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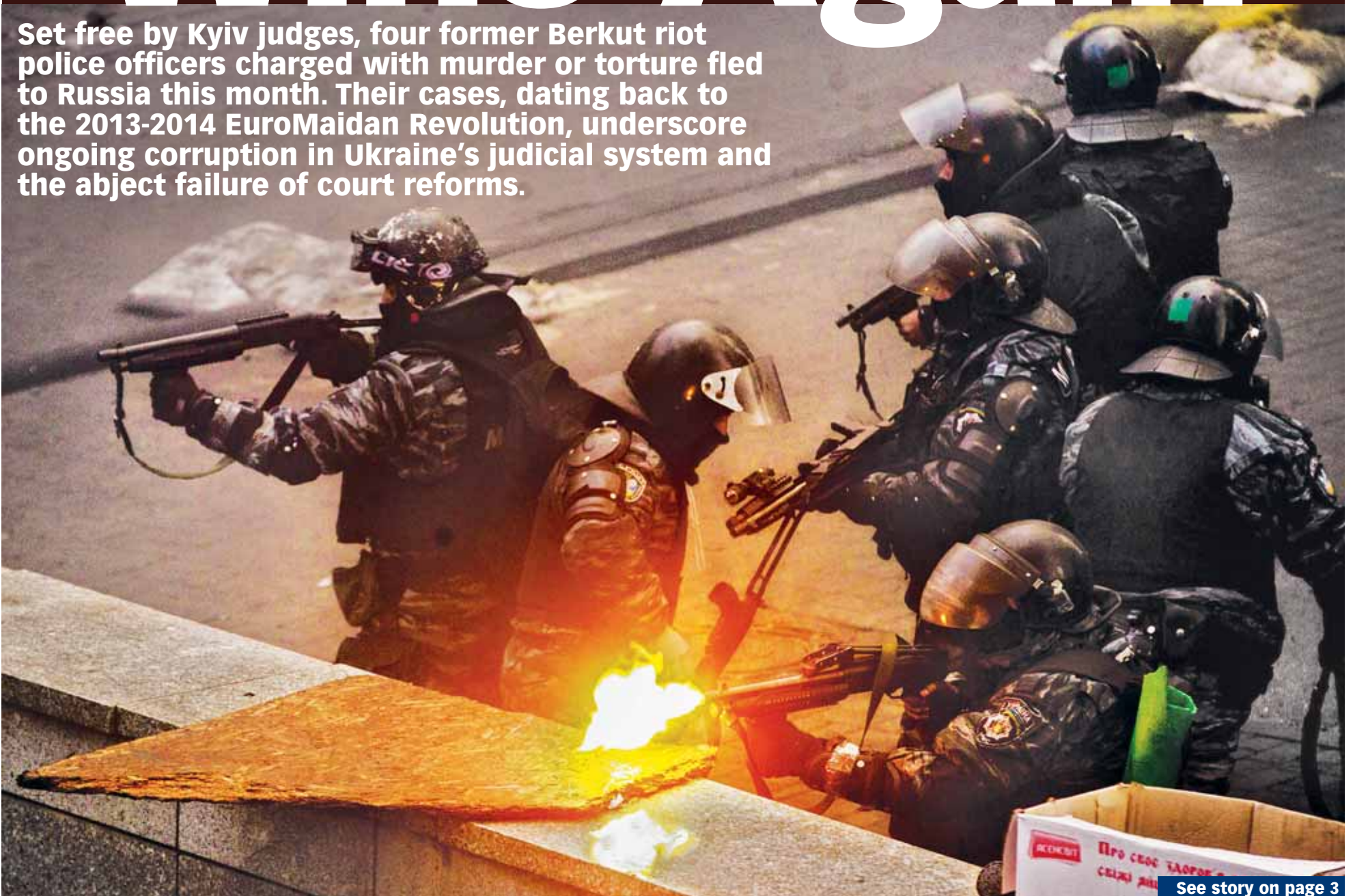
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April 21, 2017

Injustice Wins Again

Set free by Kyiv judges, four former Berkut riot police officers charged with murder or torture fled to Russia this month. Their cases, dating back to the 2013-2014 EuroMaidan Revolution, underscore ongoing corruption in Ukraine's judicial system and the abject failure of court reforms.



See story on page 3

Officers of the now-disbanded Berkut riot police unit open fire on EuroMaidan Revolution protesters on Hrushevsky Street in Kyiv on Feb. 20, 2014, two days before President Viktor Yanukovich fled power. At least 48 people were killed that day. More than 100 demonstrations were killed altogether, yet no one has yet been brought to justice for their deaths. (UNIAN)

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Ukrainians protest use of animals in circuses

More than 100 people rallied in Kyiv on April 15 against using animals in circus shows. The protest followed an incident in which a lioness was shot after it escaped from a private circus in Pryluky, a city in Chernihiv Oblast, on March 15. The lioness got out of her unlocked cage at the private Kobzov circus, attacked a circus worker, jumped a fence and escaped into the city. Since the staff of the 20-year-old circus didn't have tranquilizers or any other special means to subdue the animal, police brought in a hunter to shoot the lioness dead. The protest, organized by UAnimals initiative, brought together animal rights activists, celebrities, families with children, and animal lovers. Two draft laws were submitted to the Verkhovna Rada last October, one forbidding the use of animals in traveling circuses, the other one in all circuses. They have not come up for a vote yet. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Ex-MP Martynenko, a key ally of Yatsenyuk, is under arrest

BY OLEG SUKHOV
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The National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine on April 20 arrested Mykola Martynenko, an ex-lawmaker from the People's Front party, in a corruption case, the bureau's spokeswoman Daria Manzura told the Kyiv Post.

The former lawmaker is the highest-ranking Ukrainian political heavyweight to be arrested since State Fiscal Service Chief Roman Nasirov's detention in March.

Martynenko, a top ally of former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, resigned from parliament in 2015 after he was targeted by several graft investigations.

He has denied accusations of corruption, while the People's Front claimed on April 20 that the case was political and fabricated.

Martynenko is suspected of organized crime and embezzling funds during uranium ore sales to the state-owned Eastern Ore Dressing Plant, the bureau said. The anti-graft body added that it was planning to give a notice of suspicion to Martynenko.

Nazar Kholodnytsky, Ukraine's chief anti-corruption prosecutor, said that Martynenko was suspected of embezzling \$17 million.

The Ukrainska Pravda online newspaper reported in 2015 that Austria's Steuermann Investigations



Ex-Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk (R) and top ally Mykola Martynenko, a former People's Front lawmaker talk in the Verkhovna Rada on Sept. 5, 2013. (UNIAN)

was selling Kazakh uranium ore at a huge profit to the Eastern Ore Dressing Plant, which sells uranium to Ukraine's state nuclear power monopoly Energoatom.

Ukrainska Pravda published documents showing that Steuermann's owner, Wolfgang Eiberger, was a

shareholder of Diamant Bank, which is co-owned by Martynenko's business partner David Zhvania. The documents also demonstrate other links between Steuermann and the Martynenko-Zhvania business partnership.

Zhvania confirmed in an inter-

view with Ukrainska Pravda that Steuermann was de facto controlled by Martynenko.

Ukrainian, Swiss and Czech authorities have also been investigating Martynenko on suspicions that he accepted 30 million Swiss francs from Czech engineering firm Skoda to give it a contract to supply equipment to Energoatom.

In another case, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau is investigating Martynenko over alleged corruption at the state-owned Odesa Portside Plant. Under the scheme, a firm called Antra supplied natural gas to the plant in exchange for ammonia and other fertilizers that are produced from the gas.

Investigators say that the plant effectively supplied fertilizers to Antra at below-market prices, which deprived it of revenues. ■

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Release of murder suspects is latest 'outrage' of courts

BY OLEG SUKHOV
AND OLENA GONCHAROVA

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Four former Berkut riot police officers charged with murder, torture and assault fled to Russia on April 9–11, after courts in Kyiv ruled that they could be released from custody.

The incident has triggered a public outcry, with critics arguing that the officers' flight is another classic example of Ukraine's politicized and corrupt judiciary.

They claim the cases were sabotaged by the Interior Ministry led by Arsen Avakov, accusing the nation's biggest law enforcement agency of protecting former Berkut officers accused of crimes committed during Ukraine's 100-day EuroMaidan Revolution that drove President Viktor Yanukovich from power on Feb. 22, 2014.

Lawyers suspect the court rulings were influenced by higher-ranking officials who the officers might have implicated in wrongdoing.

"It's an outrage," says Yevhenia Zakrevska, a lawyer for the families of EuroMaidan activists allegedly killed by Berkut police. "The court ruled there are no risks in the release of (the Berkut officers). It was an unlawful decision."

The National Police, accused of protecting its officers, denied any meddling, while the Interior Ministry and the courts involved did not comment by the time the Kyiv Post went to publication.

Suspects released

The officers who fled later released a video from Russia saying that they "have realized that it's dangerous for them to stay in Ukraine." They had pleaded not guilty and complained about prosecutors' alleged bias.

The four ex-Berkut officers — Vitaly Honcharenko, Vladyslav Masteha, Artem Voilokov and Oleksandr Kostyuk — were detained in June in Kharkiv, where they lived and served. Only Honcharenko had been suspended, while the other three still worked in the police force.

Three judges of the Kyiv Court of Appeals — Oleh Prsyazhnyuk, Vyacheslav Dzyubin and Tetiana Rosik — released Honcharenko on April 6.

Berkut officers Voilokov and Masteha were placed under nighttime house arrest — a measure effectively equivalent to release during daytime — by Iryna Lytvynova, a judge of Kyiv's Pechersk Court, in March.

The fourth officer, Kostyuk, was released by Roman Novak, a Pechersk Court judge, in November.

Valery Lashevych, a judge of the Kyiv Court of Appeal, placed another ex-Berkut officer, Oleksandr Belov, under nighttime house arrest in November. Belov is still in Ukraine.

Sergii Gorbatiuk, head of the prosecutorial department for trials in absentia, believes the judges' rulings to be unlawful and says he is planning to prosecute them.



Four former Berkut riot police officers - Vitaly Honcharenko, Vladyslav Masteha, Artem Voilokov and Oleksandr Kostyuk - fled to Russia on April 9-11 after being charged with murder, torture or assault. They recorded a video in Russia denying the charges against them. (Screenshot from video)

Judges' background

Some of the judges who released the officers have a controversial reputation and are considered to be loyal to the authorities.

In March, Rosik and Lashevych were chosen to consider an appeal against the arrest of State Fiscal Service Chief Roman Nasirov, a loyalist of President Petro Poroshenko. Lashevych and Prsyazhnyuk on April 19 ruled to return Nasirov's passports and other documents, which had previously been seized to prevent him from fleeing.

Lashevych and Rosik in March also reduced the bail for Ruslan Zhurilo, a suspect in a corruption case investigated by the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine.

Meanwhile, Dzyubin and Lashevych have ruled against ex-Deputy Prosecutor General Vitaly Kasko, Ukrop party leader Gennady Korban and lawmaker Ihor Mosiychuk — political opponents of Poroshenko.

Dzyubin visited the Presidential Administration in 2015 before ruling against Korban, according to the UNIAN news agency.

Lashevych was investigated in a case against ex-Kyiv Appeals Court Chief Anton Chernushenko, who fled in 2015 after being charged with interfering with the automatic system for allocating cases to judges. Lashevych is also accused of having ties to Poroshenko's gray cardinal and lawmaker Oleksandr Hranovsky, who has close ties among the prosecutors and lawyers but denies influencing law enforcement.

Judge Lytvynova was investigated over an alleged unlawful ruling in 2015, while Novak has been accused of numerous procedural violations.

Declared wealth

The judges' asset declarations have shown property that is at odds with their modest salaries.

Prsyazhnyuk owns two houses, three apartments, two cars and 7,500 square meters of land. His job in the Kyiv Appeal Court pays him \$13,000 a year.

Novak, whose yearly salary is \$9,000, owns with his wife a 12,000 square meter land plot in Kyiv Oblast, two apartments in Kyiv, and \$16,500 in cash.

Lytvynova, who makes \$11,300 as a judge, has two apartments and two houses. Dzyubin makes \$11,700 a year, while he and his wife have three apartments and \$43,000 in cash.

Sabotage by police

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry is trying to protect Berkut police officers.

For example, Kharkiv city police tried to get Honcharenko out under their responsibility, Zakrevska said.

Top officials of Kyiv police have also addressed the courts asking not to suspend Berkut officers, and the police have given positive recommendations to Berkut suspects.

Ex-Deputy Prosecutor General Oleksiy Bahanets has also accused Interior Minister Arsen Avakov and his aide Anton Gerashchenko of obstructing the prosecution of Berkut officers. Gerashchenko has

more **Berkut** on page 7

World in Ukraine: Poland

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Editorials

Turkey of a vote

Ukrainians have seen the game being played by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before. It goes like this: become prime minister, then switch to president and boost your powers by tinkering with the constitution.

Authoritarians like Erdogan don't change the rules of the political system to make it better and more equitable, they do it to increase their own power and to attempt to stay in office longer — as former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich did here in 2010, as Russian President Vladimir Putin is doing, as many other tyrants have done.

Erdogan is an authoritarian leader edging towards dictatorship, if not already there: Since an abortive coup last year, 40,000 people have been arrested, including more than 2,700 judges, and nearly 200 journalists, with many still imprisoned. University deans have been sacked, and thousands of civil servants suspected of supporting the alleged coup plotter, Fethullah Gulen, have lost their jobs. He has cracked down on his critics in politics, the military and the press.

Erdogan has been in power since 2003. In 2014, he switched to the presidency having, as prime minister, run up against a three-term limit imposed by his party. But the presidency is supposed to be a politically neutral office that acts as guardian of Turkey's secular system — unsatisfactory for an Islamist politician like Erdogan.

So on April 17, Turkey held referendum to boost the president's powers. Under the approved changes, the presidency will gain executive powers, snatched from the abolished post of prime minister. With his party controlling the legislature, Erdogan's new role will be greater than the sum of its parts.

Such a power grab should be deeply disturbing to all onlookers, but most disturbing is the way Erdogan obtained his supercharged presidency: dishonestly. International election monitors said the April 17 poll fell short of democratic standards, video of suspected vote rigging has emerged, the opposition campaign was stifled, and the election commission appears to have broken the rules to help Erdogan obtain a narrow win.

Despite that, Erdogan has received congratulations on his win from abroad, including from, incredibly, Ukraine and the United States. Both countries should know better than to applaud authoritarianism and dodgy votes.

Erdogan should be feeling more heat for his usurpation of power. Instead of him telling election observers to "know their place," he should be told straight that destroying Turkey's democracy is unacceptable. So far, we haven't heard that from anyone.

