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See Entertainment Guide on pages 12, 13

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BUSINESS WITH A HUMAN FACE AND GOD'S BLESSING!

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 World in Ukraine: Sweden   

Ukraine Strengthened By Sweden's Support



See World in Ukraine: Sweden coverage on pages 5 - 10

The west coast of Sweden near the North Sea is primarily known for its vacation homes and busy summers, although some choose it as their permanent home. The enclave of Bohuslan is located between the Swedish city of Gothenburg and the Norwegian capital of Oslo. Sweden is one of Ukraine's top supporters in the European Union, with annual bilateral aid of 30 million euros and a tough stance in support of sanctions against Russia for the Kremlin's five-year-old war against Ukraine. (Per Pixel Petersson/imagebank.sweden.se)

Besieged activists in Odesa hope for improvements under Zelenskiy

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

ODESA, Ukraine — To the sounds of children's laughter, the meowing of kittens and distant tunes of jazz, the angry activists rallied on May 12 in the City Garden in Odesa's historic center. They were demanding that police stop illegal construction at the site of the abandoned Summer Theater.

more Odesa on page 18

Zelenskiy takes office on May 20; will he call early parliament vote?

BY BERMET TALANT
BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

Editor's Note: Election Watch is a regular update on the 2019 presidential and upcoming parliamentary elections. The project is supported by the National Endowment for Democracy. Content is independent of the donor.

Comedic actor Volodymyr Zelenskiy will be sworn in as president of Ukraine on May 20, nearly a month after his landslide win over President Petro Poroshenko. With an earlier-than-expected date set for the inauguration, Zelenskiy will have enough time to seek new parliamentary elections as early as this summer. If he dissolves parliament by the legal deadline of May 27, the vote could take place on July 21

more Inauguration on page 3

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CURRENCY WATCH
Hr 26.46 to \$1
May 16 market rate



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A classical music collection heads to Ukraine, with love

BY ASKOLD KRUSHELNYCKY
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ARLINGTON, Virginia — Rostyslav Sonevtsky had an undying love for two things: music and the country that he left as a young boy amidst the tumult of World War II. Now that love has become an unusual gift to Ukrainian Catholic University's Metropolitan Sheptytsky Cultural Center in Lviv.

Sonevtsky, who was born in Ternopil in 1933, studied at the Lviv music conservatory with dreams of becoming an orchestra conductor. Then, the war shattered that ambition and he was forced to leave his homeland in 1944. He eventually arrived in America as a refugee in 1950, and, after completing U.S. military service, he obtained a master's degree in economics from Columbia University in New York.

He found professional success as an economist. But music remained a vital part of Rostyslav's life. He began acquiring an extensive collection of classical musical scores and gramophone records that he continued to build until his death in 1995.

"Rostyslav was always concerned about what would happen to his collection," Chrystia Sonevtsky, Rostyslav's wife, said. "He wanted it to be kept together and for it to be a resource for students of music and music history."

At her home in Arlington, across the Potomac River from the American capital Washington, there was an atmosphere of excitement mixed with emotional recollections on May 11, as Chrystia and some helpers dispatched the collection to Lviv to fulfill her late husband's wish.

Chrystia was also uprooted by the war. Her parents left their home in what is now western Ukraine in January 1940 and she was born in Poland later that year. After the war she and her parents lived in refugee camps in Austria until emigrating to Canada in 1949.

Chrystia, who later moved to the U.S., first graduated from the University of Manitoba in Canada and later received master's degrees from the University of Hawaii in pharmacology and another in education from Virginia Tech.

The couple married in 1977. Both were very active members of the Ukrainian community in North America and took part in the diaspora's work to promote awareness about Ukraine and its independence aspirations when the country was part of the Soviet empire.

After Ukrainian independence,



Chrystia Sonevtsky with some of her husband's music collection at her home in Arlington, Virginia. (Askold Krushelnicky)

their home was always open to visitors from Ukraine, both private individuals and officials. They helped Ukraine's first diplomats and officials establish the new country's presence in official America. They were always ready to support efforts to help Ukraine with their own work and financial contributions.

In the early 1990s, a visiting Ukrainian economist told Rostyslav that there was no English-Ukrainian dictionary to explain economic terms. That was proving a handicap for many in both the Ukrainian government and in private enterprise who were involved in often complex negotiations or proposals with Western partners.

So Rostyslav worked in his free time to produce a dictionary explaining in Ukrainian the meaning of some 5,600 terms. Published in 1995 and entitled "Basic Economic and Financial and Business Terminology," it has been used by many Ukrainian ministries and educational establishments. It remains, as far as Chrystia knows, the only work of its kind in Ukraine.

Chrystia has also devoted much time to Ukrainian causes, often with a focus on education and youth.

She initiated the "twinning" of Arlington, where she has lived since 1989, with Ivano-Frankivsk, the city in western Ukraine where her own mother studied. That "Sister Cities" project has helped arrange exchange visits for dozens of students from both countries.

Musical aspiration

Rostyslav's family had a strong musical background. His mother was a pianist and his aunt an opera singer. His older brother, Ihor, studied at musical academies in Vienna and Munich and became an accomplished pianist and conductor.

Ihor Sonevtsky composed an opera, a ballet, chamber music, piano works and choral music and lectured at the Ukrainian Catholic University

the most important, and some less famed, classical composers from around the world.

Rostyslav only traveled to Ukraine once after the war, arriving with his wife on independence day in 1991. But he made sure to visit Lviv and the music conservatory that had left a lasting influence on him and about which he often fondly reminisced.

So for Chrystia, who has been a frequent visitor to Ukraine, Lviv always seemed the natural destination for her husband's rare collection. As she discovered more about the UCU and its new information and cultural center — which is named in honor of one of the Ukrainian Catholic Church's most important and inspiring leaders, Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky — she became convinced its modern archival facilities would provide the best home for the collection.

After discussions with the center's director, Oleh Yaskiv, Chrystia set about the complicated task of transporting 794 vinyl records, 220 music scores, and many books about music to Ukraine.

She received valuable assistance in that from the U.S.—Ukraine Business Council and its president Morgan Williams, who has known Chrystia for 20 years, and Tanya Shea, who runs a volunteer group called the People of Ukraine Foundation.

Williams praised Chrystia's great track record "in a very large number of humanitarian, cultural, educational and historical-related projects to support Ukraine and promote Ukraine in the U.S.A." He and the USUBC have previously supported education-related projects in Ukraine and, as soon as he learned about Chrystia's plan, Williams happily pledged to help out.

Two of USUBC's Ukrainian staff, Nadiia Khomaziuk and husband Oleksiy Slusarenko, volunteered to assist with arrangements and themselves helped pack the collection into 19 large boxes weighing a hefty 805 kilos.

Kyiv-born Shea has lived in America for 20 years. Her foundation, started in 2016 with several volunteers in both the U.S. and Ukraine, has provided assistance to wounded Ukrainian military veterans and also served civilian needs.

She is particularly interested in education-related issues and believes Rostyslav's collection will be a valuable asset for Ukraine's students and scholars. Shea helped with arrangements for shipping the collection — due to arrive in Lviv in June — and even did some of the heavy lifting last weekend.

Chrystia sees the collection becoming part of the UCU archives as a fitting tribute to her husband's passion for music and Ukraine.

"I'm sure the UCU will be thoughtful guardians of this legacy and it will make a significant contribution to the library and become a wonderful resource for musicians and those so inclined from other institutions and music conservatories in Ukraine," she said. "That's my dream and I'm sure that would be Rostyslav's dream also." ■



Chrystia and Rostyslav Sonevtsky in 1980s.

(UCU) in Rome. After he died in 2006, his archive went to the UCU in Lviv.

Although Rostyslav's career was not in the world of music, Chrystia told the Kyiv Post that music was the constant motif that ran through her husband's life.

"With his first paycheck, once he started working, he bought a classical record and he kept doing that every time he was paid for the rest of his life," she said. "He also started buying music scores. Often he bought more than one score for the same piece of music as he wanted to compare different arrangements by various artists."

She said the couple regularly attended classical music concerts and operas. However, her husband's great joy was listening to concerts on radio or his gramophone records and following the music on the scores to understand how various conductors interpreted the original composer's work.

German Richard Wagner was among Rostyslav's favorite composers, and he delighted in Wagner's opera "Tristan and Isolde," which he and Chrystia attended many times.

Scores and recordings of Wagner's works form the largest portion of the collection, which encompasses

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Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, frontman of the popular Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy, prepares to make an announcement that he will run for Ukrainian parliament on May 16, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Poroshenko hands out awards on way out as Vakarchuk starts party

Inauguration from page 1

instead of the scheduled date of Oct. 27.

The latest poll shows that Zelenskiy's neophyte party does better than the established ones and would win the majority of seats in parliament if the election was today.

In a survey by three pollsters—Social Monitoring, Rating, and the Ukrainian Institute of Sociological Research—released on May 16, Servant of the People got 39.9 percent of the votes of respondents who have made up their mind. Russia-friendly consortium Opposition Platform—Za Zhittya took second with 10.9 percent. Petro Poroshenko Bloc got 10.9 percent. Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna got 9.1 percent.



Two other parties — former SBU chief Ihor Smeshko's Power and Dignity and Civic Position of former defense minister Anatoly Grytsenko — received 5.1 percent and 5 percent of the vote respectively, placing them within the minimum electoral threshold.

The Voice

Besides Zelenskiy's Servant of the People, this parliamentary election promises several new parties.

After his disappointing experience as a lawmaker over a decade ago, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, frontman of the popular Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy, will try his chances in the Ukrainian legislature for the second time. But this time he will run with his own political party, which he announced on May 16: Holos, or "voice" and "the vote" in Ukrainian.

Vakarchuk has the advantage of wide public recognition and positions himself as a new face in politics running against corrupt political elites.

He also has introduced a team whose members don't have strictly defined titles in the musician's campaign office or promised spots on the party list, but will help him shape his program on a range of issues, from healthcare to economy and anti-corruption policy.

They have a lot of work to do. In the poll, Vakarchuk's party received under 1 percent.

Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman's party polls at even less, 0.7 percent. He hasn't announced his party yet but has already said he will run for parliament separately from his long-time ally Poroshenko.

Without a party, Groysman has already launched his promotion campaign partially paid for with taxpayers money. His office has spent nearly Hr 36 million (\$1.3 million) on billboards and print ads for "Groysman's government," according to a watchdog Chesno.

Simultaneously, new billboards for Groysman have been placed on behalf of public organization Ukrainian Strategy. Social media campaign GoGro so far is present only on Facebook and Telegram and targets a younger audience with memes and funny pictures, mixed with Groysman's quotes.

Poroshenko's Bloc is about to lose another ally, according to Novoye Vremya and Ukrainska Pravda media outlets. UDAR, the party of Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, is preparing to run independently.

Samopomich, once a strong political group of reformists that came third in the 2014 parliamentary election, is in crisis. A number of its prominent members left the party which now polls at around 2 percent.

Its leader, Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi, acknowledged the party's mistakes and promised that two thirds of its list in the upcoming elections would be new people, selected through an open and transparent competition.

In a follow-up interview with the Kyiv Post, Sadovyi weighed in on the party's re-election chances: "Samopomich will be in the next parliament because we are needed there."

Giveaway

The delay with setting the inauguration date bought some time for the departing President Poroshenko to change military officials, appoint judges, and give away awards.

Besides distinguished Ukrainian doctors, teachers, and other professionals and public workers, Poroshenko showed his appreciation to his allies and administration staffers.

SBU chief Vasyl Hrytsak received the title of Hero of Ukraine. Poroshenko's spokesman Svyatoslav Tsegolko, head of his election campaign office Oleg Medvedev, and adviser Ruslan Demchenko received the Orders of Merit. ■

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Editorials

'Bronx cheer' for Rudy

On May 9, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani announced he was coming to Kyiv.

U.S. President Donald Trump's personal lawyer said he planned to meet with President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy to support two investigations beneficial to Trump: one into alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election against Trump, and another into whether ex-Vice President Joe Biden pressured Ukraine to fire its prosecutor general in 2016 to protect his son's business interests.

Then, just a day later, Giuliani announced he wasn't coming, blaming "enemies of the president, in some cases enemies of the United States."

Good riddance. The only "enemy of the United States" in this case is Giuliani, whose provocative trip would have been politically destabilizing for Ukraine, an American ally.

Both of Giuliani's "investigations" are fundamentally flawed narratives pushed by Trump's circle and, apparently, even Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko, to advance their own interests.

The "Ukraine interference" narrative focuses on the "black ledger" of ousted President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions, which revealed illegal payments to former Trump campaign chair and convicted financial criminal Paul Manafort. Giuliani notes that a court ruled it had been illegally leaked.

Even if we accept that ruling (which is being appealed), so-called "Ukrainian interference" bears few similarities to the very real Russian interference in the U.S. election. Unlike Moscow, Ukraine neither hacked the emails of government or political institutions, nor impersonated Americans online in a move to destabilize the vote. Rather, two officials simply released documents attesting to Manafort's corruption.

These documents pertain to corruption in Ukraine. Thus, their release — legal or not — is not election interference.

The Biden narrative is too complicated to rehash here. But suffice it to say, it has been refuted by countless experts and anti-corruption activists. In 2016, Biden indeed pressured Ukraine to fire Viktor Shokin, its ineffective, weak prosecutor general. In doing so, he called for a decision supported both by Ukrainian reformers and Kyiv's Western partners. No conspiracy here.

Giuliani should stay away from politics and stick to his lucrative consulting work for the city of Kharkiv. Given recent scandals surrounding a high-profile car crash there, they could use the help.

Kolomoisky test case

It's not a good sign that billionaire oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky feels confident enough to return to Ukraine after two years in self-exile. Who's next? Exiled oligarch Dmytro Firtash, who continues to fight extradition to the United States from exile in Austria on corruption charges that he denies? Members of Viktor Yanukovich's gang that allegedly stole \$40 billion during the ex-president's time in power from 2010-2014?

The first test for President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy will be to install a prosecutor general who can open a long overdue and much-needed criminal investigation into the alleged \$5.6 billion bank fraud involving PrivatBank. By the time the state took over Ukraine's largest financial institution from Kolomoisky, taxpayers were stuck with the tab — part of the gigantic \$20 billion bank fraud in the Yanukovich era.

We believe ex-National Bank of Ukraine governor Valeria Gontareva when she told the Kyiv Post in 2016 that "70 percent or 80 percent of cases are just simple fraud or money laundering. You do not need any high-quality forensic professionals. We've already documented all this fraud and money laundering."

The four obstructionists who have served as prosecutors general since the EuroMaidan Revolution ousted Yanukovich have protected the corruptionists, not prosecuted them.

All of this has to change — and now — with the firing of Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and the replacement of him with credible crime fighters. Zelenskiy will be challenged on many fronts and he must rise to the occasion. Of all his priorities, seeking justice must be high on the list.

NEWS ITEM: Four months after it's creation, the unified and independent Orthodox Church of Ukraine is going through its first scandal. Patriarch Emeritus Filaret, a big fighter for Ukrainian church's independence from the Russian church, said he was told he would be head of the new church, while instead, a younger bishop, Epiphanius, was elected to lead the church. The church's administration denied there was a split within the church.



