are 19,300 rooms for the guests," Reznikov told the Kyiv Post.



Buildings in central Kyiv are reflected in the mirrored windows of the Hyatt Regency Kyiv, 5 Ally Tarasovoi St., on May 18, 2015. Ukraine this year hosts the Eurovision Song Contest in mid-May and expects up to 20,000 tourists to the capital. Many hotels have already raised prices for the event. (Anastasia Vlasova)

"This number doesn't include hostels and hotels with lower ratings."

The Kyiv City Council in February even called a meeting with representatives of the hotel business in the capital to try to persuade them there was no need to raise prices during

Eurovision. According to the council, the hotel representatives promised to set "economically justified rates" for the period of the contest.

All the same, most of the hotels whose representatives attended the meeting with Kyiv City Council went

on to set higher rates for the period of the concert anyway. The hotels that have increased rates include, as well as the Premier Palace, the Alfavito, Fairmont, Hyatt, InterContinental, 11 Mirrors Design Hotel, Khreschatyk, Holiday Inn Kiev, the Radisson Blu,



and the Royal Deluxe.

Apart from raising their prices, Premier Palace and 11 Mirrors Design Hotel are also taking a minimum booking of two nights for the period of the contest. The head of the bookings department at Premier Palace, Sergiy Varchenko, said this booking and price policy would do no harm to Ukraine's image as a hospitable country.

"For this period there's high demand, so we'd prefer guests that want to stay for more than one night," he said.

The only two top hotels not to increase prices for the period of the contest are the Hilton Kyiv and the President Hotel. Kristina Vasylova, the marketing manager of the Hilton Kyiv, said Eurovision is a great chance for Ukraine to attract potential tourists and build a foundation for long-term relationship with them.

"We want Kyiv to become a popular tourist city," she told the Kyiv Post.

But most of the other top Kyiv hotels, it seems, are content to let economics laws work in their favor. ■



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Anti-corruption activists, journalists targeted in law

Corruption from page 1

government's critics or restrict their activities.

Some have compared the legislation to the dictatorial Russian law branding NGOs as "foreign agents," as well as to the Ukrainian laws of Jan. 16, 2014, which severely restricted civil liberties.

Opponents says the amendments target anti-corruption activists even as corrupt top officials still go unpunished.

"For the first time since the (2013–2014) EuroMaidan Revolution, the authorities have openly declared war on civil society by adopting the law on electronic declarations for NGOs," Mykhailo Zhernakov, an expert at the Reanimation Package of Reforms, said on March 26. "The amendments de facto renew authoritarianism in Ukraine and transform Ukraine into a police state similar to our northern neighbor."

Crackdown on anti-graft NGOs

The wording of the amendments is so vague that there could be many

Poroshenko's allegedly leaked arguments in support of new law requiring income and asset disclosures from anti-corruption activists

- 1 Declarations for anti-corruption activists improve their accountability and increase society's trust in NGOs.
- 2 Ukraine is following the progressive experience of the United States and European countries like Latvia, Romania and Portugal, where top officials of NGOs disclose their income.
- 3 The move introduces civilized forms of electronic declarations and will prevent conflicts of interest at NGOs.
- 4 This is a tool to make civil society healthier and get rid of "fake" anti-corruption activists.
- 5 The declarations are useful for foreign donors because they increase NGOs' accountability to donors.
- 6 The declarations are not a tool of political pressure on NGOs and do not reduce their independence from the government.
- 7 The new rules only apply to top officials of NGOs and do not affect their rank-and-file members.
- 8 The declarations do not equate NGO employees with state officials, because they do not ban them from receiving gifts or being employed elsewhere.
- 9 Top NGO officials will only have to file declarations in 2018.
- 10 The amendments could not have been vetoed, because otherwise 169,000 rank-and-file soldiers would have been required to file declarations.



President Petro Poroshenko discussing amendments on the declaration law with foreign ambassadors on March 27. (Mikhail Palinchak)

different interpretations of how they will be implemented.

The amendments, which were backed by all parliamentary parties except for Samopomich and Batkivshchyna, require anyone who "takes part in measures linked to anti-corruption efforts" to file electronic asset declarations. Like state officials, they will have to disclose their assets, including land plots and houses, cash, money on bank accounts, their income, spending and the assets and income of their families.

The amendments are self-contradictory and stipulate two conflicting deadlines for declarations – April 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018.

Potentially the amendments can apply to any activists of anti-corruption NGOs, any journalists who write about corruption, especially those who get anti-corruption grants, and potentially even any protesters against corruption at opposition rallies, the Reanimation Package of Reforms and the Anti-Corruption Action Center believe.

The legislation can also apply even to any organizations cooperating with or getting money from anti-corruption NGOs, including donors, lessees, suppliers and printers, argues Vitaly Shabunin, head of the Anti-Corruption Action Center's executive board. This clause could completely block NGOs' operations, he warns.

Meeting with activists

Poroshenko met with civil society groups on March 27 to discuss the amendments and said he supported the requirement for anti-corruption NGOs and activists to file declarations, though he said such declarations should be different from those of officials, Shabunin said.

Crackdown on anti-corruption activists
(those potentially affected by the amendments)

- activists of anti-corruption NGOs
- anti-corruption protesters
- members of organizations that get funds from anti-corruption NGOs and their donors
- investigative journalists

Corruption loopholes

- allows officials to delay filling declarations for national security reasons

US and Ukrainian disclosure rules for anti-corruption NGOs

	anti-corruption NGOs	individual anti-corruption activists and protesters	investigative journalists	foreign agents
U.S.	income spending top earners' salaries	—	—	money received from foreign governments
Ukraine	—	cash, money on bank accounts, houses, land plots, other assets, income, spending, income and assets of their families	cash, money on bank accounts, houses, land plots, other assets, income, spending, income and assets of their families	no notion of foreign agents

The amendments are so vague that they can be interpreted to include almost any individual involved in anti-corruption efforts. U.S. disclosure rules affect only NGOs, not individuals, while Ukrainian disclosure rules are far more invasive and comprehensive and apply to individuals.

