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vol. 24, issue 16
 UKRAINE'S GLOBAL VOICE
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 April 19, 2019

BUSINESS WITH A HUMAN FACE
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Ukraine's Choice

 Presidential voting from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on April 21.
 Results of exit polls will be known immediately after polls close.

Petro Poroshenko
 Volodymyr Zelenskiy


World in Ukraine: UK GOLAW
 Pages 11 – 15



Learn about Zaporizhia, part of Ukraine's industrial heartland
 A worker at Zaporizhstal steel mill supervises metal rolling, when a large piece of formless metal is shaped into thin sheets, in Zaporizhia on April 8, 2019. Zaporizhia is home to many heavy industry plants like Zaporizhstal. Along with Dnipro and Kryvyi Rih, Zaporizhia, a city of 800,000 people located 600,000 kilometers southeast of Kyiv, is part of the country's industrial heartland. The city produces metal, electricity, aircraft engines, cars and other large-scale goods for export. Zaporizhia Oblast is responsible for 7.4 percent of Ukraine's total exports, which are still heavily slanted towards raw materials such as the sheet steel made at Zaporizhstal. (Volodymyr Petrov)

See Business Focus on Zaporizhia on pages 8-10

How president is spending his final hours on campaign trail

BY **BERMET TALANT**
 BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

The fight for re-election has been a sobering experience for President Petro Poroshenko. With the April 21 runoff vote fast approaching, the incumbent now risks a crushing defeat at the hands of Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a popular comedic actor

more Campaign on page 2

President Poroshenko Vinnytsia stronghold apathetic and divided before decisive vote

BY **OKSANA GRYTSENKO**
 GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

VINNYTSIA, Ukraine – Two campaign workers for President Petro Poroshenko stroll across the central square in Vinnytsia under steady drizzle.

Some pedestrians greet them, but none agree to take the campaign newspapers they're handing out. An acquaintance stops to ask one of

more Vinnytsia on page 5

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Poroshenko has learned his lesson, but it may be too late

Campaign from page 1

with no political experience.

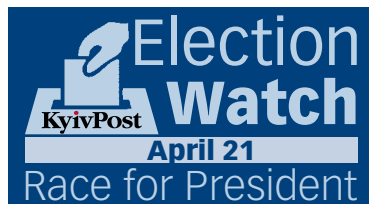
Zelenskiy won nearly twice as many votes as Poroshenko in the election's first round on March 31. Now, polls show the actor with an enormous lead over the Poroshenko in the runoff: in the latest surveys, Zelenskiy takes over 72 percent of the vote. Poroshenko receives just 25–27 percent.

Since Poroshenko's first round defeat, Ukraine has seen a different side of the president. He now openly admits to making mistakes in "personnel policy" and communication with youth and protest voters — two groups that helped make Zelenskiy the front-runner.

"I fully understand what is behind your discontent. I have heard you," he told people under 30 from the stage at his campaign headquarters on March 31.

Since then, Poroshenko has done all he can to convince voters that he has learned his lesson. He has fulfilled several of the long-standing demands of pro-reform activists, transformed into an active listener at meetings with civil society and the business community, and became a regular guest on television.

But experts say it may be too late for the president to make up lost ground. Even an April 19 debate with Zelenskiy — the one area where



the president enjoys an obvious advantage — is unlikely to help his rating.

Staffing decisions

If re-elected, Poroshenko has promised to change his approach to hiring from nepotism to meritocracy.

During his second term, his team will include more young people who have demonstrated their abilities and are supported by civil society, he said. None of his business partners or associates will be appointed to office.

That would be a significant change.

Poroshenko is still suffering from the fallout of an embezzlement scandal in defense procurement that strikes to the heart of his inner circle. The son of his ally Oleh Hladkovskiy stands accused of involvement in a scheme to smuggle parts for military equipment from Russia and sell them to state defense enterprises at an inflated price. Ultimately, Poroshenko dismissed Hladkovskiy from his post as deputy head of the State Security and Defense Council.

Another of his close associates is also under scrutiny: Ihor Kononenko, the president's business partner and the leader of his faction in parliament, was named in a journalistic investigation into a massive corruption scheme in the energy sector.

Responding to the allegations, Poroshenko said that Kononenko must go before law enforcement and answer any questions they have. Should he be found guilty, Kononenko must be held accountable, Poroshenko said.

"The president doesn't put someone in prison. But the president won't allow anyone to avoid accountability for wrongdoing under the umbrella of public office or connections at law enforcement agencies," he said.

His comment was a response to criticism of the prevailing impunity in Ukraine, where corrupt officials and the attackers of activists and journalists regularly escape justice.

Since losing the first round of the vote, Poroshenko has taken several steps to reign in that impunity. First, he sacked Serhiy Semochko,

73 percent ready to vote for Zelenskiy, 27 for Poroshenko

Political satirist Volodymyr Zelenskiy gets 72.7 percent of support among the decided voters who say they will come to the polling stations on April 21, while incumbent President Petro Poroshenko receives 27.2 percent, according to the poll published on April 18. The poll was conducted on April 12-16 and included 3,000 respondents from all over Ukraine with the margin of error of no more than 1.8 percent.



Volodymyr Zelenskiy

Petro Poroshenko

Source: Rating Sociological Group

deputy head of the State Intelligence Service. Semochko is under investigation for state treason and illegal enrichment after investigative journalists discovered that the security agent lived a life of extreme luxury and some of his family members held Russian citizenship and ran a business in Crimea.

It's probably too little, too late, according to Daria Kaleniuk, head of the Kyiv-based Anti-Corruption Action Center: "Admitting your mistakes is never too late. But dismissals aren't enough. There are still controversial officials, namely Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and deputy head of the SBU Pavlo Demchyna, and Poroshenko can't dismiss everyone at one stroke," said Kaleniuk, who attended Poroshenko's meeting with representatives of civil organizations on April 6.

"Poroshenko lived in a parallel reality created by his entourage. I highly appreciate his step towards (civil society) but I wish such dialogues had taken place earlier, not two weeks before the vote."

Strategy

Poroshenko's campaign message has also evolved over the last three weeks. Before the first round of the vote, his patriotic slogan "Army.

Language. Faith" was replaced by the succinct "Think." Then, Poroshenko's campaign rolled out new billboards, which showed the president staring down Russian President Vladimir Putin. "April 21. A decisive choice," the billboards read.

But the campaign ad drew such ferocious public criticism that the billboards were quickly replaced by a similar ad without Putin.

Political consultant Oleksiy Kovzhun says Poroshenko's nationalistic strategy has been doomed from the beginning.

"Politicians sell two things: fear and hope. Poroshenko opted for fear. He has aroused public fears of Russia and sowed the belief that, if Poroshenko loses the election, Ukraine will lose," Kovzhun told the Kyiv Post. "But we see that the winner is hope, a hope that is built on nothing but a desire for change."

"The failure of Poroshenko's re-election strategy demonstrates that the ruling elites have lost touch with reality and don't listen to the people," he added.

Despite Zelenskiy's lack of political experience, Poroshenko tried to emulate his opponent's entertaining and social media-savvy campaign.

Targeting young people, the president's campaign started communicating with voters on the Telegram messenger app and addressing them using casual expressions like "Guys" and "Friends." The team even rolled out a Poroshenko sticker pack for Telegram.

Poroshenko also engaged in a duel of videos with Zelenskiy over the presidential debate. He accepted the actor's challenge to take a drug test and to debate at Olimpiysky Stadium — even though, by law, the debate should take place at the television studio of national public broadcaster Suspilne.

It was a mistake, Kovzhun reckons. "Poroshenko was dragged into a show where Zelenskiy (a professional showman) is ahead of the game. It was painful to watch how it harmed not Poroshenko's reputation, but the institution of the presidency."

Oleksiy Haran, a professor of political science at the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and research director at the Democratic Initiatives Foundation, says Poroshenko's team had no choice: They were trying to get Zelenskiy to take part in a debate, a campaign event in which the president has the advantage of experience and knowledge.

"Zelenskiy is avoiding the debate, and his team wants to turn it into a show. Poroshenko's team is trying to organize a debate," Haran said. "No matter what your attitude to the president is, he is knowledgeable (about state matters)."

Both Korzhun and Haran agree that there is little chance Poroshenko can reverse the trend and overtake his opponent. They say the reforms, dismissals, and discussions with the public should have taken place earlier.

"And the debate is not going to affect the voters' decision drastically, given that it will take place on April 19 and be followed by 'a day of silence' when campaigning is forbidden," Haran said. ■

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THE BRITISH UKRAINIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (BUCC)



The British Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce ("BUCC") brings together companies and individuals doing business in Ukraine or the UK, including in the City of London, the international financial capital for Europe, Africa and the Middle-East.

The BUCC's Discount E-Card.

The BUCC is launching the new BUCC Membership "E-Card" that gives discounts to our Members of 5% to 40% at many leading restaurants, hotels, shops and other establishments in Ukraine and the UK.



During 2018, the BUCC organized or participated in the holding of over 50 events in Kyiv, London and Lviv. The BUCC holds monthly networking events in Kyiv, and is now doing so in London. We also focus on the Commonwealth Nations, and last year held events on India, Indonesia and Malaysia.

Ukrainian Week in London. The BUCC organized Ukrainian Week in London in October 2018, attended by over 1,000 participants at the Savoy Hotel, the EBRD and RUSI, the largest event ever held abroad on Ukraine. At Ukrainian Week, the UK Secretary of State for Trade, Liam Fox, announced that Ukraine will now receive priority consideration from the UK for a new, post-Brexit, free trade agreement (with other important trading countries).

The BUCC, through its Ukrainian Week in London initiative, aims over the next several years, during the UK's Brexit transition, to accelerate the development of greater commercial integration between the UK and Ukraine. The UK, as Europe's largest net importer of food, should become the principal trading partner in Europe of Ukraine, Europe's largest net exporter of food. Ukrainian Week is an annual event to showcase Ukraine's investment and trade opportu-

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Further information on the BUCC, including pictures and press releases on BUCC events, can be found on our website (www.bucc.com.ua) and the **BUCC Facebook Page**.

nities and create business links. This year's event will be during the week of 2 December 2019.

Committees

The BUCC focuses on facilitating major projects to address important business needs for Ukraine through the following Committees:

Agriculture Committee. The BUCC's Agriculture Committee currently focuses on **developing future UK markets for post-Brexit trade**, including by writing papers supporting a UK-Ukraine trade treaty.

British-Ukrainian IT Committee. The BUCC's British-Ukrainian IT Committee brings together IT associations and clusters, IT companies and others involved in IT in the UK and Ukraine. Ukraine is increasingly important for IT in the UK, one of the world's leading software development markets.

Trade, Investment and Brexit Committee. The BUCC's Trade, Investment and Brexit Committee is reacting to Brexit with strategies to develop further trade between Great Britain and Ukraine. Ukraine, as one of the world's largest food exporters, should be a major beneficiary from Brexit under the new UK-Ukraine free trade agreement.

Law and Accounting Committee. The BUCC's Law and Accounting Committee has projects (1) **for establishing branch UK and US law school LLM programs in Ukrainian law schools**, and (2) **for reform of Ukrainian laws and the Ukrainian legal system**.

Real Estate Committee. The BUCC's Real Estate Committee has obtained, and is focused on achieving further, significant changes to the implementation of the laws and regulations on the OSBBs.

Infrastructure and Transportation Committee. The BUCC's Infrastructure and Transportation Committee is concentrated on improving container transport through Ukraine.

Tourism Committee. The BUCC's Tourism Committee promotes tourism in Ukraine and the UK. We are attracting tourists to Ukraine from London, as Europe's largest tourism market.

Art, Design and Culture Committee. Among other cultural initiatives, the BUCC has a project on the Ukrainian Impressionist artist Mykhailo Tkachenko, one of the most prominent impressionist artists painting in Paris when Impressionism was developed, but who was largely forgotten after his death in Kharkiv in 1916.

Other BUCC Initiatives

Legal Ombudsman Proposal. For Ukraine's judicial reforms and anti-corruption programs to actually help protect UK and other foreign investors into Ukraine, the BUCC has developed a proposal for a Judicial Ombudsman for Ukraine, as was developed by Sweden when corruption in the Swedish courts was a large problem in the early 1900s. This proposal would allow litigants to obtain immediate review of court decisions constituting an abuse of justice.



Political/Conflict Risk Insurance. The BUCC believes that Ukraine needs greater availability of insurance for political/conflict risk, so that such risk does not discourage foreign as well as domestic investment in Ukraine. The BUCC's proposal for this is based on increasing the level and availability of political/conflict risk insurance from the World Bank's MIGA, just as has been previously successfully organised, for similar reasons, for the West Bank and Gaza.

ICBAC – International Council of Business Associations and Chambers in Ukraine.

The BUCC is a founder member of ICBAC that represents most of the chambers and business associations in Ukraine, acting for over 20,000 businesses. Involving ICBAC in some of our activities gives us a wider reach into the Ukrainian business community.



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Editorials

State of democracy

On April 21, Ukrainians go to the polls to choose who will lead their country for the next five years: either incumbent President Petro Poroshenko or comedic actor and political newcomer Volodymyr Zelenskiy.

The presidential campaign that began on Jan. 1, the first round of the election, and the preparations for the runoff have offered Ukrainians and interested observers an important window into the changes occurring in the country — both good and bad.

First, for the positive: Unlike in previous elections, there is no fundamental divide between the country's supposedly pro-European and Ukrainian-speaking west and its allegedly pro-Russia, Russian-speaking east. Since the first round, the vast majority of the country largely appears to support Zelenskiy. The remnants of the "two Ukraines" theory were limited to a few regions during the first round: the eastern Donbas, a few border areas, and some western areas.

During the first round, voters and Ukrainian poll workers alike showed their dedication to democracy. While not flawless, the first round was free, fair, and transparent. Ukraine should be proud of this accomplishment.

Despite all the election hype, the country's pollsters have delivered highly accurate measurements of public opinion. In a sea of black PR and disinformation, most of them have proven an island of rational analysis.

And the country's youth have shown that they are willing to get out and vote, doing their civic duty as citizens.

But there are also worrying developments. Social media, with its tendency toward provocation and disinformation plays a growing — and often negative — role in Ukrainian politics. And Zelenskiy and his confrontation with Poroshenko have brought more showmanship than ever before to Ukraine's already populist political system. Riding toward victory on the coattails of his own celebrity status, Zelenskiy has largely avoided discussing critical issues, replacing serious debate with performance.

The 2019 presidential election shows us that the people of Ukraine have strongly embraced democratic elections. The politicians have a ways left to go.

Cynical oligarchs

In an unexpected turn of events, the Kyiv District Administrative Court has ruled behind closed doors on April 8 that the nationalization of PrivatBank, Ukraine's largest bank, was illegal. Before the nationalization, the bank's owners were oligarchs Ihor Kolomoisky and Gennadiy Boholyubov.

The bank had to be privatized after a \$5.5-billion hole in the bank's balance sheet was discovered — it was allegedly used as a pocket bank to finance the oligarchs' businesses. The nationalization was also part of the National Bank of Ukraine cleansing the banking system and a major requirement of the International Monetary Fund in order for Ukraine to receive further financial support.

What the bank's previous owners did was cynical, evil, unlawful and a major hit on Ukraine's economy dragging the country further into poverty. The billions stolen had to be replaced by Ukrainian tax money, resources that could have been invested into the country.

On April 15, Poroshenko said that the bank's previous owners are trying to reverse the nationalization very quickly before the presidential elections "so that then they can say that it happened without their involvement," Poroshenko said. "It won't work."

It did work and there are a couple of lessons Ukrainians can learn from this: One is that Ukraine's economy is still heavily reliant on oligarchs. Businesses can expect heavy turbulence within the economy as it adjusts to new oligarchs close to power, who may feel that they will have more freedom to operate than they had during Poroshenko's rule.

Another lesson is that Ukraine's current leadership under Poroshenko wasn't able to create a judicial system that is truly independent. The battle that Poroshenko is having with Kolomoisky is partly due to his failure to enact proper reforms and for losing the public's trust.

Sadly, a strong independent judicial system wasn't formed over the past five years. It won't be easy to form one during the next five either.

NEWS ITEM: President Petro Poroshenko has been trying to make Volodymyr Zelenskiy, a showman and his contender in the April 21 run-off presidential election, debate him on television several times, but to no avail. Zelenskiy said he would Poroshenko debate on April 19, two days before the election, on NSC Olimpiyskiy Stadium.



NEWS ITEM: After the Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral suffered from the fire on April 15, Ukraine's Minister of Culture Yevhen Nyshchuk said that Ukraine was ready to send its specialists to help renovate the damaged cathedral.

NEWS ITEM: In the weeks after the March 31 first-round election, President Petro Poroshenko, who polls behind his competitor Volodymyr Zelenskiy, has been very active in an attempt to grow his support. Among other things, he has been signing bills and removing scandalous officials from their posts.



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Sergii Gorbatuk
One of few honest prosecutors targeted in unjust smear campaign



Igor Kononenko
Poroshenko Bloc lawmaker investigated in energy graft scheme

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week



Jon Huntsman
US ambassador to Russia sends strong message on Crimea, Donbas war.



Igor Girkin
Russian who "pulled the trigger of war" in Ukraine still at large after 5 years.

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Vinnytsia voters in Poroshenko stronghold resigned to his likely defeat on April 21

Vinnytsia from page 1

the campaign workers if Poroshenko will win the election. The campaign worker, a man in his 50s, just sighs and shrugs.

But he doesn't look too saddened at the low chances of his candidate. He admits that "Poroshenko made a lot of mistakes," adding though that Poroshenko's rival, actor and political satirist Volodymyr Zelenskiy, is "just a puppet."

His colleague, a middle-aged woman, is not even sure she will vote for the candidate she's campaigning for.

"Maybe I will just tear up my ballot," she told the Kyiv Post without giving her name, as she said she wasn't allowed to talk to the press.

Vinnytsia, a city of 370,000 people located in 240 kilometers southwest of Kyiv, is frequently said to be a Poroshenko stronghold — he owns two confectionary plants and a dairy factory here. And it was here that Poroshenko was first elected to parliament in 1998, and then again in 2012. Both his father and elder son were deputies in the oblast council.

But just days before the April 21 runoff, where Poroshenko will compete against Zelenskiy, residents are divided, or unsure who they will vote for.

In the first round, Poroshenko won in Vinnytsia city but was second after Zelenskiy in Vinnytsia Oblast. Zelenskiy received 23 percent support in the oblast, while Poroshenko got 22 percent.