NEWS ITEM: On May 9, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who now serves as U.S. President Donald Trump's personal lawyer, announced he was coming to Kyiv. He wanted to push investigations into alleged Ukrainian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and weak corruption allegations against former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden. A day later, facing criticism for the politicized nature of his trip, Giuliani canceled it, blaming "enemies of the president, in some cases enemies of the United States."

NEWS ITEM: President Petro Poroshenko has been giving out state awards, military ranks, and government posts in bunches during his last weeks of the presidency as he is about to be replaced by President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy. Among the people he awarded or promoted were controversial officials, such as Deputy Head of State Security Service Pavlo Demchyna, who was suspected of illicit enrichment for reportedly owning properties a government salary can't afford.



Kyiv Post

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World in Ukraine

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

In partnership with Lantmannen Cerealia

Swedish ambassador assesses his 3-year tour of duty in Ukraine

BY BRIAN BONNER
BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

When asked what he'll miss most about his three years as Sweden's ambassador to Ukraine, Martin Hagstrom's response was quick and decisive: traveling around Ukraine.

He's been to every oblast except Ternopil, which he plans to visit

before Stockholm calls him back to the Foreign Ministry for reassignment in August. His successor has not been named yet.

Despite his extensive travels, he wishes he would have gone to even more places.

"That's something I really enjoyed and will miss – meeting with active Ukrainians. When you meet with



Swedish Ambassador to Ukraine Martin Hagstrom speaks at the 2018 Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum. The 2019 event will take place on May 23 at the Parkovy Business Center in Kyiv, with more than 500 participants expected. (Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum)

people who are engaged in many different projects and who are actively trying to change things, it's very rewarding. It's a very beautiful coun-

try and I have not seen enough of it."

In the could-have-been-better category, Hagstrom said he had hoped for greater economic ties between

the two nations.

"I would have been very happy to

more Ambassador on page 10

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Who we are, what we do: Lantmännen is an agricultural cooperative and Northern Europe's leader in agriculture, machinery, bioenergy and food products. Lantmännen is owned by 25,000 Swedish farmers.

Lantmännen Cerealia is a food group with operations through the entire value chain, from field to fork. Operations are conducted in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Russia and Ukraine. At Lantmännen Cerealia, we develop, produce and market a wide range of healthy and nutritious foods. The core of this assortment is grain-based products, including flour, flour mixes, granola, muesli, crisp breads, pasta and pancakes.

Lantmännen Axa in Ukraine is a part of the Lantmännen Cerealia food group, which produces breakfast cereals, granola and porridges. We also sell crisp bread, cereal bars, and other products through our brands START, AXA and FINNCRISP. Lantmännen Axa develops healthy, nutritious and convenient food that meets the needs and wishes of customers and consumers in a responsible way. We are proud of being a food company, and of making a positive difference in food.



This year, Lantmännen as a company and an employer focused on safety and health at work. We want to take this opportunity to highlight our safety work and show examples of our proactive work around Lantmännen.

We create a culture where we take care of our colleagues and our business. Nobody should be injured or put in a dangerous situation at work. So Lantmännen works continuously and systematically to eliminate risks and prevent accidents.

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medical insurance for our employees, which includes regular checkups in order to keep abreast of people's health and give them support just in time if needed," says Iryna Pronina, legal & acting HR director.

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Despite Ukraine's promise, Swedish investors wary

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH
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Sweden is Ukraine's biggest economic partner in Scandinavia. But there's still a lot of room for growth — and for Ukraine to gain the trust of the Swedish business community.

In 2018, the two countries' total trade turnover in goods and services reached a modest \$694.3 million, or 0.6 percent of all of Ukraine's international trade, according to the Ukrainian side. The Swedish side puts the bilateral trade figure lower, estimating it at \$415 million last year, dominated by Swedish exports to Ukraine.

Overall, however, bilateral trade in goods increased by 7 percent last year compared to 2017.

But the Swedish-Ukrainian business story is also one strongly affected by Russia's war in Ukraine. Bilateral trade is affected by Moscow's annexation of Crimea and invasion of the Donbas in 2014.

In 2013, before the war, recession and revolution, trade stood at \$687.38 million. It peaked in 2008 with trade in goods only at \$801.3 million.

Today, more than 100 Swedish companies operate in Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian Embassy in Sweden. Among the most recognizable are H&M which entered the Ukrainian market in 2018, Volvo,

Scania, SKF, and Sigma Software. Another Swedish giant, Ikea, confirmed that it plans to open its first store in Kyiv soon.

But Russia's ongoing war gives Swedish businesses the jitters. Many remain hesitant to invest in Ukraine, according to Anders Ostlund, founder of Ukraina Invest, which provides services for Swedish companies interested in doing business in Ukraine.

"We know that the front line is some 10 hours driving from Kyiv," Ostlund told the Kyiv Post. "It's great suffering, (but) it's not moving away from eastern Ukraine."

Apples for Sweden

In 2018, Ukraine's exports to Sweden totaled \$171.4 million. Meanwhile imports from Sweden were roughly three times higher, reaching \$522.9 million, according to Ukraine's State Statistics Service.

"On a national level, it is a very small amount. Sweden is much more distant for Ukrainian exports compared to other countries," Olexandr Mashynets, commercial and trade officer at the Embassy of Sweden in Kyiv, told the Kyiv Post.

Still, important Ukrainian sectors are indeed selling their goods in Sweden. One is agriculture.

Last year, Ukraine exported some 37,000 tons of apples to more than 60 countries globally.

Sweden was the third most popu-



Over 100 Swedish companies currently work in Ukraine, according to the Embassy of Ukraine in Sweden. And while Swedish investors are mostly afraid of the war in eastern Ukraine, furniture giant IKEA plans to operate in the Ukrainian market this year. (Per Pixel Petersson/imagebank.sweden.se)

lar destination — taking over 9 percent of apple exports — after Belarus (40 percent) and Moldova (14 percent), according to Ukrsadprom, the Ukrainian fruit and berry association.

"I think this is due to an adequate balance of quality and prices for Ukrainian products. The Scandinavians are frugal and not ready to pay for poor quality," said Yuriy Vakhel, the association's head.

Because of its unique climate, Ukraine is only one of three countries in Europe that can grow premium quality apples. The other two are France and Italy.

Additionally, Ukraine can compete with those two countries both in terms of price and logistics, according to Andriy Yarmak, investment officer at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

"In Sweden, retail prices are high and people prefer good quality premium apples, and Ukraine is very competitive pricewise in this premium segment," Yarmak said.

For Swedish importer Hebe Frukt & Grönt, Ukrainian apples were an incredible discovery last year. The company now sees huge potential in importing Ukrainian fruit.

"We received the correct quality and the right color and size, with a fantastic taste!" Daniel Larsson, Hebe's head of purchase, told the Kyiv Post. "We will definitely continue to import apples from the 'garden of Europe' in the future, and we have even considered expanding into other kinds of fruits and berries."

Hebe has been importing a diverse supply of apple types from Ukraine.

"So far we have tried Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji and Florina, but there are so many more that it's worth putting in efforts to launch on the Swedish market," said

Larsson.

Yarmak also forecasts increased imports of fresh produce this year, including fresh berries.

No rules, no game

But despite Ukraine's efforts to attract more foreign investors over the past five years, major obstacles remain. That is particularly true when the destination is Sweden.

Besides Russia's war, Ukrainian companies struggle to meet the Swedish market's high standards and certification requirements, according to Mashynets.

More critically, the country's extensive internal corruption is bleeding the economy dry and continues to repel investors.

"Everybody wants to see transparent rules of the game, to see that the level of corruption tends to decline toward Sweden's level of almost zero," said Bohdan Senchuk, president of the Swedish Business Association in Ukraine.

"Unfortunately, Ukraine is not showing good signs here," he added.

According to Ostlund, there appears to be less "low level," everyday corruption in Ukraine today than there was five years ago. But it is the non-transparent judicial system and courts that many Swedish companies operating in Ukraine despise.

"One company had around 90

court sessions over a simple commercial matter from 2013 to 2014. To (the Swedish company), this looks strange and they are confused," Mashynets said.

For Swedish businesses, stability, clear laws and long-term prospects are very important, according to Tahir Musayev, commercial director of the Grain Alliance, a Swedish agricultural company operating in Ukraine.

"Often something is discussed for a long, long time, and then the opposite of what is discussed is adopted in law," he said.

For Musayev, who works for a company with 57,000 hectares and that exports almost everything it produces — soy, corn, wheat, sunflower — the issue of transporting grain to sea ports still leaves much to be desired.

"We have not yet developed a transport market with a Western understanding of responsibility, where there will be no losses along the way, and the delivery will be made within the (agreed-upon) time frame," he said.

Meanwhile, unlike the Grain Alliance, few Swedish companies succeeded in agriculture in Ukraine.

"(Companies) were not prepared for dealing with Ukrainian bureaucracy, corruption and the problem of getting financed," Ostlund said. ■



Government type: **Parliamentary constitutional monarchy**



Chief of State:
King Carl
XVI Gustaf



Prime Minister:
Stefan
Lofven



GDP, PPP:
\$551.14 billion

GDP per capita, PPP:
\$53,870



Total area:
450,295 square kilometers



Population:
10.23 million

World Bank's Doing Business
Ranking: 12

Credit ratings:
S&P, Fitch AAA (stable),
Moody's Aaa (stable)

Main economic sectors:

Automotive, telecommunications, pharmaceuticals, chemical products, home goods and appliances, forestry, iron and steel production.



Trade including services:

\$694.3 million

Exports from Ukraine to Sweden:
Wood and wood products, ferrous metals, furniture, plastics and polymers, products made of stone, gypsum, cement, nuclear reactor components, textile clothing
\$ 171.4 million

Imports to Ukraine from Sweden:
Nuclear reactor components, cars and mechanisms, paper and cardboard, transport equipment, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, electrical machines, vegetable and animal oils and fats
\$522.9 million.



Swedish foreign direct investment in Ukraine: **\$341.8 million (as of Jan. 1, 2019)**

Source: International Monetary Fund, U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, Embassy of Ukraine in the Kingdom of Sweden

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Evgeniy Radovenyuk, CEO of the Baryshivka grain company Grain Alliance: the basis of our philosophy is to be the most efficient and stable agribusiness, sensitive to the problems of Ukrainian villages

With today's economic realities in Ukraine, agribusiness remains an industry, on which the development of rural communities depends to a large extent. Civilized conditions for the provision of educational and medical services, infrastructure development, support for culture and sports in the countryside are already traditional directions of assistance to agribusiness. That charitable aid must be effectively combined with the industrial discipline, the development of the enterprise, the introduction of innovations. It is in this synergy of effort that Baryshivka Grain Company LLC Grain Alliance has been operating in Ukraine for over 20 years. Read more about the company's work, their latest approaches to governance and charity - in an interview with the general executive director of Baryshivka grain company Grain Alliance Evgeniy Radovenyuk.

Tell us more about the activity of the Baryshivka grain company Grain Alliance.

The history of this enterprise began in 1998. For the past 10 years, it has become part of the international holding Grain Alliance. Today the company has 100% Swedish investments, handles about 56 thousand hectares of land in four regions of Ukraine: Kyiv, Cherkassy, Poltava and Chernihiv. The company employs 5 elevators, which have a total capacity of 256 thousand tons of storage. We have more than 1200 heads of cattle in the field of animal husbandry. I would define the company's main motto as follows: "We strive to be as efficient, stable, and socially responsible, as a large European agribusiness enterprise sensitive to the problems of the Ukrainian village." Therefore, the main directions in the company determine the constant technical improvement, optimization of production processes. In addition, social responsibility plays an important role in our work. We provide for more than 1,100 employees. And it is extremely important that this is, first and foremost, work for the inhabitants of rural areas.

Do you plan to increase the number of elevators within the company?

Today, we place a great priority on the optimization of already created capacity. We are working on increasing the carrying capacity of elevators, first of all, Pyryatynsky and Nizhynsky, which were built "from scratch", using modern grain storage technologies. We also focus our efforts on creating efficient logistic mechanisms, optimizing works in the "reception-storage-shipment" chain. Of course, looking forward to expand capacities. But this question depends directly on volumes of production, volumes of the land bank. The increase of these characteristics will result in the development and elevator economy.

In some of the previous years, grain sales were a major problem for agricultural producers. How Baryshivka Grain Company has met these problems?

The geography of our shipment is quite wide. For example, we have been cooperating with Japan in the direction of commodity soy for a long time. All our products in this cluster are grown for the highest quality criteria, we do not use any GMO components. The work of our gauge plant in Baryshivka, which is equipped with modern grain processing equipment of Japanese manufacture, contributes to the respect of our clients. While working through traders, shipments go through seaports. In today's realities, the farmer has become an independent player in this market, which requires very large volumes of production. In general, agricultural production is a very promising industry and in terms of productivity and production results, it has a very high potential. And the industry will develop. But, at the same time, one cannot overlook certain restrictions in it. Last year was perhaps one of the greatest harvests in the history of the country. That logistics system was not ready for such volumes of transportation, it was very difficult to ship grain. Therefore, logistics is the infrastructure that will require the greatest investment in the near future.

To development issues. What innovations have you introduced in production and what are you planning to do?

In the industry, we were among the first to introduce information technology in the agro-industry. That progress is not in place, and we already see what directions again require investment. Over the past few years, we have come to the conclusion that significant changes are required in sowing technologies. Today we are implementing a program of precise agriculture in our fields. This is a complex challenge, which includes the latest technology, information systems and new approaches to the seeding process. If for the last 4-5 years we actively invested in the development of elevator infrastructure, then for the past one and a half years we have been seriously engaged in sowing. The new units we have purchased are more efficient at the expense of their technical characteristics. For example, we are already using seeders produced by the Swedish company Vaderstad, and we see that they confirm the reputation of seed systems that are among the best in the world. Also, we have all running synchronous driving systems, which enable to accelerate the rate of sowing, reduce the number of involved units. This system is already confidently working in one of our regions. Other innovations of ours are in the elevator industry. In 2014 there were expected problems with gas supply to Ukraine. Then we implemented a strategy of energy saving, which



Evgeniy Radovenyuk
CEO of Grain Alliance

equipped our elevators with heat generators working on the waste of grain processing. And today, we have already 70% refused to use natural gas in elevators. Last year, when the prices of blue fuel from 9000 reached 14000-15000 during the "active season", we practically did not feel it. We saw the effectiveness when in the season our grain drying costs decreased by 5-9 times compared with those periods when we used gas. This gave us the opportunity to save about a million dollars. Therefore, it will probably be fair to say that we are one of the most energy-efficient enterprises. There is also one innovation, an organizational one. This year we abandoned the position of the chief agronomist in making manufacturing decisions. We have created such a "team chief agronomist". This is a group of specialists who work together, discuss proposals and make decisions together. Such is a group brain. What will happen from this, we will see, but the idea is interesting from different points of view. In this case, on the one hand, the multiplicity of decision-making increases, because it is the view of the team from different sides, on the other - it reduces the possibilities for abuses or one-sided decisions.

Let's talk about the staff of the company. How do you motivate your employees?