But Poroshenko said he was ready to remove the clause requiring all organizations that receive funds from NGOs to file declarations, Shabunin added.

The president said he had agreed to create a working group to change the amendments.

However, activists interviewed by the Kyiv Post see the working group as a stalling ruse that will not result in any actual improvement in the amendments.

Western practice

Poroshenko's proponents claim that such public asset declarations for anti-corruption NGOs and their activists are a widespread Western practice.

In fact, there is no U.S. law targeting anti-corruption groups specifically, and the disclosure rules for NGOs are far less invasive and comprehensive than the Ukrainian amendments.

U.S. non-profits and lobbying

groups usually have to disclose their organization's income and spending and top employees' salaries. In contrast with Ukraine, their individual employees do not have to publicly disclose their assets, including land plots and houses, their spending and income, cash and money on bank accounts and the assets and income of their families.

Some of Poroshenko's proponents have even gone as far as to claim that all U.S. citizens have to file tax declarations similar to those introduced by the new Ukrainian amendments. However, these tax returns are private, not publicly available, and have nothing to do with declarations filed by state officials and Ukrainian anti-corruption activists.

Foreign agents

The new Ukrainian disclosure rules have also been compared with the U.S. Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), under which so-called "foreign agents" have to disclose the money they received from foreign governments.

However, the FARA applies to a very limited group of organizations under the control of foreigners or those representing them that are involved in political activities, not to any anti-corruption NGO. It is extremely difficult to prove that someone is a foreign agent, and since 1966 the Department of Justice has not won a single case to brand someone a foreign agent.

Also, U.S. law has not created any obstacles to any "foreign agents," and even Russian propaganda outlets still freely operate in the United States.

In terms of vagueness and arbitrariness, the Ukrainian amend-



Activists on March 28 protest pressure by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) on YouControl, a company that monitors business data and corruption. (Anastasia Vlasova)

As president, parliament stall on reforms, they decide to scrutinize anti-corruption NGOs

Corruption from page 14

ments are more similar to the Russian law on “foreign agents” passed in 2012. In Russia, the foreign agent law applies to any NGOs that receive foreign funds, and the strict application of this law has led to the destruction of NGOs and civil society in Russia.

Corruption loopholes

Apart from cracking down on anti-corruption activists and journalists, the amendments also provide loopholes for state officials’ corruption.

Yegor Sobolev, chairman of parliament’s anti-corruption committee, said on March 23 that the amendments allowed corrupt officials to delay filing declarations for alleged national security reasons.

The only non-controversial part of the amendments is that they exempt rank-and-file military servicemen from filing electronic declarations.

Declaration collapse

Meanwhile, the e-declaration system itself stopped working shortly after March 20, and the second stage of e-declaration filing has been effectively derailed. The deadline for filing declarations under the second stage, which applies to up to 1.5 million mid-level and lower-level state officials, is April 1.

Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman on March 29 called on Natalia Korchak, head of the National Agency for Preventing Corruption and a protégé of the People’s Front party, to resign due to the failure, but she said she would not step down. Another person blamed for the collapse is her deputy Rouslan Radetzky, an ally of Poroshenko.

In February, Ukrainian Special Systems, the state firm in charge of the e-declaration software, refused to administer the declaration system, saying that it was incapable of processing any more declarations. USS

said it would have to develop a new system over four years and spend \$12 million on it, Sasha Drik, head of the Declarations Under Control watchdog, said on March 3.

She also said that Poroshenko and Groysman would likely use Korchak as a scapegoat and blame her for all the failures, though in fact they themselves are to blame.

The authorities are apparently aiming to destroy the entire declaration system by saying that they need to replace it with a new one, which could take years, Drik argued.

While the declaration system was launched in September 2016, the agency started checking declarations only in February.

So far, the agency has checked just 11 out of the about 100,000 asset declarations filed under the first stage, and not a single official has been punished for them, Anastasia Krasnosilka, an expert at the Anti-Corruption Action Center, said on March 28.

The only result of the agency’s work is its efforts to prosecute anti-government lawmaker Sergii Leshchenko and the Anti-Corruption Action Center for the \$333 he received for an anti-graft lecture, and ex-reformist customs official Yulia Marushevska for accepting a \$19 bonus. The cases are widely seen as a political vendetta for their criticism of the government.

Previously Ukrainian authorities were accused of sabotaging the launch of the e-declaration system in 2015 to 2016. Poroshenko, Korchak and Radetzky deny trying to sabotage the system.

Meanwhile, the Security Service of Ukraine has refused to disclose its employees’ asset declarations not only to the public but also to the National Agency for Preventing Corruption, citing a state secret. ■

EU, US, watchdogs condemn expansion of e-declarations

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
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Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko’s signing of a law to require non-governmental organizations to declare assets in the same way as public officials drew outcry from foreign countries and international institutions supporting Ukraine.

International anti-corruption organizations expressed their opposition to the move. Transparency International Chief Jose Ugaz called for the provisions to be “abolished immediately,” saying in a statement: “These amendments are a vindictive retaliation by lawmakers who are angry that they are required to declare their wealth. There is no justification for singling out anti-corruption groups.”

Freedom House, a Washington-based NGO that promotes democracy globally, claimed that the change violated standards set by the Council of Europe which prevent “discriminatory intrusion” into civil society.

G7 statement

Ambassadors from the G7 nations in Ukraine issued a statement this week condemning the law’s adoption after meeting with Poroshenko on March 28.