Poroshenko's national rating among decided voters is now just 25 percent, against 72 percent for Zelenskiy, according to the recent poll by Kyiv International Institute of Sociology.

Taisa Gaida, head of the AutoMaidan civic group and the local coordinator for the Chesno anti-corruption watchdog, said both residents and authorities in Vinnytsia support not Poroshenko, but his loyalist and former protégé, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman, a native of Vinnytsia and its mayor in 2006–2014.

And just like Groysman, who has announced that his government is ready to work with any president, many people in Vinnytsia appear ready to accept Poroshenko's defeat.

"I was told that the City Council has already bought green felt-tip pens," Gaida said, referring to the green color of Zelenskiy's campaign.

Sugar king

On April 16, workers were setting up a large stage by the front of Pivdenny Buh River in Vinnytsia, preparing for the grand restarting of the Roshen fountain, one of Vinnytsia's landmarks, which had been turned off for the winter. It will be started again on April 20, the day before the election.

Poroshenko paid about \$4.6 million for the fountain, which opened in 2011. It stands in front of his confectionary factory, Roshen.

But many locals don't know that the fountain is now being maintained using city budget funds, said Olga Malinovska, the CEO of Vlasno Vinnytsia's news agency and a former activist of the EuroMaidan



A man walks a dog by the Pivdenny Buh River in Vinnytsia on April 16, 2019, next to the Roshen confectionery owned by President Petro Poroshenko. (Oleg Petrasniuk)

Revolution that ousted former President Viktor Yanukovich and led to Poroshenko's election in 2014.

"The residents of Vinnytsia pay to advertise the (Roshen) confectionery," she said. And when the level of water in the river falls, the authorities open the dam to keep the fountain working, after which the water in some local wells disappears, she added.

Back in the 1970–1980s Vinnytsia Oblast was the center of the sugar industry in the Soviet Union. According to Malinovska, when Poroshenko privatized the state-owned confectionaries and sugar plants in Vinnytsia Oblast after the Soviet Union's collapse in the early 1990s, many locals lost their jobs as some plants closed.

Born in the city of Bolgrad in the south of Odesa Oblast, Poroshenko still hasn't managed to become a "native" of Vinnytsia regardless of his long connections with the city.

"He's not ours," Malinovska said.

Unlike him, Groysman was born and brought up in Vinnytsia, and was elected mayor twice. The current governor of Vinnytsia Oblast Valeriy Koroviy was Groysman's deputy when Groysman was mayor.

In early March, Poroshenko even skipped a visit to Vinnytsia for a meeting of the Regional Development Council, sending Groysman instead. When he eventually came to the city on his campaign tour on March 27, it didn't go well. The National Corps nationalist group clashed with the police and shouted demands that some of his business allies, accused of embezzlement in the defense sector, be imprisoned.

Earlier, on Feb. 17 a group of mostly elderly activists who rally every Sunday on the main square turned Poroshenko's campaign tent upside down and tore up his campaign newspapers. After that, Poroshenko's tent was removed from the square.

Zelenskiy's campaign

"The end of the era of greediness," reads a Zelenskiy campaign billboard — the only political billboard the Kyiv Post saw in the city during a day there. Near it are several uni-

versities and three polling stations where the majority of voters supported Zelenskiy in the first round of the election on March 31.

Svitlana Dabizha, 28, a barista at a coffee shop located near Zelenskiy's billboard, said she and most of her co-workers and customers support Zelenskiy.

"I used to like Poroshenko, he did a lot for our city. But now I'm ashamed of him," she said.

Dabizha said it was embarrassing for her to see Poroshenko singing and dancing at a stadium in Kyiv during his rally on April 14, on the 5th anniversary of the start of Russia's war in eastern Ukraine. On that Day, Vinnytsia was commemorating local soldiers who were killed in the war.

Zelenskiy was supposed to visit Vinnytsia with his Kvartal 95 show on Feb. 14, but the local authorities banned him from performing at the Palace of Officers, the biggest local concert hall, allegedly because it constituted political campaigning on the territory of a military unit, which is against the law. So Zelenskiy apologized to the locals, returned the money for tickets, and made no more attempts to visit the city during the campaign.

Malinovska said the journalists of her media, Vlasno Vinnytsia, failed to find any representatives of Zelenskiy's campaign in the city. Neither did they find evidence that Hryhoriy Kaletnyk, a former lawmaker from Vinnytsia who was in the party of disgraced ex-President Yanukovich, was behind Zelenskiy's campaign in the city — a common belief of local supporters of Poroshenko.

Leaflets smearing Zelenskiy were often put in the locals' mailboxes during the campaign, according to Malinovska and also reports by the Opora election watchdog.

Campaigning and violations

A big information board at the central square in Vinnytsia reflects the various hopes and concerns its residents have.

al hero Taras Shevchenko, and a dozen of small stickers reading that Ukraine needs Poroshenko, one of which is covering Shevchenko's mouth.

Apart from the board and the lonely pair of Poroshenko campaign workers, there's almost no visible campaigning in the city.

The AutoMaidan's Gaida said that before the first round, the city council had been sending out a plan for the development of Vinnytsia on behalf of Poroshenko, which represented covert campaigning for the president.

During the first round, she was present at one local electoral office and spotted 695 voting ballots for Poroshenko that didn't have the required stamps and so could be added by fraudsters looking to rig the result. The police are now investigating this case.

Malinovska said that after the first round of the elections the oblast governor, Valeriy Koroviy, at an open meeting with the press present reprimanded representatives of local communities for Poroshenko's poor result.

She thinks such methods won't help.

"Times have changed," she said. "People are different now. They won't listen if the village heads tell them who to vote for." ■

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2. Investigative report: Zelenskiy traveled 13 times to Geneva and Tel-Aviv where oligarch Kolomoisky resides
3. Presidential debate becomes Poroshenko's rally as Zelenskiy declines invitation (PHOTOS)
4. Zelenskiy polls at 72.2 percent, Poroshenko 25.4 percent
5. Unknown man rams Ukrainian ambassador's car in London, police open fire (UPDATED)
6. Kyiv Post Podcast: Who is Volodymyr Zelenskiy and what does he stand for?
7. Who are key people on Zelenskiy's campaign?
8. Defense Ministry: Zelenskiy called to military recruiting station 4 times, didn't show up
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Ukraine’s most promising sectors for investors

In recent years Ukraine’s economy has delivered a strong turnaround – going from almost 7 percent contraction in 2014 to 3 percent growth last year. Its highly educated workforce, vast and fertile lands, developed industrial infrastructure and low cost base make Ukraine a desirable location for businesses targeting the European or Middle Eastern markets.

A look at capital investment flows, typically a marker of longer-term commitment, helps to show what areas pulled Ukraine’s economy forward – and will continue to drive growth in the future. Comparing 3-year average growth rates for the 2016-2018 period shows five large sectors that drove the recovery, as well as five smaller but fast-growing sectors that can help sustain dynamism going forward.

Ukraine’s recovery builds on a wide-scale transformation, perhaps best illustrated by progress in the World Bank’s Ease of Doing Business rankings. Ukraine went from 142nd a decade ago to 71st in 2019. Once current presidential and parliamentary electoral uncertainties abate, “growth can recover to 4 percent in the medium term,” reads the 2019 World Bank report.

“Savvy investors recognize the ground-floor opportunity that Ukraine offers, powered by its competitive advantages in brains, hands and grains,” Lenna Koszarny, CEO of private equity firm Horizon Capital, told the Financial Times in an interview.

Manufacturing

Traditionally one of the biggest sectors in Ukraine – employing up to a quarter of the population according to government figures – manufacturing comprises a wide and diverse set of subsegments. As in the rest of the world, Ukraine’s heavy industry has gone through a painful transformation over the last decade. However, the lighter end of the spectrum, which includes such areas as electrical equipment or textiles, has seen rapid growth. Manufacturing has provided a major boost to Ukraine’s exports. Some of the fastest rising categories have been textiles and clothing, for which exports have grown by 33 and 38 percent over the 2015-2018 period, respectively.

In 2018, Amsterdam-based HEAD, a sports and clothing company, bought a plot in Vinnytsia for \$1.3 million to build one of the world’s largest winter sportswear production plants. According to national investment agency UkraineInvest chairman Daniel Bilak, “attracting an investor of this caliber is a major achievement for Ukraine. It not only creates high value production and jobs, it helps position Ukraine as an attractive investment destination for global brands.”

Agricultural business

Ukraine’s traditional heavyweight agriculture and agribusiness sector continues to drive growth as the country invests in new technologies to boost yields and conquer new export markets. Home to some of the world’s most fertile lands, Ukraine is a key player in such crops as corn and wheat, in addition to being the largest in sunflower oil producer, accounting for close to a third of global output. Ukraine also scores high in such products as poultry, milk, eggs and honey.

The expansion into new markets has been a key driver of growth – particularly to Middle Eastern and Asian countries that lack local production and want to diversify supplies.

Indeed, growth in Asia, which has gone from accounting for 33 percent of exports in 2010 to 45 percent in 2017, according to the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club, and Europe (up from 20 percent to 32 percent, respectively), has more than compensated for a drop in sales to CIS markets.

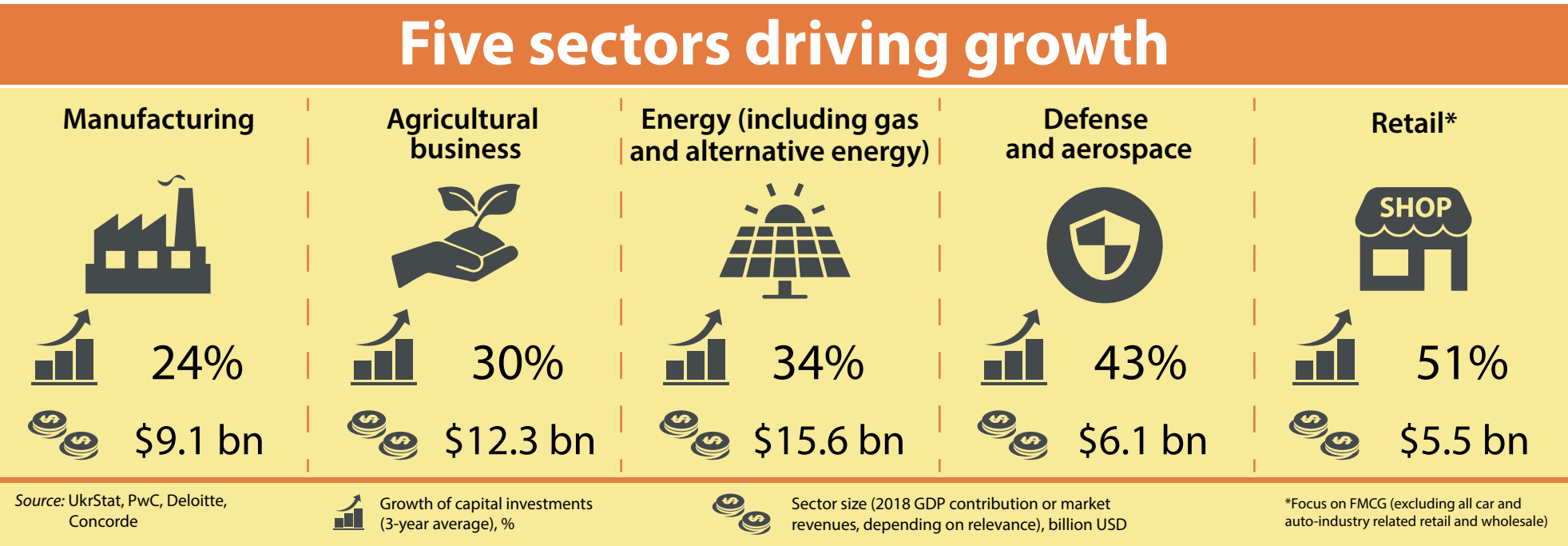
Meat producer MHP has hugely benefitted from this expansion, moving into Middle Eastern and Asian markets. In 2007-2018 the firm’s poultry production increased fourfold to 620,000 tons while revenues more than doubled to \$1.5 billion.

The biggest obstacle for foreign investors, however, is a moratorium on land sales, which continues to be blocked by the legislative branch. As a result, the creation of a competitive land market remains on hold as investors bide their time for opportunity to strike.

Yet that has not stopped forays into agriculture infrastructure. In 2018 Korea’s Posco Daewoo bought 75% of the Mykolaiv port grain terminal in Southern Ukraine for an estimated \$60-75 million. Meanwhile, the Saudi Agriculture and Livestock Investment Company recently quadrupled their presence in Ukraine by acquiring Mriya, one of Ukraine’s top-ten largest agricultural enterprises by land bank.



Ukraine is the world's leading sunflower oil producer



Energy (incl. gas and renewables)

Few industries have seen as profound a transformation since 2014 as Ukraine’s energy sector. On the gas front, the country has boosted local production, eliminated Russian gas imports and carried out profound reforms. In turn, electricity generation and supply has gone through its own transform, driving big gains in efficiency and sustaining the growth of alternative energy.

While gas has historically dominated Ukraine’s energy sector (and energy security concerns) the last five years have seen its significance fade. The nation’s gas consumption was as high as 76 billion cubic meters still in the early 2000s but was down to 32 billion cubic meters in 2018.

Alternative energy has been following the opposite trajectory, with wind, solar and biomass showing promise and attracting

international investments. National investment agency Invest Ukraine forecasts see these going as high as \$18 billion by 2020, notably driven by green tariffs meant to increase renewables in the energy mix, from the current 2.6 percent to 25 percent by 2035. DTEK, Ukraine’s largest energy holding, has been particularly active in the field. Recent investments include the construction of new wind farms for which DTEK raised EUR 335 from German banks, followed a more recent EUR 134 deal with Chinese company CMEC.

“It is important to work on new legislation on renewables and switch from feed-in-tariff to a new auction system, the way it is done in EU. DTEK participates in various working groups aimed at elaborating this new approach and turn it into legislation. The industry will only benefit if we bring our legislation on RES in line with the EU trends” commented Maxim Timchenko, DTEK’s CEO.

Defense and aerospace

Once a core element of the post-Soviet military and space industry, since 2014 and the start of the Donbas war, Ukraine has diversified its network of partnerships, attracting international investments. Companies from communist times continue to play a major role. Motor Sich, based in the south-eastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia, is one of the biggest engine manufacturers for helicopters and airplanes. The rocket manufacturer Yuzmash, based in nearby Dnipro, now partners with over 20 countries, ranging from the United States to Indonesia to develop satellite and aerospace solutions.

While much of the growth is linked directly to the war in Eastern Ukraine, there are also many cases of international interest in the country’s capabilities. Boeing has started working with Antonov, producer of the world’s largest plane, to reduce reliance on Russia. Meanwhile, China has shown interest in Motor Sich, with a deal confirmed in February 2019.

Retail sector (FMCG)

The EU-Ukraine trade agreement, which liberalized trade between Ukraine and the world’s biggest single market, has driven up sales across Ukraine’s retail sector. This has been further bolstered by a recovery in disposable incomes, which rose 10 percent in 2018 after taking a hit in the 2014.

Retail trade grew 6.8 percent in 2018, speeding up to 7.2 in February this year, providing a boon for both local and international chains operating in Ukraine. French sportswear store Decathlon, part of France’s Auchan group, has opened a store in Kyiv and plans further expansion.

“We have a plan, but it is still variable. This year we may open another store in Kyiv. Next year, new stores will also be in Kyiv. In 2021, the Decathlon brand will go beyond the city to Odesa, Lviv and possibly other major cities,” CEO at Decathlon Ukraine Florent Guieu told a press conference in March.



Ukraine is currently seeing a boom in renewable energy



Rising incomes are driving sales, particularly for clothes, textiles and leather products

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Fashion and cultural products

Cultural products shine brightly on Ukraine's economic map. Although starting from a low base, fashion in particular has had a great run with double-digit in recent years. When it comes to Ukrainian clothing few products are as iconic as the vyshyvanka, a traditional embroidered shirt worn on festive occasions. These have been increasingly visible in the world's fashion capitals – in 2016 designer Yulia Magdych's creations appeared in the prestigious Selfridges shop in central London. That year, famed style magazine Vogue devoted an article to outfit on May 19, also known as National Vyshyvanka Day in Ukraine. The success of Ukraine's fashion scene is not limited to traditional garbs. Indeed, such Ukrainian designers as Olena Dats, Roksolana Bogutska or Ksenia Schnaider have had a growing presence on the international stage – and on some of the world's most famous models. In 2017, Schnaider grabbed headlines when US supermodel Bella Hadid was spotted wearing her shorts-meets-skinny-jeans hybrid. At last year's Milan Fashion Week – one of the world's premiere fashion events – saw actress and model Emily Ratajkowski wearing a dress by Svitlana Bevza. The best thing, for Bevza, was that Ratajkowski's decision to wear the dress – typically a well-orchestrated opportunity to promote products – was completely unexpected. "I'm pleased to see a beautiful girl, who is so popular in the United States, in my dress. How exactly she got this dress I do not know," Bevza told the Kyiv Post.



Fashion show of creations by Ukrainian designer Olena Dats



Healthcare and medical services

An aging population has meant that health plays an increasingly important role for Ukrainians. The rise of real disposable incomes (up 10 percent in 2018) and a growing health consciousness are increasingly shifting the population toward private health care.