Today our team has over 1100 employees. It's a lot. This is due to the fact that the company is socially responsible. For many rural communities where the company operates, we can be the largest employers. And this imposes a responsibility both on the issues of workplaces and on the issue of decent pay. Everyone knows that over the past three years, wages in Ukraine have increased significantly and increased in real value. Baryshivka grain company has always paid and pays the market "net" wages, unlike companies that can pay the work of employees "through the envelope." Salary is transparent, we pay taxes, people are socially protected. Many well-known experts already appreciate this advantage - let it be a little lower salary, but guaranteed pension deductions, "hospital", the rest of social guarantees. Of course, there are also separate mechanisms of awards for the quality of work performed, for personal accomplishments. This is something related to the financial side. There are also moments of non-financial incentives. For example, English language learning groups work at the company. By business, training is counted as working time. Sometimes we are asked: Why is this for the village? But we want to look further at the present. Domestic agro-industry is increasingly integrated into the world economy, and our people can travel more and more without a visa.

We are interested in developing our employees so that they, in the first place, can communicate with the world, have access to international communication. We want it so that they can feel free and have been people of world society. Separately, during the last one and a half years we have started to organize business trips to the hearts of leading European manufacturers of machinery, seeds, agro-chemistry of Europe and America. It would be desirable for people to see German, Austrian, Swedish culture, so that they "do not cook in their own juice", see the best practices, understand that they could improve themselves.

To the market of land. How much does it affect the company?

We work in realities. There is nothing, and you will not do anything. It is necessary to work, to grow bread - and we work. The main thing for the industry is to have certainty, clear rules of the game. There is no land market, but you can work. There are many countries where land is not in circulation and the agro branch works efficiently. There are countries where the land is privately owned, and they are also actively working. Of course, I believe that the land market will come to be. But the important thing is

that it's the market itself, and not specific usage patterns. Because if the schemes are the same, it will have a very negative impact on the industry. The market is a competition, it's always good. The sector will win, because the best technologies, best approaches and investments will be introduced.

If enterprises become owners of the land on which they work, they will be interested in long-term investments. Nobody is drunk enough to cut a cow for even ten buckets of milk, right? Competition always gives you choice, opportunities for improvement. On the other hand, the land will be the subject of collateral for bank capital, which will enable agribusiness to better lend. Owners of the land, ordinary people, also benefit from the market. Because the land will be a high price, for it will compete agro enterprises.

This is a gain for the state - additional revenues to the budget, which will allow to be calculated on the basis of international obligations. If there are schemes of the earth, only those who have access to these schemes will win. The same agro-branch will slowly degenerate.

What risks does the company face when working in Ukraine and how do you minimize them?

The greatest risk is some kind of chronic uncertainty, instability. These factors can be minimized only by focusing on long-term relationships with business partners. We work on this principle. If the relationship with our shareholders is a long-term one. If with banks - also stable and long-term. We bring our partners to base our cooperation on integrity and honesty. For 12 years, we have been working with three banks, and every now and then cooperation becomes closer.

We also have long-term relationships with buyers, which include trust, certain moments of integration of plans, thinking, and culture. In conditions of total uncertainty, long relationships are the thread that helps keep up. One supports another and it is always in the favor. As for other risks, this is the weather. Yet agricultural production is very method-dependent. Geographic diversification, timeliness of technological operations, their speed, stable financial partners, and globalization make it possible to work efficiently.

You said that one of the characteristic of the company is its social responsibility.

This is one of the cornerstones of our work with rural communities. In 2013, we created a charitable foundation, which today is called "Baryshivka Grain Company". This is part of the strategy for the formation of a large, active, stable, but at the same time, a socially responsible agrarian enterprise. The Fund financed various programs in the areas of education, health care, infrastructure development, namely rural areas. If schools are energy efficient,



new heating systems, material support of educational processes, provision of connection to the Internet. If rural FAPs or outpatient clinics are repairs of premises, provision of on-site visits by specialists from regional or district health care facilities with appropriate technical equipment. We also support the development of rural sports, we build children's playgrounds for the smallest villagers.

To sum up, tell us about the company's plans for the coming years.

First, we always improve what we create. And increasing efficiency and innovation is a guarantee of development of our enterprise and the welfare of our employees. Secondly, improving the performance of the elevator group. We want to increase the capacity of these facilities, improve the quality of the passage, improve the logistics. This direction is also very important for us. The third is active and reasonable growth of the land bank. We want to work on a larger scale. Fourth - we are studying new directions of vertical integration, processing. And although some projects have not yet come, we are actively studying this topic.

Swedes in Ukraine are few, but committed to helping

BY VYACHESLAV HNATYUK
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Although there are not many Swedes living in Ukraine — about 150 — their presence has a strong influence on the growing bilateral relations. Swedes who have committed their lives to Ukraine tend to occupy managerial positions and are motivated to spread Western democratic values. The Kyiv Post spoke with some members of Swedish community in Ukraine.

Andreas Flodström



Andreas Flodström, a 31-year-old entrepreneur, first arrived in Ukraine in 2011. The next

year, he decided to stay. Back then, he had extensively traveled around Eastern Europe and “found Ukraine and Kyiv very dynamic with a lot of positive energy.” This country fascinated him with its “mix of the old and new in terms of the society.” The vibrant Ukrainian “new” caught his attention.

Flodström and his partners established and developed a successful information technology company called Beetroot. Within the first 18 months, they grew to 20 people about the time that the 2014 EuroMaidan Revolution ousted former President Viktor Yanukovich.

The revolution deepened Flodström’s commitment to Ukraine. “Let us be part of this positive change” was the new spirit in his team.

Trusting people and their abilities is the most important thing to suc-

ceed in Ukraine, Flodström believes. He says “it is easier to find people with a strong drive forward than in my own country.” The decentralized Beetroot now runs in 13 different locations without a strong hierarchical control.

Beetroot won the WorldBlu Freedom-Centered Cultures Award, beating out 31 other companies, for having the most freedom-centered workplace cultures.

Flodström will stay in Ukraine if the nation continues reforms, especially in education and infrastructure. The key indicator for him is how Ukraine tackles corruption. “Almost all the problems in Ukraine in some way or another are connected to corruption in power structures,” he said.

Mona Folkesson



Mona Folkesson, 36, came to Ukraine a year and a half ago to work as the head of the United

Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office in Ukraine where she is responsible for monitoring Ukraine’s sustainable development in poverty eradication and fighting corruption.

Folkesson arrived in Kyiv from Africa on a cold November day and still found that “Kyiv exceeded all expectations.” She admitted that there was “general negativity” in the media towards Ukraine before she came, but “the very beautiful introduction to Kyiv” helped her overcome existing prejudices.

In Ukraine, Folkesson enjoys “the variety of seasons,” “accessibility of different cultural (events),” as well as



Cherries bloom on a May day in Stockholm’s Kungsträdgården (‘King’s Garden’), which serves as the Swedish capital’s central park. (Lola Akinmade Åkerström/imagebank.sweden.se)

trips to the Carpathian Mountains.

As of now, Folkesson has mostly seen big cities in Ukraine and she wishes to travel more to Ukraine’s “vast rural countryside” and see more of its nature. In terms of the country itself she hopes Ukraine “continues on a peaceful path” and that Ukrainians “be more open towards those having different opinions.” In Folkesson’s view, “that is important for all countries which truly wish to be democratic.”

Sophie Engström



Starting off in Ukraine right after the 2014 Orange Revolution brought Viktor Yushchenko

to power, then-freelance journalist Sophie Engström gradually paved her way into teaching Swedish at the Lviv National Ivan Franko University in Lviv, the city of 720,000 people located 541 kilometers west of Kyiv. During her first days in Ukraine Engström mentioned that Ukrainians were different from their Eastern European neighbors by being “more open and curious.”

Since 2010, Engström has been living and teaching Swedish in Lviv. At first, Engström intended to stay for a year or two, but “the best kind of combination of very interesting city and people” as well as a full-time university job convinced her to stay longer. Engström is not sure if she will stay in Ukraine for good, but she is confident that she will always keep in touch with “Ukraine — my second native country.”

The greatest wish that Engström has for Ukraine is success in combatting corruption. Engström does not see it on a daily basis but hears about it from her students and sees it through examples of rigged constructions projects surrounding her in Lviv. Her second wish for Ukraine is that a lot of young Ukrainians who have left Ukraine in search of better lives “will come back” to their native country and bring along new knowledge and ideas.

Engström believes that “patience” is the secret recipe for success in Ukraine. She also admits that at the beginning of her stay she had a sense of superiority when communicating to Ukrainians, but then Engström understood that it was not the way to live in Ukraine. “Be open-hearted and open minded to Ukraine,” is Engström’s advice to newcomers.

Linn Härfast



Linn Härfast, who heads the economic-cultural section and communications at the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine,

first came to Ukraine in 2016 as a tourist and “was stricken by how beautiful Kyiv is and all the activities you can do here.” When she was hired by the Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2017 and received the notification of her overseas posting, she “was so relieved and so happy” to read the word “Kyiv” printed in the document.

Having lived in Ukraine’s capital for two years, Härfast enjoys the cultural life of the city. “Museums, art galleries, workshops, and there is so much energy here,” Härfast said. She singles out ArtZavod Platforma for being an exclusive venue of unique events. Walking around the city has been Härfast’s favorite activity in Kyiv since her first visit back in 2016.

A native of Stockholm, Härfast enjoys the coffee culture of the Ukrainian capital. Swedes are famous for their coffee addiction, she says, and that in Kyiv one can “find high quality coffee shops everywhere” is reassuring.

Härfast recipe for success: “First of all, look at the positive trends over time and see that it is getting so much better in so many ways, but you might not notice (this progress) from day-to-day.” Second: “be cool and (believe that) everything will be sorted out — probably at the last minute, but that could be even better than we expected.”

Håkan Jyde



46-year-old Håkan Jyde has been the managing director of Scania Ukraine since the summer of

2017. But his first trip to Ukraine was in 2000 when he was visiting some colleagues during a business trip. Jyde says that today Ukraine “is much more clear in its direction now than it was” in 2000 as it chose a course of integration with the European Union. He also sees “a huge development in society, in business cycles.”

“I feel very welcome as a foreigner in Ukraine,” says Jyde, whose company has been working in Ukraine since 1993 when they opened a representative office in Kyiv. Due to successful business growth and comfortable lifestyle, Jyde intends to stay in Ukraine with his family “for many more years.”

If foreigners decide to run their businesses in Ukraine, Jyde’s advice would be to “be patient, be present. You need to be here, you need to develop your relationships here, and live in the society to understand how it works.”

Judicial reforms and the fight against corruption should be Ukraine’s two major priorities, Håkan says. “As long as ownership rights are not fully protected, investors will look somewhere else.” ■

Kyiv to host 8th Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum on May 23

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH
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On May 23, the Embassy of Sweden to Ukraine will gather the largest Swedish-Ukrainian business networking platform in Kyiv on May 23.

An annual event, this year the 8th Sweden-Ukraine Business Forum will be held at the Parkovy Business Center as the embassy is expecting around 550 guests, double the amount from last year.

Starting at 9 a.m. the forum will have lots of hot business topics providing a platform for networking and potential deals.

For example, last year’s event concluded with the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the Economy Ministry of Ukraine’s Export Promotion Office and the Swedish National Board of Trade to further deepen cooperation between Sweden and Ukraine on promoting Ukrainian exports to Sweden and other EU countries.

“The main topics will be: sustainable development and how Swedish companies build their businesses, decentralization and digital transformation, financial markets and banking products,” said Olexandr Mashynets, commercial and trade officer at Embassy of Sweden in Kyiv.

There will also be several side panels throughout the day covering such topics as Ukrainian exports to Sweden and Swedish exports to Ukraine, Sweden-Ukraine IT, as well as a special public talk with world-renowned Swedish trend-hunter Stefan Nilsson, organized by Electrolux.

This will also be an opportunity for Swedish businesses to hear about the plans of Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelenskii, who will be inaugurated on May 20, on how they plan to boost the economy and uproot corruption.

In total, some 182 organizations will be participating at the forum. These include: Volvo, Westinghouse, Atlas Copco, Beetroot Academy, Essity, Llentab and the Arbitration institute of the Stockholm Chamber of Commerce.

“There are some new companies that bought tickets that we haven’t heard of before. We are excited to meet them at the forum,” said Mashynets.

The panels will end at 5 p.m. after which there will be a cocktail party an hour later with 2019 Grammy award winner Swedish jazz artist Amanda Ginzburg performing.

For more details about the event visit www.subf.com.ua.

Sweden sets eco-trends in Ukraine, promotes sustainability and recycling

BY DARIA SHULZHENKO
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Effective waste management, sustainable consumption of goods, recycling and reduction of plastic pollution has made Sweden one of the most sustainable countries in the world.

And now, this Nordic country of nearly 10 million people, provides Ukraine with a great example to follow and supports the local environmental movements.

To raise awareness about climate change and to assist Ukraine's pub-

Attracting publicity

Sweden's reputation as one of the most sustainable country began in 1972 when it hosted the first United Nations conference on the environment that has led to the creation of the United Nations Environment Programme – the current top global environmental authority.

In 2014, the Embassy of Sweden launched a program to help Ukraine in meeting European and international environmental, climate and energy standards, providing Ukraine with investment grants, technical



Karolina Jozic (L), a counselor at the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine, and Marcus Brand, the embassy's senior advisor, attend a plogging event at Trukhaniv Island in Kyiv on April 6, 2019. (Viktorija Zhukova)

lic organizations that operate in the field of environment and energy efficiency, the Kyiv-based Embassy of Sweden has allocated over \$7 million in 2018 in helping Ukraine to become more environmentally-friendly.

Apart from the monetary assistance, the embassy brings publicity to the problem of climate change in Ukraine, arranging events where people learn more about recycling and upcycling, as well as talk about the importance of sustainable consumption of goods.

"It is important for the whole world as the climate does not have any country borders," says Linn Härfast, the head of a section of economic and cultural affairs at the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine.

Härfast, who lives in Kyiv since 2017, says there is a need to keep on sharing the Swedish experience with Ukrainians.

"This (climate change) is the biggest issue of our time, and we can make a change for the future," says Härfast.

"If we do not start to behave differently, the planet would be not livable in the near future," she adds.

assistance and supporting public organizations. The program will operate until 2020.

"Sweden has good knowledge, advantage, and expertise, and that is why we focus on (environmet)," Härfast says.

And in March 2019 Sweden has once again proved to the whole world that it really cares about the environment – over a million students all over the world joined the school strike for climate, initiated by 16-years-old Swedish student Greta Thunberg.

"We believe that we have the experience that can be shared with Ukraine," says Maria Lypiatska, the embassy's communications officer.

Ukraine has also followed the Swedish example, and on March 15, nearly 50 activists gathered in Kyiv to raise awareness about climate change and its effects on the planet, demanding the government of Ukraine to implement active climate policy.

Even though Ukraine still has no effective waste management, Härfast says she can see some positive changes.

"There are so many initiatives



People run during a plogging event organized by the Embassy of Sweden in Ukraine at Kyiv's Trukhaniv Island on April 6, 2019. Plogging is a new Swedish eco-trend that combines jogging and picking up litter. (Viktorija Zhukova)

going on in Ukraine regarding this (recycling), like No Waste Ukraine for instance," Härfast says.

"I think this will make people recycle much more, and the trend will take off in Ukraine as well," she says.