Ukrainian and Western leaders are looking more spineless all the time, stifling criticism in deference to Turkey's geopolitical importance and NATO membership as well as, in Ukraine's case, a much-needed trade and political partner. Looking the other way as Erdogan savages the democratic hopes of 80 million people — many of whom with close personal and business ties to Ukraine — will bring neither stability nor prosperity.

Miscarriage of justice

The April flight to Russia, the safe haven for many of Ukraine's criminals, of four former Berkut riot police officers accused of murder, torture and assault highlights the lack of progress towards rule of law.

The judges who let them escape exemplify Ukraine's corrupt and subservient judiciary, which is now undergoing what critics see as a cosmetic reform at best. The authorities have refused to create an independent anti-corruption court, while the competition for a new Supreme Court appears rigged. Of the candidates who got into its second stage, 78 percent are incumbent judges.

The failure by the Prosecutor General's Office to properly investigate the murders of 100 EuroMaidan Revolution demonstrators after three years shows how deeply unreformed and corrupt the most powerful branch of law enforcement remains. A stunning 84 percent of incumbent top local prosecutors have kept their jobs since the revolution.

The Interior Ministry's protection of ex-Berkut officers exposes the lack of police reform, with just 6 percent of the police force fired after vetting and most of those dismissed reinstated by judges.

Putin enjoys such events as they play into his propaganda of Ukraine as a failed state. Ukraine must prove to the world that it is not.



NEWS ITEM: Turks voted in a national referendum on April 16 to change the constitution and grant far-reaching powers to the country's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, meaning yet another of Ukraine's neighbors, in addition to Russia and Belarus, becomes an authoritarian regime that borders on dictatorship.

NEWS ITEM: British Prime Minister Theresa May called a snap general election in the United Kingdom, to take place on June 8. She made the surprise announcement on April 18, during Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's visit to London.

NEWS ITEM: Russia decided to withdraw from the Eurovision Song Contest, to be held in Kyiv in May, after Ukraine banned the Russian competitor, singer Yulia Samoylova, from entering the country for illegally entering Crimea. The European Broadcasting Union suggested that Russia select another competitor, but it refused to do so.

NEWS ITEM: The Chinese government and President Xi Jinping have consistently said they support Ukraine and its territorial integrity in the now three-year-long war against Russia. However, China has never offered more than words: The country has put access to Russia's 143-million person market first, has not imposed sanctions against the aggressor and maintains a warm relationship with the Kremlin.

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Reformer of the week

Oleksiy Donsky

Oleksiy Donsky, a top official at the prosecutorial department for trials in absentia, has acquired the reputation of being one of Ukraine's few independent and outspoken prosecutors.

Donsky has been investigating criminal cases against ex-Berkut riot police officers accused of murdering EuroMaidan Revolution protesters, Russia's alleged involvement in the murders and a corruption case against ex-Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka.

However, his efforts have been sabotaged. In early April, four ex-Berkut riot police officers fled the country after being released or put under house arrest by courts.

Last year, Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko emasculated the department for trials in absentia, which is understaffed and has insufficient resources, by transferring graft cases against allies of former President Viktor Yanukovich to another unit.

In 2014, Donsky tried to arrest Berkut commander Dmytro Sadovnyk after he was released by Judge Svitlana Volkova. But the leadership of the Prosecutor General's Office refused to provide a special forces unit to make the arrest, and Sadovnyk fled.

Meanwhile, EuroMaidan cases cannot be sent to trial due to the authorities' failure to pass legislation on trials in absentia that complies with international law.

— Oleg Sukhov



Anti-reformer of the week

Ihor Tsyuprik

Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko on April 13 appointed Ihor Tsyuprik as a deputy prosecutor of Luhansk Oblast.

In February 2016, Tsyuprik was still a police official but failed to pass vetting due to incompetence, according to the commission members who interviewed him. He denies having undergone vetting and claims he was fired before that.

Tsyuprik has also been accused of persecuting EuroMaidan activists in 2013 to 2014, which he also denies.

In June 2016, Lutsenko appointed Tsyuprik as a deputy chief of the prosecutorial department for in absentia cases. Lutsenko then fired him under public pressure, but then made him a mid-level prosecutor in Luhansk Oblast.

Tsyuprik is now also competing to become a deputy chief of the yet-to-be-created State Investigation Bureau.

Ukraine's prosecution reform failed in 2015, with 84 percent of incumbent top local prosecutors keeping their jobs. Political influence on Lutsenko was exposed when Radio Liberty on April 13 published footage of him meeting with many top politicians, including the influential lawmakers Ihor Kononenko and Oleksandr Hranovsky, at his office.

— Oleg Sukhov



VOX populi

WITH TOMA ISTOMINA
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Where in the EU will you travel first after visas are cancelled, possibly as early as June?



Alina Arabandji, designer
"I haven't planned any trips yet and I already have a (Schengen) visa, but I'm

really happy for my mom, who can now join me for any journey without going through the complicated process of getting a visa."



Raisa Havrylova, retiree
"I am a retiree, I can't afford traveling. With Ukraine receiving visa-free regime, nothing changes in my life."



Dmytro Klymenko, businessman
"I'm going to visit Poland and Germany in order to buy a car. I'm glad I don't have to go through this

humiliating procedure anymore. I always felt like a second-class human asking for a visa in the embassies and waiting for their decision."



Kostyantyn Zadorozhnyi, public servant
"I can have any trip without travel liberalization. Honestly, I think politicians play their games

with visa-free promises, while we have much more important issues, like war, and the peace deals that nobody implements."



Davyd Chorniy, student
"I haven't planned any journeys yet, but I definitely will. I think it will be a great opportunity for

people to travel much easier than before."



Valeriy Hryshchuk, scientist
"I have never had problems with getting a visa. That's why I think that travel liberalization will only harm those who work in the EU countries illegally. Europe will put them under stricter control, and send them back home, where they will join the unemployed."

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.



Mike Pompeo

It's always good when Ukraine finds friends in high places. On April 13, U.S. CIA Director Mike Pompeo called out Russian dictator Vladimir Putin as a liar.

In an appearance at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C., Pompeo dismissed the Kremlin's credibility and painted Putin as a relentless foe of the West.

When asked about Russia's denials that Syrian dictator Bashar al-Assad used chemical weapons to kill his own citizens, Pompeo said: "Russia has — I think they're on their — I can't remember, it's their sixth or seventh story now, none of which have an ounce of truth to them."

Then he listed a few of Putin's lies, such as his denial of responsibility for the July 17, 2014 shoot-down of the Malaysia Airlines Flight 17, killing all 298 people aboard; his initial denial that Russian troops invaded Crimea; and his continuing insistence that Russia is not behind

the war against Ukraine.

"For anyone who for a moment thinks that this is a credible man, I'll remind you what he said about the airplane that was shot down, the Malaysian airplane. Go look at his initial quotes. Go look at what he said about the fact that there were no 'little green men' in Ukraine, and the fact that he later actually said himself that, in fact, it was his team. And I think to this day he continues to claim that there are no Russians in eastern Ukraine. This is a man for whom veracity doesn't translate into English."

He went on to call WikiLeaks "a non-state hostile intelligence service often abetted by state actors like Russia. In January of this year, our intelligence community determined that Russian military intelligence had used WikiLeaks to release data of U.S. victims... obtained through cyber operations against the Democratic National Committee. And the report also found that Russia's primary propaganda outlet, RT, has actively collaborated with WikiLeaks."

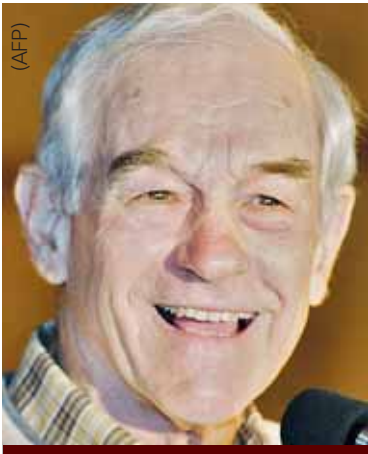
He also called out Russia for interfering in other nations' elections.

"It's been going on for decades. This is not a new problem," Pompeo said. "I was in Europe this weekend, and they're very worried about it... There are some tricky — important and tricky issues in a democracy to push back against these information wars, the set of active measures. But we've got to redouble our efforts to do so. We have to preserve the American democracy against this threat — this threat of misinformation and propaganda and the like that poses a real risk to our democratic values."

— Brian Bonner



Order of Yaroslav The Wise



Ron Paul

This Kremlin stooge has been in our sights for a long time. He is a former member of the U.S. Congress from Texas, who claims he's a non-interventionist in foreign policy. That is a defensible position, but not when combined with his undisguised drumbeat of propaganda for Russian dictator Vladimir Putin and against Ukraine.

He runs the Ron Paul Institute for Peace and Prosperity. A lot of content is simply reprinted directly from the Russian state-funded RT (Russia Today) TV network or from goofy bloggers such as "Moon of Alabama," who writes things like: "The Nazi volunteer battalions from west Ukrainian Galicia are spearheading the attack."

Paul promotes the fiction that the U.S. government engineered a coup in Ukraine that deposed ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. He denies that Russia invaded Ukraine's Crimean peninsula or instigated the war in the eastern Donbas. The bloggers he puts on his website peddle such nonsense as this: "The

Ukrainian government has so far avoided to fulfill the Minsk II agreement that would allow a reuniting of the country."

Reality has no place in Paul's fairytale world. Here are the facts: Ukrainians rose up in 2013 to stop the country from being robbed blind by Kremlin-backed dictator Yanukovich, who broke his promise of closer European integration. The United States was overly cautious and tried to negotiate a deal with Yanukovich right up to the end.

The Kremlin took advantage of the chaos and Ukraine's weak defenses, violating Russia's commitments under the 1994 Budapest Memorandum to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Its military invaded and seized Crimea.

Then, in the Donbas, the Kremlin's proxies would have been routed easily by Ukrainian forces had Russia not sent in its regular forces at key moments, most notably in Donetsk Oblast's Ilovaisk in August 2014.

Cliff Kincaid, director of the Accuracy in Media Center for Investigative Journalism, tried to blow the whistle on

Paul five years ago. He wrote: "I also noted that the (U.S.) Federal Election Commission dismissed my well-documented 2012 complaint about RT's open support for libertarian Ron Paul in the 2012 Republican presidential primary. We cited evidence that RT was funded by the Kremlin and prohibited under law from intervening in U.S. elections. The FEC dismissed the complaint, saying RT was a legitimate press entity and a U.S. corporation with First Amendment rights."

— Brian Bonner



Order of Lenin

Cheerleading won't bring prosperity to Ukrainians



BRIAN BONNER
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Here's another of the revolutions that have yet to happen in Ukraine: The elimination of the anti-competitive and oligarchic stranglehold over the economy, impunity, lawlessness, plundering and blundering, lack of rule of law and the obstacles to this nation's prosperity.

On our way to work with everyone else, we see fellow laborers heading out every day with dignity. We are in league with them. They put on their best business clothes, maybe carry a briefcase, but frequently with a look of grim determination mixed with resignation on their faces.

Too many of us in Ukraine have too little in pay to show for our labors. It's inherent in the human race to want to worthwhile work, to strive, to challenge one's intellectual capabilities, to contribute to society, to be appreciated — and to earn a proper salary to support a family, buy a home and raise children.

Young are fleeing

But this is not happening in Ukraine on a scale that a thriving nation needs. This is why our population is falling, drastically close to 40 million people, and many of the best young minds are fleeing.

But instead of fixing the problems that stifle foreign investment and economic prosperity, too many of Ukraine's leaders and assorted PR professionals have taken to cheerleading — and criticizing journalists, civic activists, reformers and anyone else who points out the obvious.

The latest in a long line of wishful thinkers is someone who knows better, Daniel Bilak, the Canadian lawyer who left private practice for a year to direct UkraineInvest and who serves as chief



A man walks near Ukraine's Supreme Court on April 5 in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov)

investment adviser to Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman.

Just as patriotism is the last refuge of scoundrels, carping about unfair news media is the last refuge of those who understand the investment climate is bad, but can't — or won't — improve it.

"The current media narrative — that while some changes have taken place, reforms in the country have stalled — disregards the scale of achievements since 2014," Bilak recently wrote in an op-ed published by the Atlantic Council.

Not so, Bilak.

We know the magnitude of the changes. We lived through them. Ukrainians, their civil society and journalists demanded them, despite all-too-often successful obstruction

NEWS ITEM: Ex-head of Ukraine's Fiscal Service Roman Nasirov, who is facing corruption charges, was elected president of the Judo Federation of Ukraine on April 17.

by those in power.

He cites a litany of real, promised and imagined changes for the better, and of promising new investments, although not on a scale, as he admits, that will offer Ukrainians a brighter future soon.

The biggest problems with his essay are these: Ukraine has "reformed its notoriously corrupt police force, public procurement system, and gas sector."

Reforms under threat

Actually, all three accomplishments are under threat — and the police force, sorry, has not been reformed except at the patrol level.

Bilak holds out hope for rule of law, which he knows well hasn't happened. He should also know that serious reform isn't on the horizon in the near future, if at all.

"The country's greatest challenge remains to strengthen the rule of law and transform the relics of the Soviet system that hinder business: the courts, the prokuratura (all-powerful prosecutor), various security and law enforcement agencies, and numerous administrative bodies," Bilak wrote. "While much remains to be done, a recent high-profile arrest shows that Ukraine's new Western-backed anti-corruption institutions are beginning to succeed, and the current reform of the Supreme Court, involving civil society oversight, may facilitate the reform of the country's judiciary as a whole."

In this, Bilak skips over the fact there's been no police (except patrol police) reform. There's been no prosecutorial reform whatsoever — the all-powerful office is still in charge of the criminal justice system, overseen by a political hack with no legal competency and no qualifications for the job other than loyalty to President Petro Poroshenko. Yes, I am talking

about Yuriy Lutsenko here, the former interior minister and political prisoner under ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. Despite his two-and-half years in prison for no reason, Lutsenko — whose freedom the Kyiv Post championed relentlessly — is a major disappointment. He wants to be an insider more than he wants justice for Ukraine.

What court reform?

Bilak also ignores the very serious evidence piling up that the new Supreme Court will not be much different from the old one — that is to say, corrupt and politically subservient — although at a vastly higher pay scale. At best, a reshuffling of the same old judges is taken place. I expect they will be less loyal to Yanukovich and more loyal to Poroshenko. This is not an improvement.

The Western-backed anti-corruption institutions that "are beginning to succeed," as Bilak wrote, are running into a brick wall of old judicial corruption, understaffing and

NEWS ITEM: The European Parliament approved a visa-free regime for Ukrainians in April, just a month after it voted to end visa-free travel for U.S. citizens. The decision came after the United States failed to grant visa-free travel to five European Union members: Poland, Bulgaria, Romania, Cyprus and Croatia.

attempts at trying to undermine their independence.