As Ukraine ages, a growing number of people are focusing on healthy living

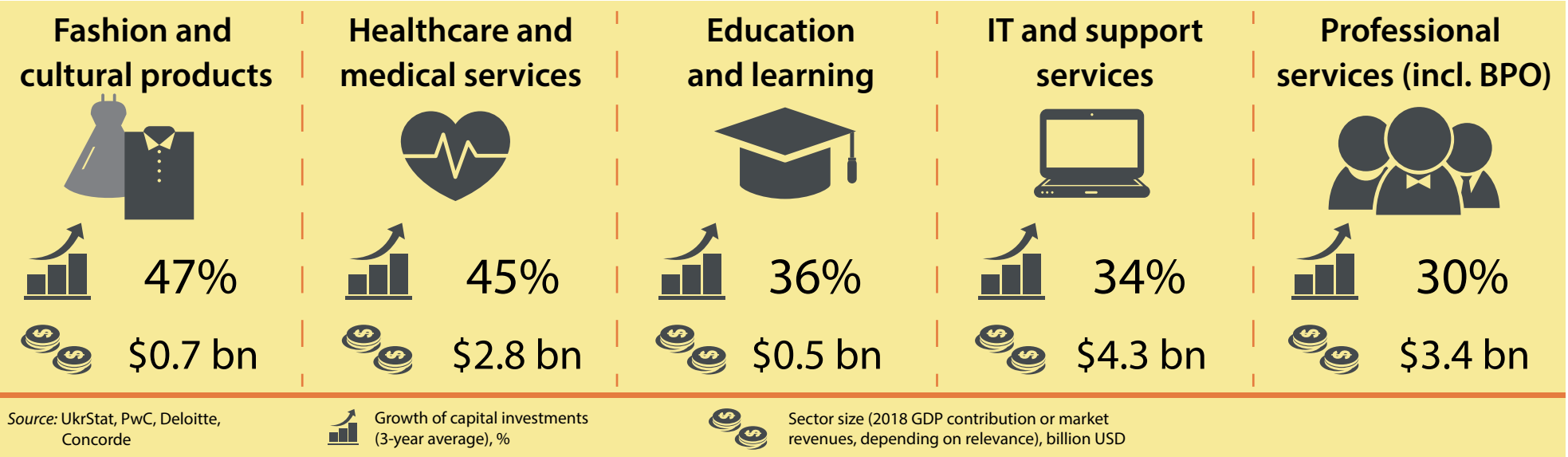
Private medicine in Ukraine has been growing fast, with the number of private health facilities growing from 4,255 in 2016 to 4,991 in 2018, according to the Ministry of Health. The market has grown even faster: over the same two years, total turnover has gone up some 60 percent, from \$0.5 billion to \$0.8 billion, according to advisory firm Pro-Consulting. Some of the first sizable market deals have followed. Dobrobut, one of the largest private medical networks, has recently expressed interest in buying a 50 percent stake in competitor network Boris, in a deal expert estimate to be around \$30 million. If approved, Dobrobut would become the leading national player.



Professional services

The boom in Ukraine's professional services has been largely driven by Business Process Outsourcing (BPO), which helps companies save money by moving back- and mid-office operations such as finance to less expensive locations. Once focused on large, cheap and English-speaking India, the industry has been bringing operations "back home," notably to improve communication between offices. As a result, new jobs have sprung up in places like Costa Rica, Poland or Ukraine. This has motivated such companies as consultancy firm PwC to open a center in Ukraine, joining the ranks of such firms as AB InBev, Gruma and Nestle. Their Lviv office is 350 strong, supporting service delivery in audit, advisory and tax. "Lviv met all our expectations: access to highly-educated local talent, convenient location, open business environment, significant opportunities for innovation, not to mention the growing role of Ukraine in the regional business community," said Richard Pollard, the firm's Ukraine country manager. Furthermore, the trend is set to continue. According to Volodymyr Yumashev, a partner at global consultancy firm Deloitte, the BPO field will require an additional 265,000 jobs by 2020. "We have the opportunity to get a decent fraction of the mentioned 265,000 jobs," he said.

Five up and coming sectors






Education and learning

The 2014 revolution fundamentally transformed Ukraine's political scene, shifting the country toward a Western model of development. To reform the economy and policy-making field, however, the country needed to quickly build a pool of talent adhering to Western educational standards. As a result, the field has seen explosive growth in the number of corporate and government training programs, not to mention numerous international educational efforts such as the Ukrainian Emerging Leaders Program from Stanford University. The diverse field ranges educational support provided by the international community, traditional private and non-profit educational institutions, and corporate academies. A prime example of the latter is Academy DTEK, run by the energy holding, which works with and trains almost 30 organizations including the Ministry of Finance and or Ukrposhta. "Academy DTEK is becoming an innovative educational business platform open to business representatives, the public sector, the public, and international partners," Oleksandr Kucherenko, the Director for Sustainable Development at DTEK, said at a press conference. Programs supported by the international community have also played a role, mainly in such areas as public sector reform, decentralization, and e-governance. SIDA, the Swedish aid agency, has by itself committed over \$28 million just in 2018, much of it going to educational and training programs.




UNIT.City innovation park is home to Academy DTEK, an educational business platform



IT and support services

Over the past four years Ukraine has been part of the Eastern European boom in IT services. Together with Poland, Romania and Belarus, the region accounts for over 470 companies generating over \$5 billion in annual revenues, according to a recent study by venture capital firm Aventures Capital, IT investor Aventus Capital, and the Capital Times news media.



Coworking spaces are popping up across the country to keep up with demand from startups

Ukraine is the biggest piece of the puzzle, according to the report, accounting 245 companies generating almost \$2.1 billion in revenues. With over 170,000 IT specialists, one of the region's largest talent pools, Ukraine has managed to win over global businesses.

Around 20 percent of Fortune 500 companies have offices in Ukraine, reads a recent study by Unit.city a Kyiv-based innovation park. This has been a boon to regional hubs that attract many of the outsourcing jobs. According to private equity firm Horizon Capital, 20,000 IT workers in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv account for close of a third of locally bought vehicles. But Ukraine's IT sector is not all about outsourcing, with a number of globally successful start-ups having found their home in what national investment agency Invest Ukraine chairman Daniel Bilak has dubbed the "Silicon Steppe." The biggest recent success stories include Grammarly, an online grammar and spell-checker that recently signed a deal to support Google Docs, and Gitlab a development and source code management provider. In 2017-2018, both Grammarly and Gitlab raised \$110 million in seed rounds, boosting their valuations. Jeremy Philips, a general partner at Spark Capital, a venture capital firm that invested in Grammarly told TechCrunch website that they decided to put their money in the Ukrainian firm because they "love the product and the mission of improving the way people communicate."

Methodology: Capital investments, gathered from UkrStat, show the general interest of investors in a given sector, with a specific focus on long-term growth. In cases where UkrStat sector definitions fall outside commonly used definitions, a best-fit approach has been used to adapt UkrStat data (notably for Manufacturing, Retail and Energy). Sector size has been defined using a several sources, depending on relevance for a given area. These include contribution to GDP (Agriculture, Healthcare, Culture, Defense, Professional Services, IT Services), adjusted contribution (Education is reduced by 90% to remove non-public contributions. Manufacturing is the proportionality allocated GDP contribution to non-metallurgy, mining and related heavy industries, Retail is proportionally allocated to FMCG products). Energy values reflect adjusted market revenues (overall market size for energy and gas markets by export values)



Spotlight on Zaporizhzhia

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In partnership with the Tourism Department of Zaporizhzhia City Council

Zaporizhstal feeds a city, but at environmental cost

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

ZAPORIZHZIA, Ukraine — Passing within 10 meters of a lava-like river of boiling steel — heated to over 1,300 degrees Celsius — one starts to perspire heavily. The iron dust that hangs in the air clings to one's sweaty face.

And yet there are people who work here eight hours every day, just a meter away from this deadly hot molten metal. They breathe in the dust and long to wash it off their face. It's all part of the job for a steelmaker.

Jobs at Zaporizhstal are well-paid, and much-sought-after in Zaporizhzhia, a city of nearly 800,000 people located 600 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. The mill employs 16,000 people, and many local families have male relatives who either work at the mill now, or used to work there.

While not every worker has to come close to hot steel, the process of casting it is perilous at every stage. But the average salary at the mill outweighs the danger — \$700 per month, which is at least twice the average wage in the city.

The mill is immense, occupying seven square kilometers of central Zaporizhzhia. Locals call it “the steel jungle.”

“It's a city in the city,” says Aleksey Lebedev, the director of construction and investment at the plant, and a long-term manager at enterprises that — like Zaporizhstal itself — belong to oligarch Rinat Akhmetov, the richest person in Ukraine. His SCM Holdings owns Metinvest, the company that owns the plant.

“It's like a living organism,” Lebedev continues.



A steelmaker checks molten metal at the steel mill Zaporizhstal in the southeastern Ukraine industrial city of Zaporizhzhia on April 8, 2019. Making about \$1,000 a month, a steelmaker is one of the most well-paid and most dangerous jobs at the mill. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Zaporizhstal has four 90-meter furnaces that work round-the-clock. This “organism” produces 9,000 tons of metal every day. To put that in perspective — an average car weighs around one ton.

Zaporizhstal makes three types of metal: cold-rolled steel sheets (used for making cars), cast iron and steel (both used for making buildings and bridges). The mill made \$200 million in net profit from selling its products in 2018, according to Metinvest.

“There's metal in everything around us,” Lebedev says. “We use cars, trol-

leypuses, and buses that are made of metal. We walk on bridges and live in buildings that have metal skeletons. The raw material for them is the rolled steel that we and others make.”

The mill's parent company Metinvest boasts that its steel, including metal from Zaporizhstal, was used to build London's tallest building, The Shard; the Turkish tanker Esra; Ukraine's Darnitsky Bridge and Olimpiyskiy Stadium in Kyiv.

“But in general,” Lebedev says, “these (products) don't have recognizable brands. It's a very specific market, unknown to the majority.”

Selling metal abroad

The mill doesn't store any of the metal it makes, so everything must go to the local port and be shipped to customers.

And in Ukraine, Zaporizhstal has only two big customers: Akhmetov's own Unisteel and oligarch Victor Pinchuk's Interpipe Group. Lebedev thinks that the fact that the mill has so few local clients shows Ukraine's economy is in tatters.

“We live in a country that is forced to export almost everything,” he says. About 80 percent of the mill's product goes abroad.

The metal is ordered 2–3 months in advance. The best buyers are Italy, Poland, Bulgaria, Turkey, and North Africa. According to Lebedev, Europe is the most lucrative market.

The plant, however, also sells metal even when it's unprofitable — for example, to Asia. Shipping metal to the Asian countries is expensive, but “it's more expensive to stop the furnaces,” says Lebedev.

Surprisingly, 5–10 percent of the mill's exports still goes to Russia. This, however, is a lot less than in the years prior to 2014, before Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula and launched its war on Ukraine in the Donbas. Before that, its share was 25 percent.

“We're closing our market to Russia, and Russia is closing its market to us,” Lebedev says, adding that the mill's former share of the Russian market is now mostly taken by “their own steelmakers.”

Despite the war, Zaporizhstal's management openly supports Ukraine's pro-Russian political party, the Opposition Bloc. The premises of the mill display posters of Oleksandr Vilkul, the head of the Opposition Bloc faction in parliament. Zaporizhstal CEO Rostislav Shurma is the chairman of the Opposition Bloc in Zaporizhzhia Oblast. Shurma refused to comment for this story, saying he was busy.

Lebedev, in turn, is careful about stating his political views, saying that during the first round of the presidential election on March 31 he was away and couldn't vote.

Almost 40 percent of Zaporizhzhia Oblast voted for television presenter, comedian and presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Pro-Russian politicians Yuriy Boyko and Vilkul took second and third place with 19 and 10 percent of the vote, respectively. Nationally, however, neither of the pro-Russian candidates had enough support to make it to the second round of the election on April 21.

Ecological disaster

As the third largest steel maker in Ukraine, the 85-year-old Zaporizhstal mill paid \$150,000 in taxes in 2018, with \$26,000 of that going to the budget of its host city. But locals also pay a big price for the mill's operations in terms of their health.

The Ministry of Ecology ranks Zaporizhstal as the country's 6th largest water polluter and its 10th largest air polluter. The oblast center itself is the 13th most contaminated city in Ukraine, while the capital Kyiv

Zaporizhzhia — the heart of Ukraine's Rust Belt

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
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Zaporizhzhia is a city of 800,000 people on the Dnipro River in the heart of Ukraine's Rust Belt, where fuming smokestacks and black dust are common sights. It is famous for two things: heavy industry and the Zaporizhian Cossacks.

But while Cossacks are past, large-scale industrial production is the city's present.

Zaporizhzhia produces significant amounts of metal, electricity, aircraft engines, cars, and other large-scale goods. In fact, along with Dnipro and Kryvyi Rih, today the city is a

center of heavy industry in Ukraine.

The Soviet Union industrialized Zaporizhzhia at the beginning of the 20th century. The city was built around the plants like Zaporizhstal and Dneprospetsstal. Even the city's mayor, Volodymyr Buryak, used to be an engineer at Zaporizhstal.

Later other critical factories opened in the city: ZAZ — famous for its Zaporozhets and Tavria cars — and aircraft engine manufacturer Motor Sich.

Hence, most of the jobs available for graduates of Zaporizhzhia's five local universities are blue collar. Together, Zaporizhstal and Motor Sich employ over 35,000 people.

The city is also home to facilities of international firms Carlsberg, Coca Cola, Konecranes, and IVECO.

Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin famously stated that communism was Soviet government plus electrification. Unsurprisingly, while industrializing Zaporizhzhia, the Soviets wanted to ensure a consistent electricity supply.

As a result, they erected a dam on the Dnipro — the DniroHES hydropower plant — and built a nuclear power plant in a nearby town called Enerhodar (“Energy-giver”) — it is now Europe's largest and the world's fifth largest nuclear power plant, as it generates 6,000 megawatts annually.

This outdated but still functional Soviet legacy — along with four solar and three wind power stations, all newly built — produces 25 percent of Ukraine's electricity.

In total, Zaporizhzhia Oblast is responsible for 7.4 percent of Ukraine's total exports. Among the most important goods are base metals (56 percent), machinery and electrical equipment (19 percent).

It takes only 7 hours to get from Kyiv to Zaporizhzhia by train, but the change of political mood is palpable: some 30 percent of locals supported pro-Russian presidential candidates Yuriy Boyko and Oleksandr Vilkul during the election on March 31.

Finns invest to lift crane production in Zaporizhzhia

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
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ZAPORIZHZIA, Ukraine – Imagine getting a box full of LEGO building blocks to make a toy lifting crane. Now imagine that these building blocks are 30-meters long, made of metal, and can lift 20 tons.

The parts still come packed in a box with an instructions manual to help you assemble them, but this is no toy. It's a heavy-duty machine used to lift shipping containers in ports, blocks of cement at construction sites, and timber in the logging industry.

Some of these cranes – the premium, expensive ones – are manufactured by Finnish company Konecranes in Zaporizhzhia. The company's local plant, Zaporizhkrhan, buys metal and engines and turns them into top-shelf construction machines.

Locally produced cranes end up at woodworking firms in the United States, at Siemens electronics factories in Germany, or in Finnish ports.

"We mostly export to first-world countries, because our production here is premium and not cheap," Sergey Plyasov, the CEO of Zaporizhkrhan and the head of Konecranes in Ukraine, told the Kyiv Post. He said 98 percent of all the cranes go abroad to "big and rich companies."

Producing such high-quality machines at this 90-year-old plant became possible only after Konecranes bought Zaporizhkrhan in 2005. Since then, the Finnish firm has poured a total of 35 million euros into the factory's development and modernization, according to Plyasov.

"This plant has become the biggest Finnish investment in Ukraine," he said. "And the Finns are a very rational nation: if they invest, they expect to get a result."

It took 10 years for the 400-employee plant to turn profitable. But according to Antti Vanhatalo, the Finnish former vice-president of



A worker polishes up a large piece of metal at Zaporizhkrhan, a lifting crane plant owned by Finnish corporation Konecranes, in Zaporizhzhia on April 8, 2019. Later that piece of metal will be used as a part of a tall lifting crane. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Konecranes and "the father of the acquisition" of Zaporizhkrhan, it was well worth it.

"We are proud of this plant," Vanhatalo told the Kyiv Post, showing off the factory's premises. The industrial building has a high ceiling – a necessity for assembling cranes that reach over 30 meters high. Each crane costs 5,000–100,000 euros, and the plant makes about 50 of them every year.

"I checked all the plants when we were looking for opportunities in this region, and this one in Zaporizhzhia was in the best condition," Vanhatalo said.

Despite that, the buildings' roofs were leaking and windows were broken, he added.

But Vanhatalo liked this plant not for its physical condition, but because of its talented employees and its location close to local metal

plants, which supply Zaporizhkrhan with raw materials. Today, the plant buys metal from the Mariupol plant that belongs to Metinvest, a company owned by the richest Ukrainian, oligarch Rinat Akhmetov.

Vanhatalo has retired but still regularly visits the plant to offer advice. And the plant's director, Plyasov, praises his help as well as the corporation's involvement in local operations.

For Plyasov, the company's internationalness and its status as part of a major corporation – in 2017, Konecranes boasted a revenue of \$3.5 billion – is palpable in the daily work of Zaporizhkrhan. Unlike in virtually all other enterprises in Zaporizhzhia, all corporate communication at the factory is in English and there are always foreigners visiting. Even the line managers in the factory speak English.

"The Finns care and always help. They bring the European mentality and style of work to our local plant," Plyasov said. Even though Konecranes has owned the plant for 14 years, every week there's someone from the global offices dropping by to help them, he added.

"And these are not auditors who come to inspect their property. These are people who come to share technology, business approaches," he said. "They believe that only a strong global team can succeed."

Plyasov doesn't envy those companies that are exclusively Ukrainian and "stew in their own juices," not having access to world's latest business developments.

Close to frontline

Zaporizhkrhan is heavily dependent on export. But in 2014, when Russia launched its war against Ukraine, the

factory struggled to get orders. Many customers even cancelled orders, and the factory's employees worked just four days a week. There was little to do.

Then, in 2015, the Russian-backed forces attacked Mariupol, a port city 200 kilometers south of Zaporizhzhia. "There were talks of shutting down the plant at the time," Plyasov, a native of Mariupol, said. "But we survived."

The plant started committing only to short-term projects that looked less scary to the clients: It began selling just parts of cranes. As a result, 70 percent of today's production capacity goes on making and selling parts. For example, Zaporizhkrhan is making chassis for 86 cranes that the U.S. Port of Virginia ordered from Konecranes.

Today, the war looks less scary to customers, and so more of them started to place orders, said Plyasov.

Meanwhile, being a part of such an established international organization gives only benefits, according to Plyasov. Although "the local market is dead," Zaporizhkrhan always has orders lined up two to three years in advance.

He says the plant has everything necessary to ramp up production from the current 40–50 cranes a year. It just needs more people, but finding them is hardly straightforward.

In general, all the heavy industry suffers from the lack of engineers, because most students today study creative professions like designers, journalists, and lawyers.

On top of that, skilled tech specialists leave Ukraine for the European Union, where salaries are higher. The average salary at Zaporizhkrhan is around 350 euros, while Polish enterprises pay 800–1,000 euros.