That is why the Swedish embassy, together with the Kyiv-based charity shop Laska, launched a "Nordic Night Swap" event, at the Kyiv History Museum on April 13, where people could bring their old clothes to be exchanged for some new items.

According to Lypiatska, they aimed to show people what sustainable consumption is, as well as to encourage them to buy fewer clothes and emphasized how the fashion industry pollutes the environment.

"The idea of upcycling and recycling is highly popular in Swedish society, so we also wanted to draw attention to this in Ukraine," Lypiatska says.

With the help of Kyiv's organization No Waste Ukraine, and the project "Batareiky, Zdavaitesia" (meaning

"Batteries, give up" in Ukrainian) the embassy also installed some waste sorting boxes in its office in March, urging its employees to recycle and sort litter.

New trends

But it is not only about recycling and sustainability, as the embassy also brings some new trends and habits to the country, such as plogging – a combination of jogging and picking up litter.

Founded in Sweden in 2016, plogging has become popular worldwide only two years after, and on April 6 the embassy held its first plogging event at Kyiv's Trukhaniv Island, gathering nearly 100 participants.

Lypiatska says they were surprised by the number of people who decided to attend the plogging event.

"People start to think about the impact their lives have on the environment, and in my opinion this is great," Lypiatska said.

Kyiv-based Hanna Aheieva, who attended the event, says she heard about plogging prior to it but wanted

to experience the "authentic Swedish way of plogging."

However, according to Lypiatska, plogging in Sweden differs from the one in Ukraine, as the Nordic country is less polluted and the amount of litter on the streets is different as well.

"We have faced the problem that people were focused on collecting litter, and not on the running, so at the end, they could no longer carry the heavy bags," Lypiatska says.

She also says they managed to gather a "small truck full of litter," and also sorted it with the help of No Waste Ukraine.

And even though Ukraine is only at the initial steps towards recycling and sustainable consumption of goods, Aheieva believes that even such small steps as plogging can help improve the situation.

"It is important for Ukrainians to learn how to clean up after themselves and how easy it is to pick up garbage while jogging, and, therefore, make the environment a little bit cleaner," Aheieva says. ■

SEB

SEB CORPORATE BANK
7 Mykhailivska Str, Kyiv, 01001

Martin Hagstrom says Sweden wants stronger, richer Ukraine

Ambassador from page 5

have seen more progress in business relations," Hagstrom said. The long-standing problem deterring more Swedish investment is that "Ukraine has not managed to stay the course," the ambassador said. "That means companies are wary and, during an election year, companies with some experience in the market know changes are possible if you look at the past."

Encouragingly, he said it appears that President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy — who will be inaugurated on May 20 — will keep the country on the course of European Union integration, which Hagstrom believes offers Ukraine the best chance for economic growth.

While more than 100 Swedish companies are doing business in Ukraine, bilateral trade — according to Swedish government statistics — is only \$415 million. It's a lopsided relationship, with \$340 million in Swedish exports to Ukraine and \$75 million in Ukrainian exports to Sweden. Ukrainian statistics put the figure higher, but still well under \$1 billion.

Considering the daily non-stop flights of only two hours between Kyiv and Stockholm, and the 10-million-person Swedish nation's enormous purchasing power — approaching \$50,000 per person, at least six times higher than Ukraine's income — the economic ties are disappointing.

Nonetheless, trade is registering "positive dynamics," and includes the recent entries of such iconic Swedish brands as H&M clothing and Ikea furniture.

"The overall level of trade is so small," he said. "That means that one single contract for Ericsson (Swedish telecommunications firm) will change the picture. Ukraine will be rolling out 4G and 5G (telephone services), so there could be an immediate impact on trade if Ericsson wins a bid."

The single largest exporter is the Swedish subsidiary of U.S.-based Westinghouse, which supplies fuel to several of Ukraine's nuclear power plants.

Big donor

But Sweden is most known, perhaps, for its generous commitment to assisting Ukraine's democratic development.

The reasoning is simple, Hagstrom said: "A stronger, more prosperous, democratic Ukraine is good for Sweden in many ways."

Sweden is one of the biggest donors in the world, on a per-capita basis, and takes a long-range view. It approved, for instance, a seven-year assistance program for Ukraine that runs through 2020 with average yearly bilateral assistance of more than 30 million euros. The assistance arm of the government is the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, known as SIDA.

Moreover, Sweden, as a European Union member, manages some EU assistance programs in Ukraine.



The Swedish Lund Male Voice Choir will be coming to Ukraine to perform in Lviv on May 18-19 and Kyiv on May 21-22. The choir, founded in 1831, performs traditional Swedish and Nordic songs mixed with international contemporary male choir songs. (Courtesy of Embassy of Sweden to Ukraine)

Sweden's priorities for helping Ukraine are clear: independent media, environmental protection, energy efficiency, market development to take full advantage of Ukraine's free-trade agreement with the EU, civil society, decentralization of government, gender equality.

Donors & owners

Ukraine's news media are dependent financially on their owners or donors. It's not a good or sustainable model. The largest media organizations are owned by billionaire oligarchs who wield their outlets as political clubs, often not respecting editorial independence or journalistic ethics.

Donor-dependent media outlets live only as long as the grants last.

Sweden for the last two years has been trying to support a strong public service broadcaster in Ukraine, particularly in the regions, akin to the dominant Swedish public broadcaster which has large reach and large trust among viewers. Besides a healthier advertising climate, the Swedish government invests heavily in supporting news media.

Ukraine has neither a healthy advertising market nor a rich government.

As a former journalist, Hagstrom is keenly interested in media development. He calls it a strategic priority for Ukraine.

"There are many challenges for media in Ukraine. The market is currently not strong enough to fully sustain commercially viable media. Many media are very dependent on their owners. This contributes to lower trust," he said. "At a time when you have all the challenges with willful disinformation and hybrid use of all the information, to have the very professional and highly trusted non-partisan media that people can turn to in the time of

crisis, we see this as a very strategic project in strengthening Ukraine's resilience."

But Hagstrom concedes that "we are early in the journey" of transforming Ukraine's news media industry into trusted and financially sustainable outlets.

"Ukraine is heavily affected by the breakdown of business models worldwide. Currently, search engines and social media are taking more and more of the advertisement money. If you make a quick move away from print to internet, the problem is that you compete with search engines and social media for revenue."

Compounding the problems is the unwillingness of Ukraine's parliament to adequately fund a strong public broadcaster, leaving oligarch-owned TV channels to dominate the airwaves where most Ukrainians get their information.

The international donors, despite multimillion-dollar contributions, have not put up enough money to alter the competitive landscape either. "Such things are not going to happen overnight. It's a four-year program and we are not alone," he said. But he said that unless the Ukrainian parliament considers public TV as a strategic investment, "it will not be possible to create" a strong public broadcaster. "The will to do it will have to come from the inside."

Besides supporting a strong state public broadcaster, Sweden also backs Hromadske TV and says the internet news source feeds quality content to the state broadcaster. "They certainly have a role to play," he said.

Sweden also supports the online media watchdog, Detector Media, which he says is "doing a good job." Sweden also assists such civil soci-

ety and reform-oriented organizations as the Center for Democracy and Rule of Law, which works on media-support legislation among numerous other projects, and the Reanimation Package of Reforms, which routinely assists journalists with timely information about the state of democratic reforms in Ukraine.

Additionally, the Stockholm School of Economics in Riga, Latvia, conducts various training programs for journalists.

Decentralization

Hagstrom sees a "silent revolution happening where more and more powers are moved to municipalities, more and more resources and decisions are taken locally. This is very much what we believe in — very strong municipalities. We have very strong municipalities. Our experience is that this really helps development. It's instrumental for the innovation climate and the investment climate that municipalities have their own tax base and are trying to develop businesses in competition with each other."

With the EU, the aim in Ukraine is to open hundreds of administrative service centers in regions. He believes that decentralization done correctly will not only stimulate local economies, but lead to improvements in roads and education. Sweden, as an early adopter of new technologies, is also supporting e-governance not only for efficiency, but also to reduce the power of corrupt local officials seeking bribes.

Sometimes, Sweden can combine multiple goals with the decentralization drive — such as improving district heating efficiency through new boilers, as well as local environmental protection initiatives.

Gender equality

In this area, Hagstrom sees "clear progress" but notes there is "a lot still to do." Women remain underrepresented in Ukrainian political and business life, are victimized by unpunished violence against them and have trouble in divorces with securing child support and alimony payments.

Sweden is also working with the Ministry of Finance to make sure that women are not excluded from budgets. They've already had progress. When analyzing the budget of the Ministry of Youth and Sports, they found that most of the money went to male sports programs.

Furthermore, Sweden is involved for the second year in what it calls the #WikiGap program. To make Wikipedia more diverse, the program encourages writers to increase the number of biographical articles about women. The program involves Swedish embassies all over the world, Hagstrom said, and came into being after it was discovered that there are four times as many articles about men on Wikipedia.

This year's WikiGap Global Challenge Winner is Ukrainian Andriy Grytsenko, who wrote 360 articles out of more than 1,440 articles contributed globally, including 800 by Ukrainians.

Also, in the name of gender equity, Sweden will show a photo exhibition of fathers and sons to encourage active fatherhood on June 16, the third Sunday in June, which is when the Father's Day's holiday is celebrated in America and parts of Europe, and now in Ukraine.

"Sweden is the first country in the world to pursue a feminist foreign policy," the government says. "Sweden's feminist foreign policy is about women's rights, representation and resources."

Coming events

Some 40 members of the Lund University Male Choir, founded in 1831, will perform concerts in Lviv on May 18–19 and Kyiv on May 21–22, including a cappella concert in the National House of Organ and Chamber Music on 77 Velyka Vasylykivska St.

And for the Day of Europe celebrations on Kyiv's Shevchenko Park on May 18, Swedish floorball will be played. It is akin to hockey, only minus the skates, ice, puck and stick. It's played with a plastic ball and sticks, with minimal physical contact among the competing teams, unlike in hockey.

"It's a very cheap sport," said Hagstrom, who will be playing on May 18. "All you need is a stick and a ball."

Scholarships

And finally, the Swedish Institute, a government agency to promote the nation, will grant 24 scholarships this year to Ukrainians to study for master's degrees at universities in Sweden. There are about 800 alumni of the "very competitive" program, Hagstrom said. ■



Passengers arrive at Boryspil International Airport from Berlin on the first flight to Ukraine performed by the Irish low-cost airline Ryanair on Sept. 3, 2018. (Oleg Petrasjuk)

In 2 years, over 2 million Ukrainians make use of visa-free travel to Europe

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
ISTOMINA@KYIVPOST.COM

More than two million Ukrainians have traveled to Europe without visas since the visa-free regime between Ukraine and the EU came into force two years ago, the Ukrainian Mission to the EU announced on May 11.

"It is through its citizens that Ukraine has begun real integration into the European Union," the mission stated in a Facebook post.

The European Union granted Ukrainians visa-free travel on May 11, 2017. A month later, on June 11, the regime was launched.

Since then, Ukrainians have made over 33 million trips to 30 European countries that implemented the agreement. This includes non-EU states that are members of the Schengen Zone, but does not include Great Britain and Ireland.

In its Facebook post, the mission said that Ukraine's integration into

the European Union is impossible without the development of human contacts.

"We are pleased to take pride in these results, which have opened absolutely new opportunities for Ukrainian citizens to travel, obtain new knowledge, establish new contacts, find friends," the post reads.

"The main thing is that, with every trip, Ukrainian citizens travel home with new knowledge and contacts that help the state to make the processes of European integration irreversible."

The EU granted Ukraine the visa-free regime after a long process with numerous delays and bureaucratic hurdles. The agreement gave every Ukrainian with a biometric passport the ability to travel to 30 European countries for a period of 90 days every 180 days without receiving a visa or submitting any documents prior to the trip. ■



A border control officer checks a Ukrainian biometric passport on June 13, 2017, the very first day Ukrainians were allowed to travel visa-free to the European Union. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Protesters demand resignations of Lutsenko and Avakov

The Anti-Corruption Action Center, the Who Ordered Katya Gandziuk civic initiative and AutoMaidan held a rally on May 14 to demand the resignations of Prosecutor General Yuriy Lutsenko and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov.

Dozens of protesters demonstrated in front of the Prosecutor General's Office and the Interior Ministry, with some of them scuffling with the police.

The organizers of the rally said they had filed a request with the U.S.

Treasury to impose sanctions on Avakov and Lutsenko.

They accused Avakov and Lutsenko of gross violations of human rights, sabotage of reforms, corruption and obstruction of justice — accusations the two men have denied. "Lutsenko and Avakov have turned the Prosecutor General's Office and the Interior Ministry into a supermarket where law enforcement is merged with organized crime," said Daria Kaleniuk, executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center.

The Anti-Corruption Action Center said in a statement that Lutsenko and Avakov are responsible for the failure of prosecution and police reforms. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Kyiv Post in its MAY 24 issue

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Book Arsenal

The ninth International Book Arsenal Festival is an annual book fair that will kick off at Kyiv's Mystetskyi Arsenal art exhibition center on May 22 and will last till May 26. This year the fair has a working title of "Neighborhood," and will focus on the problems of people who coexist in modern society. Apart from the fair, the five-day Book Arsenal will hold readings, discussions, and various performances, as well as book presentations by Ukrainian publishing houses and meetings with authors. In March 2019 the International Festival Book Arsenal was declared the best literary festival at the London Book Fair International Excellence Awards.