Sacrificial lamb

He cites the "high-profile arrest" of State Fiscal Service Chief Roman Nasirov as a success story.

First of all, it's not yet a success story.

Secondly, Nasirov so far stands out as more like a sacrificial lamb. The fact remains: Nobody has been tried and convicted for the multibillion-dollar financial fraud and high profile murders since Yanukovich fled power. This includes no one punished for the nation's \$20 billion in bank fraud, paid for by Ukrainian taxpayers.

Memo to Ukraine's leaders and cheerleaders: Nobody wants the nation to succeed more than us. We are, after all, the Kyiv Post, not the Washington Post or Prague Post.

Why investors stay out

But businesspeople, good ones, don't spend their hard-earned money because of PR spin or negative media "narratives." The good ones, as Bilak knows, perform their due diligence and make their decisions after a deep and broad assessment of the economic opportunities, risks and realities.

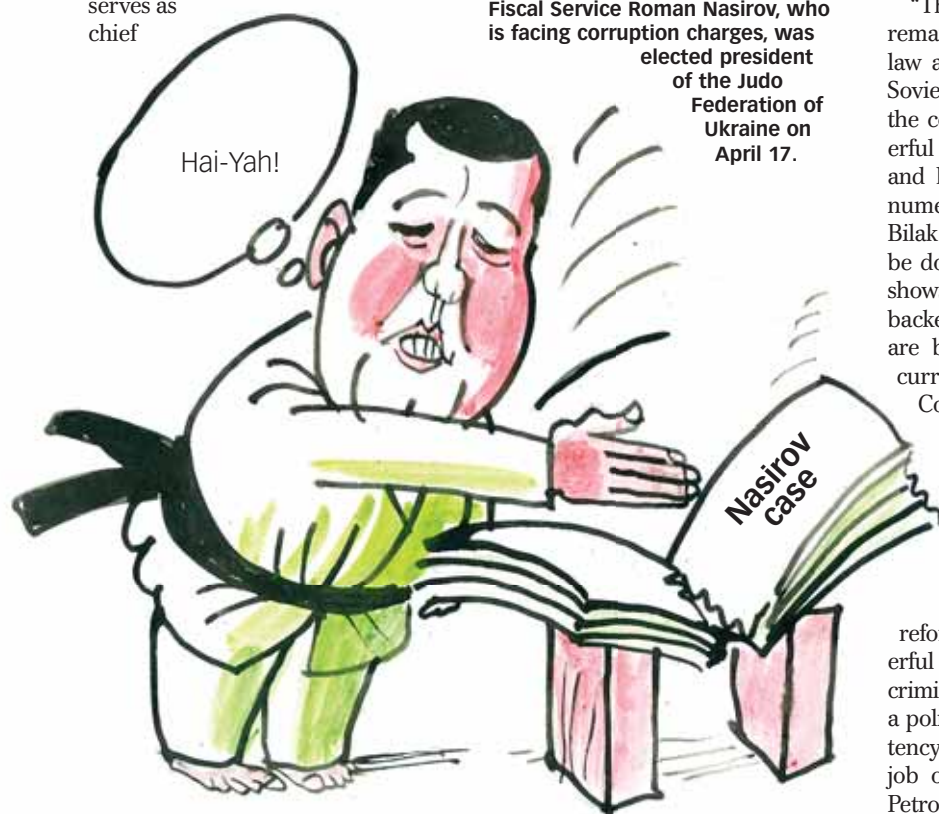
As for Ukrainians, they are still fleeing abroad.

To say this is happening because of a hyper-critical media is an insult to their intelligence and factually incorrect. Studies have shown that Poroshenko enjoys flattering media coverage, especially on television, even as his popularity and support sinks to single-digit levels. The bull-shit detectors of Ukrainians are higher than the elite give them credit for.

If Ukrainians felt they had opportunities to advance their lives in their native land, more of them would stay.

Instead, many of them have left and continue to leave or to look for opportunities abroad.

Only changing the reality — not trying to alter the perception with clever but ultimately ineffective PR — will stop them. ■



Some see hand of Avakov in release of Berkut officers

Berkut from page 3

praised some of the suspects for their service.

Suspected crimes

Police officers Honcharenko and Belov are accused of killing three people on Feb. 18, 2014. Honcharenko is also suspected of attacking protester Serhiy Didych, who was later killed in another incident.

"I have no hope that these crimes will be solved," Didych's widow Halyna Didych said. "Now we see the results — Kharkiv-born Avakov and his aide (Anton) Gerashchenko) are helping Kharkiv Berkut police members to avoid punishment."

Masteha and Voilokov are suspected of torturing protesters on Jan. 19, 2014. Honcharenko and Kostyuk have also been charged with assaulting human rights activist Kostyantyn Reutsky at a checkpoint in Kharkiv Oblast on Jan. 29, 2015.

Honcharenko has been officially recognized as a veteran of the war with Russia. Critics have dismissed his veteran status as fake, since he effectively fled to the enemy.

Previous runaways

About seven Berkut officers fled in February 2014, at a time when there was no proof of their involvement in EuroMaidan murders.

In April 2014, Berkut police commander Dmytro Sadovnyk — the key suspect in the EuroMaidan murders case — and two other Berkut employees were arrested.

In late July to August, prosecutors were preparing to arrest six more Berkut officers, but the suspects left the country after what critics believe was a leak of information from law enforcement agencies.

Sadovnyk fled the country after Pechersk Court Judge Svitlana Volkova released him from custody and put him under nighttime house arrest on Sept. 19, 2014.

Volkova had no right to release him, as Sadovnyk's arrest was to expire only on Sept. 26, 2014, according to the Prosecutor General's Office. Rank-and-file prosecutors wanted to arrest him after that, but



A man displays cartridges of the bullets used by police against anti-government protesters during clashes in Kyiv on Feb. 20, 2014 at the height of the EuroMaidan Revolution that ousted President Viktor Yanukovich on Feb. 22, 2014. More than 100 demonstrators were killed. (AFP)

the leadership of the Prosecutor General's Office refused to allocate a special forces unit to arrest him after he was released, Oleksiy Donsky, a top official at the prosecutorial department for trials in absentia, said in 2014.

Political influence?

Then-Prosecutor General Vitaly Yarema and his deputy Mykola Herasimiyuk have been blamed for allowing Sadovnyk to escape.

Herasimiyuk, who later became a parliamentary aide to lawmaker Hranovsky, was offered bribes to drop charges against allies of ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, and he transferred \$700,000 abroad in 2014, according to emails published by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project.

Since Yarema, who denied accusations of sabotage, was a loyalist of Poroshenko, the president has also been accused of being involved in

the case, which he denies.

Volkova was known for her loyalty to the authorities. The case against Volkova, who is accused of making an unlawful ruling, has seen no progress.

Other fugitives

Meanwhile, two other Berkut officers

fled in February 2015.

Currently, 23 former Berkut employees are wanted, and 14 of them have gotten Russian citizenship. Some of them formed a new Berkut police unit in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea, while others are employed by Moscow's OMON riot police unit.

Lawyer Markiy Halabala says there's little hope that Russia will extradite the Berkut officers, but there's a chance for a trial in absentia if the corresponding law is improved. However, the authorities have so far failed to amend the legislation on trials in absentia, which is currently at odds with international law.

Disgraced unit

At least 20 ex-Berkut officers charged with crimes, including five in Kharkiv Oblast, remain in Ukraine, with some released and others in custody or under house arrest. Of these, five are on trial on suspicion of murdering protesters on Feb. 20, 2014.

Though the Berkut unit, known for its brutality, was formally liquidated on Feb. 25, 2014, de facto it was simply renamed.

Most of the Berkut officers remained in the police, said lawyer Vitaly Tytych and ex-police vetting commission members Roman Sinitsyn and Olga Khudetska. But the Interior Ministry and the National Police have so far refused to divulge the number of Berkut officers who remained in their jobs.

Though ex-National Police Chief Khatia Dekanoidze initially planned a stricter vetting procedure for Berkut police, it has not been implemented, according to Sinitsyn and Khudetska.

According to them, some Berkut officers also "hid" by being transferred to the National Guard and Defense Ministry units, which did not have to pass vetting. ■



Former Berkut police commander Dmytro Sadovnyk in court in 2014. After Pechersk Court Judge Svitlana Volkova released him from custody, he fled to Russia. (UNIAN)



Kyiv Post launches 'Straight Talk' with Redcliffe Partners and Fedoriv Hub

The inaugural edition of "Straight Talk" took place on April 20 in Fedoriv Hub in Kyiv. The Kyiv Post-organized event featured a 90-minute discussion about "Pressure on Business." It was hosted by Dmytro Fedoruk, who manages mergers & acquisitions and energy practices at Redcliffe Partners, a Ukrainian law firm he co-founded in 2015. Participants included: Sergey Vovchenko, head of the Milk Alliance Supervisory Board; Yulia Marushevskaya, Ukrainian activist and former chief of Odesa Customs Service; Mikhail Merkulov, chief executive officer of Arricano Real Estate Plc; Yuriy Terentyev, chairman of the Antimonopoly Committee of Ukraine; and Iaroslav Gregirchak, deputy business ombudsman of Ukraine. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



World in Ukraine

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

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Austrian firm gives boost to Ukraine's hydropower

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
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Austria became a big investor in Ukraine's energy sector last month when Andritz Hydro, a subsidiary of Austrian technology group Andritz, announced a major hydroelectric power station modernization program on the Dnipro River.

The 60-million euro project concerns the Dnipro 1 hydroelectric plant in the city of Zaporizhzhya — some 520 kilometers southeast of the Ukrainian capital Kyiv.

Andritz Hydro, headquartered in Vienna, has 50 offices spread across 25 countries. The company said in a press release that its involvement in the Dnipro 1 venture would "strengthen its position" in Ukraine's "growing hydropower market."

Dnipro 1, which was built between 1927 and 1932, was Ukraine's first hydroelectric power station. Today it is just one of nine hydroelectric plants operated by state-run enterprise Ukrhydroenergo.

The hydroelectric plant's modernization forms part of a larger program financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development which was first announced in 2011. The bank, which remains the largest financial investor in Ukraine, said at the time that hydro would play a key role in Ukraine's power sector and that the country needs to "develop and maintain reliable sources of renewable energy."

It is hoped that the modernization of the Dnipro 1 plant will advance that agenda, with Andritz Hydro suggesting that upon completion of the work — scheduled for the end of 2021 — the total contribution to the country's electricity supply made

by Ukrhydroenergo will exceed 15 percent.

That would represent a significant jump from the 6.2 percent the company currently provides, according to figures from consultancy Ernst and Young.

But those numbers don't tell the whole story. As Ernst and Young's cleantech and sustainability services expert Andrii Kitura points out, large hydroelectric power plants such as those run by Ukrhydroenergo "aren't normally considered as renewables."

True "green" sources of energy — in the form of solar power, wind, biomass and small hydro — currently account for just 1.2 percent of electricity generation in Ukraine.

Market development

However, that figure may be set for a boost in the coming years, according to Daniel Bilak, the director of Ukraine's Investment Promotion Office. He says that there is considerable interest in Ukraine's renewable energy sector, both in terms of entirely new projects and in moves to upgrade Soviet-era facilities.

The most high-profile of such ventures is in the Chernobyl exclusion zone, where Chinese investors are seeking to repurpose infrastructure left over after the site's infamous nuclear meltdown in the construction of solar power stations.

"The attractive part of that is that they have all the grid hookups from the nuclear power plant," Bilak told the Kyiv Post. "There's been considerable international interest, which we've been helping to facilitate."

Game changer

The attractiveness of Ukraine's energy sector as an investment prospect



A view of the Dnipro hydroelectric power plant in Zaporizhzhya, 520 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. The plant is to undergo a 60 million euro modernization, carried out by Austrian company Andritz Hydro. (Ukrafoto)

grew further when on April 13 parliament adopted a draft law to liberalize the electricity market. The new legislation foresees the elimination of the single state-controlled operator which currently buys all the electricity produced in the country.

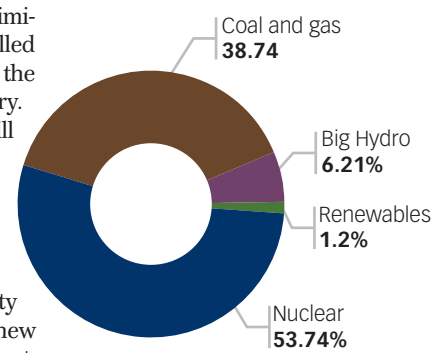
Instead, power producers will be able to sign direct contracts with consumers or businesses, at a price that won't be regulated. Bilak described the new law as a "game changer."

But for producers of electricity from renewable sources the new legislation, at least in one key aspect, will not change very much. Many of them already benefit from the so-called "green tariffs" introduced in 2008, which guarantee until 2030 higher returns on power produced from renewable energy sources. The tariffs are set to stay in place under the new electricity market model.

"Today the buyer of green electricity is the state-owned company Energorynok," said Oleksiy Orzhel, the head of the Ukrainian Association for Renewable Energy.

"In the new market, after the passage of this new law, there will still be a specific entity that will be called 'the guaranteed buyer,' that will have to buy electricity generated from renewable sources. There is no difference; it will be the same rules and the same tariffs. There is no risk."

Sources of Electricity in Ukraine 2016



Source: Energorynok SE

Nuclear power is the biggest source of electricity in Ukraine, according to 2016 figures. Renewable sources, excluding big hydroelectric stations, accounted for just 1.2 percent of the total.

New energy, old issues

According to the national action plan Ukraine set for itself in 2014, a total of 11 percent of the country's electricity should come from renewable sources by 2020. In this calculation, big hydro stations such as Dnipro 1 are taken into account. But even with the increased capacity they will provide after modernization, Ukraine is set to miss its target by about 3 percent if there is no new investment.

Orzhel says he believes there is an appetite for fresh projects which could boost the share of electricity coming from renewable sources by a third as soon as this year. But a lack of clarity from Ukraine's energy regulator over new connections to the electricity grid is sowing uncertainty.

"The problem is that right now a lot of investors are waiting for the new rules," he said. "These planned changes regarding the regulations are very harmful to development."

Whilst such regulatory details could be worked out in a relatively short time frame, in the long term the barriers to attracting more investment in green energy are the same as the ones which hamper growth elsewhere in the economy. The war in the Donbas with Russia is just one — there is a host of other factors, including "imperfect legislation and courts," according to consultant Kitura.

Nevertheless, "renewables have great potential for growth the world over, and also in Ukraine," he said.

"However, this business is accompanied by risks and a long payback period. I would say that the key problem for the development of renewable energy in Ukraine is the low investment attractiveness of the country."