"This is a difficult situation. But I don't remember when the situation was simple in Ukraine," Plyasov said. "The important thing is that we work stably and manufacture good cranes no matter what." ■

27/28 APRIL

ZAPORIZHZHIA FESTIVAL

JAZZY

jazzy.city

JAMALA
THMK & CXID SIDE
LAUD • TIK TU
THE HYPNOTUNEZ
LATEXFAUNA • EARLS
TSESHO & others

METALURGIV PARK /
CENTER FOR CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

27 April

Close stage

13.30 – 18.30 festival «IN JAZZY ARE KIDS ONLY»
19.00 – 20.30 concert **BENITO GONZALEZ TRIO (USA)**

Open stage

16.00 – 17.00 ZAPORIZHZHIA CITY BIG BAND
17.20 – 18.20 LATEXFAUNA
18.40 – 19.40 HYPNOTUNEZ
20.00 – 21.00 LAUD
21.20 – 22.20 JAMALA

28 April

Close stage

16.20 – 16.45 BarabanZa
17.00 – 18.00 H.SOROR
18.20 – 19.20 FIRST GIG NEVER HAPPENED (AUSTRIA)
19.40 – 20.40 TseSho

Open stage

16.00 – 16.40 EARLS
17.00 – 18.00 BUDU
18.20 – 19.20 JAZZFORACAT
19.40 – 20.40 TIK TU
21.00 – 22.00 THMK & CXID SIDE















The Mida touch with shoes

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

ZAPORIZHIA, Ukraine — On the edge of Ukraine's southeastern city of Zaporizhzhia, behind a concrete fence, lies a shabby brutalist building in which hundreds of people make shoes.

Since 1992, that building — a Soviet-era footwear factory — has belonged to a local firm called Mida. It employs 1,800 locals in all stages of the shoemaking process: designers, textile workers, sole and upper makers.

Together with another, smaller 500-person factory in the nearby town Vasylivka, Mida produces almost 1 million pairs of shoes every year.

After being sketched, cut, glued and stitched in Zaporizhzhia, the company's shoes are sold in online stores like Amazon and Rozetka, and in 100 brick-and-mortar shops across Ukraine. It is estimated that Ukraine has about 20 such big footwear factories. Their shoes mostly adorn the feet of Ukrainians, but are also sold abroad.

'Leather equals quality'

Mida is owned by four people, but only one of the founders — Vladimir Giba — is a public figure. Giba also serves as the commercial director of the company. He considers Mida a "low-priced, but diligent" shoemaker.

"Over the years, we've created a good brand, we've had a solid retail network. Now we're just working hard," Giba said in an interview. His factory makes classical, casual, athletic-style, and winter shoes from "a natural material that many appreciate."

That natural material is cow leather. Dmitry Zubov, who gave the Kyiv Post at tour of the factor, could not praise leather enough.

"We have been working with it for 20 years. Leather equals quality," he told the Kyiv Post.

Zubov is the son of one of the co-founders. But he's also held many different jobs in the factory. He has worked as a designer, a cutter, and

now he is responsible for the factory's leather imports from Turkey.

"Everything we do here is thought-through. I've met people who wear our shoes for six years," he said. "So compared to China, we are Louis Vuitton."

Currently, the cheapest shoes in Mida's online stores cost \$24 (men's neakers) and the most expensive — \$100 (women's high boots). Despite the low price, Mida is so confident of the durability of its shoes that it gives a lifetime warranty for its soles, which it will mend or change for free at any time.

Apart from shoes, the factory sells shoe parts to other Ukrainian manufacturers and abroad — to footwear producers in Belarus, Moldova, and Poland. The factory even has a separate subsidiary called JB Plast to sell them.

Creating a collection

The Mida factory works with preorders, so it starts making shoes several seasons in advance. This April, for example, the factory is already working on shoes for next winter.

The whole process starts with designers and top managers deciding on what could be popular next season, what forms and colors. The executives go to Italy, talk with shoemakers and bring recommendations — and fashion magazines — to Mida's 30 staff designers.

"We study the magazines, notice what's popular and think how to make it work for Ukraine's market and our factory," says Olena Sakhno, one of the designers.

"Then we come up with our designs," she adds, pointing to a drawing on the screen of her computer, which still uses the nearly 25-year-old Windows 95 operating system.

These designs become the factory's next collection of shoes. Based upon them, shoemakers make "lasts," or plastic models of human feet, on which masters make a shoe. Once lasts of all sizes have been produced, laborers — most of the employees of the factory — create a trial batch of



Mida workers pack shoes at the final stage of making footwear in Zaporizhzhia on April 8, 2019. This factory makes up to 1 million pairs of shoes every year. Most of them are sold through 100 franchised stores across Ukraine. (Volodymyr Petrov)

shoes and pack them into boxes.

That trial batch travels to Kyiv or to former Soviet countries, where it is displayed to potential buyers — Mida franchises, storage depots that usually work with Mida, and various individual entrepreneurs. They place orders, and the factory in Zaporizhzhia starts making the pre-ordered shoes. Unpopular designs are rejected and forgotten at this stage.

Domestic popularity

Mida has long been popular in its home town of Zaporizhzhia, where its red storefront logo can be seen in most shopping malls. Today, however, the company also aims to become a national brand.

To achieve this goal, in 2012 the factory began allowing entrepreneurs to franchise its stores. And it worked: the company's red logo began to spread rapidly across the country. Now, it has over 100 shops

in 47 Ukrainian cities and towns. Around 20 of them are in Kyiv.

Spokesperson Yuriy Grytsenko, a 20-year veteran of Mida, attributes this success to the company's liberal conditions for its franchises. The company asks very little: keep the price reasonable, use official colors and logos, and have a 70–80 percent share of Mida products on the shelves.

"Actually, that's when the competition starts," Grytsenko adds. "It's when in our stores, on the same shelves, 20 percent of the shoes are made by other Ukrainian brands that also have low prices."

According to Grytsenko, these are mostly brands from Kyiv, Kharkiv and Dnipro. Most produce "shoes of the same price" and use soles made by Mida under the JB Plast brand. In the end, that's a win-win, he concluded.

Mida has also tried to go abroad:

entrepreneurs opened franchises in the United States, the UK, Poland, the Czech Republic and Israel at various times. But the shops never took off and soon closed.

"It's hard to enter a market that is already occupied by local producers," commercial director Giba explains. But he admits that it's also difficult in Ukraine — even with Mida's broad retail network and particular niche.

The biggest problem, however, is the grey market, when some traders import shoes illegally without paying taxes. For this reason, even shoes from major global brands can be sold in Ukraine cheaply.

"It makes it hard to compete," Giba says. "But the volume that we're producing is not that big for our country. And with the reputation that we've built, it allows us to sell everything that we make." ■

A look inside big and dirty Zaporizhstal

Zaporizhstal from page 8

is 6th, according to Ukraine's Central Geophysical Observatory.

Most of the plant's pollution comes from making ingredients for sinter, the raw material used to product cast iron. This process creates large amounts of dust and pollutes the air. The plant also sucks water from the Dnipro River to cool hot steel, and the used water goes back to the river, contaminating it.

"Yes, we're damaging the environment the most in this city," Lebedev says, adding that the plant is attempting to improve the situation by investing in modernization. It has invested \$375,000 over the last 6 years, and has budgeted \$60,000 for 2019. One innovation is to collect rainwater, instead of river water, for use in some parts of the production process.

But that's not enough, Lebedev admits. The mill needs several billions of dollars now to modernize "quicker and more effectively," he says.

The best loan interest rate in the national currency, the hryvnia, is about 20 percent nowadays, while in dollars it's around 10 percent. Meanwhile, the mill's European rivals can access 2-percent loans in euros, according to the executive.

"We Ukrainians have got visa-free regime all right, and yes, our market is now packed with European products," Lebedev says. "But enterprises like ours, we haven't gained anything positive."

"It's impossible to be well-off when everything around you is bad," he continues. "But given the conditions we live in today, I reckon Zaporizhstal is doing OK." ■

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World in Ukraine

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In partnership with GOLAW

British ambassador sees major progress by Ukraine

BY JACK LAURENSEN
LAURENSEN.JACK@GMAIL.COM

Judith Gough, the British ambassador to Ukraine since September 2015, won't be drawn into a discussion about when she is leaving the country or where she is going next — even though there is informed speculation around her imminent departure to another diplomatic station.

"I am not done yet," she defiantly told the Kyiv Post in an interview at the British Embassy on April 12.

"There is still an awful lot to do," she said, before making sure that the Kyiv Post's reporter and photographer had been offered a cup of tea.

Despite the political distractions in both London and Kyiv, Gough and her team are committed, engaged and busily focused on the work at hand, she said.

Committed seems like an apt word for a woman who is widely viewed as one of Ukraine's most active foreign diplomats and one of its staunchest allies.

The U.K. government currently spends about 35 million pounds, or about \$45 million, each year in Ukraine. Gough and her team are implementing, either alone or with partners, at least 70 different projects throughout the country.

British influence, funding and expertise can be found everywhere in Ukraine — in areas ranging from military support, good governance, law enforcement and judicial reform to humanitarian aid, the promotion of education, culture and social inclusion.

"Huge progress"

"What I have seen since I arrived... is a country that has made huge progress," said Gough.

She recalls that, when the Ukrainian government took power in 2014, it was not expected to last long, let alone achieve much.

"Despite facing down a significant external threat in Russia, and despite having to fight a conflict on its own soil... and having lost a significant amount of its territory, (Ukraine) has managed to reboot its economy and implement a number of key reforms... and actually maintain a stable state of leadership and government," she said.

Gough, who lives in Kyiv with her civil partner Julia Kleiousi and their two children, has served in the U.K. Foreign Office, or FCO, since 2001.

The 46-year-old diplomat received one of her first official postings to the British embassy in South Korea and later served as ambassador to Georgia between 2010 and 2013. Both Ukraine and Georgia have chosen similar courses and face similar



Judith Gough, British ambassador to Ukraine since September 2015, has overseen a significant increase in British assistance commitments to the country as well as a strengthening of the bilateral relationship since she took up the ambassadorship nearly four years ago. (Volodymyr Petrov)

challenges, she said, although the countries are also extraordinarily different.

Lessons and experience from Georgia helped Gough to become the Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia at the FCO in Westminster. But she did not remain in that post for too long.

After the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution, which forced Kremlin-backed president Viktor Yanukovich from power, Gough decided that the work in Whitehall could be entrusted to someone else. She entered into the competitive process to be selected as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Ukraine.

Highly respected by colleagues in both London and Kyiv, Gough comes across as a pragmatic optimist. She is exceptionally professional and diplomatic, to the point of appearing overly formal and a bit guarded — in interviews, at least.

But she also displays a reverential respect for the Ukrainian people, their choices and their stoicism. She is also acutely aware of the challenges and unresolved problems that still lay ahead for the country.

"There are still things that we want Ukraine to do," she said. "But I think what I have seen is a country that is set on a path towards Europe and NATO — a path which we support — a country that is vigorously engaged and moving in that direction, despite all of the distractions and threats."

In judicial reform and combatting corruption, where Britain is directly invested, Gough displays some

frustration and a longing for real improvement.

Ukraine has not prosecuted or convicted anyone for high-level corruption since its independence as a nation in 1991.

"Trade is growing between the two countries," Gough said of Ukraine and Britain's annual bilateral trade

turnover, which sits at a decent but not awe-inspiring \$2.5 billion. "Across the board, there is opportunity to grow trade and investment with Ukraine," she added.

"But in order for that potential to be realised, we need to see genuine reform of the judiciary," the British ambassador said. Foreign companies

still "do not necessarily feel that they get free and equal treatment before the law, and it is vital that corruption is meaningfully tackled."

"We want to see Ukraine's economy prosper. At the end of the day, a prosperous Ukraine ought to be a more secure Ukraine," she added.

Facing the Russian threat

Ukrainian lawmakers and military officers have expressed particular gratitude for one British support package: assistance from the British government's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund for Ukraine.

This 14-million-pound annual expenditure funds training for the Ukrainian military and support for the country's defense reform agenda. The U.K. defense ministry implements it.

Gough says that Operation Orbital, a guidance and training program for the Ukrainian armed forces launched in February 2015, has already trained more than 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers.

Ukrainian generals and army officers say that those 10,000 trainees have gone on to train even more soldiers and that combat medicine capabilities — which Ukrainian forces largely lacked beforehand — have had a particular life-saving impact.

At any one time, about 120 British soldiers are moving around various encampments in Ukraine undertaking training for the country's soldiers.

more **Ambassador** on page 18

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The power of legal excellence

Accept

The upcoming performance of the German band Accept is a chance to hear their heavy metal music performed together with the National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments of Ukraine, or NAONI. Formed in 1976, Accept traveled a long way to get to where the band is now: it split up and reformed multiple times, released 15 music albums and had a number of line-up changes since it was founded. This time, Accept together with NAONI will perform songs from the band's live music show "Symphonic Terror," released in 2017.

Accept. Ukraine Palace (103 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) April 25. 7 p.m. Hr 950-4,000



Friday, April 19

Classical music

Telemann, Bach, Mozart and others (Inesa Poroshena on piano). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 200 🇵🇸

Live music

Edith Piaf Tribute (by Liudmila Krupska trio). Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 150-300 🇵🇸

Musical Odyssey (music from movies about space travel by Lumos Orchestra). Cinema House. 7 p.m. Hr 280-460 🇵🇸

Clubs

Set About, Moan, Tagged, Orbit, Dimone, Max Owl, Zaicev (electronic DJ sets). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 200. Visitors must be over 21 🇵🇸

Propaganda Night With Daniel Avery (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced 🇵🇸

Veselka (electronic music by Hyperaktivist, Nastya Muravyova, S.A. Tweeman, Ponura). Otel'. 11:59 p.m. Hr 400-500 🇵🇸

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee 🇵🇸

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

I Touch (graphics, photos, videos by Daria Koltsova). Shcherbenko Art Center. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🇵🇸

Magical Phenomenon or a Different Measure of Ignorance (paintings by Taisha 3.14 inspired by spiritual teachings). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees 🇵🇸

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Uglification (artworks by Ukrainian and French contemporary artists exploring ugliness). MetaCulture. 8-11:50 p.m. Free. Visitors must be over 18 🇵🇸

Movies

Kyiv International Short Film Festival (in original languages with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 5:40-11:30 p.m. Festival pass - Hr 500, one screening - Hr 50-80 🇵🇸

Long Nights of Short Films (six hours of short films in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 11:30 p.m., 11:50 p.m. Hr 200 🇵🇸

Touch Me Not (drama). Zhovten. 9:10 p.m. Hr 100 🇵🇸

Shows

Bexey and Brennan Savage (rap, hip hop). Monteray. 7 p.m. Hr 400-650 🇵🇸

Small Depo (post-punk, indie-rock). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 300 🇵🇸

Ingrid Arthur (gospel, R&B, soul, pop). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 250-700 🇵🇸

Floho (hip hop, rap). Bel Étage. 11 p.m. Hr 499-1,000 🇵🇸

Theater

The Barber of Seville (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-1,000 🇵🇸

Saturday, April 20

Classical music

Beethoven (Andriy Pavlov on violin and Valeriya Shulha on piano). St. Catherine Church. 6 p.m. Hr 100-250 🇵🇸

Live music

Frank Sinatra Tribute (by National Brass Orchestra's big band). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 100-500 🇵🇸

Jazz in Kyiv Band and Laura Marti. Architect's House. 8 p.m. Hr 300-600 🇵🇸

Clubs

Ethnic-Electronic Party on the Balcony (live music and DJ set on the terrace, drinks and food). Vsi Svoi D12. 6-10 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Cybernetic Event 13 With Chris.Su & Teddy Killerz (drum & bass party). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 350-400 🇵🇸

Traverz Egypt (electronic music by Young P, Altep, Bambu, Otta, Koloah, VH10). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 250-300 🇵🇸

Dj Koolt, Z@p (electronic music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced 🇵🇸

Miscellaneous

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🇵🇸

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee 🇵🇸

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Magical Phenomenon or a Different Measure of Ignorance (paintings by Taisha 3.14 inspired by spiritual teachings). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees 🇵🇸

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12 p.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Uglification (artworks by Ukrainian and French contemporary artists exploring ugliness). MetaCulture. 8-11:50 p.m. Free. Visitors must be over 18 🇵🇸

Easter Basket (farm cheeses and meat, alcohol, sweets, decor by Ukrainian producers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Jazz Only Kurazh Bazar (live music, food court, market fair). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 100 🇵🇸

Kyiv Coffee Festival (food court, bars, live music performances, workshops). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day ticket Hr 120 🇵🇸

Kyiv Food and Wine Festival. VDNH. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Ticket online - Hr 100, at the entrance - Hr 150 🇵🇸

Movies

The IF Project (documentary). America House. 3 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Shazam! (action, adventure, comedy). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 1 p.m. Hr 220 🇵🇸

Hellboy (action, adventure, fantasy). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 4, 7 p.m. Hr 220 🇵🇸

Kyiv International Short Film Festival (in original languages with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 3-11:30 p.m. Festival pass - Hr 500, one screening - Hr 50-80 🇵🇸

Long Nights of Short Films (six hours of short films in French with Ukrainian subtitles). Zhovten. 11:30 p.m., 11:50 p.m. Hr 200 🇵🇸

Volcano (comedy, drama). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m. Hr 80 🇵🇸

Red Joan (drama). Zhovten. 5:05 p.m. Hr 100 🇵🇸

Shows

Tank (heavy metal). Volume Club. 6 p.m. Hr 440 🇵🇸

Theater

Giselle (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 150-2,900 🇵🇸

Gone With the Secs (amateur play based on Philip K. Dick's short story). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Sunday, April 21

Classical music

Brahms, Shostakovich (by Kyiv Mozart Orchestra and Valeriy Sokolov on violin). Fairmont Grand Hotel. 7 p.m. Hr 500-1,000 🇵🇸

Haydn, Stravinsky, Kolessa and others (Kyiv Soloists orchestra conducted by Hugo Ticcianti). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 🇵🇸

Miscellaneous

Easter Basket (farm cheeses and meat, alcohol, sweets, decor by Ukrainian producers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee 🇵🇸

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Jazz Only Kurazh Bazar (live music, food court, market fair). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 100 🇵🇸

Magical Phenomenon or a Different Measure of Ignorance (paintings by Taisha 3.14 inspired by spiritual teachings). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees 🇵🇸

Kyiv Coffee Festival (food court, bars, live music performances, workshops). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day ticket Hr 120 🇵🇸

Kyiv Food and Wine Festival. VDNH. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Ticket online - Hr 100, at the entrance - Hr 150 🇵🇸

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Movies

Kyiv International Short Film Festival (in original languages with Ukrainian subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 1:30-9:30 p.m. Festival pass - Hr 500, one screening - Hr 50-80 🇵🇸

Shazam! (action, adventure, comedy). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 1, 4 p.m. Hr 220 🇵🇸

Volcano (comedy, drama). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m. Hr 80 🇵🇸

Red Joan (drama). Zhovten. 5:05 p.m. Hr 100 🇵🇸

Hellboy (action, adventure, fantasy). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7 p.m. Hr 220 🇵🇸

Touch Me Not (drama). Zhovten. 9:10 p.m. Hr 110 🇵🇸

Shows

Kur (indie). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 790 🇵🇸

Odyn V Kanoe (indie). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 790 🇵🇸

Theater

The Barber of Seville (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-1,000 🇵🇸

The Birthday Party (amateur play). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 150 🇵🇸

Monday, April 22

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Movies

Volcano (comedy, drama). Zhovten. 4:45 p.m. Hr 80 🇵🇸

Hellboy (action, adventure, fantasy). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 8 p.m. Hr 220 🇵🇸

Touch Me Not (drama). Zhovten. 9:10 p.m. Hr 95 🇵🇸

Shows

Bullet for My Valentine (hard rock, metal-core). Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 1,400-2,200 🇵🇸

Tuesday, April 23

Live music

Benito Gonzalez Trio (jazz). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-780 🇵🇸

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee 🇵🇸

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees 🇵🇸

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12-9 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free 🇵🇸

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 🇵🇸

Shows

Benito Gonzalez Trio (jazz). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-780 🇵🇸

Theater

Frankenstein: Lee Miller (tragedy play recording). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 190 🇵🇸

Wednesday, April 24

Live music

Rammstein Tribute (by Stahlherz band).