Book Arsenal. Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) May 22-26. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees

Friday, May 17

Clubs

Green Theater Opening (electronic DJ set). Green Theater. 8 p.m. One-day pass - Hr 300, two-day pass - Hr 450

Miscellaneous

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 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

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Movies

12 Angry Men (drama). America House. 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Shows

[O] (futurepop). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 371-717

Theater

Chasing After Two Hares (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Saturday, May 18

Live music

Piazzolla & Tango (accordion, piano music show). Maksym Rylskyi Museum. 4 p.m. Hr 100

Music on the Terrace (soul, funk, jazz by Chuck Wansley). IQ Business Center. 7:30 p.m. Hr 450

Botanica Jazz - Season Opening (by Old Fashioned Band). Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 7 p.m. Hr 200-425

Rockoko. Sympho Rock (author's music, rock covers). In-Jazz. 7 p.m. Hr 200-250

Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute (by Traveling Band). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125

Clubs

Party on the Balcony with Daria Kolomic (dance music, food court and drinks). Vsi Svoi D12. 6-10 p.m. Free

Green Theater Opening (electronic DJ set). Green Theater. 10 p.m. One-day pass - Hr 300, two-day pass - Hr 450

Strichka Festival 2019 (electronic music festival featuring over 40 DJs). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 1,200

Bassline Dropz ft. Kitt Whale (house, drum & bass, breakbeat). River Port. 9 p.m. Hr 200

Miscellaneous

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Summer Collection & Lingerie Market (clothes, goods by Ukrainian brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

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Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Summer Collections and Lingerie Market (by Ukrainian brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Craft Cheese Festival (over 500 kinds of cheese by Ukrainian producers). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 70

Kyiv Beer Festival (50 local beer producers, food court, entertainment). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 120-170

Movies

Avengers: Endgame (action, adventure, fantasy). Zhovten. 1:40 p.m. Hr 75

Moving Stories (documentary). America House. 2 p.m. Free

Pokemon Detective Pikachu (action, adventure, comedy). Zhovten. 2:55 p.m. Hr 85

Theater

Exam (experimental play). ProEnglish Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 120

Sunday, May 19

Live music

Duetto Concertante (classical music on guitar and flute, by Andrii Ostapenko, Yurii Shutko). Sofia Kyivska. 3 p.m. Hr 100

Motorhead Tribute (hard rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 125-1,400

Clubs

Strichka Festival 2019 (electronic music festival featuring over 40 DJs). Closer. 12 a.m. Hr 1,200

Root Fruit Combo (dance music). MK Music Space. 8 p.m. Hr 250

Miscellaneous

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

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

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Summer Collections and Lingerie Market (by Ukrainian brands). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Craft Cheese Festival (over 500 kinds of cheese by Ukrainian producers). VDNH. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Hr 70

Kyiv Beer Festival (50 local beer producers, food court, entertainment). Platforma Art Factory. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. Hr 120-170

Movies

Avengers: Endgame (action, adventure,

fantasy). Zhovten. 1:40 p.m. Hr 75

Pokemon Detective Pikachu (action, adventure, comedy). Zhovten. 2:55 p.m. Hr 85

Young Picasso (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 150

Shows

Redemption Denied (hardcore). Otel'. 7 p.m. Hr 200

Theater

Swan Lake (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 150-2,650

Monday, May 20

Classical music

Three Prometheus (Beethoven, Stankovych, Skriabin). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Live music

Kyiv Spring Music Festival (piano concert by Antonii Baryshevskyi). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Remembering the Beatles (tribute by Cherkasy Jazz Quintet). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 150-450

Miscellaneous

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

Tuesday, May 21

Classical music

Seasons in Buenos Aires (Piazzolla, Chausson, Suk). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Live music

Kyiv Spring Music Festival (Kyiv Chamber Orchestra performing music by Astor Piazzolla). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Jazz Under the Stars. Jazz Through Time. Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400

Yiddish Jazz (by Amirova Band). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 180-790

Miscellaneous

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

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

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Movies

Alien (horror, sci-fi). Planeta Kino. 7:30 p.m., 8 p.m., 8:30 p.m. Hr 100-160. Multiplex (Sky

Mall, Prospect, Atmosphere, Komod). 7 p.m. Hr 90-350

Theater

All About Eve (British drama play recording). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 190

Carmen-Suite and Sheherazade (two one-act ballets). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Wednesday, May 22

Classical music

Baroque Under the Starry Sky. Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400

Live music

Kyiv Spring Music Festival (Sibelius, Ravel's music performed by Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine, Swedish Male Choir). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400

Miscellaneous

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free

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Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID

Book Arsenal (five-day book fair featuring book presentations, meetings with authors, public talks and more). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 2-10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 7-9 p.m. Free

Movies

Singing in the Rain (comedy, musical, romance). American Library. 4 p.m. Free

Muse - Live in Rome (concert film). Kyivan Rus. 7 p.m. Hr 150

Theater

Rigoletto (opera). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600

Thursday, May 23

Classical music

Mozart and Fantasies (piano concert). Scientists' House. 7 p.m. Hr 100

Miscellaneous

Book Arsenal (five-day book fair featuring book presentations, meetings with authors,

May 24



HVOB

The stars of Austrian electronic music scene are coming to Kyiv to groove the fans of the genre. HVOB (Her Voice Over Boys) will perform in Ukraine's capital as part of their world Rocco tour, which has had a huge success with numerous sold-out shows. Mixing electronic rhythms with gentle sensuous vocals, the duo will present their latest release, minimalist album "Rocco."

HVOB. Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) May 24. 7:30 p.m. Hr 690-1,600

public talks and more). **Mystetskyi Arsenal**. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees 📍

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees 📍

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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 📍

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 📍

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Shows

The Soft Moon (alternative, post-punk, dark-wave). Closer. 8 p.m. Hr 600 📍

Mockūnas-Mikalkėnas-Berre Trio (jazz). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 80-400 📍

Theater

Zorba the Greek (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 📍

Friday, May 24

Classical music

Gary Hoffman (Copland, Dvořák, Bernstein cello concert). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 100-500 📍

Classics Under the Stars. Allegro. Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 📍

Live music

Bullet Blues Band feat. Daniel De Vita (1950s Chicago blues). MK Music Space. 8 p.m. Hr 200-300 📍

Jazz in the Rose Garden (by Chuck Winsley and Rodion Ivanov). Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 7 p.m. Hr 330-3,000 📍

Clubs

Leiras, Sinica, Kichi Kazuko and others (electronic dance music). River Port. 11 p.m. Hr 200 📍

Shakolin, Timur Basha, Gwenan and others (electronic dance music). Closer. 11 p.m. Hr 390-480 📍

Miscellaneous

Book Arsenal (five-day book fair featuring book presentations, meetings with authors, public talks and more). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 10 p.m. - 10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees 📍

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees 📍

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 📍

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 📍

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Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 📍

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Shows

HVOB (electronic). Atlas. 7:30 p.m. Hr 690-1,600 📍

Saturday, May 25

Classical music

Rossini, Mozart, Kreisler and others (Kyiv Camerata). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 📍

The Four Seasons (Vivaldi by Kyiv Metropolis Orchestra). Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 150-750 📍

Live music



Spring Jazz in the Garden

There's no need to figure out a way to spend a Friday night if another "Jazz in the Garden" show is planned out for that day. Gryshko National Botanical Garden in bloom, live jazz music, charming lights and tasty cocktails will all contribute to the magical atmosphere of the event. The U.S. jazz vocalist Chuck Wansley will perform alongside the local Rodion Ivanov Quartet.

Spring Jazz in the Garden. Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazievsk St.) May 24. 7 p.m. Hr 330-3,000

Spring Jazz in the Garden. Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 7 p.m. Hr 330-3,000 📍

Max Vatunin Blues and Ballads Unplugged. MK Music Space. 8 p.m. Hr 150 📍

Clubs

DJ Sneak (electronic dance music). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced 📍

Luke Eargoogle, Iliia Midnyte, Underdog and others (electronic dance music). Otel'. 11:55 p.m. Hr 300 📍

Miscellaneous

Book Arsenal (five-day book fair featuring book presentations, meetings with authors,

public talks and more). **Mystetskyi Arsenal**. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees 📍

Faces of Civil Society (photo exhibition by Chris Collison featuring his interviews with Ukrainian civic activists and human rights defenders conducted in 2015-2019). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Goods for Holidays (clothes and goods by Ukrainian designers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 📍

Monolith (contemporary art exploring the digitalization of the world). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID 📍

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees 📍

Star Kurazh Bazar (charity market of various goods, food court, entertainment). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 150, two-day ticket - Hr 250 📍

Put Your Life Into a Suitcase (interactive installation reflecting on the experience of over 1.5 million internally displaced persons who moved from Donbas since the beginning of Russia's war in 2014). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 📍

A Boy and a Comet (paintings, diaries, sketches and photographs of Ukrainian artist Oleh Holosii). The Naked Room. 11 a.m. - 8 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 📍

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 📍

Shows

Yuko (electronica, folk). Green Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 400 📍

Theater

Buratino (ballet). National Opera. 12 p.m. Hr 20-300 📍

King Lear (drama play screening). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 3 p.m. Hr 190-240 📍

Got to be Free (musical). Theater on Podil. 6 p.m. Hr 200-900 📍

Sunday, May 26

Classical music

Classics in the Garden. Gryshko National Botanical Garden. 7 p.m. Hr 330-3,000 📍

Live music

Fantastic Jazz Band. Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 100-400 📍

Miscellaneous

Book Arsenal (five-day book fair featuring book presentations, meetings with authors, public talks and more). **Mystetskyi Arsenal**. 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 80, five-day ticket - Hr 300, Hr 40 for pupils, students and retirees 📍

Goods for Holidays (clothes and goods by Ukrainian designers). Vsi Svoi D12. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 📍

Albrecht Dürer (engravings from Kharkiv Art Museum's collection). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hr 80 for adults, Hr 40 for students, Hr 20 for pupils and retirees 📍

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Star Kurazh Bazar (charity market of various goods, food court, entertainment). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day ticket - Hr 150, two-day ticket - Hr 250 📍

Ain't Nobody's Business! (collective exhibition exploring displays of sexuality). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 📍

Shows

Nino Katamadze (ethno, jazz). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 450-3,150 📍

Okean Elzy (pop rock). VDNH. 7 p.m. Hr 250-950 📍

Theater

Spartacus (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 📍

'Alien'

For one terrifying night only, the sci-fi horror film "Alien" will be screened in five cinemas around Kyiv. The 1979 classic by Ridley Scott tells the story of a space merchant vessel that decides to investigate a transmission from a desolate planet, only to discover a life form designed for human extermination. The film starring Sigourney Weaver spawned a franchise that continues to this day, with a new sequel released last year. The claustrophobic chill of the original will be louder and more detailed than ever in the new 40th anniversary edition, remastered with improved sound and 4K resolution.

Alien. May 21. Check all screenings in our Entertainment Guide on pages 12-13



(Courtesy)

Venues

Classical Music
● National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 278 6291

Live Music
● Kyiv Planetarium (57/3 Velyka Vasylivskya St.) +38044 338 1991
● Architect's House (7 Borysa Hirchenka St.) +38050 386 7410
● Caribbean Club (4 Petliuryi St.) +38067 224 4111
● Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrskya St.) +38050 358 5513

● Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivskya St.) +38095 280 8340
● Sofia Kyivska (24 Volodymyrskya St.) +38044 278 2620
● IQ Business Center (13-15 Bolsunovska St.) +38067 690 0970
● In-Jazz Live (1 Druzhby Narodiv Sq.) +38067 381 1572
● Maksym Ryl'skyi Museum (7 Maksym Ryl'skyi St.) +38044 525 2471
● Gryshko National Botanical Garden (1 Tymiriazievskya St.) +38044 285 4105
● Scientists' House (45 Volodymyrskya St.) +38044 234 4236

Clubs
● Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308
● Otel' (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 618 0145
● River Port (67 Nyzhniil Val St.) www.facebook.com/riverportkyiv
● Green Theater (2 Parkova Rd.) +38067 155 2255
● MK Music Space (57B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38095 179 3834

Miscellaneous
● America House (6 Mykoly Pyromenka St.) +38063 343 0119

● The Khanenko Museum (15-17 Tereshchenkivska St.) +38044 235 3290
● Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38044 520 2825
● M17 Contemporary Art Center (102-104 Antonovycha St.) +38067 310 6631
● VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) +38067 824 1631
● Pinchuk Art Center (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylivskya St.) +38044 590 0858
● The Naked Room (21 Reitarska St.) www.facebook.com/thenakedroom

● Vsi Svoi D12 (12 Desiatynna St.) www.facebook.com/vsi.svoi
● Platforma Art Factory (1 Bilomorska St.) +38044 461 8810
● Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225

Movies
● American Library Kyiv (8/5 Voloska St.) +38044 462 5674
● Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylivskya St.) +38044 234 7381
● Multiplex Cinema (Atmosphere, 103 Stolychne Hwy) 0800 505 333
● Multiplex Cinema (Komod, 4A

Sheptytskoho St.) 0800 505 333
● Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333
● Multiplex Cinema (Prospect, 1V Hnata Khotkevycha St.) 0800 505 333
● Multiplex Cinema (Sky Mall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333
● Planeta Kino Cinema (34 Stepana Bandery Ave.) 0800 300 600
● Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757
● Kyivan Rus Cinema (93 Sichovykh Strilitsiv St.) +38044 486 7474

Shows
● Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38063 873 7306
● Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Strilitsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
● Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279 1582

Theater
● National Opera of Ukraine (50 Volodymyrskya St.) +38044 234 7165
● ProEnglish Theater (3 Smolenska St.) +38098 256 7331
● Theater on Podil (20A, Andriivskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 332 2217

Mark Etherington: OSCE to focus on humanitarian side

BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO
PONOMARENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

In 2014, in the worst early months of Russia's grueling war in the Donbas, the situation in the embattled region looked absolutely different to Mark Etherington, the new chief deputy monitor of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Special Monitoring Mission.

Back then, it felt like chaotic disintegration, a situation quickly spiraling out of control — and increasingly confusing to anyone.

Having returned to the region nearly five years later, Etherington found Donbas still tortured by war. But what's even worse, it is paralyzed by low-intensity warfare that has no end in sight, despite having already claimed over 13,000 lives.

The war zone along the 450-kilometer frontline is becoming increasingly militarized in a heavily-mined environment in which exchanges of weapon fire are common. The embattled wastelands are dangerous places for everyone there, especially for locals.

In his first interview as the mission deputy chief, Etherington told the Kyiv Post he intends to focus on helping to resolve humanitarian issues, such as repairing vital infrastructure damaged in the hostilities.

He says the mission under his guidance will continue adhering to the highest standards in reporting the facts on the ground — although monitoring Donbas remains dangerous and difficult for OSCE, especially as the mission is increasingly impeded and sometimes even attacked.

Hazardous place

In November, Etherington replaced Alexander Hug, the mission's frontman since its first days in Ukraine.

A former airborne trooper of the elite British Parachute Regiment, Etherington gained an extremely rich experience of conflict settings in numerous OSCE missions around the world, including Serbia, Montenegro, and Kosovo.

He worked on stabilization activities in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine, and South Sudan. In 2014, he worked with OSCE in Donbas and spend 2 years in Syria prior to his return to Ukraine in late 2018.

The mission's new frontman found the OSCE activities still seriously thwarted due to grave security concerns ever since the death of Joseph Stone, the mission's American member who was killed in a landmine explosion in the Russian-occupied zone two years ago.

"This is something that we have to be very, very careful about," Etherington said. "We don't patrol at night with our people, and we don't generally use unpaved roads because of the mine threat... There are thousands and thousands of mines along the contact line. It is a deeply hazardous place."

Nonetheless, the mission tries hard to use drones and surveillance cameras to overcome those constraints.

"Clearly we focus on those areas that we can't personally visit," Etherington said.

"We would like to think that there are no real 'blind spots' — there are areas that we cannot visit by vehicle and those that we need to look at with other means. We're confident that our coverage is pretty good."

Russian traces

This increased emphasis on unmanned, remote surveillance has probably resulted in the sudden burst of revelations by the mission that can only be interpreted as clear



Mark Etherington, the deputy chief of the Special Monitoring Mission of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, talks to the Kyiv Post at the organization's central headquarters in Kyiv on May 14, 2019. (Volodymyr Petrov)

evidence of Russia's direct military involvement in eastern Ukraine.

Just since the beginning of the year 2019, the OSCE photographed and got video of a whole range of Russian-produced advanced military hardware, including the Kreda-M1 ground reconnaissance radar station (near the occupied city of Pervomaysk in Luhansk Oblast on May 2) seen in Donbas for at least 5 times before, or R-330Zh Zhytel and Tirada-2 jamming stations detected near the occupied village of Pivdenna Lomovatka in Luhansk Oblast on March 16, or the TORN radio-electric surveillance system

detected on Feb. 10 near the village of Novohryhorivka, also in the occupied part of Luhansk Oblast.

Even Russian heavy aircraft have been detected — on Feb. 10, the OSCE deployed close to Starobesheve in Russian-occupied Donetsk Oblast and saw a plane in the sky that they recognized as "probably" a Tupolev Tu-95 or Tu-142 aircraft operated only by Russia in this region.