But at least for now, that hasn't put off Austria's Andritz Hydro. ■

Austria at a glance

Total area: 83,871 square kilometers

Population: 8.5 million

Head of state: Christian Kern

GDP: \$415.9 billion (2016)

GDP per capita: \$47,900 (2016)

Main sectors of the economy: Food and drink industry, mechanical and steel engineering, chemical production, automotive industry, electronics, wood and paper production, financial services

Ukrainian-Austrian relations

Trade: \$781.5 million

Exports from Austria to Ukraine: Chemical products, machinery, pharmaceuticals

Exports from Ukraine to Austria: Raw metals, toys, wood

Austrian investment in Ukraine: \$2.499 billion (2016)

Import: \$438 million

Export: \$343.5 million

Major companies: Raiffeisen Bank Aval, Vienna Insurance Group, Fischer Sports Mukachevo, Billa, Frey Wille, EuroGold

Austria's Hermine Poppeller: Relationship good with Ukraine, but could be better

BY BRIAN BONNER
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Outside Austrian Ambassador Hermine Poppeller's window on April 20, the spring sun shone brightly on her fresh tulips as she enjoyed the spectacular view of St. Volodymyr's Cathedral directly across the street from the embassy.

Life's good, but it could be better. That sums up the relationship between Ukraine and Austria at the moment.

Austria ranks high on the list of investors in Ukraine – some \$2.5 billion in all and 5th place among nations, with 150 companies represented, including some very notable firms.

But, and there's always a "but" when it comes to Ukraine's investment climate, prospective Austrian investors are sitting on the sidelines. While the ambassador wouldn't name the Austrian firms avoiding Ukraine, one of them could easily boost the nation's chances of becoming energy independent, she said.

"There are not many new investments," Poppeller told the Kyiv Post in an interview. "The investments are from companies already here that are enlarging their businesses. But new investors, it's difficult to attract them. A lot of them are very interested in investing in Ukraine. Ukraine is close to Austria, close to European

Union markets, you still have fairly cheap production costs here. You have well-educated people. There are a lot of things on the positive side for investors."

But...

"There's still a problem with the courts," Poppeller said. "The reform of the court system should be done at a different speed – at a higher speed. This is one of the really crucial things for companies. If you cannot be sure to get your rights guaranteed by the courts, it's difficult. The investment climate needs to be improved and continuing reforms at a higher speed would be one of the most important things to do."

At this stage, the ambassador said, "I think more potential investors are afraid of the situation with the courts than afraid of the conflict in the east," referring to Russia's three-year war against Ukraine.

Like a lot of her fellow ambassadors, she spends an inordinate amount of time intervening with government ministers on behalf of her nation's companies. "It would be much easier for all of us if we wouldn't have to spend so much time with helping those companies get their rights and get treated fairly," she said.

She cited police and health care reform as among the bright spots and said that Ukraine is generally moving in the right direction.



Austrian Ambassador to Ukraine Hermine Poppeller speaks with the Kyiv Post in her office on April 20.

"We often tend to criticize the country and ask for more reforms," she said. "On the other hand, if you see the conditions under which these reforms have taken place, it is a great amount of reform which has already been done."

Money laundering

Austria is among the countries singled out for a bad reputation in laundering ill-gotten money through its banks and other financial institutions.

For example, Austrian Meisl bank is under investigation in Austria and in Ukraine on suspicion of participating in a scam to siphon up to \$2 billion out of 17 now mostly failed banks in Ukraine.

"There is a case against Meisl bank," she said. "This case is still an open case which is why I do not want to comment on it."

Aside from this case, however, Poppeller said Austria is no longer a dirty money haven after adopting strict European Union-endorsed laws at the start of the year. The Financial Action Task Force, set up by the world's G7 largest industrial nations, also has given the financial sector a substantially cleaner bill of health, she said.

"They found quite a progress in terms of fighting money laundering," she said. "But they also had some recommendations for Austria, so the government decided to put together

a package of measures."

She said that Austria's political leaders "understand if you want to keep your reputation as a sound and serious country, and as a sound financial place, one has to strengthen the laws. I think it's a good work in progress."

The legal changes close the gaps so that international institutions can better "follow the money. If you want to follow suspicious money, you have to follow it from the start to the end," she said. "If you open a bank account in Austria, now the bank is obliged to know the customer: who is this person? Where does this money come from? What is your profession? Is this clean money?"

But, in the end, she said that "you have to have cooperation on a worldwide basis" to fight money laundering effectively.

The topic was the focus of a March 24 conference by the Austrian Business Association, which attracts investment to Austria.

Remnants of empire

The Austro-Hungarian Empire, which collapsed in 1918 after defeat in World War I, included significant parts of today's western Ukraine, including the major cities of Lviv, Uzhgorod and Chernivsti. It still lives on – at least in creating a

more Poppeller on page 12



EUROPEAN BANK IS NEARBY

Did Austria's Meinel Bank help launder \$2 billion?

BY JOSH KOVENSKY
KOVENSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

In 1996, Austrian aristocratic scion Julius Meinel V was ready to move back east.

The Soviet Union had collapsed and Meinel — the fifth in a line of Julius Meinls extending back to the man who founded a luxury grocery company of the same name in 1862 — saw an opportunity. Meinel V began to turn the family company from its focus on groceries for Vienna's richest into a financial services provider, shutting down the company's food providers and infusing the family-run bank — Meinel Bank AG — with more cash throughout the 1990s.

But fraud scandals have dogged Meinel Bank throughout its existence.

Now, Ukrainian prosecutors are investigating how Meinel Bank apparently funneled \$1.5 billion out of the country, while the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine is probing the central bank itself for allegedly allowing the money to be

taken.

Government regulators differ on exactly how many banks used the scheme. The NBU claims a total of 17 banks were involved — 11 of which have since been declared insolvent.

NABU is now investigating the cases of nine separate banks that used the scheme over two stages. Those banks are Kyivska Rus, Tavrika Bank, Finrost Bank, Integral Bank, Finance and Credit, City Commerce Bank, Avtokraz Bank, Delta Bank and Pivdenkom Bank.

The probe focuses on two stages in the scheme — the disappearance of \$389 million after the fraud's alleged birth in 2011, and the NBU-backed refinancing of those same banks in 2014 and 2015 that totalled an additional \$570 million.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center, a Kyiv nongovernmental organization led by activist Daria Kaleniuk, first reported the scheme in February 2016. NBU Governor Valeria Gontareva said at her April 10 resignation conference that she had spoken with the Austrian Central Bank chief about the issue in September 2014, and that the conversation had put an end to the scheme.

But according to the state Deposit Guarantee Fund, losses continued until December 2015, more than a year after the Austrian Central Bank supposedly learned of the scheme.

In February 2017, the Vienna public prosecutor began looking into Meinel Bank's involvement in the scheme.

Samira Softic, a member of the bank's managing board, declined to comment multiple times. The Austrian Central Bank did not reply to a request for comment.

Moving east

Austria's financial ties to Eastern Europe extend back to the Habsburgs and through to the Soviet Union, which ran an alleged money-laundering front called Donau Bank out of Vienna.

Julius Meinel said in a 2007 statement upon selling a Romanian candy firm that the company was "early to move back into those markets where Julius Meinel was active before the War."

The company's investments in Ukraine brought it into contact with the same bank owners who would later use the bank to shift cash abroad.

Meinel Bank owns a number of investment funds. One fund, Meinel European Land, agreed to invest \$150 million to build a shopping mall in Odesa in 2007. That fund later collapsed amid fraud allegations.

Gregory Gurtovoy, a former director of the collapsed FinBank and a former co-owner of the insolvent Platinum Bank, who has been detained in Israel on separate embezzlement charges, held stock in Israeli corporations through Meinel Bank, according to 2017 U.S. securities filings.

Another mutual fund — Meinel Eastern Europe — has been a



A man walks by a branch of Delta Bank in Kyiv. Ukrainian authorities say that the insolvent Delta Bank funneled \$87.2 million out of Ukraine through Austrian Meinel Bank. (Volodymyr Petrov)

longtime investor in Ferrexpo, a Switzerland-registered iron ore producer owned by Ukrainian multimillionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago. Bank Finance and Credit, owned by Zhevago, is one of the banks that is under investigation for laundering money out of the country via Meinel.

Flushing cash away

The Meinel scheme was essentially an insider lending operation that required the use of a foreign bank with a permit from the NBU.

A Ukrainian bank would ask to open a correspondent account at Meinel, or another foreign bank involved in the scheme. Opening the correspondent account required NBU approval, according to former NBU official Oleksandr Zavadetsky and researchers at the Anti-Corruption Action Center.

The Ukrainian bank would then deposit money in the correspondent account, and sign a loan agreement with its Austrian counterpart agreeing to use the cash in the correspondent account as collateral.

The Austrian bank would then loan money to a third party shell company, linked to the management of the Ukrainian bank. The loan's collateral would be the money in the Ukrainian bank's correspondent account.

The Ukrainian bank would not register the loan agreements in its internal books, artificially inflating its capital while allowing money to go from depositors to the bank's owners. When things turned south for the bank, Meinel would collect by seizing the collateral in the correspondent account.

The amount that Meinel seized from the correspondent account would roughly reflect the amount of insider lending funneled through Austria. One case, involving Bank Kyivska Rus, saw Meinel remove \$44 million in June 2015, according to the Deposit Guarantee Fund. Finance and Credit — Zhevago's bank — had \$53.7 million removed by Meinel in September 2015.

The Deposit Guarantee Fund has

identified losses from the scheme, including Meinel Bank as well as Bank Winter in Austria, Bank Frick in Lichtenstein, and East-West United in Luxembourg, at \$748 million and 75 million euros.

Who's responsible?

NABU detectives are investigating the NBU's banking supervision department over whether or not they knowingly refinanced banks that were using the Austrian scheme, and whether or not the banks that received the state loans were eligible for refinancing under Ukrainian law.

Those banks are City Commerce Bank, Tavrika Bank, Finrost Bank, Avtokraz Bank, Delta Bank, Pivdenkom Bank, Finance and Credit, Integral Bank, and Kyivska Rus' Bank.

Receiving the refinancing loans would have automatically installed an NBU curator into the bank.

"The curator would have seen everything," said Zavadetsky, the former NBU official.

The NBU is hamstrung in some senses — even though it has curators that can see transactions occurring at a bank in real time, it can only act ex post facto, and only has civil regulatory authority to pursue wrongdoers.

Amid accusations that it permitted the scheme to take place, the NBU put out a statement saying that as of the middle of 2014, nearly \$2 billion was registered on the correspondent accounts of 17 Ukrainian banks that were using the system.

The NBU also put out its own, separate list of 11 banks involved in the scheme that were later declared insolvent. Those banks were: Bank "National Investments," EnergoBank, National Credit, Bank Kyivska Rus', Bank Mikhailivsky, Delta Bank, Integral-Bank, Finance and Credit, Ukrainian Professional Bank, Ekspobank, and City Commerce Bank.

On the Austrian side, Meinel's involvement will be hard to prove. Annika Wolf, a banking attorney at PHH law firm in Vienna, said that it

Money flow through Austria's Meinel Bank

The scheme starts with a Ukrainian bank, whose owner wants to loan money from his bank to himself. To get around Ukrainian law, he opens a correspondent account in a foreign bank.



Bank



2 Correspondent account

A correspondent account can be open only with NBU certification, so the National Bank is informed.

The Ukrainian bank opens the correspondent account. Investigators say that Meinel allowed many Ukrainian banks to do this.



Meinel Bank



4 Loan

The foreign bank and the Ukrainian bank sign a loan agreement, putting down the correspondent account as collateral.

The loan is extended to an offshore firm, whose directors are connected to the owner of the Ukrainian bank.



Offshores

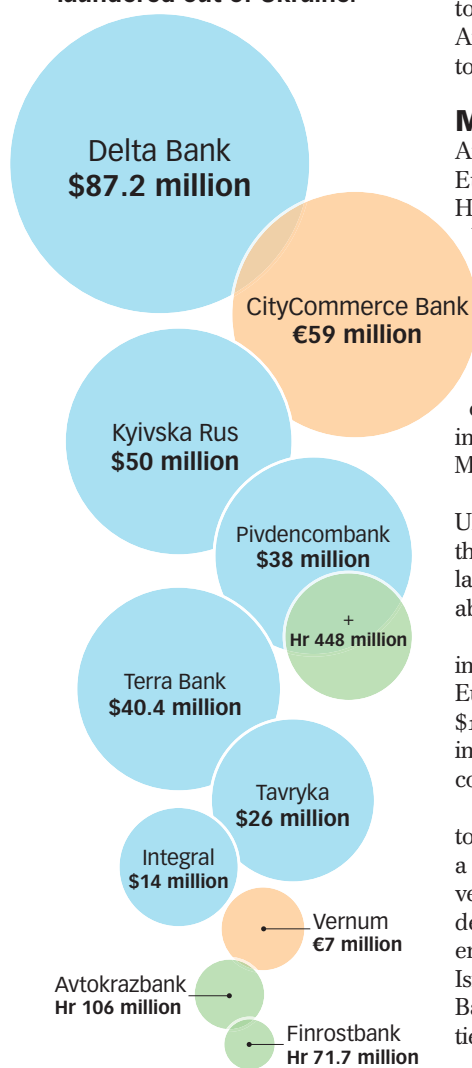


6 Bank's owner

The Ukrainian bank owner receives money from the offshore. As the bank loses capital and teeters towards collapse, Meinel seizes the loan collateral from the correspondent account.

Austrian laundromat

From 2001 to 2015 around 15 Ukrainian banks are suspected to have been involved in an illegal financial scheme to launder money out of Ukraine via Austria's Meinel Bank AG. The Deposit Guarantee Fund has identified at least \$746.5 million in funds that were laundered out of Ukraine.



By Kyiv Post. Source: www.fg.gov.ua

would be necessary to prove intent to launder money on Meinel's part. A charge of failure to have money laundering controls in place would be easier to achieve.

"You have to know where the money was coming from," she told the Kyiv Post.

So far, NABU and Austrian prosecutors are cooperating on the case. The Austrian authorities have filed three requests with Ukrainian prosecutors, while the Ukrainians have sent 10 separate requests to Austria over the matter. ■



Screenshot shows Noah Saavedra portraying French artist Egon Schiele in the "Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden" movie. This is one of three biographical movies, brought to Ukrainian audiences by the 6th annual Austrian Film Week. Another two are "The Dreamed Ones" and "Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe." (Courtesy)

Now in its 6th year, festival brings best of Austrian cinema

BY MARIA ROMANENKO
MRO@UKR.NET

The sixth annual film festival Austrian Film Week kicked off in Kyiv on April 19. Joining Kyiv are four other Ukrainian cities – Dnipro, Chernivtsi, Kharkiv and Odesa.

The festival is organized by Austrian Cultural Forum and Ukrainian film production and distribution company Arthouse Traffic. It is sponsored by Raiffeisen Bank Aval.