Kyiv Coffee Festival

For those who cannot get through the day without a cup of strong and flavorful coffee, Platforma Art Factory is arranging the fifth Kyiv Coffee Festival, which is to be held on April 20-21. Offering a great number of coffee drinks for all tastes and pockets, made by 50 coffee houses, the festival will also feature food court, bars, live music performances and various

workshops. Apart from that, the fifth Kyiv Coffee Festival will also entertain visitors with a coffee-making championship organized by the Specialty Coffee Association of Ukraine.

Kyiv Coffee Festival. Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.). April 20-21. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 120



Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 100-1,125

Blues Matters With Bender Band.
Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Free

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee

Archaic Puzzles (imaginary landscape paintings by Maksym Dietkovskiy). Triptych. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12-9 p.m. Free

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Movies

Office Space (comedy). American Library. 4 p.m. Free

Touch Me Not (drama). Zhovten. 9:10 p.m. Hr 95

Shows

Bahroma (pop rock). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 350

Theater

La Traviata (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

King Lear (British National Theater recording in Italian). Multiplex (Sky Mall). 7:30 p.m. Hr 190

Thursday, April 25

Live music

Symfomania (rock hits by symphony band). Docker Pub. 7 p.m. Hr 125-1,750

Khoreia Kozatska Ensemble (Ukrainian folk songs). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12-9 p.m. Free

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Shows

Accept (heavy metal with symphonic orchestra). Ukraine Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 950-4,000

Ceremony and Bichkraft (noise rock, shoegaze, psychedelic). Mezzanine. 7 p.m.

Hr 370

The Velvet Sun feat. Pavlo Korobchuk (blues, rock, fusion). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 210-700

Freedom Jazz (jazz cabaret). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 390-1,800

Fontaliza (indie rock, alternative). Monteray. 8 p.m. Hr 250

Friday, April 26

Classical music

Claude Debussy (music performed by National Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-350

Live music

The Spring Playlist (piano concert by Pavel Ignatyev). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-650

Igor Agrich Trio – Let's Cool One (jazz). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 400

Clubs

Udda, Libra and others (electronic dance music). River Port. 10 p.m. Hr 150-200

Sasha Dog, Sparkless and others (intelligent dance music). Dom. 11 p.m. Hr 100

Audino and Module Week (electronic dance music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 21

Clasps, Prots and others (techno, break-beat). Mezzanine. 11:55 p.m. Hr 150-200

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12-9 p.m. Free

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 12 - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Shows

Riffmaster (rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Theater

Nabucco (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Saturday, April 27

Live music

Smooth Operation (smooth jazz, R&B, funk covers). Caribbean Club. 7 p.m. Hr 150-450

Clubs

DJ Masda, Khan and Others (electronic dance music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 21

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Late (art-objects by Mariia Proshkovska exploring gender issues with emphasis on women's lives in modern society). America House. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

April 27

(DJ Masda/facebook)



DJ Masda, Khan and Others

Two DJs based in Berlin but with very different roots will perform at Closer, Kyiv's best known electronic music club. DJ Masda, a Japanese musician born at the foot of Mount Fuji, is one of the finest record selectors in the electronic music scene. His diverse track selection and precise mixing features bits of old and new to create many layered house and techno. An all-genre performer Can "Khan" Oral was raised in Germany by a Finnish mother and Turkish father. Khan then lived in New York City for ten years before moving to Berlin, becoming a part of the local club scene. The experience imprinted in his music references to the NYC post-punk and German schlager tradition. Two Ukrainian resident DJs of Closer, Shakolin and Bambu, will also perform throughout Saturday night. **DJ Masda, Khan and Others. Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) April 27. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300-400. Visitors must be over 21**

Diffusion (street art and musical performance by the art duo Socia: Artur and Ihor Spaskyi). Closer. 12-9 p.m. Free

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free

Shows

Alexander Polyakov Sextet (jazz). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 400

Theater

Adriana Lecouvreur (The Metropolitan Opera recording in Italian). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240

La Sylphide (opera in Italian). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Sunday, April 28

Miscellaneous

Turbulent (video installations by Iranian artist Shirin Neshat exploring gender inequality). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Afterimage (paintings by Artem Volokitin and Tetiana Malinovska, sculptures by Maria Kulikovska, video art by Alina Fedotova). Voloshyn Gallery. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free

Amazing Stories of Crimea (artworks about the history of Crimea and its citizens). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employee

Reforming the Space (sculptures by Ukrainian artists and French artist Jaume Plensa). M17. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Hr 100. Hr 70 for children, students and retirees

I Am a Woman. We Are Women (various artworks by Petro Ryaska exploring a woman as the first home to every person). Bursa. 12-8 p.m. Free

Movies

Michelangelo: Love and Death (exhibition on screen). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

Shows

Homesick, Resurgam, Kentawr and others (hardcore, punk). Otel'. 7 p.m. Hr 150

(Bullet for My Valentine/facebook)



Bullet for My Valentine

One of the most successful UK metal acts since Iron Maiden, Bullet for My Valentine are to present their new album in Kyiv. The Welsh quartet uses classic heavy metal and punk-infused metal to create their own style of melodic and metallic dark rock songs. With full-throttle drums and howling vocals the band used to be an opening act for Metallica and Guns N' Roses. But Bullet for My Valentine's pop sensibilities really brought them to the mainstream with their first few albums. On their sixth record "Gravity," the rockers explore new frontiers of metal with vocal harmonies and atmospheric electronic effects.

Bullet for My Valentine. Stereo Plaza (119 Lobanovskiy Ave). April 22. 8 p.m. Hr 1,400-2,200

Venues

Classical Music

- National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 278 6291
- St. Catherine Church (22 Luteranska St.) +38044 253 6319
- Fairmont Grand Hotel (1 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.) +38044 322 8888

Live Music

- Caribbean Club (4 Petliuriy St.) +38067 224 4111

- Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrskya St.) +38050 358 5513
- Docker's ABC (15 Khreshchatyk St.) +38050 440 1525
- Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivska St.) +38095 280 8340
- Cinema House (6 Saksahanskoho St.) +38044 287 7557
- Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279 1582
- Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308

- Dom Music Bar (10/5A Petra Sahaidachnoho St.) +38096 011 0515
- Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145
- River Port (67 Nyzhnyi Val St.) www.facebook.com/riverportkyiv

Miscellaneous

- America House (6 Mykoly Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119
- Shcherbenko Art Center (22V Mykhailivska St.) +38096 801 2041
- Vsi Svoi D12 (12 Desiatynna St.) www.facebook.com/vsi.svoi
- Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225

- Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38044 520 2825
- Voloshyn Gallery (13 Tereshchenkivska St.) +38044 467 0007
- Triptych Global Arts Workshop (34 Andriivskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 279 0759
- Bursa Gallery (11B Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 537 7007
- MetaCulture (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) www.facebook.com/MetaCultureKyiv
- VDNH (1 Akademia Hlushkova Ave.) +38067 824 1631

- M17 Contemporary Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.) +38067 310 6631
- Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) +38044 461 8810
- Movies
- American Library Kyiv (8/5 Voloska St.) +38044 462 5674
- Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylivska St.) +38044 234 7381
- Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333
- Multiplex Cinema (Sky Mall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333

- Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757
- Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) +38067 622 8794
- Architect's House (7 Borysa Hrinchenka St.) +38050 386 7410
- Shows
- 32 Jazz Club (32 Vozdvizhenska St.) +38068 411 1972
- Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsev St.) +38067 155 2255
- Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306
- Monteray Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.)

- 38093 323 0644
- Bel Etage Music Hall (16A Shota Rustaveli St.) +38066 971 2666
- Stereo Plaza (119 Lobanovskiy Ave) +38044 222 8040
- Volume Club (26/2 Harmatna St.) +38067 386 9251
- Ukraine Palace (103 Velyka Vasylivska St.) +38044 247 2476
- Theater
- National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrskya St.) +38044 234 7165
- ProEnglish Theater (3 Smolenska St.) +38098 256 7331

Ukrainian business sees opportunities in otherwise bleak Brexit conditions

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH
DATSKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

On June 23, 2016, the people of the United Kingdom voted in a referendum to leave the European Union. That decision — now known simply as “Brexit” — has led to nearly three years of protracted political turmoil in the country.

The unexpected decision raised many concerns about how a U.K. exit from the European Union common market will affect international trade, currently governed by the bloc’s common quotas and duties.

Bilateral trade between Ukraine and the U.K. is far from enormous. As of 2018, it stands at only \$2.53 billion, with a negative trade balance of \$247 million for Ukraine, according to the State Statistics Service.

But even Kyiv is feeling Brexit’s shockwaves. Ukrainian business is asking: How will trade now work? What will the tariffs be? How will duties and logistics look once the U.K. gets a “divorce” deal?

But despite these concerns, some segments of the Ukrainian business community see Brexit not as a risk, but as an opportunity for growth.

“Trade between Ukraine and the U.K. could increase very sharply,” says Bate Toms, a Kyiv-based lawyer and president of the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce. “We should become the principal trading partner of Ukraine in Europe, and maybe the principal trading partner in the world.”

Delayed gratification

Brexit has already been postponed twice. The EU has set Oct. 31 as the new deadline for an agreement in order to avoid the worst case scenario: the U.K. leaving the bloc without a deal.

“Everyone expected that there



A significant proportion, almost 12 percent, of the all UK’s import to Ukraine in 2018 were cars with a total worth of \$106 million, among which British carmaker Land Rover is one of the most popular. (Volodymyr Petrov)

would be an agreement before the (2019) New Year, and after that U.K. would have three months to settle trading relations with other countries,” said Alex Lissitsa, president of the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club. “But something went wrong.”

Lissitsa said the U.K. has failed to sign free trade agreements with many different countries, including the most important ones — China, Japan and the United States.

“They signed trade agreements with Fiji, Panama and some other small countries,” he says. “On the one hand, they’re losing the EU, and on the other hand they have (gained) nothing. They are deadlocked.”

There are other more technical concerns.

“The U.K. has been part of the EU for a very long time,” says Anzhela Makhinova, partner at the Sayenko Kharenko law firm. “The U.K.’s own customs authorities, which will stand at the border, the border itself, the certification bodies — they don’t exist.”

“It all needs to be created from scratch and, therefore, it is difficult to guess how it will be done in practice and what problems may arise.”

Agri-advantage

But with the U.K. leaving the EU, Ukraine may get a new market for its goods.

Between 2013 and 2016, bilateral trade between the countries fell sharply — from \$3.5 billion to \$2.05 billion. However, over the last two years, it has seen a 23-percent recovery.

However, there has not been a single year in which Ukraine’s exports to the U.K. have exceeded its imports from the U.K.

But if Brexit goes ahead, experts believe Ukraine’s powerful agricultural sector could prove a big winner.

“The U.K. is a significant net importer of food. Removing quotas and eliminating the remaining food tariffs would be good for the British consumer and benefit Ukraine in terms of its opportunity to sell more food and agricultural produce to the U.K.,” says Martin Potter, the founder of BlueBirch, a Lviv-based consultancy for U.K. businesses that operates in Ukraine.

In 2018, 35 percent of all goods the U.K. imported from Ukraine were food and agricultural products, worth a total of \$238.7 million, according to the Ukrainian Exporters Club.

Ukraine’s largest agricultural holding, Myronivsky Hliboproduct, or MHP, exported a modest 484 tons of poultry to the U.K. last year. But that number could be much higher if the company is able to bypass the EU, experts forecast.

“When I talk to people in Britain, they all say they can’t trade with Ukraine under the EU’s rules. So, they’re sourcing (produce from) Romania, France and Germany, but it’s much more expensive and it limits food security,” says the British-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce’s Toms.

Toms thinks that Ukraine will be among the U.K.’s safest options to ensure food security. Both Germany and France are consistently growing in popula-

tion, meaning the amount they can export is limited.

“Ukraine is the opposite — the population is declining and producing more food,” he says.

Ukrainian agriculture isn’t the only sector that could potentially benefit from Brexit. Metallurgy faces four anti-dumping duties in the EU. After Brexit, there will only be one such duty — the one London imposed as a World Trade Organization member.

Britain is a major consumer of metal, but lacks a domestic manufacturer.

“Definitely, those Ukrainian producers will benefit,” says Sayenko Kharenko’s Makhinova.

According to Mark Pritchard, the U.K. prime minister’s trade and investment envoy to Georgia and Armenia (Ukraine has no envoy), there is also a huge opportunity to increasing trade and investment between the U.K. and Ukraine.

“This is especially true in financial services, education, new and emerging technologies, as well as U.K. companies investing in major infrastructure projects in Ukraine,” says Pritchard.

However, some experts are much more skeptical about Ukraine’s opportunities to increase exports to the U.K. after Brexit.

According to Ievgeniia Lytvynova, CEO and founder of the Ukrainian Exporters Club, Ukraine will face significant competition from powerful countries that prioritize trade with the U.K.

“Why should this be such a great opportunity for Ukraine when everyone else will do everything possible to maintain their positions there?” she asks.

Luxury import

But while Brexit could benefit Ukrainian exporters, it might deal a blow to Ukrainian importers.

In 2018, Ukraine’s imports from the UK reached \$1.4 billion. Currently, goods from the U.K. enter Ukraine at lower rates under the Kyiv’s Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade agreement, or DCFTA, with the EU. If the UK leaves the EU, it will become like any other member of the World Trade Organization.

Until a new trade agreement is reached, Ukraine and the U.K. will not have any preferential rates, according to Makhinova.

“For example, for fertilizers there is a 6.5 percent duty for WTO members, but under the DCFTA there is a zero taxation. So, if the U.K. leaves the EU it will have to pay more,” she says.

As a final result, Ukrainian imports from the U.K. could decrease for a while.

But that is not guaranteed, says the Ukrainian Agribusiness Club’s Lissitsa. Ukraine largely imports cars and expensive luxury goods from the U.K. In 2018, cars made up 44.8 percent of imports. As a result, he believes imports will remain stable.

“I do not think that it will be a problem for those who pay \$200,000 to buy a single Range Rover to (now) spend \$215,000,” Lissitsa says. ■

ON THE MOVE

Advertisement

INTEGRITES welcomes Corporate and M&A Partner



Illya Tkachuk

INTEGRITES is delighted to announce the joining of Illya Tkachuk as a new partner and head of the Kyiv office’s Corporate and M&A practice. Before INTEGRITES he was a local partner and head of the Corporate and M&A Practice of another international law

firm, resident in Kyiv. At INTEGRITES Illya will be focused on assisting clients on M&A transactions in CIS region and advising on structuring of their business activity in Ukraine. He has over 10 years’ experience of advising on investment projects, cross-border transactions, corporate and M&A, foreign investments, securities, compliance and labour law. He has been involved in the structuring and implementation of investment projects for big international groups in agricultural, mineral resources, manufacture and other sectors.

INTEGRITES welcomes Banking & Finance Partner



Igor Krasovskiy

INTEGRITES is delighted to announce the joining of Igor Krasovskiy as a new partner and head of the Kyiv office’s Banking & Finance practice. Prior to joining INTEGRITES, Igor was a local partner and head of the banking and finance practice of another international

law firm, resident in Kyiv.

Igor Krasovskiy specializes in financing and debt restructurings, particularly corporate and structured finance, syndicated lending and project finance where he acts for multilateral financial institutions, export credit agencies, high yield lenders, project sponsors and the borrowers. Igor advises clients primarily in the financial, infrastructure, energy, agriculture and telecommunications sectors.

UK: Protecting Ukraine also protects European borders

BY JACK LAURENSEN
LAURENSEN.JACK@GMAIL.COM

LONDON — In a speech broadcast over the radio in February 1941, Britain's most famous wartime leader, Winston Churchill, had a message for the country and its American allies as his island nation stood alone against the advance of fascism throughout Europe and beyond.

"Give us the tools, and we will finish the job," he famously said.

For some months prior, the U.S. had been providing military supplies and other assistance to the U.K. In December 1941, the Americans entered the war, decisively turning the tide against fascist forces in Europe and Asia.

These days, Ukraine's soldiers and military leaders — who argue that they are fighting Russia's expansionist ambitions to a stalemate along a new, European frontier in the eastern Donbas region — are asking for the tools they need to finish that job.

Ukraine has been receiving a lot of military assistance from its Euro-Atlantic partners and allies, particularly the United States. Washington has provided Javelin anti-tank missiles, armoured vehicles and even boats, as well as training missions for Ukrainian soldiers.

But there is still a degree of frustration among Ukrainian decision-makers and some of their Western counterparts who feel that more could be done — especially by European allies — to build Ukraine's resilience and help it defend not only itself, but the European continent too.

"We have to deter Russian aggression and restore our borders," said Major General Borys Kremenetskyi, a Ukrainian military veteran and now Defence Attaché at the Ukrainian Embassy in London.

"The United Kingdom has shown very strong support for Ukraine," he added.

This is important because Ukrainian soldiers are defending not only their own country, but European sovereignty too.