But, as provided for by the OSCE's rather limited monitoring mandate, Etherington expectedly refrains from diagnosing Russian military presence despite the revealed facts.

"We do not make it our job to interpret the facts that we see but we do unflinchingly report what we see whenever we have the evidence," he said.

"In terms of interpreting, what it is we report, we must leave that to others."

Increased jamming

Other than that, OSCE's recent reports mention lots of incidents involving attacks on the mission's surveillance equipment, notably drones fired upon, smashed, and suppressed with special jamming equipment.

"The environment in which our drones fly — which is an agreed function of the mission, by the way — has become a difficult one, and hostile one," Etherington said.

"And there's plenty of evidence of what's occurring — signal loss with our aircraft, possibly attributed to jamming, physical attacks... This has made it a great deal more difficult to operate these drones."

"But we are determined to carry on doing so — they are, of course, a formidably powerful tool and some of the evidence that has been collected by them, I think, is the evidence of that fact."

As Etherington admits, the jam-

ming of OSCE drones in Donbas has grown over time.

"It's probably true that jamming has become increasingly a phenomenon," he said.

"And now most of our flights would encounter jamming in some form or another. That has not always been the case. So it's probably fair to say that the trajectory of jamming has steepened — it has become more severe and protracted."

However, he added, due to the way the radio-electric jamming is undertaken, it is not possible to detect which of the warring parties is suppressing the mission's drones.

"It's not always easy to be specific about where this jamming has occurred," he said.

"It would be possible for (someone) to read our reports to correlate the presence of jamming with reported equipment — but that's not something that we have done yet."

Human factor

Nonetheless, the mission — in fact, the world's only eyes in Russian-occupied Donbas — aims to continue collecting information, particularly in terms of living conditions for civilians behind the lines.

As Etherington says, the mission will be more actively concentrated on finding solutions to humanitarian troubles in Donbas apart from collecting data.

"One of the dangers over time is that these statistics become largely meaningless, unfortunately," he added. "And what perhaps is missing is the human factor: What does this mean for people?"

"And so my feeling, I think, personally — and our feeling as a mission — is that people need to be a center of this... We can't embark on substantive humanitarian work but

more OSCE on page 15

ON THE MOVE

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CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang in Ukraine is pleased to announce that we are expanding further our energy and real estate practices by hiring two associates



Vladyslav Uryvskiy

Vladyslav Uryvskiy has joined CMS as an associate in the Real Estate & Construction team. Vladyslav's experience include advising clients on real estate, construction and land law matters. He drafts, negotiates and executes commercial lease agreements, immovable property sale and purchase contracts, as well as contractor contracts to support major construction projects. Vladyslav also represents clients in civil, commercial and administrative disputes in the real estate sector.



Kateryna Korneliuk

Kateryna Korneliuk has joined CMS as an associate in the Energy & Projects team. Kateryna's experience include advising clients on energy (including alternative energy), real estate and construction law matters. Kateryna focuses on renewable energy projects, representing investors and developers, advising on regulatory issues related to their investments in the sector and assisting in obtaining licences and permits. In particular, Kateryna's relevant experience includes preparing due diligence reports; drafting, negotiating and executing projects contracts, power purchase agreements, grid connection agreements, engineering, procurement and construction contracts, and land lease agreements.

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Mark Etherington: 'Monitoring entity has chilling effect on activity around'

OSCE from page 14

the protection of civilians interests us greatly."

The OSCE will boost its practice of assisting with and mediating during the repairs of war-hit critical infrastructure, such as gas pipelines, located across the line or close to it.

"Our presence (during the repair works) has become very important – not in terms of assuring windows of silence in which these repairs could be made but at least maintaining a presence. This of course has a very significant impact on (local) people."

In many ways, even the simple physical presence of international monitors between the lines helped constrain new bursts of hostilities – at least for a little while.

"Inevitably, a monitoring entity has a chilling effect on activity around it, and I think this is a positive thing," Etherington said.

"And certainly we used that advantage when we were organizing win-

dows of silence or in the area of infrastructure repairs."

Common language

Other than that, Etherington has got another ace up his sleeve that helps him in Donbas: His positive experience of working alongside Ukraine's military in yet another embattled war zone – Iraq.

Back in 2003–2004, following the United States and its allies' invasion of the Middle Eastern country, Etherington served as the provisional authority governor of the province of Wasit, which has its capital in the city of Al Kut, some 160 kilometers southeast of Baghdad.

Notably, this area was particularly under the responsibility of Ukraine's 1,600-strong peacekeeping military contingent deployed there between 2003 and 2005. In this period, the peacekeepers and the provisional governor faced the outbreak of an uprising of local Shia Muslims led by Muqtada al-Sadr of the Mahdi



Local civilians cross a heavily damaged bridge at the entry point of Stanytsia Luhanska which leads to the outskirts of the Russian-occupied city of Luhansk on Sept. 26, 2016. (OSCE/Evgeniy Maloletka)

Army militia (which was described in Etherington's book "Revolt on the Tigris" published in 2005).

In that deployment, the Ukrainian expeditionary force lost 18 soldiers – and Etherington recalls the Ukrainian military in Iraq as helpful, courteous, hospitable servicemen.

Years after, this experience in many ways helps him easily find a common language with Ukrainian

officers and resolve issues in the war zone.

"I know some of the officers in the General Staff as a result of that time," Etherington said.

"And of course I understand a little of the Ukrainian army because of my time with them. They actually invited me to Ukraine in 2005, and I came here with my American deputy. I could never imagine that

I would come back under these circumstances."

"Simply an understanding of some of the Ukrainian army's experiences and having seen them at work in Iraq and having been alongside them in difficult times in Iraq – I think it just gave us all a sense of confidence that we could manage this difficult civil-military relationship together." ■

Kyiv Post

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Andriy Sadovyi ready to lead his forces in election

BY OLEKSIY SOROKIN

SOROKIN@KYIVPOST.COM

Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi recently said he is going to leave the mayor's office, which he has occupied since 2006, and go a level up in politics.

Sadovyi will lead his party, Samopomich, in the parliamentary election now scheduled for October, and fight for the job of prime minister.

The long-serving mayor of Ukraine's unofficial western capital, Sadovyi isn't exactly new to nationwide politics.

Samopomich, the party he founded and leads, holds 26 seats in parliament, and received 11 percent of the vote in the 2014 parliamentary elections. However, today the party is polling below 5 percent, meaning it may not get into parliament at all.

But Sadovyi is far from losing hope. He says his party is ready to run — despite losing some of the support and parting ways with several top-level members. He also cites the unpredictability of Ukraine's election campaigns as proof everything can change for Samopomich.

"Samopomich will be in the next parliament, because we are needed there," Sadovyi told the Kyiv Post.

Ratings

"You don't have a chance," they told us," Sadovyi says, recalling what people said about Samopomich in 2014. At the time, Samopomich polled below the 5-percent threshold as late as one month before the parliamen-



Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi talks with the Kyiv Post on Taras Shevchenko Boulevard in downtown Kyiv on May 14, 2019. (Oleg Petراسиuk)



Power struggle erupts within Ukraine's new Orthodox church

Patriarch Emeritus Filaret speaks to journalists on May 15, 2019, in Kyiv. Filaret, former head of the Kyiv Patriarchate and chief campaigner for Ukraine's independence from the Russian Orthodox Church, said he should govern the unified Orthodox Church of Ukraine while its elected head, Metropolitan Epiphanius, should represent it internationally. Such was the agreement between him, Epiphanius, and President Petro Poroshenko last December, Filaret claimed at a press briefing in Kyiv on May 15. Filaret accused Epiphanius and Poroshenko of breaking their words and making him a ceremonial figure without power. Epiphanius denied the allegation of any agreement. "Personally, I didn't make any promises before the Unification Council," he told BBC Ukraine. He said that Filaret wanted to return to an old way of governing the church by one person while the Unification Council chose a different management model: open and democratic where the church is governed by the Holy Synod and bishops' council in accordance with the statute and provisions of the tomos, a decree that granted an official recognition of Ukraine's new Orthodox church's independence from Russia. (Oleg Petراسиuk)

ary elections.

Sadovyi started Samopomich in 2012, but it grew out of the civic platform of the same name he started in 2004, when he was planning to run for mayor for the first time.

During his time as Lviv mayor, Sadovyi has been popular. His city of 720,000 people, located 540 kilometers west of Kyiv, is the largest city in western Ukraine and a cultural and tourism center, popular with Ukrainians and foreigners alike. The popularity brought by his mayoral job allowed Sadovyi to create a party that would take the third place in the general vote for parliament in 2014.

But times have changed. As of May, the party has lost much of its electoral support. It is polling at 2 percent, according to the Rating sociological group.

Sadovyi blames this on the Ukrainian political system, where populist promises are rewarded over accomplishments.

"We are a foreign body in Ukrainian politics. We are a stumbling block for those who are ruling the country at the moment," he says.

Sadovyi says his party had major accomplishments during its tenure in parliament: a law lowering the Single Social Contribution (SSC) tax paid on salaries from 36 to 22 percent, in 2015, and one allowing self-employed individuals to declare bankruptcy, in October 2018. Samopomich believes that the tax still remains too high.

But, according to Sadovyi, the party's biggest success was block-

ing constitutional amendments on decentralization, which promised a special status to the territories in eastern Ukraine currently occupied by Russia, in August 2015.

"If that law would have been adopted, there wouldn't be a Ukraine today," Sadovyi told the Kyiv Post.

Back then, the controversial amendment sparked protests in front of the parliament building. During the demonstration on Aug. 31, 2015, someone threw a grenade at law enforcement, killing four members of the National Guard.

The decentralization law also led to a break in the party. Five members of the Samopomich faction in parliament who voted for the amendment were forced out of the party. They included Hanna Hopko, head of the parliamentary committee on foreign relations, and Ostap Yednak, who later joined the low-profile Syla Lyudei party.

However, according to Sadovyi, people don't care about laws.

"People are tired of surviving, they want a normal life," he said.

Regardless of Samopomich's performance in parliament, the party that will go into election will list 70 to 80 percent of new people, according to Sadovyi. He said they will be chosen through an open process.

This is the first time he will be leading his party into election in person. His mayoral term will run out in

Sadovyi ready to leave as Lviv mayor after 13 years, will seek parliament seat

Sadovyi from page 16

2020, but he is willing to quit earlier.

Garbage wars

It hasn't all been smooth sailing for the Lviv mayor and his party.

In 2016, Sadovyi faced a major crisis that threatened his popularity: a garbage crisis. The issue began after a fire erupted at a landfill that was taking in the city's waste. Three firefighters were killed. The landfill was then closed, and the city found itself with nowhere to store the 600 tons of waste it produces daily.

The mayor alleges that this was a "special operation" ordered by the Presidential Administration to discredit Sadovyi and Samopomich, which had left the pro-government coalition earlier that year, threatening the coalition's existence. Government officials strongly denied that allegation during the crisis.

Landfills in other regions refused accepting Lviv's waste. According to Sadovyi, they were told to do so by the government. This led to garbage piling up on the streets of Lviv. Meanwhile, the main landfill remains closed by a court decision.

"It was arson," says Sadovyi. "The Security Service, police, prosecutor's office — everyone was involved. But I don't think they wanted people to die."

The waste crisis damaged Sadovyi's popularity. Eventually, the ban on using other landfills was lifted — Sadovyi says that it happened after members of his party went on a hunger strike in Kyiv, and ambassadors and religious leaders requested that the ban be lifted.

Sadovyi points out that the city is currently spending Hr 1 million (\$37,000) to send its trash to other landfills far from the city.

During the latest Samopomich party congress, on May 11, members of the party brought up the waste crisis. They suggested that problems in Lviv have affected the party's rating.

Elections

On May 16, the parliament set the date for President-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy's inauguration for May 20. Formally, the president has the right to dissolve the parliament and call for early elections, a possibility which Zelenskiy is not ruling out.

Sadovyi says that Samopomich may support snap elections if the parliament in the nearest future doesn't pass several key reformist laws.

One of them is a law on electoral reform that was passed in 2017 in the first reading with 226 votes — the minimum needed. It has yet to be brought up for a second hearing.

If approved, the law will introduce a proportional representation electoral system featuring open party lists and will cancel single-member districts that often see vote buying. That would allow voters greater con-

trol over who makes it to parliament.

However, according to Sadovyi, it is unlikely that the law will be passed. He says the parliament has no strong coalition united by values, and laws are passed through horse-trading and vote buying.

According to Sadovyi, even if the law won't be passed, during this election Samopomich will be introducing the coveted open-party list internally: its members will vote to determine their order on the ballot.

Recalling the previous parliamentary elections, Sadovyi says that many people wanted to join Samopomich. Some even tried to buy a spot for as much as a million dollars. Sadovyi said that Samopomich rejected the offer, but those people still managed to enter parliament as members of other political parties, he added. He wouldn't reveal their names or say which parties accepted them.

Internal struggles

The turmoil isn't just outside Samopomich. The party also faces struggles in its ranks. Since the start of April, seven members of the parliamentary faction left the party — including Iegor Soboliev, the faction's deputy head.

Sadovyi says that some of those who left were likely not ready to accept those changes that the party is undergoing: an open party list and an open competition for spots on that list.

However, lawmaker Viktoriya Voytsitska, one of those who left Samopomich, wrote on Facebook that the party didn't listen to its lawmakers and has lost its identity.

Nonetheless, what remains of the party is ready to go it alone in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Sadovyi certainly does not appear ready to unite with likeminded politicians from other parties. During the first round of the presidential election, Sadovyi pulled out of the race and threw his support behind former Defense Minister Anatoliy Grytsenko during the first round of the vote, which was held on March 31. Grytsenko ultimately came in fifth place, receiving slightly less than 7 percent of the vote.

Sadovyi said that he and Grytsenko have never discussed any potential political projects.

According to Sadovyi, those who advocated for uniting behind a single candidate from the democratic opposition were doing so for their own personal interests.

Zelenskiy, Poroshenko, Vakarchuk

On May 16, Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, leader of the popular Ukrainian rock band Okean Elzy, announced that he would run for parliament from a newly created party, Holos ("voice" or "the vote" in Ukrainian), that he will lead.

Before the official start of the 2019 presidential campaign, Vakarchuk



Lviv Mayor Andriy Sadovyi dresses a lion sculpture in downtown Lviv in a vyshyvanka, a traditional Ukrainian embroidered shirt, to mark the annual Vyshyvanka Day on May 16, 2019. (UNIAN)

was viewed as one of the potential candidates. For a time, he ranked higher than Zelenskiy in opinion polls.

The Kyiv Post interviewed Sadovyi before Vakarchuk made his announcement. During that interview, the Lviv mayor said that he would love to see Vakarchuk in the next parliament. Sadovyi said that he and the rock musician talk frequently, but declined to specify whether they ever discussed Vakarchuk's potential political career.

Over many months before the presidential race, Vakarchuk flirted with the possibility of running, never giving reporters a clear answer on his plans. By the time he announced he would not run for president, many people were tired of his antics.

According to Sadovyi, Vakarchuk lost momentum, while Zelenskiy understood how to beat incumbent President Petro Poroshenko.