Each year since 2012, it brings 5 or 6 of the best new Austrian films to Ukrainian audiences.

This year the festival in Kyiv opened with a screening of a biography drama "Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden," attended by its director Dieter Berner.

The film unveils the story of Schiele (1890–1918), one of the greatest and most famous Austrian artists, whose life revolved around two women: his sister and first muse Geri and 17-year-old Wally, arguably the only love of his short life.

Other films that feature in the festival are two biographical movies "The Dreamed Ones," shown on April 20 and uncovering a story about a rising poet, Paul Celan, whose Jewish parents died in a Nazi concentration camp and who falls in love with a daughter of a Nazi soldier.

On April 21, the film "Stefan Zweig: Farewell to Europe" will be shown. It explores the life of the 20th century Austrian novelist Stefan Zweig, who traveled around the world trying to escape the specter of Nazism.

A documentary "Safari" by Ulrich Seidl, to be shown on April 22, uncovers the sad and atrocious hobby that is sport hunting. The film focuses on European tourists who come to African countries in order to hunt for rare and beautiful animals and then take photographs



Austrian film director Dieter Berner attends the opening event of Austrian Film Week on April 19 in Kyiv. (Courtesy)

with "trophies," their dead bodies, which they later bring home to use in interior designs.

A selection of films from Ars Electronica, an annual cinema festival held in Austrian city of Linz, will close off the Kyiv part of the festival on April 23 by showcasing the best short films from different countries around the world.

In order to choose the films that are shown during the Austrian Film Week each year, representatives of Arthouse Traffic and the Austrian Cultural Forum watch dozens of films from a list compiled by the Austrian film festival Diagonale team, along with the films from Berlin film festival and other Austrian films produced within the last year. Then the Austrian Film Week team collectively decides on the best ones.

"When we just started the festival, it was not very popular," Arthouse Traffic program director

Illia Dyadik told the Kyiv Post. "Sadly the Ukrainian audience was mostly not familiar with Austrian cinematography. But Austrian films are very strong and have their own distinguishing features, something that is clear from the films we show. In the last years you can see that tickets for every festival screening were sold very fast."

This year Ukraine and Austria celebrate 25 years of diplomatic relations, along with many other nations. But the films are not related to the anniversary celebrations, Dyadik said.

Bringing Austrian cinema to even more Ukrainian viewers is something Arthouse Traffic and Austrian Cultural Forum strive to do.

To achieve the goal, the representatives of the Austrian Cultural Forum even offered to screen the festival films for free in Dnipro and Chernivtsi, where the venues of Dnipro's City Library and Austrian-German Cultural Center German House had been chosen for the occasion.

"On one hand it is a good thing because more people will get a chance to visit the festival, especially students or representatives of working classes," Dyadik said. "But on the other, watching the movies in cinemas, like the attendees of the festival in Kyiv and Kharkiv do, is more comfortable."

The format of the festival is not likely to change, but organizers are trying to "develop the professional side of the festival" by attracting more people from the cinema industry.

Austrian Film Week is held at Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylykivska St.) on April 19–23. Tickets for each screening cost Hr 80. The films are shown in their original language with Ukrainian subtitles. ■



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INVESTMENT TO AUSTRIA: HOW IT WORKS



Maksym Lavrynovych
Managing Partner
Lavrynovych & Partners
Law Firm

Austria is an attractive investment destination from many perspectives. Being one of the most evolved economies in Europe and one of the TOP 20 countries according to The World Bank "Doing Business" rating, it provides necessary conditions both for successful business and comfortable living. Among the many aspects which make Austria that attractive for Ukrainian business, I would like first to point out the reliability for creating holdings, which is ensured by the European jurisdiction. As a law firm, we now deal a lot with cases which are related to creating holding companies

in Austria, where Ukrainian shares, stocks and property, even if located in Ukraine are transmitted. This approach gives several advantages: first, the protection under international treaties and bilateral agreements with Austria; second, it complicates the activities of illegal business and raiders. It also secures business from possible illegal actions of some Ukrainian state bodies.

It is important to mention that the funds that are further invested from Austrian holdings in Ukraine are often re-invested. The reason for this is the protection of the investment. The same thinking stands behind investing in Cyprus and other civilized investment countries. Though the funds could be originally from Ukraine, after being invested outside of the country, they become subject to international protection.

Austria is a country that has much lower lending and borrowing rates compared to Ukraine. Taking this factor into consideration, the Ukrainian business representatives successfully cooperate with reputable Austrian banks.

In addition to providing legal support to business, we often receive requests from Ukrainian businessmen who open their companies to provide private service, such as the support in obtaining residence permit in Austria for them and their families. Such requests make sense as we are talking about the country where socialism actually won. The owners of Austrian resident cards enjoy the same rights the citizens do, with the exception of the right to vote. Resident cards holders are entitled to all the benefits of the well-developed Austrian social infrastructure, including free healthcare, which is provided by the state, not to mention the right to unlimited residence in the territory of any EU country.

Since 2014 we have been receiving quite a number of requests to provide legal support in securing funds, which originated in Ukraine through transferring them to the safe jurisdictions like Austria. It was also a consequence of deoffshorization as a general global trend. Business owners started transferring their funds from offshore to legal jurisdictions. Of course, such transfer is not an easy process and requires undergoing compliance procedures. However, in case the funds have a clean history and were earned as a result of lawful activities, the owners have no problems after undergoing the required audit. Let me remind you that the use of offshore companies in the Ukrainian business for the past 20 years was an everyday practice. From the global perspective, no state in the world has yet recognized the use of offshore business as illegal. Of course these are low-tax and sometimes tax-exempt jurisdictions, however, it is not a crime to use them. Those who kept money in Ukraine, simply make necessary efforts in order to transfer their funds to a more secure place, in particular to Austria. With this trend, we got a new practice area, which includes support of cooperation of our clients with banks, undergoing compliance procedures, and, consequently, investment projects in Austria. At present, a lot of our time is dedicated to supporting investment transactions. Our representative office in Vienna ensures high speed and overall efficiency of the legal support of such deals. Once an investor opens a bank account and transfers his funds to Austria, he starts searching for opportunities for potential growth. Since it is not a secret that the Austrian bank interest rates on deposits, as well as on other banking products are relatively low, the possible profitability is not satisfactory. The most common practice is to invest into commercial real estate, which is already largely built and have long-term tenants. Such deals generate an average of 6-7% per annum.

Finally, I would like to mention the Austrian transparent and predictable taxation system as another benefit of overall positive investment climate. It enables clear long-term planning which is essential for any business.



**Lavrynovych
& Partners**
law firm

www.Lp.ua

Frey Wille jewelry enjoys 10 years of success on the Ukrainian market

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

World-famous Austrian jewelry brand Frey Wille celebrates its 10th year in the Ukrainian market in 2017.

Since the company opened its first Kyiv shop in 2007, Frey Wille has built up a loyal clientele of Ukrainian customers who appreciate the elegance and interesting designs of its products.

"The company's owner was sure that his brand would find connoisseurs in Ukraine, and he was right," says Oksana Fandul, the general manager of Frey Wille Ukraine, the company's Ukrainian subsidiary.

Frey Wille Ukraine was founded in the summer 2005 as an enterprise with 100 percent Austrian capital. Today, it has 16 employees working in three Frey Wille shops in Ukraine — two in Kyiv and one in Odesa.

Internationally, Frey Wille has 86 boutiques spread across more than 30 countries on four continents. The company's largest markets are Russia, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and China. Ukraine is among the company's top 10 markets according to sales volumes.

"Ukrainians are frequent visitors to Frey Wille's stores, and have always been interested in fashion, jewelry and artistry," Fandul says.

Frey Wille was started in Vienna in 1951 by artist Michaela Frey. By the 1970s, when Frey's business has grown significantly, she decided to focus on creativity and brought in partner Dr. Friedrich Wille to take care of the company's legal and financial matters. The combination of Frey's remarkable creativity and Wille's entrepreneurship brought the company even more commercial success.

After Frey's death in 1980, Wille took over the company and started working with artist Simone Grunberger-Wille as creative director.

The firm has made enamel jewelry its signature product — combining metals with opaque enameling that resembles glossy paint. Each design



A customer tries on jewelry at a Frey Wille boutique on Velyka Vasylkivska Street in Kyiv on April 19. The Austrian company has built up a loyal base of Ukrainian customers during its 10 years of doing business in the country. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

can employ up to 20 colors.

The brand also celebrates Europe's most famous artists, with collections inspired by Claude Monet, Gustav Klimt, Alphonse Mucha and Friedensreich Hundertwasser.

Recently the company added watches to its product line, specifically a gold watch line. Beside jewelry and watches, the company has now also expanded into accessories such as scarfs, handbags, belts, ties, cuff links and fine pens.

Frey Wille is a luxury brand, and prices for its necklaces, bangles and rings vary between \$125 and \$1,150. Its jewelry is also popular among celebrities — U.S. actor Danny Burstein, actress and singer Rebecca Luker and reality star Kris Jenner are among the brand's admirers.

"Our customers prefer timeless and individual elegance to pretentious jewelry and fast-moving fashion trends," says Ruth Albrecht, Frey Wille's marketing and communications director. "For us it is most important to express with the jewelry the personality of the wearer and to highlight their individuality."

Frey Wille is still a family business, with a small factory. Every piece

is produced in Vienna. Output is limited, and cannot be compared to that of companies like Tiffany or Cartier, which have completely different structures, Albrecht says.

While the company is doing well in Ukraine, the country's recent economic and political turmoil has affected sales.

"(People's) expenses have become more thought out, more planned. But in hard times people (also) need positive emotions," says Fandul, adding that the company still has a lot of regular customers in Ukraine.

"In the nearest future we don't plan to expand, but taking into account that we have regular customers in Kharkiv, Dnipro, Lviv, maybe one of those Ukrainian cities will become the next place on Frey Wille's map," Fandul said. ■

Frey Wille's shops in Ukraine:

46 Velyka Vasylkivska St., Kyiv,
tel. 044-223-3944
176 Antonovycha St., Ocean Plaza
shopping mall, Kyiv,
tel. 044-228-8765
29 Yekaterynynska St., Odesa,
tel. 048-714-4878

Ambassador: 'Lviv has always been a place close to Austria,' home to 1 of 4 consulates

Poppeller from page 9

bond between Austrians and western Ukrainians.

"Lviv has always been a place close to Austria," she said, citing the longstanding Austrian honorary consulate in the city and the work of Austria's Special Office for Cooperation there, which is active in student and professional exchanges, among other programs.

Lviv is one of "those places where a lot of people come and try to support and help businesses and companies to settle there."

Austria also has honorary consulates in Chernivtsi, Kharkiv, Dnipro and Odesa. Soon it will add one in Zaporizhia.

Since Austrians aren't required to register with their embassy, it's hard to get a head count. But Poppeller

thinks the expatriate community numbers no more than 200 people. On the flip side, Austria granted 28,000 visas to Ukrainians in 2016, she said, and expects even more visitors once visa-free travel is granted to Ukrainians this summer.

Notable firms

Banking, finance and insurance firms dot the Austrian business landscape in Ukraine. But more exotic firms are doing business in Ukraine as well. One of them is the Fischer Sports factory in Mukachevo, which employs 1,500 workers who produce skis, hockey sticks and carbon-fiber auto parts.

Another is EuroGold in Zhytomir, which makes ironing boards, laundry dryers, steps and ladders and ironing board covers, among other industries.

But perhaps the most famous

Austrian brands are Raiffeisen Bank Aval, Fischer Sports in Mukachevo, Billa and Frey Wille.

Film festival

The Austrian Film Festival opened its five-day run in Kyiv Cinema on April 19. Poppeller attended the opening film, "Egon Schiele: Death and the Maiden." Its director, Dieter Berner, was on hand to give a talk after the screening.

Other films of particular interest to Ukrainians include "The Dreamed Ones," shown on April 20, which focuses on poet Paul Celan, who was from Chernivtsi, and "one of the great writers," Ingeborg Bachmann (1926-1973).

Some of the films touch on "our common cultural heritage" between Ukrainians and Austrians, Poppeller said. ■

Lavrenchuk expresses interest in being central bank governor

BY BRIAN BONNER
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

Volodymyr Lavrenchuk is chairman of the board of Raiffeisen Bank Aval in Ukraine, the nation's 5th largest bank with an estimated \$1.9 billion in assets and largest foreign lender. Its parent company is Austrian-based Raiffeisen Bank International. Ukraine's division went from losing \$290 million in 2014 to a net profit of \$142 million in 2016, a remarkable turnaround that has made it one of Ukraine's most profitable banks.

Lavrenchuk has won numerous awards, including in 2014 winning Investgazeta's top rating of Ukrainian bankers for communication with journalists and clients. The bank's record profitability is showing in its increased visibility in the community, through advertising and sponsorship of such events as the Austrian Film Festival on April 19–23 in Kyiv.

He agreed to a blitz interview with the Kyiv Post on April 20.

KP: You've been touted as a candidate for National Bank of Ukraine governor to replace Valeria Gontareva, who resigns

in May. Is this something you'd be interested in doing?

VL: "The answer is yes when the time will come."

KP: How did the financial turnaround of the last three years happen? Was the 30 percent equity stake of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development essential?

VL: "We learned lessons from the crisis in 2008–09. We made a change in our strategy: We adopted a strict credit policy which prevented the creation of new risks. At the same time it allows us to increase the loan book in 2016 higher than any other bank in Ukraine. The second one was adjusting the size of the bank to the market, changing the operational model. A new organizational structure and lean methodology helped to materially improve the efficiency. We were very positive about 2016 and made a record profit. EBRD is our shareholder. Our close to 50 percent of nonperforming loans was developed in during the crisis of 2008–09. It requires years to clean that up."

KP: How is it possible for Ukraine to have bank fraud that



Volodymyr Lavrenchuk, chairman of the board of Raiffeisen Bank Aval in Ukraine, speaks with journalists in his Kyiv office on Sept. 15. (UNIAN)

will cost taxpayers \$20 billion and no prosecutions for bank fraud? How can a banking system be truly reformed if a nation cannot punish bank fraud?

VL: "It's a very right question. A number of questions (need to be answered) to implement effective tools in collection of money for those banks that are closed, yet assets

and money are not collected. To my information there are actions being implemented now to increase collection results to compensate clients losses. Not every thing should come from the budget. The task is very actual. Infrastructure is being developed."

KP: Why do we still have high-interest ranks and no lend-

ing – is it because of a lack of creditor rights, what are the other reasons?

VL: "Creditors rights should be improved, making collateral registers and claims effective. At this stage, it's still not yet. A moratorium on (payment of) real estate has been set for housing mortgages years ago. With a moratorium, mortgage lending cannot grow fast."