"When the last Ukrainian soldier falls, Putin will come for you," Kremenetskyi said, citing a slogan he said was used by the Ukrainian diaspora in London during a recent protest outside the U.K. Ministry of Defence.

"We do not ask for foreign soldiers to fight for us — we are fighting for ourselves. What we do ask for is support," he said.

A European war

Throughout Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, some 5.2 million Ukrainian civilians are still caught up in the Kremlin's war against the country, and the United Nations says that 3.5 million need urgent humanitarian assistance. The war has claimed about 13,000 lives, according to the most recent data.

Along the 300-mile contact line, which has become a de-facto illegal border between Europe's largest nation and Russia, some 65,000 Ukrainian soldiers have fought



British airborne soldiers joined members of the Ukrainian armed forces and other, partnered NATO troops on a parade through downtown Kyiv on (WHEN). At any one time, some 120 British soldiers are training their Ukrainian counterparts around the country, with at least 13,000 having already been skilled up, according to the U.K. Ministry of Defense. (Oleg Petrasuiuk)

Moscow's proxy forces and its regular troops to a tense stalemate.

But to the east and north-east, hundreds of Russian tanks and assembled warplanes stand ready for a blitz on Ukraine, should the Kremlin order it.

In September 2018, U.K. Defense Secretary Gavin Williamson visited Ukraine's front-line in the Donbas and talked with Ukrainian soldiers there. Less than 200 meters away, Russian-backed forces were holed up in their positions and sniper's nests.

Major General Borys Kremenetskyi accompanied Williamson on that trip.

"We believe that this is the front-line for Europe — I am telling this to people in London and Brussels. If you measure the distance from Brussels to Rome, or to Kyiv, it is the same. Ukraine is not somewhere far from Europe," Kremenetskyi said.

In Westminster, there is broad agreement with Kremenetskyi's position.

After the U.S., the U.K. ties with Canada as the second largest provider of military aid to Ukraine. It is certainly the largest in Europe.

Borders changed by force

Since March 2014, when Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean peninsula, Russian forces and Russia-backed militants have occupied about a third of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts.

Faced with less resistance, Moscow's forces would likely not have stopped in eastern Ukraine, Kremenetskyi believes.

"The whole of Europe is under threat," he said, pointing to Russian military manoeuvres against Georgia and near the Baltic states, in the North Sea, close to Scandinavia and throughout the southern Black Sea region.

"I think that Ukraine is contributing... to the security of the European continent and to the transatlantic community's security," said Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze, when asked about the country's efforts to oppose Russian aggression.

"Ukraine has been holding the

line," she said, "allowing NATO to regroup and reflect on what is happening and to come up with a strategy."

British allies

Judith Gough, the British ambassador to Ukraine, argues that there is no safe Europe without a safe Ukraine.

"Our focus is very much on supporting Ukraine and helping Ukraine build her resilience," she told the Kyiv Post in a recent interview.

In the last year, the U.K. and Canada have been the joint contact points to NATO for Ukraine. Gough says they have been working closely together and with Ukraine.

Under her ambassadorship, which began in 2015, the U.K. launched a multimillion-dollar annual assistance package to the country, which includes a major defense assistance program.

That program will be renewed through 2020 and is now pivoting to the maritime and naval areas, Gough said, where Ukraine seeks help in bolstering its coastal defense.

"British advisers in Kyiv are working to help Ukraine increase the country's resilience and plan its defense, while also helping implement broader defense reforms," said Kremenetskyi. Rank and file soldiers were benefiting a lot from U.K. training, he added.

"Down at the tactical level, is Operation Orbital, and that is what is mostly focused on training Ukrainian soldiers," he added.

Gough says the mission has trained at least 10,000 Ukrainian soldiers and is now starting to pay closer attention to sailors and naval officers. The U.K. defense ministry very recently revised that figure up to 13,000 Ukrainian soldiers.

Kremenetskyi says that those who have been trained are now training others, causing a ripple effect of boosted expertise across the whole Ukrainian military. He also said that some Ukrainian personnel were being educated in the U.K., even at exclusive naval academies.

Klymush-Tsintsadze says that

EDUCATION ADVISER

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The Power in Vulnerability



Sasha Slyusar,
high school student

After attending this year's TedX event held at Kyiv International School, focused on the topic of "Breaking the Silence," I came out of my school's auditorium feeling empowered to voice this idea. In the past decade, the idea of strong and ambitious women has been encouraged and accepted in the society. However, despite the seeming power and influence that men have possessed throughout history, I think this social group has been stripped of one of the most fundamental qualities of human existence. The freedom to feel.

I don't mean simply the ability to detect pain, anger, sadness, envy or joy. I mean the freedom to express this feeling and be empathized for, without a prejudice barrier.

From their very youth, sometimes even before their birth, boys are associated with race cars and Lego. These are the toys by which they are expected to comprehend and be entertained by. However, as observed by sociological organizations such as the "United Nations Human Rights" Organization, it is very common for boys to be interested in what is stereotypically considered "female territory." This is precisely when the controversy begins. I watched once as a young boy came up to his sister and reached for her Barbie doll. His mother took him by the hand, pulled him away, and handed him a Hot Wheels racing car, telling him, "Leave the dolls to your sister. Here, play with the car, like a good boy". Like a good boy. The boy wasn't satisfied, he put the car back in his mother's bag and turned back to his sister, gently reaching for the doll. The mother, again, pulled him away. This time, the boy retaliated with a loud cry and tried freeing himself from his mother's grip. This is when a woman standing near and observing the scene stepped in, telling the mom to let the boy hold the doll if he desires. "He will grow up and be a father someday, he should know what it feels like to hold a child if he wants to. He should know how to care for someone" Care for someone. Often, this idea of vulnerability is associated with being weak, and since weakness is perceived to be the "mortal enemy" of masculinity — vulnerability is avoided at all cost.

This belief, as I have observed with peers in school and relatives at home, consumes the minds of most men raised with the "emotionally inaccessible" view of masculinity. The outcome of this is a double-sided loss for males trapped in the fear of vulnerability. If they follow the ideal, appearing untouchable and "strong," men are stripped of the ability to show deep sympathy and even love, a quality separating humans from the rest of the animal kingdom. On the other hand, if they choose to be vulnerable in their relationships, they can be scrutinized for not appealing to the societal understanding of a masculine man. This creates a torturous cycle of self-deception and forced emotional control. Contrary to common belief, I think the ability to show one's vulnerability to another is the true epitome of strength. It takes much more power and self-awareness to be able to face one's feeling of love and devotion. And even more to let one's beloved see the depth of their affection. The vulnerability which comes with this closeness should not be considered weakness; it is what makes us human. What is the potential result of this? Men force themselves to build up a wall, allowing only signs of power and dominance to the outside world. However, this facade does not erase the feelings boiling on the inside. Men, especially in their late teens and early twenties, are largely susceptible to bursts of anger and sadness. Meanwhile men in the midlife stage who are struggling through depression and feel the need to suppress emotion, may end up only worsening their case. This routine of self-denial, does not function well for all. In fact, according to the "Population Reference Bureau" (PRB), the highest rates of suicides are present in males aged 23-29 and 44-53 years old.

With this in mind, it is crucial to voice the importance of exposing young children to the ideal of gender equality. In fact, according to research from the California Department of Education, children begin to recognize and comprehend gender at age five and begin to develop gender biased belief by the age of nine (CDE.ca.gov). This leaves the school system at least five years to showcase a social model of group interaction with understanding of gender differences and roles. During these crucial years, education and parenting play a huge role in shaping a child's view on gender stereotypes, gender roles, and one's gender schema. This is evident, as children who are made aware of the need for equality between genders at a young age are much more conscious of gender bias, but show no signs of prejudice. There are many simple ways anyone can ensure that a child is being raised free from gender stereotyping and feels empowered to express themselves, but here are just a few to take into consideration:

- Eliminating color bias (boys and girls are encouraged to wear, paint with, or play with any color they desire)
- Creating gender-equal extracurricular activities (boys and girls encouraged to join sport teams and painting classes for all)
- Providing kids with any toy desired (without inclining girls towards dolls and boys towards racing cars)

These three steps could be used in any household to help raise a socially educated, well-rounded generation who views vulnerability to be a strength of character, which helps achieve self-actualization.



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UK capital tries to shed its money laundering crown

BY IGOR KOSSOV
KOSSOV@KYIVPOST.COM

U.K.-registered companies are popular tools in money laundering and tax evasion schemes, including ones used by people in Ukraine. So is London real estate. And multiple commentators have dubbed London the money laundering capital of the world.

In the past few years the U.K. has introduced multiple pieces of legislation to fight against the flow of so-called dark money through its economy. However, lawmakers and experts have recently identified enforcement weaknesses that might let sophisticated operators slip through the cracks. New transparency rules in Britain's overseas territories have also run into delays.

Furthermore, with the looming threat of Brexit, uncertainty exists about the future of the U.K.'s anti money laundering capacity. Separation from European investigators may complicate the U.K.'s continued progress towards transparency, unless specific agreements are secured and specific laws are passed.

"So far, the U.K. does not enforce anti-money laundering laws in any serious way," Bill Browder, a British financier who fights Russia's dark money networks, told the Kyiv Post.

Experts previously told the Kyiv Post that Ukraine, with its limited gross domestic product, is a relatively small player in the massive world of dark finance. However, what happens in the U.K. affects what kind of international arrangements can be made by Ukrainian asset holders. This includes oligarchs with a sophisticated grasp of how to extract and keep as much money as possible from their holdings, both legitimate and illegitimate.



This residential complex at One Hyde Park is the most prestigious in London, with a luxury penthouse belonging to oligarch Rinat Akhmetov. Many of the world's wealthiest people invest in London real estate, which has been called a weak link in Britain's defense against money laundering. (Borys Trotsenko)

Deficiencies identified

The U.K. and Ukraine were among the first countries to implement public registers of beneficial ownership of companies registered within their borders. Transparency International Ukraine project manager Kateryna Ryzhenko said that there is a global push towards transparency on beneficial ownership, with the U.K. taking a leading role.

Over the past few years the high-profile Panama Papers and Paradise Papers leaks, along with the Danske Bank and Swedbank scandals, have revealed how dark money has penetrated even the best-developed European economies. Hundreds of billions of euros have been laundered globally.

The scandals helped put a spotlight on the role of U.K.-based Limited

Liability Partnerships or LLPs. These types of companies are easy to register and can give a veneer of legitimacy to an offshore scheme. Even though LLP information is publicly available at the Companies House registry, their controlling entities are often listed as companies based in tax havens like Nevis, the Seychelles, or the British Overseas Territories. Some LLPs have "persons with significant control" who signed off on the companies' creation but have little to do with their operation.

John Christensen, an economist with the watchdog Tax Justice Network, wrote in January that despite the U.K.'s move towards transparency, it continues to sustain "a spider's web of satellite tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions" that undermine international cooperation against laundering. The transparency is "something of a Potemkin village... the information available from Companies House is frequently out of date, inaccurate and consequently useless," according to Christensen.

A panel of British lawmakers and financial experts on March 7 found that "there are money laundering risks associated with company formation" and that laundering risk through U.K. and offshore structures is "high." Companies House doesn't have to carry out anti-money-laundering checks, and is a weak point in the country's strategy, the panel found.

Lawmakers also concluded that anti-money-laundering enforcement is "fragmented," with two dozen U.K. agencies involved. These need to consolidate to function effectively, panelists said. Graham Barrow, an international anti-money laundering expert based in the U.K. agreed, telling the Kyiv Post that British regulators need a "more cohesive, assertive regulatory environment."

Positive steps delayed

To its credit, the U.K. has made some moves towards more assertive regulations. Last year, it introduced legislation that will force overseas ter-

ritories such as the Cayman Islands and British Virgin Islands to have registries of beneficial owners that law enforcement can examine. The deadline was 2020, but following pushback from the territories, it was extended to 2023.

Another transparency bill was introduced for the Crown Dependencies — Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, which are massively implicated in sketchy financial schemes. But on March 4, a voting delay on this bill was forced, despite there being broad support among lawmakers.

In a more radical move, the U.K. introduced Unexplained Wealth Orders or UWOs last year. These let courts force someone with assets in the country to reveal the source of their wealth or risk having those assets seized. A year later, the first such order was issued to Zamira Hajiyeva, the wife of the Bank of Azerbaijan's former chairman, Jahangir Hajiyev.

"Unexplained wealth orders are... a potentially devastating tool, because it changes the burden of proof from prosecutor to the person who received the money," said Browder. However, "it's only been used so far against the enemies of autocrats, instead of autocrats themselves."

Experts, including Barrow and researchers at Ukraine's Anti-Corruption Action Center, said that U.K. courts are trying to be careful to establish good legal precedents with such orders. That's why they're taking their time.

ANTAC researchers said the problem with taking it slow is by the time the courts are ready, the perpetrators will have documents ready to "prove" that the money is legitimate. Additionally, UWOs aren't likely to work well on sophisticated schemes. Experienced oligarchs can put together very solid proof that all their overseas holdings are completely legitimate, they said.

The lack of cooperation by foreign

governments, especially ones with a lot of corruption, has hamstrung the U.K. courts in prosecuting dark money cases before.

"In order to get prosecution, you need to show a predicate crime," said Barrow. "Money laundering has to be related to a specific crime and if that crime happened in Kharkiv or Baku, our ability to show that is virtually zero."

Ukraine has taken some positive steps as well, said Viktoriya Fomenko, a partner at Integrites law firm's tax and customs practice. For example, a type of scheme that uses inflated prices to disguise the movement of money between two companies is made harder by Ukraine's adoption of international transfer pricing rules.

But Ukraine has also run into delays. President Petro Poroshenko promised that Ukraine would adopt the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's common reporting standard, which helps combat tax evasion, by the end of 2018. But it has yet to be implemented.

Brexit

To deal with Brexit, the U.K.'s possible exit from the European Union, the country plans to convert some existing EU money laundering directives into domestic law. The U.K. has already implemented the 4th EU Money Laundering Directive, and committed itself to implementing the updated 5th version. True to their name, these directives are designed to fight money laundering and terrorist financing.

However, if Brexit comes to pass, the U.K. may lose access to some of the intelligence-sharing arrangements with the EU, which might make it tougher to fight crime, including financial crime, according to last year's comments by the National Crime Agency. This echoed what some experts told the Kyiv Post.

The NCA also said that it's likely that the U.K. will come into increased contact with corrupt markets if the country looks to increase its trade with non-EU members. This might lead to more opportunities for money laundering by putting dirty cash into British businesses and assets. Russia, Pakistan and Nigeria have been identified as the most risky markets.

Glen Grant, a defense expert with the Ukrainian Institute for the Future, said that continuing the fight requires putting the U.K., the EU and the U.S. treasury "on a new post-Brexit footing."

"As the U.K. prepares to leave the European Union, our exposure to new markets is both a risk and an opportunity," Duncan Hames, the director of policy at Transparency International U.K., wrote in a statement in March.

Old networks

Barrow said that despite the U.K.'s

more Laundering on page 17

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Gavin Williamson: Britain will remain a steadfast defense partner to Ukraine

BY JACK LAURENSEN
LAURENSEN.JACK@GMAIL.COM

LONDON — That both the former and current U.K. defense secretaries are keen to talk about Ukraine, and that both have very recently visited the country's war-torn, eastern Donbas region, goes some distance in highlighting Britain's strategic commitment to the country.

Gavin Williamson, the U.K. Secretary of State for Defense since 2017, told the Kyiv Post that visiting the country's besieged east in September 2018 and then returning to the south-eastern port city of Odesa in late December, had clearly shown him the storm that Ukraine is weathering.

"My visits... underlined the extent of Ukraine's suffering at the hands of Russia and its proxy forces, since it first violated Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity," he said.

"I witnessed first-hand the personal cost of Russia's unwarranted and illegal aggression when I met with the families of the detained Ukrainian servicemen in December."

On December 21, Williamson met with Ukrainian defense officials aboard the Ukrainian navy's flagship, the Hetman Sahaydachniy. Two days earlier, a Royal Navy warship

HMS Echo arrived in the country.

At the same time, a small group of British lawmakers began a Christmas tour of the troubled Azov Sea region, where Russian forces had begun an effective blockade of the Ukrainian ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk.

Aboard the Ukrainian navy's flagship and with HMS Echo anchored nearby, the defense secretary had said that Ukraine does not stand alone.

"This isn't Russia's sea — this is an international sea," he said back then.

"On each trip I've also been struck by the utterly resolute response from Ukraine and the dedication of the men and women who make up its armed forces to protect their homeland," the defense secretary added in a recent interview.

"It is so important that we continue to uphold international law which ensures free passage through the Black Sea," the defence secretary said.

Williamson says that freedom of navigation is a fundamental aspect of the rules-based international order to which both the UK and Ukraine are committed. He had ordered HMS Echo deploy to Odesa sooner than planned after Russia attacked Ukrainian naval vessels in international waters near the Kerch Strait on Nov. 25.



Gavin Williamson, the U.K. Secretary of State for Defense, is laying flowers to the memorial of Ukrainian soldiers who died in eastern Ukraine since the beginning of Russia's war against Ukraine in 2014. (Alexandr Piliugin/ British Embassy)

More broadly, he says that Russian actions, "from fomenting conflict in the Donbas to the despicable chemical attack in Salisbury" show a "pattern of unacceptable behaviour" that must be challenged. Europe should be paying close attention, he also suggests.

"Russia's ongoing militarization of Crimea, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov not only presents an immediate threat to Ukraine's sovereignty — but undermines regional and European security," he said.

In the United Kingdom, Ukraine will continue to find a dependable and reliable partner, the secretary said.

In the past year, the U.K. has

provided 35 million pounds in support, extended its training of the Ukrainian armed forces through to 2020 (13,000 individual soldiers trained so far) — and, in partnership with NATO, these missions "will continue to grow", Williamson says.

"This is in addition to the defensive skills programmes such as the identification of mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs), infantry skills, medical care and logistics that UK personnel have been delivering since early 2015," he added.

Williamson, reflecting the position of the U.K. government, has an irreversible position on Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. He is hawkish on Russia and has a

tough position when it comes to the Kremlin's hybrid aggression.

Arguably, relations between Russia and the West have not been worse for a long time — but it doesn't need to be like this, Williamson said.

"Let me be clear this is not the relationship with Russia that we in western Europe want. We remain open to a different kind of relationship and options of dialogue remain on the table," he clarified.

The defense secretary had a final message for Moscow: "We encourage Russia to start acting within the rules-based international order. Step back from the path it has been taking and look to a new and different way." ■

Shady UK-registered firms linked to Ukraine, Russia

Laundering from page 16

moves towards stricter due diligence, it's still easy to find dubious companies in operation. Many of these companies are linked to Eastern European assets, including Ukraine's.