Poroshenko chose an aggressive approach, while Zelenskiy ran his

campaign on a message of unity, something that Ukraine desperately needs, Sadovyi said.

"This summer I understood that Zelenskiy is a serious project," said Sadovyi.

Poroshenko's electoral support largely came from western Ukraine, specifically Lviv Oblast. Sadovyi suggested that this was primarily due to Poroshenko's straightforward support for Ukraine's European integration and the protection of the Ukrainian language. Unlike the incumbent, Zelenskiy could not convince the West that his proposals are what Ukraine needs.

Sadovyi says that it is too early to judge Zelenskiy.

"We support inaugurating him as soon as possible and moving on," said Sadovyi. He says it will be easier to understand Zelenskiy after the president-elect will submit his first appointments.

"If they will be worthy people, of course we will support him. If they

will be assholes, we will be the ones saying that we can't do that," Sadovyi told the Kyiv Post.

According to Sadovyi, the relationship between Zelenskiy and oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, whose 1+1 television channel broadcasts the comedic actor-turned-politician's shows and lent support to him as a candidate, remains a mystery.

Sadovyi says he has no relationship with Zelenskiy or Kolomoisky. He is waiting to see what concrete actions the new president takes.

Sadovyi does, however, have a long relationship with incumbent President Petro Poroshenko, whom he accuses of being responsible for blocking garbage removal in Lviv.

Despite that, he doesn't entirely rule out working with the outgoing president, if he changes to better — which, Sadovyi said, would be a miracle.

"We should believe in miracles," he told the Kyiv Post. "Jesus Christ was resurrected. It's a miracle." ■

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Activists want Zelenskiy to rein in Odesa mayor

Odesa from page 1

Surrounded by lush trees, this historic site has become the epicenter of the fights between the local environmentalists and thugs hurling feces as a weapon.

In Odesa, the Black Sea port city of 1 million residents located 475 kilometers south of Kyiv, beauty often coexists with ugliness.

On May 7, at this construction site, a man poured a bucket of feces on environmental activist Svitlana Pidpala. On April 19, the same happened to lawmaker Mustafa Nayyem. Both had criticized plans to build an eight-story trade center at this historic site by company SP Soling, which activists link to Vladimir Galanternik, an influential yet secretive businessman, a crony of Aleksander Angert, a local businessman with a criminal past, and Odesa Mayor Hennady Trukhanov.

Activists say this group owns a number of ill-gotten development projects in Odesa registered to foreign offshore entities. A 1998 Italian police dossier published by the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project in 2016 identified Trukhanov and Angert as members of a mafia gang.

SP Soling and publicly shy Galanternik weren't available for comment. Trukhanov's press service didn't respond to a request for comment.

So far, the police have failed to find the "feces" attackers in Odesa. On May 4, Trukhanov called the environmentalists who criticize him "morons and idiots."

The police officers showed little enthusiasm on May 12, when the activists showed them a printed copy of an instruction from the Ministry of Culture, which urges a stop to any construction work at the Summer Theater until the ministry sees the plans and approves them. The police officers just checked the papers of the builders and swiftly left.

In the evening of the same day, a poster featuring the ministry's instruction was torn down from the theater's wall. Construction work resumed in the morning. But the fight is not over.

Unlike most other Ukrainian cities, Odesa is known for its strong city activism and the high risks activists face for it. At least 14 local activists were attacked in the city last year. Most of them blamed Trukhanov and his cronies for ordering or sanctioning the attacks. One of them, Oleg Mykhailyk, nearly died after being shot in his chest on a city street in late September.

But with the election of a new president, power in Odesa is being shaken up.

The local governor was dismissed and the oblast police chief resigned. The methods used against activists have changed as well. Shootings and beatings were replaced with feces, court hearings, and smear campaigns.

"Now the authorities, including Mayor Trukhanov, are hurrying up to snatch all they can," Mykhailyk told



Oleksiy Melnykov, a lawyer of the AutoMaidan civic movement (L), talks with police officers at the construction site of the Summer Theater in Odesa on May 12, 2019. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

the Kyiv Post. "They keep exploiting lawlessness, but they are afraid to act as radically as they (previously) did."

'Toilet scheme'

People in Odesa like to recall the story that the territory of the City Garden was granted to Odesa residents "in perpetual use" by Felix de Ribas, brother of the city's first mayor, Jose de Ribas, in the early 19th century.

When the City Garden underwent major reconstruction in 2007, the Summer Theater, which is a part of it, remained abandoned and closed. Then, in 2017, residents discovered that the city authorities had allowed the trees on its territory to be chopped down, which indicated the beginning of construction work.

In November 2017, hundreds of activists stormed the gates of the construction site, which led to scuffles with the police. Then local residents started regularly cleaning the territory of the Summer Theater and

planting trees there to preserve this site for the city.

A local deputy, Liliya Leonidova, published papers from the City Council's urban planning department showing that, in 2016, the authorities leased the territory of the Summer Theater — up to 0.7 hectares — to the SP Soling firm for 49 years for the construction of an eight-story trade and entertainment center. The stage, the cash-office, a fence and a toilet at the abandoned theater were sold to the same firm back in 2003, according to the same documents published by Leonidova on Facebook.

Mykhailyk calls this a "toilet scheme," in which some minor object is bought by a company in order to later grab a lucrative piece of land around it and then build something there. He said it has been commonly used in Odesa in recent years.

Vitaliy Ustymenko, head of the Odesa branch of the AutoMaidan

civic movement, said that Galanternik "simply purchased SP Soling with all its small houses and huts and received the land in lease from the City Council."

In 2017, SP Soling, which was registered back in 1997, indeed changed its owner to Cyprus-registered firm Maresenia Investment Limited, according to the YouControl open data registry.

Ustymenko said that the mass public protests in 2017 made the developers and authorities change their strategy. Now the company claims they plan just to reconstruct the old Summer Theater, whose pictures they even placed on the wall of the construction site. But Ustymenko believes a theater could be constructed only temporarily in order to later build a huge building at that site as indicated in the construction plans.

"They will drive the activists from this process and then they will build whatever they want," he said.

New methods

While a dozen activists argued with police officers and construction workers on May 12, a group of athletic young men observed this scene from a distance, grinning and joking about the recent "feces attacks."

Ustymenko said that they were paid thugs hired by SP Soling to oppose activists. Apart from the thugs, there are activists of Automaidan Odesa, a group that broke off the Automaidan movement and often participates in public rallies on the side of Trukhanov.

There are other ways to fight activists.

In March, SP Soling filed lawsuits against 13 activists, including Ustymenko and Pidpala, demanding Hr 1 million (\$38,000) from each of them. The firm accuses them of

"damaging property" of the company at the construction site.

The company also lured a respected local showman, Dmytro Shpinariov, and made his firm a subcontractor in the urban design of the Summer Theater, trying to attract more supporters to the project this way. On April 13, at a meeting with activists, Shpinariov assured them that there will be no trade center constructed at this site. "I don't know if he (Shpinariov) understands that he's being used," Ustymenko said.

Shpinariov told the Kyiv Post he doesn't know who is attacking the activists at the Summer Theater, since its territory is now open and "anybody can come there." He claimed the builders don't violate the ministry's instruction because there's "not construction, but just a land development is being done there."

Shpinariov also said he doesn't know who owns SP Soling, though he also heard that it could be Galanternik. Shpinariov said he held all the negotiations with SP Soling in the building of the City Council with mediation by the city authorities. "I've never seen Galanternik, I've never met him," he said. The first part of the Summer Theater's reconstruction is planned to be finished on June 1.

Political plans

On May 7, a group of activists made a public address to president-elect Volodymyr Zelenskiy, asking him to ensure a proper investigation of attacks on them and bring new faces to the city and oblast. The new president is supposed to appoint a new person to the currently vacant office of the Odesa Oblast governor after Maksym Stepanov was sacked from his post by President Petro Poroshenko on April 10.

Mykhailo Kuzakon, leader of the Narodny Rukh of Ukraine party in Odesa, told a press conference that now all the branches of power in the city "serve the clan of Galanternik-Trukhanov" but not the local residents. "The first steps of the newly elected president will show if he plans to make changes in the country or not," Kuzakon said.

On April 15, Trukhanov admitted in an interview with the Livi Bereh website to having "good human relations" with Zelenskiy. Zelenskiy's Kvartal 95 production studio has held concerts and shot videos in Odesa seaport in recent years.

Trukhanov also admitted in an interview to having good relations with Ihor Palutsia, the former governor of Odesa Oblast and a loyalist to oligarch Ihor Kolomoisky, who has a business partnership with Zelenskiy. Trukhanov said he plans to campaign for re-election as a mayor in 2020.

Mykhailyk, who also plans to campaign for mayor, said it's unclear whether Zelenskiy will support Trukhanov's clan. "We will demand that Zelenskiy appoint as governor a person with an untainted reputation," he said. "If not, we will oppose him as we did Poroshenko." ■



Anti-corruption activist Oleg Mykhailyk poses for a photo on May 11, 2019, on a street where he lives in Odesa downtown. Mykhailyk was shot on the same street in September for his civic activity as he believes. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Enjoy classics, jazz and blues at Kyiv's live music shows. Pick events from our Entertainment Guide on pages 12-13.

Burning Man fans recreate festival atmosphere in Kyiv



WITH ALYONA NEVMERZHYTSKA
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Relax and reset amid Jordan's breathtaking landscapes and ancient sites

In Ukraine, the Middle East has a contradictory reputation. On the one hand, it is known for bloody wars and revolutions. On the other, places like Egypt's Sharm el-Sheikh and Turkey's Antalya are top destinations for Ukrainian tourists looking for a relaxing beach vacation.

But there is Middle Eastern country that defies these stereotypes, offering surf and turf, ancient cities and modern accommodations, and both religious sights and secular recreation. This is the Kingdom of Jordan, with nearly 10 million people.

Jordan attracts visitors with its World Heritage Sites. But visitors shouldn't overlook its friendly population, tasty food, and fantastic landscapes.

And Ukrainians can get a visa upon arrival in Amman, the country's capital. Moreover, if the tourist has a "Jordan Pass" sightseeing package, entrance to the country is free. Additionally, if you arrive through Aqaba, there is also visa-free entrance.

Sea and desert

While Jordan may not be a top destination compared to some regional neighbors, it has plenty to offer visitors.

Jordan's main port, Aqaba, is a tourism hotspot on the Red Sea. It offers numerous beaches, the most famous of which is Berenice Beach. Visitors can swim both in the sea and pools. Scuba diving is also good near Berenice, an area famous for its colorful reefs and beautiful marine life. Aqaba is also an interesting place geographically: Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Israel are all just 10 kilometers away.

For those looking to spend time in the water, but less keen on the exertion of swimming, will undoubtedly be attracted to Jordan's Dead Sea. In reality, it isn't a sea, but an extremely saline lake. The salt content of the water is so high that no plant or animal can survive in the water.

But that has an advantage: you float. The water is so salty that it pushes you to the surface. Visitors can relax floating lackadaisically on the water while enjoying a good book. Also many claim that the Dead Sea mud has healing properties,

more **Festival** on page **21**

more **Jordan** on page **20**



The founder of Kurenivka Palace of Culture Yaroslav Korets sets fire during the opening ceremony of the venue on May 11 in Kyiv. Inspired by U.S. art and music festival Burning Man, Kurenivka was created by a community of the festival's fans in Ukraine. (Ksenia Honcharova)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA
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Some of the most dedicated Ukrainian fans of the world's most visually fascinating art festival, Burning Man, will likely skip it this year. The reason? They don't have to travel all the way to Black Rock Desert in Nevada anymore to experience the festival's atmosphere.

The "burners," as they refer to themselves, have created their own Burning Man enclave in Kyiv called Kurenivka Palace of Culture.

The palace opened on May 11 with

a huge party. Later, it will serve as a platform to create and present art — and its work will be based around the foundational ideas of Burning Man.

Other than that, Kurenivka will become a meet-up spot for Ukrainian burners and those willing to learn from their culture.

"We've built a home for our community," Yaroslav Korets, 36, the founder of Kurenivka, told the Kyiv Post.

Korets, who is an information technology entrepreneur and a four-time burner, has gone from enjoying

the festival himself to bringing his friends there and, then, to spreading the event's culture in Ukraine.

He says that it is his way of giving back to the community that introduced him to burners.

According to the Kurenivka founder, there are around 1,000 Ukrainians who have been to Burning Man in Nevada and even more who love the culture and hope to visit the desert festival one day.

Led by Korets, Ukrainian burners have held several parties in Kyiv over the last year. Yet, it wasn't enough for people booming with ideas.

"The idea (to open an art space) came naturally because of people: they needed a place to create," Korets said.

Collective work

The burners didn't have to go far to pick a name for their "home" in Ukraine — they have already used it before. At the last Burning Man in 2018, Ukrainians set up a camp called Kurenivka, a reference to the Ukrainian word "kurin," a unit of measure used by Ukraine's Zaporizhian

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World Traveler

Jordan is a safe, welcoming place offering up great sights for visitors from Ukraine

Jordan from page 19

and spa services are in high demand here.

For a drier, but no less exciting experience, visit the Wadi Rum desert. Often called the "Valley of the Moon," Wadi Rum offers Martian land landscapes featuring red sand and breathtaking canyons. In fact, the American film *The Martian* was shot in this desert.

This harsh landscape is, in fact, inhabited: a few hundred Bedouins still call Wadi Rum home. And visitors can also admire the wild camels and goats that roam free in the desert.

There are also opportunities to stay overnight in Wadi Rum. Many camps that offer all the needed facilities – bathrooms, showers, and Wi-Fi. And locals will also offer visitors a dinner cooked in the traditional Bedouin way.