"A second block of questions is the clients' solvency. So we know that the population lost income because of the crisis and their ability to pay the money back is lower, so we should take this into account. Obviously, there's not enough capital for companies that lost money. It requires additional capital into companies to be done by investors. The entire environment requires a good investment climate and stimulus."

"No. 3 is the know-your-customer principle (and adoption of) financial monitoring requirements to bring transparency: market players/companies need to clean their charters, disclose their ownership and follow the know-your-customer principles." ■



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As activists fight hunger, so much food going to waste

BY RAHIM RAHEMTULLA
RAHEMTULLA@KYIVPOST.COM

Globally, around one-third of all food produced for human consumption is wasted or lost before it can reach consumers. In Ukraine there is no official data on the problem, but it is believed to be of similar proportions, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

And that agency's development program coordinator in Ukraine, Mykhailo Malkov, told the Kyiv Post that without reliable numbers, the country's ability to tackle the issue is greatly diminished.

"One of the major gaps that I see is the establishment of the proper statistics gathering," he said. "When

you're aware, then you can start to think about handling things."

In Ukraine, food goes unconsumed owing to inefficiencies at all stages; from field to plate. At the level of production, losses occur through factors such as poor harvesting techniques and the use of outdated machinery. The problem is then compounded by a lack of proper storage facilities and poor logistics.

When food eventually reaches consumers, they too are guilty of waste. This can be down to things like items being thrown out unnecessarily because of confusion over expiry dates and "best before" dates on labels, or because restaurants serve portions that are simply too large for customers to manage.

Solutions, when they can be found



Ernest Fedorov and his sons put food into a community refrigerator they helped set up near their home in Kyiv. The food-sharing initiative is being spearheaded by activist network Go Dobro to combat hunger and reduce food waste. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

in Ukraine, are being applied inconsistently and with varying degrees of success, says Malkov. What's more, they more frequently come from the private sector, not government.

"Everyone is trying to develop their own approach, but there's no clear system or standard for how it should be done," he told the Kyiv Post.

The United Nations is ready to step in and offer guidance, but it is still waiting for an official request for help. The organization says what needs to be done is clear. "The first step is to identify the gaps at each step of the supply chain," said Malkov. "Then we need to develop the technology and bring in the knowledge of what can be done to reduce losses and food waste, and we need to organize an awareness campaign together with civil society."

Community outreach

There are already a number of actors in Ukraine doing what they can to minimize food waste. Among them is the activist network Go Dobro. Among their initiatives is a community refrigerator program. Refrigerators are placed on city streets so that anyone can leave an item or take something out.

"We feel inspired every day when we see how the refrigerators are working," said Go Dobro's Maksim Oboltus. "Slowly our friends and others who share our views are joining us. As a matter of principle we

believe that no good deed is better than any other; everyone does as much as they can."

Meanwhile, further efforts at food redistribution are being made by Food Bank Ukraine, which receives donations of food which it then passes on to charities across the country so that they can be given to those in need. Last year 229 tons of food went through the organization, but board member Anna Kocheshkova says this is just a fraction of what the charity could do if it had more resources.

"I think we could multiply that number by five at least," she told the Kyiv Post. "But of course we don't have enough staff now to operate,

and we would need to find the money."

Kocheshkova says the food bank does not get any help from the government and relies on volunteer efforts and private financial support. Further challenges arise when it comes to establishing cooperation with the suppliers of food, of which there are currently just eight on the food bank's books, all of them multinationals. Earlier there were more but Ukraine's tax system, which does not allow donations to be easily written off as expenses, means that for businesses it can be cheaper and

more Food on page 16

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Amount of food distributed by Food Bank Ukraine



Source: Food Bank Ukraine

In 2016, Food Bank Ukraine distributed 55 million tons more than when it was founded in 2011. However, the organization says it needs even more food to meet demands.

Smart packaging market set to grow

BY NATALIYA TRACH
TRACH@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine has a garbage problem.

The country produces around 45 million cubic meters of waste every year. Only a small percentage of that is recycled or incinerated — the vast bulk (over 90 percent) is dumped in landfill sites.

There are thousands of such sites around the country, and some cities, notably Lviv, are simply running out of places to dump garbage. The situation is so bad that city's mayor, Andriy Sadovy, has had to appeal to other cities in Ukraine and even in Poland to take some of Lviv's waste.

So a bright idea to address the problem could be to use more smart packaging — environmentally friendly, biodegradable food packaging that can also reduce food waste and the overall amount of garbage sent to Ukraine's landfills.

Room for growth

Only a small amount of products in Ukraine currently come in smart packaging, so experts and market players see plenty of potential and room for growth.

One of them is Irina Mirochnik, the president of Immer Group, Ukraine's largest manufacturer of smart packaging, which has taken around 40 percent of the Ukrainian smart packaging market.

"The smart packaging market is expected to grow in Ukraine, despite some decline in the food products market," Mirochnik says.

Her company produces flexible packaging (as opposed to glass, metal, or hard plastic) for Ukrainian dairy products, confectionery products, and the pharmaceuticals and chemicals industries.

It also provides multinational food companies like Danone, Lactalis, Nestle, PepsiCo, Tchibo, and Mondelez with flexible packaging materials. Nearly half of its products are sold domestically, while the other half is exported, mainly to Europe, Russia and the countries around the Mediterranean.

Innovation and the introduction of new products to replace older "dumb" packaging come part-and-parcel with Immer Group's business strategy. Every year, the company spends 2 percent of its sales revenues on research and development, Mirochnik says.

"We're constantly investing in projects that have an ecological and energy-saving effect," she says.

Smart versus dumb

Worldwide, the smart packaging market was worth some \$31.1 billion in 2016 and its value is expected to reach \$39.7 billion by 2020, according to a report by Visiongain, a London-based market research firm. The main reasons for the market's increase are consumers' rising income and their increasingly busy lifestyles, which both increases demand for timesaving fast food products in smart packages and means consumers are willing to pay for more expensive but more functional and environmentally friendly smart packaging.

"Consumers will also want to know the exact nutritional value as well as



Workers pack up the clingfilm rolls at the Immer Group's plant in Kyiv. Immer Group is Ukraine largest smart packaging manufacturer producing flexible packaging for the Ukrainian food, pharmaceutical and chemical industries. The company also provides multinational companies like Danone, Lactalis, Nestle, PepsiCo, Tchibo, Mondelez (Kraft Foods) with flexible packaging materials. (Courtesy)

the condition of the products they are consuming, and thus open up more opportunities for smart packaging products," the Visiongain market report reads.

"The growing number of elderly people will boost the demand for pharmaceuticals, where active packaging is applied intensively," it goes on.

Smart packaging is a somewhat vague concept, but in general it includes features such as the ability to maintain moisture levels within the packaging at ideal levels to reduce food degradation, and the use of monitoring patches that change color to indicate the freshness or quality of the product inside.

It beats traditional "dumb" packaging in terms of ease of use, reliability, environmental friendliness, and its ability to significantly extend the shelf life of products.

Big advantages

Olena Prykhodko, the commercial director of Aris, a Kharkiv-based company that produces smart packaging for the food and agricultural industries, says her company now makes over 10 million smart packages of various types every month. These range from regular sachets, to stand-up packets of the doypack type, which are commonly used for packaging ketchup, mayonnaise and mustard.

In February the company started producing retort pouches (packaging made from a laminate of flexible plastic and metal foil) which has undergone testing of its ability to maintain food quality even at exterior temperatures of up to 120 degrees Celsius.

"Currently our company is working on providing the product with the necessary level of protection from light degradation, but at the same time without the use of heavy materials such as aluminum foil," Prykhodko said.

Mirochnik of Immer Group says that "smart packaging allows to the extension of a (food product's) shelf life, and provide consumers with full information about the product. It also has the optimal size."

Smart packaging waste that does end up in landfills create far less soil

market is worth around 150–200 million euros annually, of which 25–30 million euros is the segment of high-quality smart packaging.

Overall, the Ukrainian smart packaging market is indeed small, agrees Oksana Shulha, who has a PhD in food technology and is the assistant professor of the food research department at Kyiv's National University of Food Technology. "The smart packaging market in Ukraine is in its emergent stage," she says.

Oleh Krasnoselsky, the head of RFA Ecotrade, is banking on the smart packaging market in Ukraine growing in the years to come. His company imports disposable tableware made of cornstarch from Iran — in 2016 RFA Ecotrade imported 700,000 items of disposable tableware (including disposable plates, cups, serving dishes, fast-food packaging and knives and forks) and this year he plans to double that amount.

The advantage of Krasnoselsky's disposable tableware is that it decomposes in a landfill within six months. It can also be frozen or heated in a microwave without it emitting harmful substances or affecting the quality of the food products it contains. Companies engaged in food delivery and the general public are his main customers, Krasnoselsky says.

"The people who buy it are interested in protecting the environment,"

he says.

But despite his plans to increase imports, demand for Krasnoselsky's tableware is limited by its higher price — the cornstarch items are on average one-and-a-half to three times more expensive than disposable plastic items.

"The smart packaging market is promising, but everything will depend on (the public's) income," Krasnoselsky says.


Future benefits

The annual growth of the European smart packaging market is around 2–3 percent, while in Ukraine, according to Western experts, market growth is 3–5 percent. However, Immer Group's Mirochnik doubts the accuracy of those figures. She says she is convinced that the market will grow due to increased sales of both conventional and smart packaging.

"According to my estimates the growth (of the Ukrainian smart packaging market) should be 7–10 percent," she says. The use of smart packaging will benefit the country in the long term by protecting the environment and reducing food wastage, she believes.

"But of course we have to switch to smart packaging. It's the way to go for those who are thinking about the future, and not just from the point of view of saving money." ■

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TO: Audrey Cooper, Esq., Assistant Attorney General
Unknowns (whose names and whereabouts are unknown), hereby intending to designate the children of the late Pavel Galinsky, or their distributees, legal representatives, assigns and all persons who by purchase, inheritance or otherwise, have or claim to have an interest in the Estate of Pavel Galinsky.

A petition having been duly filed by Elena F. Cariola
who is/are domiciled at 14 West Ham Circle, North Chili, New York 14514

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at 99 Exchange Blvd., Room 533, Hall of Justice, Rochester New York, on May 18, 2017
at 9:30 o'clock in the Fore noon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of
Pavel Galinsky lately domiciled at
1097 Monroe Avenue; Apt. 2, Rochester, New York 14620
in the County of Monroe, New York, granting Letters of Administration upon the estate of
the decedent to Frank B. Iacovangelo Monroe County Public Administrator
or to such other person as may be entitled thereto.

☒ Further relief sought (if any): Revoke 1211 previously issued.

Dated, Attested and Sealed,
April 13, 2017
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HON. John M. Owens
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Mark Annunziata
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Frank B. Iacovangelo, Esq.
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Activists fight hunger, despite lack of clear plan to combat food waste

Food from page 14

easier to throw away excess produce rather than give it to the food bank.

"We're always trying to encourage more producers and retailers to work with us," said Kocheshkova.

"For them it's not only that they can help society, but they also get economic benefits. They don't have to pay for disposal or transportation to the disposal site. But for now the need for food is much greater than what we are able to provide."

A global approach

Part of the support Food Bank Ukraine receives comes from the European Federation of Food Banks, an umbrella organization that counts 31 national food banks across the continent among its members. Its secretary general, Patrick Alix, says in countries like Ukraine, where food banking is still in its infancy, it is crucial to slowly build trust with potential donors in order to boost the availability of surplus food for redistribution to those who need it.

"There is a reputational risk for the donor," Alix told the Kyiv Post. "Food banks have to be sure no one will resell the products they have received for free. In Ukraine there is a lot of suspicion, so we try to do it step-by-step. We tell the retailers to come and see how the food is handled out and to start a pilot program. It's about mutual education."

According to European Commission figures, around 55 million tons of edible food is thrown away in Europe annually, mostly by households. But some 23 million tons is also lost as it moves along the food chain. This includes during the manufacturing process or when it is sold in supermarkets or restaurants. With demand from those in need growing all the time, the European Federation of Food Banks is trying to reduce waste.

"My best guess right now is that we recover maybe 10 percent of the 23 million tons," said Alix. "There is huge potential to recover more food. That's why there are food banks. If there were no waste, there would be no food banks. We feed people by redistributing food that would otherwise be wasted." ■

About Go Dobro

Who: Initially started by three friends, Go Dobro is a network of activists open to anyone who wishes to join.

What: The group has started a number of projects to tackle contemporary social issues including installing street fridges where anyone can leave or take food.

Where: Activities are currently mostly confined to Kyiv, but the group encourages participation from all over the world.

Why: Maksim Oboltus, one of the founders of Go Dobro, says the group's fundamental principle is that no good deed is better than any other and everyone should do whatever they can to help.

Contacts: www.godobro.com

5 Ukrainian food startups to watch

BY MARIA ROMANENKO
MRO@UKR.NET

In the world of fast-moving technology and food culture, it seems like it is impossible to come up with an innovative food-related idea that has not already been put into effect. But these Ukrainian startups do the job just perfectly.

From breathtaking architectural cakes to customized meal plans to touchscreen restaurant tables allowing the instant placement orders without waiting, these businesses are bound to impress foodies in and out of Ukraine

Mestnaya Eda

Monthly food delivery service Mestnaya Eda (Russian for "Local Food") helps small Ukrainian food brands to get exposure.

Mestnaya Eda delivers a cute wooden box filled up with the products of around seven Ukraine food brands to a subscriber's doorstep every month.

"Our task is to initiate the first encounter between the customer and the business and to help small businesses reach their target market," Maryna Bulatskaya, the founder and owner of Mestnaya Eda says. "We put the contact details of the brands we work with on our website so that our customers can find them and buy from them in the future."

Set up in 2014, Mestnaya Eda has found many interesting small brands already, but the service is constantly searching for fresh and exciting new ones.

To subscribe to Mestnaya Eda, go to: www.localfood.com.ua.

Interactive tables

Upon entering a restaurant or a cafe, it becomes obvious how much technology has invaded modern lives because many people cannot stop looking at their phones even while eating. Thanks to the invention of Kyiv-based IT company Kodisoft, it is now possible to check Facebook newsfeed, read the news or look up weather right on a restaurant table surface.

But the main purpose of the Kodisoft's touchscreen tables car-



Mestnaya Eda team packs a wooden box for one of their customers. Every month the delivery service sends around seven different Ukraine-produced food items to their subscribers with an aim of helping niche brands find their target audience. (Serhiy Sarakhanov)

ries a deeper meaning. The interactive tables reduce the waiting time and the amount of staff needed due to allowing to place orders by viewing the restaurant's menu directly on the touchscreen table and tapping the choice.

The tables are durable and stress-resistant having been tested with people walking on top of them, knives trying to cut through and more.