Back in the days of now-fugitive Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, six offshore firms were linked to a multitude of schemes. These are Ireland & Overseas Acquisitions and Milltown Corporate Services — originally registered in Ireland, then the British Virgin Islands, and then Belize; the

Seychelles companies Intrahold AG and Monohold AG; and the Nevis companies Tallberg Ltd and Uniwell Inc.

Some of the many British LLPs created by these companies continue to operate to this day. One example is Renton Resources LLP, which has been linked to the export of fuel from the Russian-occupied parts of Ukraine's Luhansk Oblast, and the country's so-called former deputy energy minister of the unrecognized Luhansk People's Republic, Oleksandr Melnychuk, who has been sanctioned by the United States.

According to media reports, some of these hydrocarbons may have been exported to Poland and the rest of Ukraine.

Both presidential candidates have been linked in some way to offshore structures involving the U.K. President Petro Poroshenko was revealed in 2016 to have set up a holding company in the British Virgin Islands, whose financial authority investigated it for money laundering. Poroshenko had previously stated that he and his companies had done nothing wrong.

And actor Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who is favored to win the presidency, has also been accused of having ties to oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who was alleged by the Ukrainian government to have siphoned billions into offshore instruments. Ukrainian authorities also accused Kolomoisky in 2015 of evading hundreds of thousands of dollars in taxes. Zelenskiy vehemently denies that he is beholden to Kolomoisky, while Kolomoisky himself has also denied wrongdoing.

An example of a Ukrainian company with U.K. holdings and unclear connections to Russia is Eurolab, where Zelenskiy took a drug test as part of his election campaign to challenge Poroshenko. The owner, Andriy Palchevsky, co-owns Eurolab through an LLP registered to a nominal address, and has political connections to Russia. ■

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Activists wave EU flags near the Houses of Parliament in central London on April 10, 2019. Some British authorities warned that Brexit might make it more difficult to fight money laundering and expose the UK to more risk. (AFP)

Ukraine, on freedom's edge, will continue to have backing of UK

Defence from page 15

British efforts, alongside other NATO partners, are helping to rebuild the Ukrainian armed forces in the wake of Russia's attacks on Crimea, but also after years of deliberate mismanagement that, she says, verged on sabotage.

"They were being built up from less than nothing," she said. "We were rebuilding something that was consciously destroyed by the former authorities under (ousted Ukrainian President) Viktor Yanukovich."

Edge of freedom

Michael Fallon, a British political heavyweight and lawmaker in the country's governing Conservative party, is proud of U.K.'s support for Ukraine. He fought hard to get it up-and-running, but suggests there is still room to do more and to provide more.

Fallon, who launched Operation Orbital while he was U.K. Secretary of State for Defense between 2014 and 2017, also recognizes that Ukrainians are fighting in defense of Europe, not only Ukraine.

"That's why I sent Royal Air Force Typhoons down to (be stationed in) Romania, for Black Sea patrolling... that's why we and NATO constantly encouraged Ukraine along the reform path, with a view obviously to a closer relationship with NATO," he said.

The former defense secretary said that starting Operation Orbital was not easy. There was hesitation among some in the U.K. coalition government at that time. Being "too provocative" towards Russia was a constant concern for some.

"It took a long time to widen the categories of training that we were able to offer... and to encourage eastern European countries to contribute arms and ammunition — which we did the lifts (transportation) for," he said.

These days, as the Ukrainian armed forces become more capable and experienced, they want to move beyond Warsaw Pact equipment and bring their forces more in line with NATO standards.

"The United States is not providing only training — they are providing substantial material assistance, which the U.K. doesn't provide," said Kremenetskiy. His soldiers in the east would benefit from air defense systems, anti-ship missiles and equipment to counter electronic warfare, he added.

Fallon is also somewhat disappointed with the international support for Ukraine and says more needs to be done, especially in the wake of aggression against the country's naval forces and civilian shipping in the Black and Azov seas.

"I continue to press ministers here to better coordinate the EU's response," he said.

He is visibly frustrated with the slow response to Russian naval forces attacking Ukrainian ships and seizing their sailors near the Kerch Strait on Nov. 25. He says these sailors' detention violates all international rules.

"It is disappointing that we have not had more action from the West — it was weak anyway, only deploring the attack," Fallon said. "One way or another, the EU or NATO need to do something to lift this blockade."

Fallon strongly believes that Ukraine's international allies can and should act more robustly in the country's defense.

"They (the United States) have been more muscular, there is no question about it, and we need to be equally muscular — this is our fight, in the end... We are a European country and Kyiv is a European capital," he said.

"Ukraine — it's the edge of freedom," Fallon concluded. ■

'I see extraordinary resilience in Ukrainian people,' says UK ambassador Judith Gough

Ambassador from page 11

Gough said the mission is designed to have a strong practical effect, while also showing solidarity with a country that is under attack by Russia.

The United Kingdom, the ambassador suggested, will be unrelenting in its position on Russia and the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine.

"Let's be clear — until such a time as Russia changes her behaviour towards Ukraine, there are important points of principle that we cannot concede on," the ambassador affirmed. She stressed that the U.K. was at the forefront of imposing sanctions on Moscow within the European Union.

"We (also) pushed very hard and delivered the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission — (and) we are still the second largest contributor to that mission," she said.

"I think that Ukraine, more than most nations in Europe, understands the value of the rules-based international system and the post-Second World War settlement. This is the only country that has had its borders changed by force since the Second World War."

However, the Ukrainian military would like to see more material support — weapons and equipment — from Britain.

While the U.S. has supplied Javelin missiles, armoured vehicles and patrol boats to Ukraine, the British government has so far provided little more than uniforms and medical kits.

"If we are asked — we will consider it," the ambassador said of more material support to Ukrainian soldiers.

NATO and Europe

Despite strong British support for Ukraine, there is still anxiety in Kyiv about Brexit — especially among lawmakers who believe the country depends on London's consistent and reliable voice in Brussels, where not everyone is a stoic friend of Ukraine.

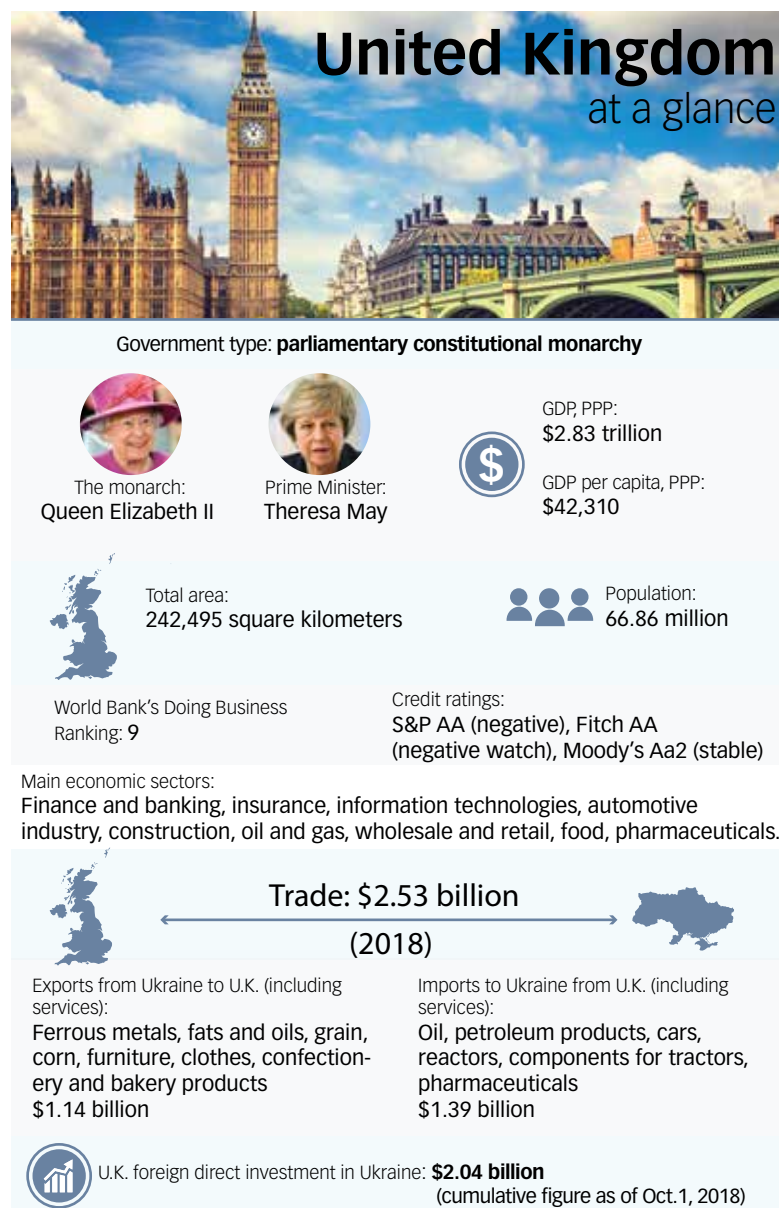
Gough says that the United Kingdom will remain one of Ukraine's most reliable partners. She is also hopeful for a new free trade agreement. Ukraine is a post-Brexit trade priority, she says.

"We are not turning our back on being engaged and standing up for our principles, our values and being a force for good on the global stage," she said. "But there will be some changes," the ambassador clarifies.

Currently, the United Kingdom is a party to the association agreement and Ukraine's deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU. However, once it leaves the bloc, Britain will need to negotiate a new trade agreement.

"Whilst a member of the EU we cannot have formal negotiations, but we have already had a number of rounds of talks with the Ukrainians on what a future trade agreement might look like," Gough said.

And despite leaving the EU, the U.K. will continue to support and advocate for Ukraine elsewhere, she says.



"If you look at where the United Kingdom is engaged, we may be stepping back from one multilateral organization but we are still the second largest contributor to NATO and we still have a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council," Gough said. "We are vigorously present in other multilateral organizations."

Gough reaffirms that the U.K. is supportive of Ukraine's desire for membership in NATO, but stresses that the country's NATO path is not just about the end result.

"It is not just membership itself which is useful, but the whole process of reforms in getting there," she said. These steps make countries like Ukraine "stronger and better able to defend themselves and more resilient... the journey is worth it, even if the path sometimes seems long."

Currently, Ukraine still has a lot more it must accomplish.

"Civilian oversight of the military, command and control, eradicating some areas that provide opportunity for corruption..." she listed off. "But the journey has been started, and we've seen some good progress and willingness to make even more progress."

The future

Gough monitored the first round of Ukraine's current presidential election. She says the vote "looked good" and reflects a country moving

forward.

But she declined, diplomatically, to discuss the election's possible outcome.

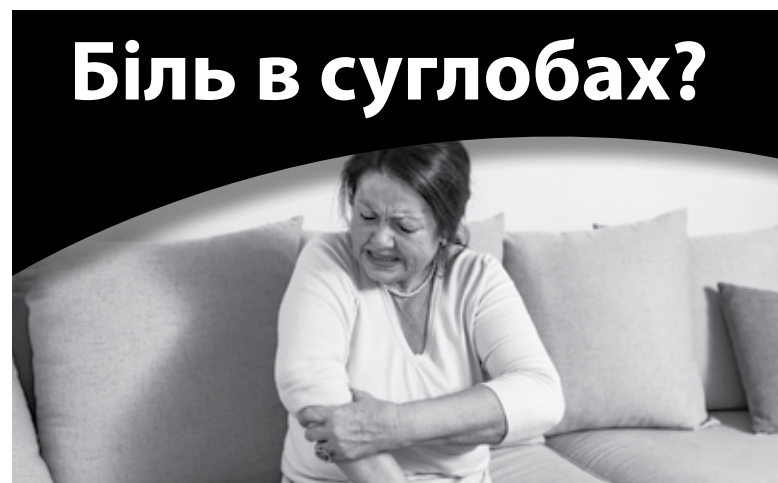
"That (president) will be Ukraine's choice — but it is clearly important to Ukraine's partners that the election is carried out cleanly and fairly and reflects the genuine will of the Ukrainian people," she said.

"I don't want to prejudge the outcome of an election that has not happened yet — but my sense is that the Ukrainian people have chosen a course," the ambassador said.

Asked to summarize the impressions and memories of her encounters with everyday Ukrainians while travelling around the country, Gough did sound like she was preparing herself to say farewell.

"I see extraordinary resilience in the Ukrainian people... a determination to forge a sovereign future for Ukraine, and a real demand from people to satisfy the demands of the (EuroMaidan Revolution), in terms of taking the country forwards, tackling corruption and improving prosperity," she said.

"I also see an awful lot of everyday struggles. This is a country where GDP per capita is still very low, wages are low and pensions are low," she continued. "This is a country that should be very prosperous and so I think that there is a demand across the board for greater fairness in society." ■



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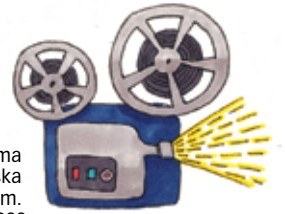
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Night Owls: Watch 21 French films at Long Nights of Short Films on April 19, 20 at Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) 11:30, 11:50 p.m. Hr 200



Ukraine gearing up for 5-day Orthodox Easter



People put forth their Easter baskets with pysankas, paskas and other food, for them to be blessed with holy water by the priest near St. Volodymyr's Cathedral in Kyiv on April 8, 2018. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY ARTUR KORNIENKO
KORNIENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Easter in Ukraine will make history this year as the newly formed Orthodox Church of Ukraine will celebrate Christianity's central holiday for the first time ever. It will follow the centuries-old traditions of Ukrainians and their ancestors who have been commemorating the resurrection of Jesus since 988.

Orthodox and Greek Catholic Christians, who are the majority in Ukraine, will celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 28 this year, a full week after the Roman Catholics and

Protestants celebrate on April 21. The Orthodox Easter holiday will extend into Labour Day on May 1 resulting in a five-day weekend.

This is a perfect opportunity to explore the Orthodox Easter traditions in Kyiv, partake in the celebrations or even travel to Lviv for the Greek Catholic perspective. The more so since the Ukrainian Railway has added two fast trains on route to this western Ukrainian city for the holidays.

Traditions

Just like Roman Catholics, Eastern Rite Christians spend the week

before Easter in preparation for the holiday, self-reflecting and attending church services. By Maundy Thursday, known in Orthodoxy as "Clean Thursday," Ukrainians clean up their homes and prepare traditional foods.

The best known of these are the Easter eggs, the symbol of new life and rebirth. In Ukraine, there is a long tradition of painting eggs for Easter and several techniques to do so. Collectively all painted Easter eggs in Ukraine are called pysankas. They are boiled before or after being painted.

For many Ukrainians painting

pysankas before Easter is a family tradition. Some arts and crafts studios offer workshops on making pysankas in Kyiv. Lihtaryk Art-Studio has an hour and a half workshops for both young and old ahead of Easter for Hr 200 (5A Bastionna St. +38095661 3381).

The Easter bread symbolizing the body of Christ is called paska in Ukraine. There are different versions of paska, sweet and unsweetened, some decorated with braided crust or glazed and sprinkled with dried fruits and nuts. They can be easily

more Easter on page 22

City Life

WITH TETIANA BORYSOVA
BORYSOVA@GMAIL.COM

Kyiv sports clubs offer fitness with lots of frills

Kyiv's gyms have come a long way from Soviet times — grimy, ill-lit halls filled with free weights and a few ramshackle machines, mainly used by younger men, have been transformed into bright, clean, modern fitness centers that are welcoming to all.

This has come at a cost, however — Kyiv's gyms and fitness clubs today feel more like private members' clubs, complete with plenty of frills. Modern clubs offer their clients a huge range of workouts and classes adapted for everyone regardless of age and previous experience. They fully personalized workouts for individual needs. But prices run to thousands of hryvnias a month — well beyond the budgets of many Ukrainians.

But for those with the funds to invest in fitness, the Kyiv Post has picked out a list of fitness clubs, gyms, and hubs that suits all tastes — from those who like outdoor running with professionals, or an intense workout session with a personal coach, to those who prefer a calm yoga class with their kids.

Smartass

Smartass has a wide range high-quality services at reasonable prices, including a beauty salon, restaurant and bar. Classes are held in a stylish studio with flashing lights and energetic music on in the background.

CEO Kate Kuzmenko and Dmitry Dubilet (the co-founder of Monobank) were inspired by the smart gyms they saw in London, England, they dreamed of creating a similar sports center in Kyiv, where people can do sports, eat healthy food, as well as work and communicate with each other.

Workouts are held in small groups. Smartass has an unusual layout, with elongated halls split into various zones. It's therefore easy to switch from one zone to another whenever clients wish to change activity.

There is large choice of classes for different tastes from ballet and pilates, to climbing, cycling, boxing, yoga, stretching, and TRX.

Smartass offers its clients training sessions with experienced professional trainers, and classes with international coaches, such as London-based train-

more Sport on page 21

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Traditional, charming Munich offers quiet rest near the Alps

World Traveler

BY DARIA SHULZHENKO
SHULZHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

MUNICH, GERMANY — Some people fall in love with the city at first sight.

But with Munich, Germany's third largest city, it takes a little more time. But on leaving the plane and breathing in the fresh alpine air, visitors to this city, located on an elevated plain just north of the Alps mountain range, realize that this place will make its mark on them.

While Munich's high tourist season is in autumn, when the city's famous "Oktoberfest" folk festival is held, it is better to visit in spring, when its streets are less crowded.

Munich is the capital of Bavaria, a federal state of Germany located some 580 kilometers south of Berlin. Surrounded by the Bavarian Alps and lakes, Munich is a top destination for those who love hiking and outdoor activities.

The city, which name means "by the monks," can be a base for trips to the Alps, while its rich history and authentic German cuisine available in restaurants on every corner make it a place to visit in its own right.

That said, Munich has the highest standard of living in Germany and is therefore a pricier city for living and visiting.

A room at a modest three-star hotel in Munich costs from 50 euros per night and more, depending on location and season. An apartment with one bedroom, bathroom, kitchen, and a balcony costs from 45 euros per night.

Even with its population of nearly 1.5 million people, Munich does not feel crowded. Still, not everything in this city is accessible by foot.

Transport

In Munich, as almost everywhere else in Germany, things work strictly to the rules. It's hard to find a grocery working on Sunday, a cafe

People walk near the new City Hall on Marienplatz, Munich's central square, on March 23, 2019. The square, located in the heart of the city is the perfect place to start exploring Munich on foot. (AFP)



that works until the last client leaves rather than shutting at closing time, or even a pedestrian jaywalking.