The statement, phrased in diplomatic language, summarized the meeting. The ambassadors mentioned that they “specifically” raised issues relating to the “fight against corruption, particularly such as the extension of electronic asset declarations to representatives of civil society.”

A number of embassies issued separate statements.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman said the law creates “the impression that in spite of official anti-corruption policy, measures are being taken against those place the fight against corruption as their aim.”

The U.S. Embassy in Ukraine issued a statement on Twitter calling e-declarations for senior public officials “a strong step forward for reform in Ukraine,” while decrying as a “step backwards” the targeting of members of civil society who “play a vital role for transparency.”

Aid withdrawal?

Ukrainian media reports said that the U. S. Agency for International Development, the U.S. government’s foreign civilian assistance arm, decided to suspend cooperation with the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption over the law. NAPC is tasked with administering and enforcing the country’s income and asset declarations.

The reports relied on a Facebook post by Deputy Justice Minister Ruslan Ryaboshapka, who said that the new law was “in action” and that U.S. AID had suspended cooperation.

The next day, NAPC Chief Natalya Korchak denied Ryaboshapka’s claim, saying that cooperation was continuing and that further projects were being discussed.

USAID and NAPC have one ongoing project involving the financing of political parties, according to the U.S. Embassy. A spokesman declined to say whether the embassy had cancelled its cooperation with NAPC. “We constantly review our assistance and how best to achieve shared goals,” the spokesman said. ■

Text of amendments on law introducing declarations for anti-corruption activists

1 (The declaration requirement applies to) individuals who receive money or property or other aid, including free aid, as part of the implementation in Ukraine of programs (projects) in the field of fighting corruption (either directly or through third parties or by any other means stipulated by a specific program (project),

2 (It also applies to) those that regularly and annually perform work or provide services in the implementation of anti-corruption standards, the monitoring of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine, and the preparation of proposals on the formulation and implementation of such policy, if the funding of or payment for such work or services is carried out directly or through third parties through aid, including free aid, in the field of anti-corruption efforts.

3 (And it applies to) the heads or members of executive boards or governing bodies of NGOs, other non-profit organizations that are involved in activities linked to anti-corruption efforts, the implementation of anti-corruption standards, the monitoring of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine, the preparation of proposals on the formulation and implementation of such policies, and/or those who take part in or join in measures linked to anti-corruption efforts.

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Kyiv Post Employment Fair: It's all about making connections, getting jobs

1 Zhenya Halych, lead singer of O. Torvald rock band that will represent Ukraine at Eurovision 2017, talks to the attendees of the Kyiv Post Employment Fair on March 25 in Olympic Stadium.

2 ControlPay, a leading European freight audit solution provider.

3 A visitor reads the program.

4 Ukrainian restaurateur Dmytro Borysov talks to attendees.

5 A representative of lifecell company talks to visitors.

6 Coca Cola representatives talk to visitors at the Kyiv Post Employment Fair.



7 Oksana Koliada, HR head of the Juscutum law firm, receives an award from Business online magazine. Juscutum was recognized as one of the Best Employers.

8 A representative of L'Oréal, a French cosmetics company, applies make-up to a visitor.

9 Auchan company representatives talk to visitors.

10 Ukrainian lawmaker Mustafa Nayyem, a former investigative journalist for Ukrainska Pravda, gives career advice. (Volodymyr Petrov, Anastasia Vlasova)

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**REAL
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Where to go down by the river this summer

Food
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WITH MARIA ROMANENKO
MRO@UKR.NET

Rada canteen offers healthy, cheap fare

Myths abound concerning the Verkhovna Rada canteen, one of the capital's most exclusive eateries. Only lawmakers, parliament workers and accredited journalists are permitted to enter.

The rumors include stories of the finest food and champagne being available almost for free.

So I and a Kyiv Post photographer went to search for the facts in the canteen, located in the basement of Ukraine's splendid parliament building. This is unknown territory: the session hall, lobby and staircases of the Verkhovna Rada are familiar to most in Ukraine from television coverage, but the rest of the building is largely unknown to the public.

First glance

First impressions: The canteen is underwhelming. Sparkling clean, in white, beige and blue colors, and by no means small (about 10 meters wide by 20 meters long). But the underground room is windowless and the space is broken up by two rows of square, beige marble columns supporting the three-meter-high ceiling.

This gives the space a slightly claustrophobic, airless feeling that is not dispelled by the bright white strip lights on the ceiling or the warmer, yellow incandescent spotlights that dot the large square ceiling panels.

One side of the canteen is taken up by three large buffet counters. Each offers the same selection of hot food, salads and desserts, so visitors can skip to another counter if the line is long, or if their chosen dish has run out. In effect, the Rada canteen is a self-service place with rather similar prices found in other such establishments.

Once you have your tray of food, you can sit at one of the tables that line the other walls, which are set with white tablecloths and blue place coverings. The chairs are simple, chrome tube affairs.

In addition to these tables, there are round, Soviet-style "standing" tables, about midriff high, where patrons can stand to drink or eat.

Apart from that, the parliament canteen seems slightly more sophisticated than the

more **Canteen** on page 21



People enjoy a summer evening in La Provincia Italian food restaurant on the Dnipro Bay in Kyiv's Obolonsky district. The restaurant boasts a refined cuisine with a relaxed atmosphere. (Courtesy of La Provincia)

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

On summer evenings, the Dnipro River in Kyiv shimmers under the lights of its bridges, boats and barges, and wisps of wood smoke rise from its lush green islands, carrying with them the toothsome scent of grilled meat.

No wonder those looking for relaxation and delicious food flock to the Dnipro's riverside restaurants. But which to choose? The Kyiv Post has picked out some of the best Dnipro

River restaurants in Kyiv and its suburbs, based on their cuisine, design, service and view.