At the moment Kodisoft tables can be found in some places in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Limassol, Vladikavkaz and Lviv. Good Wine bar on the sixth floor of Kyiv's luxury department store TSUM, will be the first venue to have this technology in Kyiv.

To find restaurants using Kodisoft interactive tables, go to: www.itrestaurant.net/restaurants.

Foodex

While there are many diet delivery services in Ukraine, Foodex

stands out with the fact they cater for far more than just gym-goers or people trying to lose weight. It has diet plans for the pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as for diabetics and people with other conditions that require a diet. One of the latest additions is a gluten-free diet plan.

"Of course, weight management is still one of our key orientations, but we are also shifting towards a medical angle right now," the chief marketing officer of Foodex Oleksandra Maksymenko said.

Foodex, which started in 2014, has a nutritionist helping customers pick a diet plan according to their needs. Once the choice is made, a set of three meals and two snacks containing their recommended daily calorie amount will be delivered to their doorstep every morning, making healthy and balanced eating easier than ever. The average price is Hr 500 per day.

To subscribe to Foodex, go to: www.foodexhub.com.ua.

Zakaz.ua

Why walk to the supermarkets and wait in lines to get served, when Zakaz.ua, a grocery delivery service, can deliver the goods right to the customer's door? Founded in 2010, Zakaz.ua allows customers to order food from four major supermarkets in Kyiv: Auchan, Novus, Metro and Fozzy. The delivery fee starts at just Hr 59.

While there are many delivery services in Ukraine, Zakaz.ua stands out with the fact all their food items on the website contain quality up-to-date photographs. To achieve that, Zakaz.ua designed their own portable photo studio that can take 360-degrees photographs of every



Ukrainian confectioner Dinara Kasko uses 3D printing technologies to make her distinctive cakes. (Courtesy)

item in just one minute. The device resembles a plastic barrel with a rotating platform, on which a product is placed, and a camera installed inside is operated using the specially developed software.

The project was so successful in Ukraine, that after five years of operation it expanded abroad and entered the U.S. market in Boston.

To order groceries delivery, go to: www.zakaz.ua.

Dinara Kasko

Ukrainian confectioner Dinara Kasko, a former architect, combines architecture and bakery by creating stunning geometrical cakes.

She draws her future cakes in a computer program 3D Max, used by designers and architects, then prints the form out using a 3D printer and makes a silicon mold that can be used for baking.

So those who crave something more fascinating than an ordinary brownie or Victoria Sponge cake, can replicate Kasko's futuristic cakes by buying the silicone molds online for \$43–55. The cake recipes come with every purchase.

Kasko's cake molds are sold at www.dinarakasko.com/shop. ■



A woman uses one of the interactive tables designed by Kyiv-based IT company Kodisoft, in Vladikavkaz, Russia. Customers can place orders, check Facebook, read news and much more. (Courtesy)

New automated system aims to bring e-farming to greenhouses

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

A new tech startup from Ukraine aims to bring the age-old practice of growing plants into the internet era with a system that automates every step of the process.

Volodymyr Kozеровsky, 33, is the founder of Startep, which has developed a set of sensors, controllers and a fertilization system, all connected together by one application.

According to him, outdoor commercial farming is getting more expensive, and it's always been labor-intensive and subject to the vagaries of the weather. So he sees farming's future in greenhouses.

"Anything can be turned into a greenhouse — a skyscraper roof, a basement, a warehouse," Kozеровsky said in an interview with the Kyiv Post.

He thinks urban farming could shake-up the food industry, making products much cheaper. But to do this, farming has to be well organized and automated.

That involves the use of technologies to analyze the quality of soil, measure humidity, temperature, and brightness inside a growing area, and to automatically give plants fertilizers and adjust the growing environment in accordance with their needs. In turn, that saves water and electricity, and makes the process of setting up and operating a greenhouse cheaper and easier, Kozеровsky said.

Now he's making it happen. His Startep system can turn on an air conditioner if the temperature is too high, add mist if the humidity is low, and turn up the lights if it's too dim inside a greenhouse. By analyzing the soil, the system works out when it has to add fertilizers, and which particular nutrients are required.

The system will be easy to use — buyers will just have to unpack the



Volodymyr Kozеровsky, CEO of Startep, mixes fertilizers in a greenhouse in Kyiv on April 20. His company has developed a technology that can analyze environment in a greenery and automatically adjust it to the plants' needs. According to him, it can change the food industry, making products cheaper and easy to grow. (Anastasia Vlasova)

box, read the manual and assemble the automated system to get growing. The businessman plans to launch a mass-produced version of the system for the U.S., European, and Asian markets.

Kozеровsky is now looking for capital to set up mass production, but said that even if he does not find the required money (\$600,000), he will launch the project at least in Ukraine.

"I want a person who doesn't know how to grow anything to be able to

just press a button, upload a growing plan, and witness how my system will do the growing for him," he says.

Using the Startep app, it's even possible to monitor and control the watering, humidity and temperature of several greenhouses remotely. There are versions of the app for all major operating systems and all that is required for remote management is an internet connection.

According to Startep's estimates, Ukraine has around 500,000 hectares of commercial greenhouses, of

which 460,000 are run by small- and medium-sized businesses.

Startep has already partnered with 10 companies to create customized automated management solutions for their greenhouses. And not just for conventional ones — the company is working on autonomous systems for growing plants without soil, only with water and air, a growing process known as aeroponics.

In one case it partnered with a company called Cybergrow. Using the Startep system, Cybergrow has

created a growing space in which the plants grow on the walls with no soil — the Startep system automatically directs water vapor at the plants and it works, as Kozеровsky says, "with no dust and mud."

Using the system, the companies have successfully grow flowers, vegetables and fruit.

And the entrepreneur is sure that this is just the beginning.

"We can bring any plant to life," he says. ■

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Court puts mobile number portability on hold for now

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

A court decision on April 12 put the introduction of mobile number portability on hold again in Ukraine, meaning Ukrainian cell phone users will have no choice but to stick with their current operator if they want to keep the same cell phone number.

The constant delays deliver severe blows to economic competition, effectively denying customers one of their most effective ways to choose the best service.

Instead, many customers remain with their current service provider merely because they've had the same number for many years and don't want to change.

Mobile number portability, which is available in more than 70 countries but not in Ukraine, had been at its final stage: Kyiv-based SI Center, a daughter company of Softinvest Holding, which won the tender to launch portability, started in late March setting up the software to manage the new service.

But the Ukrainian Supreme Commercial Court ruled on April 12 to resume legal proceedings on the issue due to a complaint by Dialink, which lost out to SI Center in the tender.

SI Centre says this means that the

launch of portability has been suspended for at least several months.

"We were planning to finish all the work by the end of April... But since we cannot do this now the mobile operators cannot start their part of the work after this," Sergiy Yeryomin, the CEO of SI Center, told the Kyiv Post.

He added it's unclear how long this process will be stalled in the courts, as Dialink has lodged several court cases.

From three to five million people are expected to change their mobile operators after the service goes live, according to the estimates of the State Radio Frequency Center, which is overseeing the introduction of number portability.

The launch of mobile number portability would inevitably force mobile providers to improve services and cut prices, experts say.

Legal collision

SI Center won the contract to launch the service in April 2016 with a bid of \$1.47 million in a tender held by the State Radio Frequency Center.

Dialink had won an earlier tender held in 2015 with a bid of \$2.63 million, but this decision was overturned by Ukraine's Anti-Monopoly Commission after SI Center appealed against it.



Women use their cell phones as they sit in a coffee shop in Kyiv. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

The Nashi Hroshi investigative website reported in February 2016 that Dialink company had among its founders Gennady Iliyev, a former deputy of Kyiv City Council and a former chief bodyguard of President Petro Poroshenko.

Another founding partner of Dialink was Larysa Yamchukova, the

wife of the former head of the State Migration Service Sergiy Radutny, according to Nashi Hroshi.

No spokespeople for Dialink were available for comment.

Yeryomin said that Dialink had also filed a complaint to the High Administrative Court challenging the decision of the Anti-Monopoly

Commission to strip the company of its earlier win in the lucrative tender.

Mobile number portability was to have been introduced in 2011 after parliament passed the relevant bill in July 2010.

But the introduction has been stalled several times over the years since then.

Not this year

Vadym Gulko, the executive director of the State Radio Frequency Center, said the center would continue to work on the implementation of portability regardless of the court's decision.

The Ukraine's three mobile operators, Lifecell, Kyivstar and Vodafone, claim that it will take at least six months to test and tweak the new service before it can be fully rolled out.

That means that if no agreement is reached by summer, Ukrainians won't see the benefit this year.

All three mobile operators claim they want their customers to have number portability. But it will force them to spend more, said Stanislav Yurasov, a journalist covering telecommunications.

He added that Lifecell, the smallest of the three operators, "has always been the most interested" in the new service. ■



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Kurazh Bazar flea market gives fresh take on charity

BY ANNA YAKUTENKO
YAKUTENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

When Alyona Gudkova decided to go in for charity three years ago, she wanted to do something fun, and different from just asking people to donate money. Inspired by charity flea markets all over the world, she created her own — and it turned out to be a success.

Gudkova is the founder of Kurazh Bazar (Market of Drive), the biggest Ukrainian charity flea market held monthly at the Platforma Art Factory, where visitors can find both used and brand new clothes, shoes, furniture, accessories, toys and many other vintage or just unusual things. Every time it is held, Kurazh Bazar attracts around 400 manufacturers and those who sell used things, as well as up to 12,000 visitors.

Part of the money earned at each market goes to the Ukrainian charity funds that help children and elderly people. Gudkova said that Kurazh Bazar has already collected Hr 2.6 million, or nearly \$97,000, for charity.

"It's a cool method to raise money, because you don't have to ask people to donate directly," Gudkova said.

Gudkova's markets emerged in the wake of patriotism and volunteer charity projects in 2014, after Russia seized the Crimean Peninsula and unleashed its war in eastern Ukraine. At that time, Gudkova had been donating money, food and clothes to the military hospital in Kyiv, but she also wanted to help children in need.

Gudkova, who was at that time an events manager, launched a charity market called The New Old, all revenues from which went to charity. She then asked the people who came to sell things at her market to donate as much money as they could. However, she was disappointed: When at the end of the day she opened the envelopes with what was



A woman tries on a pair of sunglasses at the Kurazh Bazar charity flea market in Kyiv. (Anastasia Vlasova)

supposed to be donations, she found pieces of paper instead of money in some of them.

After a couple of such incidents, Gudkova introduced a fixed fee for the market's participants. The move helped to boost the market's income significantly.

Soon in the same year, The New Old market transformed into Kurazh Bazar, becoming commercially oriented. The new financial approach allowed Gudkova to quit her job and concentrate on the markets. However, all of the revenues from the June market every year go to charity.

Kurazh Bazar allocates money to several charity funds that are considered reliable, such as the inter-

national charity fund Tabletochki, or Pills, which helps children with cancer. The money also goes to help children with heart disease, to purchase equipment to support the breathing of preterm babies, to buy lunches for elderly people, and to pay for the rebuilding of a school in the war-torn eastern city of Sloviansk.

Each participant pays Hr 400 to be able to sell used things, or Hr 2,200 to sell new items. Gudkova said that initially she had set a much higher price for local brands that wanted to sell their products at the market, because she expected it to be an actual flea market with used things only, but the demand for selling spaces from the producers of new goods remained high.

The entrance fee for the visitors is Hr 50, but entrance is free for people with disabilities, retirees and children.

Celebrities sell

Kurazh Bazar markets have attracted a lot of Ukrainian celebrities, including Crimean Tatar singer Jamala, who won the Eurovision Song Contest in 2016, businessmen Garick Korogodsky, designer Anna October, and Yevhen Halych, a leader of rock band O. Torvald, which will represent Ukraine at this year's Eurovision.

Gudkova said that people tend to come back for a market after they've visited it once. As many as 40 brands have already bought a market resi-

dent's title, which guarantees a place for them at each market for a year.

According to Gudkova, celebrities often sell their cars at her market: O. Torvald's front man Halych sold his father's old car there for Hr 60,000.

Among the most unusual things ever sold at Kurazh Bazar, Gudkova recalls the stuffed ostrich dummy businessman Korogodsky sold to a Ukrainian video production team. Afterward, Gudkova saw it in the music videos of several Ukrainian bands.

Another memorable item was a collection of the vintage erotic magazines from 1970s, which was snapped up almost immediately, despite having a high price.

Despite there being a lot of curious goods on offer, Gudkova said that people come to her markets more to hang out with friends and participate in other activities available at Kurazh Bazar. Apart from the market itself, visitors can enjoy live music performances, exercise at the sports ground, eat at the food court, take pictures in the photo zone, and attend various master classes.

Gudkova said that for her team the most important task was to make visitors feel welcome at the market, and she believes they've succeeded.

"One guy once told me that what he loves the most at Kurazh Bazar markets was that you didn't feel shy about going there alone," she said. "That's what I think is the most important and the hardest thing to create — a light, friendly atmosphere."

This April's Kurazh Bazar will be dedicated to handmade products and workshops. Market visitors will be able to try their hands at various kinds of crafts, including embroidery and even designing hats for dogs.

Kurazh Bazar. April 22–23. 11 a.m. – 9 p.m. Art Factory Platforma (1 Bilomorska St.) Hr 50, free for people with disabilities, retirees, and children. ■

Food critic: Middle-Eastern cuisine at reasonable prices

Altruist from page 19

meat-potato plate.

For a dessert we went with malabi, a sweet creamy pudding popular across the Middle East with the rose syrup for Hr 67 — and were completely satisfied with the choice.