"Alles ist in Ordnung," or "Everything is in order," as the Germans say.

The transport system is no exception: buses and trains run on time, and traffic jams in the city center are rare.

The public transport system is well-organized and there are no ticket punches in buses or in the metro. However, ticket inspectors check buses and trains regularly, and the fine for not being in possession of a valid ticket is 60 euros. It's better to play it safe and buy a ticket.

Tickets are usually sold in machines installed at every station. A one-day ticket costs about 7 euros, while a three-day ticket for one person costs nearly 17 euros.

Other than that, it is better to purchase a group ticket when traveling to Munich with a friend, as a three-day group ticket costs less than 30 euros.

Taxis in Munich cost the same as in other German cities: a trip from the airport to the city center (a distance of about 40 kilometers) costs

60–70 euro, at a rate of 1.50 euros per kilometer.

Food

In comparison to Berlin, where one can find lots of great Vietnamese, Indian, Turkish and Mexican places, Munich has more restaurants offering only traditional German food.

For those not so enamored with Bavarian cuisine, which consists mainly of sausages, roasted pork, pretzels (salty bun shaped like a twisted knot) and cabbage salads, the city has not so much to offer.

There are good Italian restaurants and some not-so-good Chinese places for a hungry tourist who wants to take a break from the sausages and cabbage — but why come to Munich if not tuck in to some authentic traditional Bavarian fare, and, of course, beer.

Don't be surprised to see people drink beer even in the early morning. In Munich, beer is part of a traditional Bavarian breakfast.

A plate of two white sausages made of pork meat with spices, a dollop of sweet mustard, a medium-sized pretzel and a glass of non-alcoholic beer — this is how people

start their mornings in Munich.

Although eating out in Munich is pricier than in other German cities, all portions are generous and usually big enough to share. The average price of a Bavarian breakfast varies from 8–15 euros; a lunch consisting of schnitzel, French fries or potato salad costs 15–30 euros, and a two-course dinner with a glass of wine can cost up to 50 euros per person.

Other than that, visitors should remember that drinking alcohol on the streets is permitted in Germany, and people are allowed to smoke in restaurants, so be prepared for the smell of cigarettes at almost all of the city's eateries.

Museums, sightseeing

Architecturally, Munich is a feast for the eyes, and the city's central square, Marienplatz, named after its monument to the Virgin Mary, is the perfect place to start exploring the city.

While "all roads lead to Rome," all of Munich's roads, at least in the medieval Old Town in the center, lead to Marienplatz. There is little chance of getting lost, and no need to pay 20 euros for the hop-on,

hop-off bus tours around the city — Munich is a paradise for those who love walking.

The city center is crowded with historical attractions for tourists: Munich's oldest church, St Peter's, the late Baroque Asam church, the imposing Frauenkirche, built in the 15th century, the Munich National Theater, and the city's oldest food market, Viktualienmarkt.

When wandering Munich's main streets, do not forget to stop by the English Garden, which is one of the world's largest urban parks that stretches for 3.7 kilometers north from the city center along the banks of the River Isar.

The BMW museum, dedicated to the history of the famous German automobile company, whose headquarter is located in Munich, is a must-visit as well.

The museum is located eight kilometers from the city center and is less crowded on weekdays. The price of a single ticket to the BMW museum is 13 euros, while a family ticket for two adults and two children costs 29 euros.

Outside the city

After several days of sightseeing in the city, it's worth visiting Munich's surrounding areas. When leaving the urban area, one quickly finds oneself in a completely different world of spectacular and beautiful landscapes.

Since Munich only about 60 kilometers north of the Alps, the giant mountains can be seen from almost every point in the city.

To go hiking in Munich and see Germany's highest peak, Zugspitze, take the train from Munich main railway station to the ski town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, located some 80 kilometers southeast of Munich.

A one-way train ticket to Garmisch-Partenkirchen costs 22 euros per person.

Apart from that, it takes just a 30-minute on the S train from Marienplatz to Starnberg, a small town some 26 kilometers southwest of Munich, to view the Starnberger See — Bavaria's second largest lake.

However, there is no need to throw a coin into the lake and make a wish to come back, as whoever comes to see Munich at least once, always returns.

How much will it cost? A three-day trip to Munich will cost over 500 euros.

Flight to Munich from Kyiv: The average price of a ticket starts from 120 euros.

Cost of hotel, rented accommodation: The price for hotel located not far from the city center starts from 150 euro per night, a night at a three-star hotel in the outskirts costs from 50 euros. The price for renting an apartment starts from 45 euros.

Food per person, per day: About 60 euros per day.

Transport: 7 euros per day in the city.

Entertainment, museums, other attractions per day: About 30–45 euros. ■

A man stands on top of Jubiläe Cest mountain at Bavarian Alps near Garmisch-Partenkirchen on April 28, 2013. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a ski town located 80 kilometers southeast of Munich. (AFP)



City Life

Flashing lights, dark spaces, drinks and food: What Kyiv sport hubs offer clients

Sport from page 19

er Carl Van Heerden.

Smartass also has its own Kitchen & Bar, where coaches or nutritionists will design individual diets for clients. The Smartass Kitchen & Bar serves meals prepared according to healthy recipes, with no sugar or processed ingredients. Grape oil is used for salad dressings, cooking, frying, and baking. The restaurant offers tasty buckwheat muffins with poached egg and salmon, pancakes, carrot pie, and coffee with soya milk.

Furthermore, Myroslava Uliana from TV show *Zvazheni ta Shchaslyvi*, the Ukrainian version of *The Biggest Loser*, offers her services in Smartass as a nutritionist. Her service costs Hr 1,700 for one consulting session, and Hr 6,000 for an individual nutritional plan.

Clients can book and pay for classes with a couple of clicks on the Smartass website or with a payment app. Towels and boxing gloves are included in the payment, as is unlimited drinking water.

Prices: 50 visits – Hr 14,000, 25 visits – Hr 7,500, 10 visits – Hr 3,200, 5 visits – Hr 1,700, one visit – Hr 350

Smartass. 41A Zhylianska Street. Mon.–Fri.: 7 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Sat.–Sun.: 10 a.m.–15:45 p.m. +38095 186 1576

Ebsh

After six years of working as a company lawyer, Yulia Shum decided to turn her fitness hobby into a business, opening Ebsh fitness centers in Kyiv and Odesa.

Ebsh provides a motivating training experience and lets their clients to train side-by-side with real professional athletes, including Ukrainian sports champions. They also offer intro workouts in Thai boxing and TRX (suspension training, where a person uses their own body weight rather than weights) absolutely free.

Ebsh has a bar with healthy food from the Mira cafe, various kinds of smoothies with fruits, as well drinks with nuts and yogurt. They also stock nutritional supplements, amino acids, pre-workout foods, protein cocktails based on milk or water (Hr 50) and protein bars. In addition, clients have the opportunity to try Ukrainian cheesecake or Ukrainian Syrniki curd pancakes baked by Shum's mother.

Clients can buy a multi-use training pass, as well as paying individually for classes. Payments can be made via the Ebsh website or a Telegram bot online.

The club also offers the option to freeze a training pass for five days if a client can't come to classes for some reason.

Prices: pass for a month – from Hr 1,600 to Hr 2,800; pass for 3 months – from Hr 4,560 to Hr 7,200, for 6 months – from Hr 8,640 to Hr 13,200; for 12 months – from Hr 16,320 to Hr 24,000; one individual training – Hr 600, 8 trainings from Hr 4,300

Ebsh. 38 Vozdvyzhenska St. 7 a.m.–10 p.m. +38093 383 8381,



People work out using the TRX suspension training system at the Smartass gym in Kyiv on Sept.13,2018. Smartass offers large choice of classes for different tastes, such as ballet and pilates, to climbing, cycling, boxing, yoga, stretching, and TRX. (Smartass)

Nike Kyiv

Legendary U.S. shoe company Nike has more than 38 of its own fitness clubs around the world, and a couple of years ago Nike also launched a Nike club in the capital of Ukraine. They offer high-quality trainers and workouts in great surroundings.

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays all fitness enthusiasts can work out while enjoying a picturesque view of NSC Olimpiyskiy stadium, the capital's multifunctional sporting arena. Anyone can join in at any time, and at absolutely no cost.

Nike organizes several other activities, such as the Nike+ Run Club, NTC – Nike training club, and NRC Talks.

The Nike+ Run Club promotes the city's urban running culture. All running enthusiasts can join the club and find here encouragement, guidance, and a local crew of like-minded runners. They offer running sessions around the stadiums NSC Olimpiyskiy and Athlete, as well as training sessions around the city.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at around 7 p.m. club enthusiasts gather not far from the Nike store on Khreshchatyk Street, Kyiv's main street, and then run in the direction of old city center.

The Nike+ Training Club includes fitness and yoga workouts. NRC Talks is a community in which everyone can talk with a huge range of professionals, including nutritionists, athletes, and experienced runners. Coaches will provide guidance on how to run half-marathons or marathons.

Nike+ Kyiv. 55 Velyka Vasylkivska

St. Mon - 8 p.m. – Running + NTC Functional, Tue - 6:30 p.m. – NTC: Yoga, on Fri - 7 p.m. – NTC: Yoga or NTC: Functional

Nike+ Kyiv. 7 Laboratornyi Alley. Athlete stadium. Wed. 7 pm – Speed Run or NTC: Functional

Nike+ Kyiv. 30/1 Khreshchatyk St. Thu - 7:30 p.m. Sat - 9 a.m. – Running for everyone from the Nike store

Nike+ Kyiv. 56 Yaroslavskaya St. Fitness Club 'Podilskyi'. Sun - 10 a.m. – NTC: Functional

Fitness With Baby

This is primarily a community of moms and their children. Fitness with baby supports every stage of motherhood – from pregnancy through postpartum and beyond, focusing on the rehabilitation of the mother's body. The aim is to prove that getting a pre-baby body back is not a nightmare for new moms.

Fitness with baby encourages clients to bring their children to classes and do some workouts together. The programs aim to tone mothers' bodies, while the babies have fun too.

The fitness studio has a range of classes including Tabata, TRX, yoga with kids, fitness for pregnant women, body-toning classes, and programs for moms in the early postpartum period.

Maryna Ilhovska joined the studio last year: "I wanted to get a normal life back and restart my training, but my child was only three months only. Thankfully, Fitness with baby offers you come with children and even do exercises with them together, holding them in your arms. These

workouts are good for both for moms and kids."

The studio also provides a babysitting service during workouts, with nannies to look after children and play with them.

They have launched a course for moms in the early postpartum period, who want to get into shape. The program includes consulting with a trainer, nutritionist, family psychologist, gynecologist, and a pediatrician.

Clients can pay in various ways, including through online payment systems.

Prices: one group training – Hr 150, one individual training – Hr 350, training pass for eight classes – Hr 800, unlimited package – Hr 1,250

Fitness With Baby. 2A Donsa Street. Mon –Wed.: 10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Tue –Thu.: 9 a.m. – 8 p.m. Sat – 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. +38063 476 8412

Fizmat

Fizmat is a network of sport clubs with high-quality services. Fizmat has two-sports hubs in Kyiv – one located in the busy business quarter of Kyiv, in the Toronto Business Center, facing the marvelous St. Nicholas Catholic cathedral, while the other is located in the Protasov business center. Both, are stylishly designed, have relaxed atmospheres and experienced trainers, and offer their clients spacious areas for workouts.

Fizmat Toronto and Fizmat Protasov put on dozens of classes every week with a range of activities to choose from and adapt their sessions for everyone, from experienced clients to newcomers.

They offer group classes, personal training, corporate training, and a huge range of challenges – including intense workouts to lose weight fast. The intensive programs include cardio and static exercises, stretching, and a nutrition plan.

The hub offers yoga, several kinds of TRX suspension workouts, and functional workouts at various levels – beginner, medium and pro – as well as acrobatics classes for adults and kids. They also offer Khadu gymnastics – an unusual type of gymnastics that helps a person's body recover from trauma and trains unusual zones such as the eyes, neck, and face. For those who like team-building activities, Fizmat offers corporate training (up to 10 persons – Hr 1,200 for one-and-a-half hours, and for 11–14 persons Hr 1,500). These sessions encourage members to work together.

They also offer healthy food and coffee, unlimited drinking water and towels, an infra-red sauna and sports massages.

Prices: one group training – Hr 350, five individual trainings – from Hr 2,375, unlimited package – Hr 15,000 for a year, one individual training – from Hr 500, and 10 individual trainings – from Hr 4,500

Fizmat. Protasov Business Center. 2/1 Mykoly Hrinchenka St. Mon – Fri: 7 a.m. – 9:30 p.m., Sat – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sun – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. +38067 142 5172

Fizmat. Toronto Business Center. 100 Velyka Vasylkivska St. Mon – Fri: 7 a.m. – 10 p.m., Sat – 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sun – 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. +38094 823 8009 ■

St. Sophia Cathedral in Kyiv to hold historic Easter mass

Easter from page 19

found in most stores and bakeries before Easter.

Ukrainians put pysankas, paskas, some wine symbolizing the blood of Christ and other foods into the Easter basket. After the Easter Vigil on Sunday morning the priests sprinkle the baskets and the food of those gathered around the church with holy water. The people then go home to share a meal of blessed food.

It is common to exchange pysankas on Easter Sunday. Ukraine doesn't have a tradition of egg hunting, and the image of Easter Bunny only starts to enter the culture. However, Ukrainians have another game to play on Easter: two people hit the boiled Easter egg of one another, the one whose egg remains intact wins.

For a week after Easter Sunday, Ukrainian Christians greet each other with the words "Khrystos Voskres" ("Christ is risen"), to which the other person should reply "Voistynu Voskres" ("Truly, he is risen").

Where to go

People in Kyiv can witness history at the first ever Easter Mass of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine at the St. Sophia Cathedral this year. The



Parishioners hold Easter prayers at the Church of the Holy Mother on April 9, 2018, at the Pyrohovo outdoor folk museum outside Kyiv. (Oleg Petrasiiuk)

11th-century building is the oldest Christian temple in the lands of the East Slavs. St. Sophia is now a permanent museum, but the newly created Orthodox Church of Ukraine was allowed to use it for the biggest

Christian holidays, like Easter and Christmas (24 Volodymyrska St.)

The members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate will celebrate Easter at their main church in the Kyiv

Pechersk Lavra, an active church complex built around the 11th-century cave monastery. Like the St. Sophia Cathedral, the Lavra is a UNESCO World Heritage site (15 Lavrska St.)

The Orthodox Easter weekend is forecasted to have sunny weather, so it would be a waste not to spend some of it outside. Kyiv's Pyrohovo open-air folk museum will hold festivities with folk music, dancing, food and Easter-themed workshops (Akademika Tronka Street).

For those who decide to travel to Lviv, St. Nicholas's Church would be the place to go for the first ever Easter celebration of members of the Orthodox Church of Ukraine. It's one of the two oldest existing churches in the city, dating back to the 13th century (28A Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)

The largest Easter Mass of Ukrainian Greek Catholics will take place at St. George's Cathedral in Lviv, their mother church. The 18th-century Rococo-styled cathedral was built on the spot of a wooden church from the 13th century and stands on one of the highest hills in the city (5 Svyatoho Yura Square).

Lviv also holds an Easter Fair in the city center and a Pysanka Festival. An Easter celebration will also take place in Lviv's Shevchenkivskiy Hai open-air folk museum, where there will be traditional singing, dancing and games (1 Chervna Hora St.) ■

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JOIN THE PARLIAMENTARY REFORM OFFICE!

To provide more targeted support to parliamentary reforms the Parliamentary Reform Office (PRO) will be established within the EU-UNDP Parliamentary Reform Project, serving as an advisory group to the Leadership and Secretariat of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (VRU) under the general supervision of the VRU Chairperson. PRO will provide support to parliamentary reforms aimed at strengthening the functioning of the Ukrainian Parliament, including its Secretariat, as a progressively more effective, accountable and transparent institution in carrying out its constitutional responsibilities of legislation, oversight, and representation with positive influence on the overall process of EU-Ukraine Association Agreement implementation.



Deadline: May 2019

UNDP IS LOOKING FOR:

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Qualification:

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- A minimum of seven years of professional work experience in parliamentary activities;
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- Fluency in English and Ukrainian languages.



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- Fluency in English and Ukrainian languages.



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- Coordinate finalization of Strategic development plan for the VRU Secretariat and facilitate its implementation;
- Lead the team of PRO coordinators in the area of Institutional Reform and Capacity Building;

Qualification:

- At least Master's degree or equivalent in public administration, political science, law, international relations, social sciences or related field;
- A minimum of five years of professional work experience in institutional reform and capacity building of public institutions;
- A minimum of two years of leading /coordinating a team of experts;
- Fluency in English and Ukrainian languages.



EMBASSY OF ITALY IN KYIV VACANCY NOTICE FOR TWO EMPLOYEES (SIX MONTHS)

The Embassy of Italy in Kyiv is seeking two employees – administrative assistants, for a term of six months. Information and requirements on www.ambkiev.esteri.it. The candidatures, with CV and motivation letter, are expected within 30 April 2019, 12h00 by email at ambasciata.kiev@esteri.it.

ПОСОЛЬСТВО ІТАЛІЙСЬКОЇ РЕСПУБЛІКИ В УКРАЇНІ ОГОЛОШЕННЯ ПРО ПРИЙОМ НА РОБОТУ 2 ПРАЦІВНИКІВ ЗА СТРОКОВИМ ТРУДОВИМ ДОГОВОРІМ

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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:

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ACDI/VOCA is seeking national **management** and **technical** experts for the **Agriculture Growing Rural Opportunities (AGRO)** Project funded by USAID in Ukraine. The project will improve agriculture sector competitiveness by supporting agribusinesses to meet international quality and safety standards and will enhance rural development through viable economic strategies that stimulate economic growth and employment. The 5-year activity is envisioned to start in the 2nd half of 2019.

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Qualifications

While each position will have its own operational and technical scope under the project, overall qualifications will meet the below:

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Please e-mail your resume to AgroExperts@activoca.org or apply directly online at. The applications will be reviewed **promptly** upon receipt. No phone or e-mail inquiries. Only finalists will be contacted.



International Finance Corporation (IFC)
– member of the World Bank Group – is looking for an experienced finance assistant for its country office in Ukraine (Kyiv).

Degree in accounting, finance or business with at least 4 years of experience and strong English skills are mandatory.

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