Gintama Breeze

The out-of-town Gintama Breeze restaurant, surrounded by a pine forest, has an excellent location on the banks of the Kyiv Sea, the vast water reservoir 56 kilometers north of the capital. The restaurant offers a mix of Ukrainian and European cuisine at affordable prices. Traditional Ukrainian dishes include varenyky (dumplings) with meat and sour

cream for Hr 52, deruny (potato pancakes) with mushrooms (Hr 45) and Ukrainian borscht with pampushka buns (Hr 45). For those who prefer standard European cuisine, veal medallions with forest mushroom sauce (Hr 142) or chicken with nuts and Brussels sprouts (Hr 92) might be a good choice.

Gintama Breeze has an impressive drinks menu. Prices vary from Hr 3,369 for a bottle of Hennessy X.O. cognac, to Hr 180 for a bottle of Ukrainian sparkling wine Artemivske.

The restaurant is part of a

five-hectare resort complex, where one can enjoy quad bike riding, water skiing or a pleasant walk along the banks of the reservoir.

8 Zeleny Bir St., Hlibivka village, Kyiv Oblast, open daily 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Khutorets na Dnipri (Little Farmstead on Dnipro)

This much-loved restaurant, located on a ship moored on the banks of the Dnipro River on Naberezhno-

more **Restaurants** on page 20

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KyivPost

French Spring festival to entertain with sights, sounds, even smells

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

The Dordogne on the Dnipro, Paris in Podil, and the Louvre in Lviv - French Spring, the annual French culture festival every year brings a little bit of France to Kyiv and other big cities around Ukraine.

This 14th festival, as usual themed on modern French culture, will be held from April 1 to April 29, and feature French theater, cinema, circus, fine arts, literature and music events. This year, besides Kyiv, the festival will be held in Dnipro, Zaporizhzhya, Lviv, Odesa, Rivne, Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk and Berdychiv.

In Kyiv, the festival will open with an outdoor light show "Galileo" performed on St. Sophia's Cathedral by French circus theater Deus Ex Machina on April 1.

The 50-minute program is a humanistic show based on Italian astronomer Galileo Galilei's support for the Heliocentric theory - the correct theory that the Earth and other planets revolve around the sun. The Catholic Church in Galileo's time, in the early 17th century, still defended the false Ptolemaic system of the universe with the Earth in the center, as it was judged to be in accord with Holy Scripture.

Galileo was ordered to cease promoting the Heliocentric theory in 1616, but was tried by the Inquisition in 1633 for his later writing, which still appeared to support Heliocentrism. He was sentenced to house arrest, where he remained until his death in 1642.

The show is based around the (probably apocryphal) phrase attributed to Galileo, "E pur si muove" ("And yet it moves.") supposedly muttered defiantly by the scientist after he was forced to recant his Heliocentric heresy in 1633. The phrase is used in the show to prompt the audience to reflect on which of our present-day beliefs could turn out to be false in the future.

The show's organizers also promise eye-popping acrobatic performances at a height of 30 meters above the audience, a stunning light show, and lots of confetti.

French Spring's grand opening will



French performer Philippe Priasso hangs from an excavator during his dance performance "Exceptional Transport: Duet for a dancer and an Excavator" at East River Park in New York. In Kyiv the French Spring will end on April 29 with the outdoor performance by French company Beau Geste featuring the remarkable choreographic interplay between man and machine. (AFP)

kick off a series of cultural events.

One of the festival's highlights promises to be "Peremishchennya I Motion," a Ukrainian-French modern ballet with hip-hop elements, which is directed by French choreographer Brahim Bouchelaghem. In the show, 12 Ukrainian hip-hop dancers will show off their skills on the stage of Kyiv National Academic Theatre of Operetta on April 24.

Another event employs one of the senses that is little used in the art world - that of smell. "Vona," an olfactological project by French perfumers from the Jeroboam Paris perfume store and Ukrainian Parfum Buro perfume gallery, will be a festival must-visit.

The gallery will host an installation about Kyiv's women and the role of perfume in their lives. Visitors to the installation will share their views about what fragrances would suit Ukrainian women. Judging on what

they hear, the French perfumers will create this autumn a range of "Vona" (Ukrainian for "she") perfumes, dedicated to Ukrainian women.

Francois Henin, the founder of Jeroboam Paris, says that "for me, as the creator of a large number of world famous fragrances, it will be the real challenge to create and aroma that would embody the features of a Ukrainian woman, and that she would find worthy of her."

Other events to look out for include a music concert by accordion and bandoneon (a type of concertina) virtuoso Richard Galliano concert on April 6 in Kyiv's Caribbean Club.

Another highlight is a performance by France's Deep Forest "ethnic electronica" music band, which shot to fame in the mid-1990s with their hugely popular albums of electronic music mixed with recordings of folk music from all around the world: the band takes to the stage in the

Sentrum club on April 14.

As part of the festival, several modern art exhibitions will be held in Kyiv art centers, including the Izolyatsia platform for social initiatives, the Art 14 gallery, the Mystetsky Arsenal arts center, and the Visual Culture Research Center.

French cinema lovers will get a chance to enjoy some of France's best short films in the Ukraina cinema on April 28 and April 29, while fans of French comedy will be able to view amusing French plays and films in Kyiv cinema from April 22-26.

In Kyiv, the French Spring festival will end on April 29 with an extraordinary outdoor performance called "Exceptional Transport: Duet for a Dancer and an Excavator" by the famous French company Beau Geste, which features a remarkable choreographic interplay between man and machine.