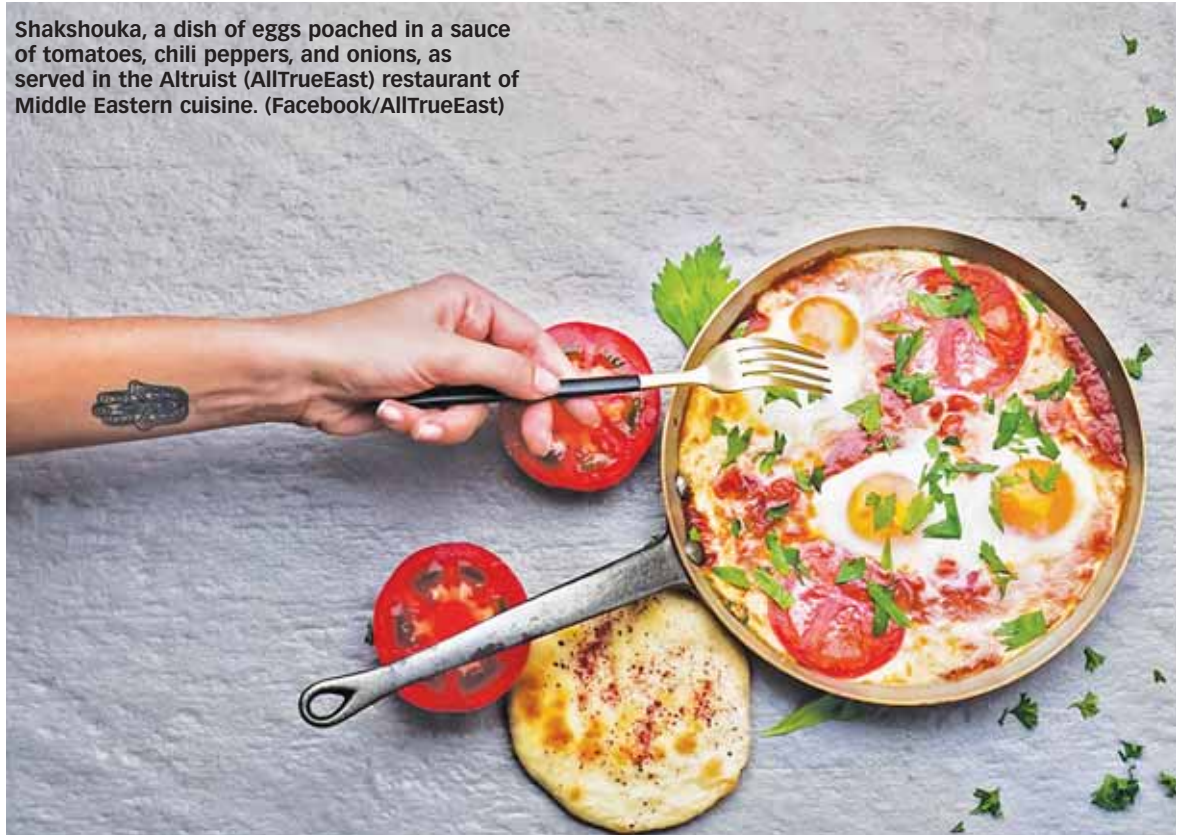
Altruist has a relatively modest drinking menu: there are up to three types of each of the most popular beverages such as fruit liquors, gin, rum, tequila, whiskey, cognac, and

beer. One can also find here several types of bottled wine and home-made wine brought from Ukrainian southern Odesa Oblast.

The menu also includes just six cocktails, but I found it to be ideal for those who want to have options but at the same time to avoid the wearisome process of choosing. All the cocktails are aimed at those who prefer classics: Old Fashioned, Negroni, Green Park, Penicillin, Whiskey Sour, and Winter Cosmo.

The staff was friendly and not obtrusive. However, a few times, when our waiter wasn't noticing my waving-with-two-hands attempts to call him and place an order, I wished he would care more. ■

Shakshouka, a dish of eggs poached in a sauce of tomatoes, chili peppers, and onions, as served in the Altruist (AllTrueEast) restaurant of Middle Eastern cuisine. (Facebook/AllTrueEast)



Altruist

1 Antonovycha St.,
+38067-354-6479,
10 a.m. - 11 p.m.



A worker speaks on the phone under the Eurovision stage at the International Exhibition Center in Kyiv on April 19. (Anastasia Vlasova)

Eurovision countdown stands at only 18 days

Eurovision from page 19

Experimental electronic band Onuka will perform at the final, according to the Eurovision organizers.

A Crimean Tatar singer Jamala, who won Ukraine the first place at the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest in Stockholm, Sweden, will perform her winning song "1944" during the first semi-final. The song is about the tragic events of Crimean Tatar history when the Soviet authorities ordered Tatars to leave their native region Crimea in 1944. During the Eurovision final, Jamala will premiere her new song "I Believe In You."

Tickets

The official ticket distributor in Ukraine Concert.ua still offers a

bunch of the tickets for fan zone at the first and second semi-finals for 41 euros price. One could also find tickets for rehearsals for the semi-finals, but no tickets are available for the live grand final show or its rehearsals.

Dmytro Feliksov, the director of Concert.ua, said on April 19 that more than 30,000 Eurovision tickets were sold. In total, the organizers issued around 70,000 tickets for all the Eurovision events.

The first and second batch of grand final tickets, released on Feb. 14 and Feb. 23, sold out almost immediately, with many people waiting for hours in an online queue still ending up with nothing.

Nevertheless, those looking for tickets can still find some options from scalpers — but for up to five

times the price.

For example, typing "Eurovision tickets" in Russian or Ukrainian brings up an obscure website www.stubhub-ua.com.ua, which claims to have more than 100 tickets for all nine Eurovision shows, including the live grand final.

Another scalper website, tickethunt.net, offers tickets for the grand final starting at Hr 12,000 (418 euro) and VIP tickets for Hr 100,000 (3,487 euro). The same tickets were sold out for between 207 euros and 408 euros at the official website.

Ukrainian classifieds website OLX has more than 100 postings from people selling tickets for various Eurovision shows and rehearsals, including the final show, from Hr 8,000 (around 280 euro) to Hr 16,000 (560 euros). ■



Kyiv to host Ice Hockey World Championship Division 1A tournament

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine is getting ready to host the IIHF Ice Hockey World Championships Division 1A tournament at Kyiv's Palats Sportu, which starts on April 22.

The national team will battle teams from Austria, Poland, Hungary, Kazakhstan, and South Korea in an attempt to earn one of two spots in the elite World Hockey Championships in Denmark next year.

Donetsk was to have hosted the tournament in 2015, but had to withdraw due to the ongoing war in Ukraine's east, which has already claimed the lives of more than 10,000 people. Ukraine last year won the right to host the tournament in 2017, beating a rival bid from Austria.

Oleksandr Savytskiy, the head coach of Ukraine's national hockey team, said that Hungary is the main competitor to Ukraine's team.

"We don't want to let the country down," Savytskiy told journalists at a press conference ahead of the event.

Ukrainian national team match schedule:

April 22, 1:30 p.m. Ukraine vs. Hungary

April 23, 8:30 p.m. Ukraine vs. Poland

April 25, 8:30 p.m. Ukraine vs. Austria

April 26, 8:30 p.m. Ukraine vs. Kazakhstan

April 28, 8:30 p.m. Ukraine vs. South Korea



A woman takes a selfie as members of Ukraine's national hockey team rest on the ice rink bench during a training session on April 18. (Volodymyr Petrov)

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April 22-23



(kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Made in Ukraine Spring Festival

The Made in Ukraine initiative is gathering Ukrainian producers together for the 11th time this spring for a two-day festival, where visitors can buy clothes, shoes, accessories, toys and clothing for children, food from all over the country, home decor, cosmetics, furniture, and souvenirs. Ukrainian bands will entertain the festival guests at night. **"Made in Ukraine" Spring Festival. April 22-23. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Kontraktova Square. Free**

April 23



(Vincent Van Gogh)

'Exhibition on Screen. Vincent van Gogh'

This film-exhibition is dedicated to the 125th anniversary of the death of Vincent Van Gogh, one of the most influential artists in the world. Directed by a British documentary filmmaker Phil Grabsky, it presents the life of the artist through the collection of his paintings in Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum. The film reveals previously unknown details behind the creation of the famous pieces.

"Exhibition on Screen. Vincent van Gogh." April 23. 3 p.m. Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 150

Retro Cruise

Retro Cruise is a journey through the ages. The organizers encourage visitors to create their own retro looks and spend a great day listening to jazz music, dancing and buying vintage things. They have also prepared lectures about style and culture, a photo zone and food court. The festival will start at 11:30 a.m. with a bicycle parade from Sofiivska Square to Ukraine's Expocenter or VDNH.

Register for bicycle parade here: bit.ly/2pg2bok

Retro Cruise Festival. April 29. 12 a.m. - 10 p.m. VDNH, Wishes Garden (1 Hlushkova Ave.) Hr 150. Free for children and retirees



(kostyantyn Chernichkin)

April 29

April 27



(Anastasia Vlasova)

Dakh Daughters

Eccentric freak-cabaret band Dakh Daughters will perform their new circus-themed show dedicated to the role of women in the times of the building of the tower of Babel. The stage for the show is built of eight concentric circles moving in the opposite directions. Apart from music and vocals, the performance involves trapeze artists, tightrope walkers and VJs.

Dakh Daughters concert. April 27. 7.30 p.m. Palace of Culture KPI (37 Peremohy Sq.) Hr 200-750

April 26



(Courtesy)

'Up the River'

Kyiv's Modern Ballet company has prepared a new program - a night of three, one-act ballets. The performance is being staged by the company's outstanding Moldovan director Radu Poklitaru and Anna Gerus, the company's principal dancer and choreographer. The one-act ballets cover a range of diverse emotions within three stories.

"Up the River" (ballet). April 26. 7 p.m. Ivan Franko National Academic Drama Theater (3 Ivana Franka Sq.) Hr 300-900

'The Threepenny Opera'

The famous play "Die Dreigroschenope" by German playwright Bertolt Brecht has been adapted and brought back to the stage by British playwright Simon Stephens. The story is set in Victorian London and revolves around the mysterious local criminal Mack the Knife. The original play, a socialist critique of the capitalist system, was first staged in Berlin in 1928.

British National Theatre Live 'Threepenny Opera.' April 25. 7 p.m. Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Hr 175



(Courtesy)

April 25



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- Oversee the proposal management process for an agreed portfolio of business pursuit opportunities from beginning to end.
- Contribute to the pursuit of opportunities in other parts of the British Council's Wider Europe region as agreed.

The post holder must be able to work with a high level of autonomy and flexibility, while being part of a cross-country and cross-sectoral regional business development team.

Job Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a relevant field.
- Knowledge of Ukraine's international donor / technical assistance landscape.
- International donor scoping, positioning and pursuit experience.
- Proven understanding of donor-funded technical assistance proposal development, competitive tendering and administrative compliance.
- Proficient English, Ukrainian and Russian.

To apply

<http://www.britishcouncil.org.ua/en/about/jobs/business-development-manager-ukraine-education-and-society>

Receptionist/Secretary

at SimCorp – dealing with daily employees' requests, post correspondence processing, events arrangements.

You have: service oriented approach, self-driven personality, tact and respect for confidentiality.

At least 2-year experience in international company at similar position, advanced English must.

Please send your CV to jobukr@simcorp.com



AGS KIEV currently recruiting a **Mobility Business Developer** to be based in **Kyiv, Ukraine**.

POST DESCRIPTION:

The candidate will be responsible for overseeing and driving forward revenue and profit growth through:

- Canvassing and Business development of new corporate and diplomatic accounts
- Implementing sales development plans and strategies implementation
- Maintaining and growing existing revenue streams, searching for revenue generating possibilities
- End-to-end contact and coordination point for accounts and assignees
- Providing concrete mobility solutions into and out of the Ukraine
- Adapting selling prices whilst protecting profit margins
- General administrative tasks as assigned by the Managing Director

CANDIDATE PROFILE:

Experience: 2 years' in Sales, preferably in Removals and Relocations

Languages: English and German, Russian an advantage

An established personal network in the Ukrainian Expat Community will be an advantage

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit your CV and Letter of Motivation (including your salary expectation) to manager-kyiv@agsmovers.com.

More details at <https://www.agsmovers.com/job-opportunities>



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

For the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine:

- Youth police legal advisor;
- Youth police capacity development expert.

For the National Deinstitutionalization Reform Office (NDIRO):

- Team Lead.

For the Reform of State Fiscal Service (SFS):

- Customs Expert in Development;
- Customs Expert in Implementation;
- Tax Expert;
- FIA Expert.

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

<http://edge.in.ua/vacancies>

The International Committee of the Red Cross is looking for **Communications Officer** (Kyiv) who is skilled at turning complex issues into accessible, engaging and newsworthy public messages; understands sensitivities of working with vulnerable people and possesses creativity, initiative, autonomy, strong storytelling skills and ability to think 'out of the box'.

Please follow the links to learn more

<https://rabota.ua/company2375442/vacancy6679279>
www.work.ua/jobs/2632478/

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Global Communities is seeking qualified professionals to fill the following positions for the five-year USAID-funded

Decentralization Offering Better Results and Efficiency Program (DOBRE):

- **Procurement/Grants Officer** in Dnipro
- **Procurement/Grants Officer** in Ternopil
- **Local Government Budget & Financial Management Specialist**

Full job descriptions are available at:

Procurement/Grants Officer
<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/the-procurementgrants-officers>

Local Government Budget & Financial Management Specialist
<https://www.kyivpost.com/classifieds/jobs/local-government-budget-financial-management-specialist>

Candidates are asked to submit their CVs as well as salary history and the names and email addresses of 3 references, preferably direct supervisors, to UKraineHR@globalcommunities.org by May 10, 2017, indicating the position title in the subject line.

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



Internews is seeking candidates for the position of **Program Coordinator**

GENERAL FUNCTION:

The Program Coordinator provides programmatic and administrative support to Defending

Media Freedom in Ukraine program.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES include the following. Other duties may be assigned:

- Ensure that the program performance adheres to the grant agreement and timely reporting;
- Serve as primary point of contact with the program partners;
- Coordinate a group of international and local experts producing Media Freedom Guidelines based on Ukraine's international commitments and national law;
- Organize public events (national and regional) and media campaign in the process of program implementation;
- Serve as a communicator between program partners, interested professional groups and donor;
- Produce program reports;
- Work closely with Internews Regional Director for Europe and Eurasia and Director of Internews in Ukraine in program planning and implementation stages;
- Other duties as assigned by Internews management.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED:

- Relevant Master's degree or equivalent work experience;
- Minimum of two years of program coordination experience in international technical assistance programs;
- Demonstrated understanding of the political and economic situation in Ukraine;
- Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of media law would be an advantage;
- Excellence in writing in English, Ukrainian and Russian;
- Excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills;
- Ability to work under strict deadlines;
- Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office.

This position is contingent upon award.

Please send your CVs in English and Ukrainian with a cover letter and list of three references to vtodosienko@internews.org and omaydan@internews.org before May 10, 2017. Only short-listed candidates will be invited for interviews.

Wanted Designer/Graphic Artist

- Fluent in English
- Newspaper or magazine layout experience
- Advanced user of Adobe Suite: InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop
- Talent in creating eye-catching information graphics for print, website
- Ability to work quickly and professionally on deadlines

The successful candidate will divide the work week between designing the print edition of the newspaper, under the supervision of the chief designer, and creating information graphics for the print edition and news website of the Kyiv Post.

Applicants should put DESIGNER/GRAPHIC ARTIST in subject line of email and send CV, design samples to Brian Bonner, Kyiv Post chief editor, bonner@kyivpost.com

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The U.S. Embassy will hold a motor vehicles sealed bid sale at the Embassy warehouse at 44 Mashinobudivna St. on Wed, April 26, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All subject vehicles are being sold "as is" and have no expressed or implied warranties on the condition of the vehicles. For more information, please see our website:

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- BMW showroom
- KWS corn seeds plant
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