French Spring is supported by the French Embassy in Ukraine, the French Institute in Ukraine and the International Organization Alliance Francaise. Credit Agricole Bank and Ukrsibbank are the major sponsors of this year's event.

For more information about the festival go to institutfrancais-ukraine.com. ■

World in Ukraine: France

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This year's French Spring festival in Kyiv will open with an outdoor light show, entitled "Galileo" and performed at St. Sophia's Cathedral by French circus theater Deus Ex Machina on April 1. (Courtesy of Deus ex Machina)



Great riverside places to go along Kyiv's Dnipro

Restaurants from page 18

Khreshchatytska Street, is famous for its authentic and delicious Ukrainian cuisine. Its interior, with wooden furniture and Ukrainian vyshyvanka embroidery, resembles that of a traditional 19th century Ukrainian house. But for a romantic evening, it's better to sit on the restaurant's terrace, which offers splendid views of the river.

Khutorets na Dnipro serves Ukrainian meals from all regions. Visitors can sample nine types of varenyky dumplings stuffed with meat, cabbage, potatoes, mushrooms, liver and cherries for Hr 94–295. Rack of veal with spicy tomato sauce costs Hr 296, and a pot of red borscht with smoked pork ribs goes for Hr 198.

On the drinks side, the restaurant offers more than 80 types of vodka.

10A Naberezhno – Khreshchatytska St., Kyiv. Open daily 11 a.m. – 12 a.m.

Mayachok (The Little Lighthouse)

Located on the picturesque banks of the Dnipro River in the southern part of Kyiv, this restaurant is an ideal place for those seeking refined cuisine and a relaxed atmosphere. The restaurant is a two-storied building. On the first floor there is a small dining area and a terrace, while a luxurious banquet hall takes up the second floor. The interiors are designed in an understated marine style, with expensive woodwork and elegant forged metal decor.

Mayachok serves French and Mediterranean cuisines. Some of the highlights of the menu are asparagus cream soup with quails' eggs and paneer cheese (Hr 143) or tuna with polenta and vegetable ratatouille (Hr 697). To complement the meal, choose Pere Magloire calvados

(Hr 930) or Grappa Berta (Hr 260).

58A Liutneva St., Kyiv. Open daily 12 p.m. – 12 a.m.

Grand Piano Café

The restaurant perches on the first floor of Bakkara, Kyiv's largest and most romantic hotel-ship, moored on the left bank of the Dnipro. Grand Piano Café offers a breathtaking view of the city's right bank – visitors can feast their eyes on the Dnipro's calm flowing waters, the majestic domes of the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra and the gigantic stainless steel Rodina Mat (Motherland) monument.

The restaurant offers mostly European and Ukrainian cuisine, but gourmets can also enjoy there Georgian, American and Chinese treats. Georgian eggplant rolls with walnut paste and garnet grains cost Hr 158, while penovani with sulguni go for Hr 128. American rib steak is Hr 450, while Chinese stir-fried noodles with vegetables and meat goes for Hr 135–225. Those with sweet tooth will be tempted by puffy profiteroles with hot chocolate sauce (Hr 67) or juicy cherry strudel with ice-cream (Hr 89).

Live music performances are held every evening in Grand Piano Café.

1 Venetian Island, Hydropark, Kyiv. Open 24/7

La Provincia

When planning to visit La Provincia Italian food restaurant be ready to devote an entire day to this place. The eatery has lots to offer besides tasty food – swimming in Verblyud Bay, enjoying the sunset on the cozy terrace, or savoring barbecued dishes in an arbor.

The restaurant serves more than 30 types of pizza for Hr 139–249. Meanwhile, lovers of Japanese cuisine can also find a good choice of sushi there. European cuisine



A waitress takes orders from a visitor of Grand Piano Café on March 24. The restaurant perches on the first floor of Bakkara Hotel and offers a wonderful view on Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra domes and the gigantic Motherland Monument. (Anastasia Vlasova)

is represented by tasty broth with veal and baguette (Hr 33), pork medallions with mashed potatoes and mushroom sauce (Hr 87), and fried champignons with tartar sauce (Hr 58). To drink, the eatery offers herbal liquors for Hr 130 and various beers for Hr 27–42 per half a liter.

26A Bohatyrsk St., Kyiv. Open daily 10 a.m. – 11 p.m.

Uzhnyi Bereh Kiev

Uzhnyi Bereh Kiev (UBK) is an outdoor beach club and a cafe located on Trukhaniv Island beach, diagonally opposite Poshtova Ploshcha Square on the right bank. To get to the place, one has to cross Podil's Pishokhidny Bridge, turn to the right, and walk south for about 200 meters.

The café has a simple design, but is lavishly decorated with wood fixtures. It is often used for seminars, lectures and movie screenings.

In the evenings, guests can smoke a hookah water pipe for about Hr 250 and enjoy Kyiv's night lights. UBK's food menu is rather small, but the venue's liquor list is very impressive – a bottle of Martini is Hr 800, and the price of a bottle of cognac is in the Hr 2,800–3,700 range. Wines go for Hr 200–3,000 a bottle, while cocktails cost Hr 80–150.

The eatery doesn't have a website, but information about upcoming events and DJ parties is available on the café's Facebook page at facebook.com/UBKbeach.

Parkova Doroha Street, Trukhaniv Island. Open 24 hours.

Zamok Vydubychi

Zamok Vydubychi restaurant is located in a picturesque spot between the right bank of the Dnipro River and Vydubyske Lake, not far from Paton Bridge. It is an ideal place to escape Kyiv's hustle and bustle. The restaurant has three cozy rooms –



Kyiv's upscale Mayachok restaurant locates on the picturesque shore of the Dnipro bay in Holosiyivsky district and serves French and Mediterranean cuisines. (Courtesy of Mayachok)

one in the style of a medieval castle, and the second in a simple, rustic, and cozy provincial style. The third room, a large banqueting room, is richly decorated with wood and light fabric, and can seat up to 150 guests. The restaurant's open summer terrace offers a great view of Kyiv's left bank and the impressive span of Paton Bridge, the world's first all-welded bridge, named after its designer and constructor Evheniy Paton.

Zamok Vydubychi is famous for its exquisite fish dishes. The restaurant's specialty seafood salad (Hr 160) is a must-try. Gourmets will also appreciate the carp with sour cream and mushrooms (Hr 35) and crayfish boiled in beer (Hr 105). To drink, the restaurant has a fine choice of white wines.

5 Naberezhno-Pecherska St. Open daily 12 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Villa Riviera

This top Kyiv restaurant is great for a

romantic dinner or for a quiet family outing. The eatery's interior, with its huge stained-glass windows, spacious summer terrace and stylish wooden decorations, recalls the luxury of an ocean liner.

Villa Riviera's menu, with its mix of European and Asian cuisines, also allows clients to take a gastronomic trip without getting up from the table. European food lovers can treat themselves to the tasty salad with lobster, avocado and tomatoes (Hr 1,865), stake tartar with beef, pine nuts and capers (Hr 375) and cream soup with asparagus and mascarpone cheese (Hr 165). The Asian meals are presented with extended sushi rolls and sashimi varieties for Hr 139–235, salad with eel and avocado (Hr 329) and tom yum Thai soup (Hr 228). For the last course, try vanilla panna cotta (Hr 89) or pear tart with ice-cream (Hr 119).

14D Dniprovska Naberezhna



Now's the time to start flocking to the Dnipro River. There are plenty of great places to explore along the river as it runs through Kyiv. Here are 10 of them.

more Restaurants on page 21

Best ways to spend summer: Great friends, tasty food and beautiful Dnipro River sunsets

Restaurants from page 20

St. Open Mon.– Thurs. and Sun. 12 p.m.– 11 p.m., Fri.–Sat. 12 p.m.– 1 a.m.

Melange

This family restaurant boasts tasty food and good service. Melange has a main hall, a banquet hall, a room for private parties, a sushi bar and a special playground for children. Located on the Obolonska embankment, its cozy terrace offers a splendid view of the River Dnipro. The eatery serves a mix of European and

Asian dishes. The menu's highlights include warm salad with veal and scallops and a spicy sauce for Hr 125, or shrimps, baked with goat cheese for Hr 185. Salads and snacks go for Hr 65–195.

Melange offers a good choice of Thai dishes – various stir-fried noodles go for Hr 69–198 while tom yum kung soup is Hr 136, and Laksa soup is Hr 89.

Melange also has a small store selling confectionaries and cakes.

14G Heroiv Stalingrada Ave. Open daily 11 a.m.– 2 a.m.



People sit in deck chairs and enjoy the view on Kyiv's Podil district in Skvorechnik café on July 27. The eatery works during the warm season only. This year Skvorechnik is scheduled to open on May 1. (Anastasia Yarovaya)

Skvorechnik

Skvorechnik, which means a “bird-house” in Russian, is a café in the trees on Trukhaniv Island. The dining area consists of the four small tree-houses. There are comfortable chairs in the small dining areas among the trees, but one can also relax on the hammocks and swings located in the area of this outdoor café.

Skvorechnik offers splendid views of Kyiv's right bank and the Poshtova Ploshcha embankment. The café serves vegetarian cuisine only, with the menu including couscous with feta cheese and vegetables, hummus, vegetarian rolls and lots of different types of teas. The price of dishes ranges from Hr 50–90.

The café holds movie screenings,

yoga classes and music performances, and in the mornings, one can enjoy lively birdsong there. Skvorechnik opens on May 1. To check out its schedule of upcoming events, visit facebook.com/skvorechnikcafe.

Skvorechnik. Trukhaniv Island. Central Beach. 9 a.m.– 11 p.m. ■

Food Critic: Affordable cafeteria may be best part of Ukraine's Verkhovna Rada

Canteen from page 18

average buffet, but it's not fancy enough to be intimidating. Sadly, taking photos of the canteen interior is forbidden for reasons of privacy and security.

But nobody objected to me and my colleague photographing our food.

Healthy, hearty meals

I've heard from colleagues and fellow journalists that the Verkhovna Rada has very healthy food, and it didn't disappoint.

There is a good variety of meat and fish, most of which come with rice, potatoes or boiled buckwheat. For dessert, there are baked apples, pancakes stuffed with pear or “tvorog” curd cheese (“They are to die for,” my friend tells me), muffins, cookies, sweet pastries and branded chocolate bars such as those that can be found in most local supermarkets. Drinks-wise, there are a variety of local traditional fruit drinks like kompot and uzvar, and tea and coffee.

The cooked foods in the buffet have no descriptive labels or prices next to them, which makes it difficult. Luckily I am not too picky with my food, but I imagine those with allergies might consider this a bigger issue.

We experienced some staff haughtiness when my colleague asked how much the baked salmon and asparagus was. “All the fish is around Hr 200,” the buffet lady said.

Neither I nor my colleague look like we're officials or made of money, so



A meal of steamed chicken cutlet, Caprese salad, baked apple and kompot costs Hr 83 at in parliament's cafe. (Anastasia Vlasova)

maybe lawmakers themselves get better treatment. In fact, nothing on the menu costs more than about Hr 50.

Feasting away

After asking a couple of questions, I decided to go for something that looked like fried potatoes, vegetables and pork. Later from the receipt I found out it was called “Azuz,” a Tatar meat stew (costing Hr 34). It tasted fine but, determined to save my appetite for other dishes, I abandoned the plate after a mouthful.

The tvorog pancakes, which I had yearned for since my friend's recommendation, were not available, so I resorted to syrnyky cheese pancakes with raisins (Hr 24) instead. I threw in some jam for an extra Hr 6 too.

I randomly pointed at something that had a lot of double cream and chocolate flakes on top of it. It turned out that underneath all the double cream there were some prunes stuffed with walnuts.

The dessert went by the name

“Snow White” and cost Hr 26. I finished and felt content with my Hr 91 meal.

My colleague was mostly satisfied with her even healthier choices. She ordered a steamed chicken cutlet, tomato, mozzarella and pesto salad, which went by the name “Caprese”, a baked apple, and a glass of kompot, which was too sweet for her liking.

She paid Hr 83 and couldn't stop

raving about the apple: “It tastes just like the ones from my childhood!”

Healthy in body, mind

Overall, the Rada canteen is a good place to eat. It offers big names for eating companions and comfort. The food is simple yet nutritious. The service wasn't the best, but understandable given the buffet-style setting. While the napkin holder at our table

was empty when we sat down, one of the cleaning ladies noticed after a few minutes and replenished it.

It's good to know my country's representatives appear to be getting the right amounts of carbohydrates, protein and healthy fats. And if they end up passing some lousy laws, at least we know it's not for the want of a nutritious, healthy meal in the workplace. ■



Spring in the air

A woman photographs magnolia tree blossoms in the A.V. Fomin Botanical Gardens in Kyiv on March 30. Temperatures have risen again in the Ukrainian capital, with every indication, including trees blossoming, that the long-awaited spring has finally arrived. Kyiv, with its continental climate, usually sees average temperatures rise above freezing in March. They then rise steeply until July, the hottest month, with its average temperature of 19 degrees Celsius. Sub-zero temperatures return again in December. (Volodymyr Petrov)

March 31, April 1



'Trespass Against Us'

This British-American crime drama, directed by Adam Smith, tells a story of a robber Chad (portrayed by Michael Fassbender), who wants to escape his outlaw life. It turns out to be more complicated than it seemed to be as he has to stop working for his criminal father Colby (Brendan Gleeson). The screening is in English with Ukrainian subtitles. **"Trespass Against Us" (drama). March 31, April 1. 3:20 p.m. April 2. 9:20 p.m. Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostyantynivska St.). Hr 60-70**

April 2



(Blue Mountain/facebook)

Blue Foundation concert

Danish rock band Blue Mountain is to present their new album "Blood Moon" in Kyiv's Atlas rock club. The world famous group is mostly known for its work on soundtracks for movies. Blue Foundation's unique style combines rock music and tender female vocals, which will make your evening unforgettable. **Blue Foundation concert. April 2. 7 p.m. Atlas (37 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) Hr 400-1000**

British National Theatre Live 'Saint Joan'

This classic play by Bernard Shaw is brought to the stage by the famous British director Josie Rourke. "Saint Joan" is the story of French national heroine Joan of Arc (played by Gemma Arterton). She was captured by allies of England during the Hundred Years' War, put on trial and executed because for supporting France against England in the war. Centuries later Joan of Arc was canonized as a Roman Catholic saint.

British National Theatre Live "Saint Joan." April 6, 18, 25. 7 p.m. Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 175

(Courtesy)



April 6

April 1



(UNIAN)

French Spring Festival opening 'Galileo'

The 14th French Spring Festival in Ukraine is April 1-29, and its opening will include a large-scale street performance on Sofiyivska Square. This time, French Spring will impress visitors with the air acrobatic play "Galileo," presented by the street performance art group Deus ex Machina. The story of Italian astronomer Galileo will be told with beautiful scenery and breathtaking stunts.

French Spring Festival opening, "Galileo." April 1. 8.30 p.m. Sofiyivska square. Free

Closer jazz. Bugge Wesseltoft

Norwegian jazz musician, pianist, composer, producer and the founder of the Jazzland Recordings label Bugge Wesseltoft is coming to Kyiv again. Wesseltoft will perform his new acoustic show, that includes variations with pop music from 60s, Norwegian folk and Bach chorales.

Closer jazz. Bugge Wesseltoft. April 1. 7 p.m. Closer art center (31 Nyzhnoyurkivska St.) Hr 400-500



(Bugge Wesseltoft/facebook)

April 1

'Egyptian Vision' exhibition

Ancient Egypt's culture has had a great impact on the world, but ironically we don't know that much about the art and cultural life of modern Egypt. To make up for this gap in knowledge, Kyiv History Museum is preparing an exhibition of 40 paintings created by contemporary Egyptian artists.

"Egyptian Vision" exhibition. April 4-23. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdan Khmelnytskyi St.) Entry is free



April 4-23

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U.S. Embassy and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ukraine are looking to fill the position of Public Health Specialist: Care and Treatment

Basic Function of Position:

Job holder provides strategic technical and programmatic assistance to the CDC office in Kyiv and implementing partners (grantees) in Ukraine funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to oversee program implementation of Care and Treatment for HIV/AIDS in multiple oblasts. This position will 1) develop novel treatment protocol modifications aligned with current international best practices and newly developed Ukrainian antiretroviral drug treatment protocols; 2) conduct site monitoring visits for quality improvement of HIV/AIDS treatment programs (SIMS); 3) use clinical expertise to assess grantee quality and performance, and provide special reports for the U.S. interagency team, CDC Headquarters, and The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (COAG); and 4) participate in international and national technical working groups focusing on medical care and treatment of persons infected with HIV/AIDS.

Required Qualifications for Full-Performance Level, FSN-11:

- Doctoral level (MD) degree or host country equivalent in medicine;
- Three (3) years of mid-to-senior level public health experience in HIV/AIDS treatment programs or other relevant public health programs;
- Level III (good working knowledge in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluent) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Comprehensive knowledge and experience in HIV/AIDS treatment and HIV AIDS issues. Comprehensive knowledge of the host government Ukrainian health care system and structures including familiarity with MOH policies, program priorities and regulations.

Required Qualifications for Training Levels, FSN-10/09:

- Doctoral level (MD) degree or host country equivalent in medicine;
- *For Training Level FSN-10:* Two (2) years of experience in treatment programs or clinical work or other relevant public health or medical experience;
- *For Training Level FSN-09:* One (1) year of experience in treatment programs or clinical work or other relevant public health or medical experience;
- Level III (good working knowledge in speaking/reading/writing) in English;
- Level IV (fluent) in Ukrainian and Russian.
- Knowledge of infectious disease treatment is required. Knowledge of public health approaches to prevent infectious disease spread and care for those infected is required. Knowledge of the host government Ukrainian health care system and structures is required.

Application deadline: 14 April, 2017

How to Apply: The compensation is set within a range of 26, 000\$ to 40, 000\$ (gross per year) and will depend on qualification set of selected candidate. We also offer an excellent benefits package. Full version of the vacancy announcement and the U.S. Mission application for employment form (DS-174) are available at our site: <https://ua.usembassy.gov/embassy/jobs/> Interested applicants should fill out the application form in English and email it to: KyivHR@state.gov or fax it to: 044-521-5155.

**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chemonics International Inc., an international development consulting firm, seeks highly-qualified Ukrainian professionals for the following position on the USAID Nove Pravosuddya Justice Sector Reform Program in Ukraine:

Legal Advisor**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Work with Ukrainian partners, including the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament), Ministry of Justice, Supreme Court, High Council of Justice, High Qualifications Commission of Judges, State Judicial Administration, National School of Judges, and Human Rights Ombudsman, in support of legal and judicial reform programs.
- Develop policy papers, analytical reports, and commentaries on a variety of topics related to the justice sector.
- Support institutional capacity building for Ukrainian judicial and governmental partners.
- Assist with designing, implementing and evaluating conferences, workshops and training programs.
- Contribute to public outreach materials, progress reports, and work plans.
- Coordinate activities with other international donors active in the rule of law reform.

Job Qualifications:

- Law degree from a university in Ukraine.
- Five years of legal experience and/or practice of law.
- Previous USAID or other international donor experience preferred.
- Ability to speak and write clearly and effectively in English and Ukrainian required.
- Knowledge of the Ukrainian 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 the position is filled. No telephone inquiries, please. Short-listed candidates will be contacted.

Application Deadline: April 14, 2017, 6 P.M. Kyiv Time

DAI GLOBAL, LLC, implementer of USAID-funded Financial Sector Transformation Activity (FST) Project

is seeking qualified candidates for the following long-term positions:

Gender, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist

Will provide technical assistance in planning and managing the process of monitoring, evaluating, and analyzing progress towards achieving results of the FST Project; s/he will ensure that performance monitoring data meets the USAID quality standards and is useful for decision making, resource allocation, learning and outreach activities.

More details:

<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/gender-monitoring-evaluation-specialist>

IT Specialist

Will help to establish and maintain the Project IT infrastructure including the IT network, servers and client computers, and other computer equipment and will provide user support with computer-related requests and problems. In addition, s/he will assist in development of the Projects website and support website software.

More details: <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/it-specialist>

Accountant

The Accountant will assist with day to day accounting and finance related functions of the FST Project. This includes recording of bank and cash transactions, collecting and auditing documents related to project travel and disbursing travel expenses, assisting with submission of financial reports based on internal deadlines, etc.

More details: <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/accountant-3>

Driver

Will serve as a Driver to transport USAID-funded FST Project personnel and visitors to official meetings and events, and provide courier service in a timely and safe manner in support of Project requirements.

More details: <https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/driver>

Candidates are asked to submit a CV and cover letter in English to RecruitmentFST@dai.com by April 9, 2017 by 6:00 pm Kyiv time. Please reference the job for which you are applying in your e-mail's subject line.

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

Financier/ Project manager

Financier needed to attract project financing of biogas projects. Our clients are top-100 Ukrainian agricultural and food industry companies.

Responsibilities:

- providing financial services to Zorg Biogas's clients, organizing of project financing, attracting long term credits for biogas projects (10-50 million EUR) from international financial institutions EBRD, IFC, NEFCO, EIB, Clean Technology Fund etc.
- gathering client data (accounting, structure, technical)
- business plan and financial model development
- negotiations with financial institutions,
- submitting forms to the financial institutions,
- correspondence and coordination between banks, client and Zorg Biogas,
- credit memorandum and credit agreement negotiation and preparation
- preparing periodical reports for the financial institutions about implementation status.

7-year experience with similar responsibilities in financial and banking sector, investment and venture banking, university degree in finance, fluent and professional English/Russian/Ukrainian.

Full-time job. Salary from 1300 to 3000 USD /month depending on your CV. Small financial consultant companies may offer their services as well.

Please contact:

Raisa Sukretna
Zorg Biogas Ukraine Ltd
E-mail: hr@zorg.ua
<http://www.zorg-biogas.com>
Mob. +38 095 018 64 24

**MINI RESUME**

British-Ukrainian, 38.
Substantial@diverse knowledge of Ukrainian agro, retail and manufacturing sectors. Sound British educational background (BA Hons, MA, PhD pending) and work experience. Open for interesting offers and projects, UA/international. Ideally, related to the active use of English language.
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byron.yuriy@gmail.com**CLASSIFIEDS**

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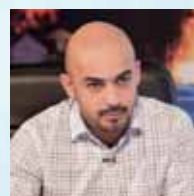
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