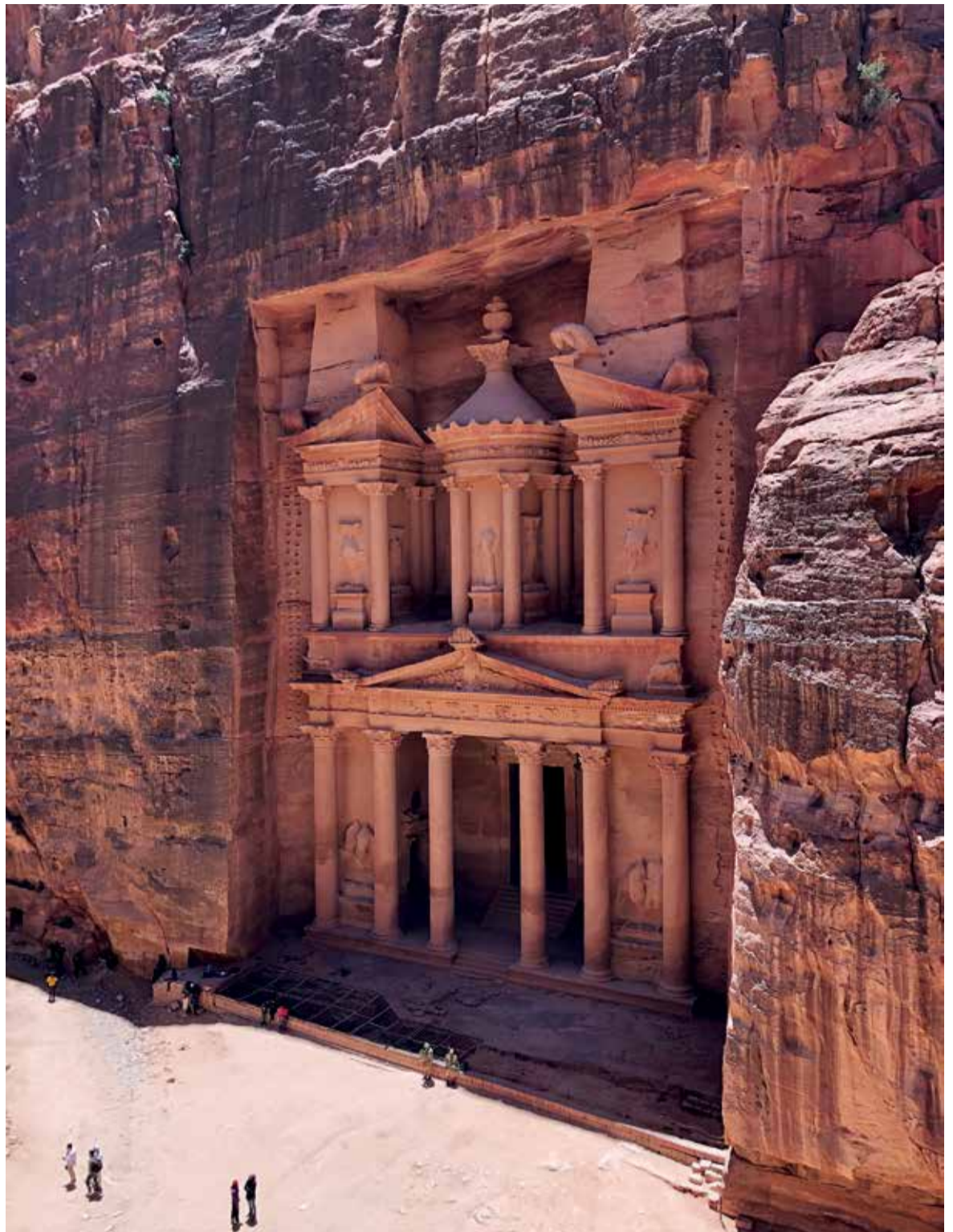
Ancient sites

Jordan also has much to offer history buffs. The country's main attraction is the ancient city of Petra, one of the so-called New Seven Wonders of the World and a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

It is unknown precisely when Petra was built, but the city began to prosper starting in the 1st century B.C. The ancient city is hidden behind soaring cliffs. To reach it, one must pass through a narrow one-kilometer gorge, called the Siq, on foot or in a horse-drawn carriage – a journey worth experiencing even without Petra.

At the end of this long path, visitors catch their first glimpse of Al Khazneh, the Treasury, Petra's most famous monument. The Treasury also has a cinematic heritage: the movie *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* was shot here.

Another breathtaking building –



Jordan's Al-Khazneh, or "The Treasury" of the Ancient Arab Nabatean Kingdom city of Petra, was built at the beginning of the 1st century AD. (Alyona Nevmerzhytska)

the largest monument in Petra – is Ad Deir, the Monastery. Locals will offer donkey rides up to the ancient building.

Visitors to Petra generally say in the town of Wadi Musa, about a 10–15 minute walk to the ancient city.

Another ancient attraction is the Jordan River, where Jesus was baptized according to the Christian tradition. Many pilgrims and believers visit every day to dip in the river's holy waters.

Modern and ancients

But Jordan's offerings don't end on the coast and in remote parts of the country. Amman, the Jordan's capital, also has much to delight visitors. With over 5 million residents, Amman is above all a bustling, noisy, modern metropolis.

Visitors should check out the Kind Abdul I Mosque with its sky-blue dome and the Amman Citadel, an ancient historical site in the center of this modern city.

Less than 50 kilometers away from the capital is another must-visit attraction: the city of Jerash. The drive there will take less than an hour, but will transport you 2,000 years back in time.

Jerash is Jordan's largest and most interesting Roman ruin. Its imposing ceremonial gates, colonnaded avenues, temples, and theatres will provoke visitors to envision the city as the ancient Roman imperial center it once was.



A man carries tourists by horse coach on May 8, 2019, in the ancient city of Petra. (Alyona Nevmerzhytska)

Even the most casual fan of archaeology will enjoy a half-day at the site. But be sure to bring a hat and sunscreen in the warmer months, as there is little shade.

Know before you go

Visitors to Jordan have the perfect opportunity to relaxation and active exploration, to refresh and recharge from their busy lives. However, they should be aware that travelling to the country's sites may take more time than anticipated because aspects of the tourism of the infrastructure is not well-developed. Visitors will likely need to take taxis to get to some sites. The local currency, the Jordan

Dinar (JOD), is quite expensive, at a rate of 0.7 JOD to the dollar.

Broadly speaking, Jordan is safe country and very welcoming. There will be many moments when the country's magic will seep into your soul. Jordan will welcome you, challenge you, and widen your worldview. ■

How to get there:

Turkish Airlines tickets on the route Kyiv-Aqaba -Amman -Kyiv cost roughly 550 euros. Dinner in a restaurant will cost 15–20 euros. Hotel prices depend on the city, but the average is around 50 euros.

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Burning Man's fans decide to skip desert in Nevada for Kyiv

Festival from page 19

Cossacks to outline administrative districts of the Zaporizhian Sich in the 16–18 centuries.

The Kurenivka Palace of Culture is located in the huge 1,200-square-meter building of a former automobile repair shop in Kyiv's most artsy Podil district. Kurenivka is also the name of a nearby neighborhood of Kyiv.

The Ukrainian burners found a place for the art space through their acquaintances: the owners of the building have fallen for their culture and now they are part of the community, Korets said.

"We rent the (building) but on very favorable terms," he said.

Until recently, the neglected automobile repair shop was in very poor condition. But the burners weren't afraid of complicated renovations since they had quite the experience setting up a city in the middle of the desert. And some of the Burning Man principles, such as collective work and participation, came in handy here.

There are only participants, no spectators," reads one of Kurenivka's 11 principles, which are inspired by the Burning Man's principles.

Over the course of two months, a group of 300 volunteers worked to bring the abandoned building back to life. That was "quite an anthill," Korets said, referring to the number of workers.

The volunteers did all kinds of work at Kurenivka: they cleaned, painted, cooked and even constructed stairs and made washbasins.

"We have a motto that 'it's not your job, it's just your turn.'"

Kurenivka has no commercial aim, which is why it has nothing to offer to investors. For that reason, it is financed through crowdfunding the community launched over two months before the event's opening. All the tools and materials needed for renovations were bought with people's donations, which varied from Hr 50 (roughly \$2) to Hr 30,000 (\$1,130), Korets said.

The event also charged for tickets

to the opening party to close up gaps in the budget.

Grand opening

The Kurenivka housewarming lasted all day on May 11 and late into the night. It wasn't just a celebration, but also a work and leisure event at the same time: the community members were finishing setting up different areas and artworks as they were circulating through the space in bizarre outfits sipping alcohol.

Just like any new home, Kurenivka is still a bit underequipped, so over 1,300 attendees flocked to the opening bringing potted plants, alcohol and food as gifts. They were following another principle of Burning Man — gifting.

"The value of a gift is unconditional," the principle reads.

"The magic of a gift is that you do not demand anything in return," Oleksandr Ovsianko, 38, a three-time burner who leads a construction company and is also a member of Kurenivka's board of directors, told the Kyiv Post.

All the drinks and dishes at the opening were given out for free, just like at Burning Man, where nothing is allowed to be sold.

There were numerous lounge and dance zones located in tents mounted all around the Kurenivka building. From the inside, they resembled the ones in the Black Rock Desert with one little exception: there were concrete floors instead of sand.

The housewarming party had a busy entertainment schedule throughout the day: music shows and art performances all happened throughout the premises, and the event concluded with a fire show and a party at night.

Even though there was an abundance of art work, nearly every attendee was a work of art. Following another principle — radical self-expression — the burners were wearing artsy outfits made of leather, feathers, colorful leggings, offbeat cloaks and headdresses. Many were dressed as mythical creatures, historic figures or animals.

"I have a feeling that we managed

to bring a piece of (Burning Man) here," Ovsianko said.

But not all the principles were followed perfectly. The "leave no trace" concept, which means leaving the festival locations in better condition than it was before, was neglected by many, presumably those who have never seen the way the Black Rock Desert looks after the festival is over.

But Korets says that, at Burning Man, it usually takes newbies time to adapt, and the visitors to Kurenivka didn't have enough time to do that. So it's a challenge for the community to educate people and continue spreading their culture, he added.

"People are able to learn," Korets said. "And personal examples work."

Art scene

An essential part of Kurenivka's mission is to create a platform for making art. The event's opening served as a starting point.

Both experienced artists and first-time creators presented their wall paintings and installations of all sizes as Kurenivka opened its doors.

One of the most popular art installations was a huge head sculpture with an internal museum showing how ideas are generated in people's minds. The sculpture was created by local digital creative agency ISD Group as a way to celebrate their 15-year anniversary.

The agency's founder Viktor Shkurba, 37, says that all the other platforms they referred to set limits on their concept, which is why they chose to create it at Kurenivka, where the culture of openness gives people an opportunity to express themselves in any way with no boundaries.

The museum, which was titled "Inside the head of Vitya (Shkurba)," was a result of both artistic creativity and modern technologies.

The interactive museum offers visitors the opportunity to experience how the human mind works. It was reminiscent of a computer game, as all the rooms were equipped with displays and tablets.

"Everything cool happening in the world now is at the intersection of technology and art," Shkurba told the Kyiv Post.

After its launch, Kurenivka is switching to work mode to continue its mission. The art space will soon set up workshops and will later host residents who will be able to use the space and all the provided materials to create new art. The residents will be charged a symbolic fee of Hr 500 (\$19).

And Kurenivka's main hall will serve as a place to present this art, as well as to hold music shows and parties.

Korets says that Kurenivka is all about self-expression, which is why they hope to bring together Kyiv's creative class.

"The point of this space is for people from different spheres to communicate, unite and create," he said. ■

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Consequently, who knows more about catering in Kyiv than the most French restaurant company itself?

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People stand in a line on May 11 at Kurenivka Palace of Culture to enter the interactive museum created by digital creative agency ISD Group which shows how ideas are generated in people's minds. (Lana Malkus)

Ukraine dreams big at Venice Art Biennale

BY ARTUR KORNIENKO
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Picture this: the Ukrainian-built airplane Mriya (a “dream” — literally) flies low over the Giardini Gardens, casting a shadow over the pavilions of the Venice Biennale, the oldest international art exhibition. Prided as the world’s largest operating aircraft, Mriya carries a single cargo — the list of all Ukrainian artists, or all who see themselves as such.

Four of these artists, called the Open Group, have thought up this act to represent Ukraine at the 58th Venice Biennale this year. They curated the Ukrainian national pavilion and gave it a poetic title — “The Shadow of Dream (Mriya) Cast Upon Giardini Della Biennale.” Some 1,140 other names on the list are considered the participant artists in the project.

With the sun at its zenith on May 9, the opening day of the Biennale, the world’s artists, critics, collectors and other visitors to the extravaganza looked to the skies to see the 285-ton Ukrainian aircraft fly over their heads. But the plane never even took off.

In the six months of preparation, the Open Group and Ukraine’s Ministry of Culture, who commissioned the project, could not convince the state aircraft company Antonov to fly its Mriya airplane to Venice and back.

“The Shadow of Dream got lost in the offices of Kyiv,” the Open Group said in a statement after the flight did not happen as planned.

And yet the curators carried on by redefining the purpose of the project. It was not the flight itself, they said, but the myth around it that sparked the viewers’ reflection and discussion about the issues the performance raised. And the state’s failure to fly Mriya exposed more problems that need to be addressed.

Battling the hierarchy

“The dwarf in art judges the giant.” This is the way Arsen Savadov, the



A performer narrates an art project of the Ukrainian national pavilion at the 58th Venice Biennale in May, 2019. (Elena Subach and Viacheslav Poliakov)

teran Ukrainian transavantgarde artist, reacted on Nov. 16 to the news that the Open Group, and not him, will represent Ukraine at the Venice Biennale.

The giant is what the 56-year-old artist called himself in relation to the members of the Open Group, who are between 29 and 31.

“The Shadow of Dream” by the Open Group defeated Savadov’s project and seven others at the national competition for the Biennale on Nov. 15. Savadov disagreed with the contest’s seven-member committee, saying that his project would be more worthy.

Among other things, Savadov criticized the Open Group’s project for being too difficult to implement: besides organizing the flight, the Ukrainian side had to get permission from the Italian authorities to fly

low over Venice, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On Jan. 28, 23 representatives of the art community, including artists Oleksandr Roytburd and Oleg Tistol, who were also part of the Ukrainian transavantgarde movement in the 1990s, wrote a letter to the Ministry of Culture demanding it cancel the victory of the Open Group’s project.

On Feb. 13, crowds of protesters rallied by the Ministry of Culture and the Cabinet of Ministers with the same demand. The Ukrainska Pravda news website reported that these people were not related to the artistic community, and were saying that they knew from “open sources” that the Open Group’s project cannot be implemented.

However, “The Shadow of Dream” had the support of another segment of the Ukrainian artistic community,

especially its younger members. Artist and critic Nikita Kadan calls the Open Group’s performance method “the first throw” that provokes further actions by other players.

The central element of the project on board of Mriya — the hard drive with the names of all people who perceive themselves as Ukrainian artists — exposes the artificial ways in which the hierarchy of Ukrainian artists is formed due to the absence of a conventional history of Ukrainian art, Kadan says.

“The Open Group performs a gesture of cancelling the hierarchy as such, making the struggle for the top of any hierarchical pyramid senseless. The hierarchy asserts itself by replacing history with myth. The artists of the Open Group expose the mechanism of this substitution,” Kadan wrote on May 8.

Coincidentally, just as “The Shadow of Dream” by the Open Group was selected to represent Ukraine at the Biennale, Savadov tried to impose his own project instead by the right of the hierarchy.

At one point, Savadov said he will call Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to “settle the issue.”

Interpretations

Savadov must have felt disheartened when Poroshenko publicly supported the Open Group’s “bold and ambitious” project and said that it’s happening after all. The triumphant announcement came two weeks before the first round of the presidential elections, which Poroshenko would eventually lose.

“The Mriya airplane with the information about Ukrainian artists on board will fly over Venice. This way Ukrainian art will powerfully assert itself at the 58th Venice Biennale of modern art,” Poroshenko wrote on his Facebook on March 14.

In Poroshenko’s view, the flight of Mriya would be triumphant and patriotic, a power move by a young country that is becoming stronger while fighting Russian aggression. He calls the performance a part of the “cultural front.”

After all, the Ukrainian Mriya would have also cast a shadow over the Russian pavilion. It’s the same pavilion that was financed by Kyiv philanthropist Bohdan Khanenko in 1913, but transferred to Russia after the fall of the Soviet Union. Ukraine still doesn’t have its own pavilion and has to rent one every Biennale.

Similarly, even before its launch, the project had acquired many other — and often contradictory — interpretations.

“Some see jingoistic declarations, others — a caustic irony about them. Some see a sad admission of weakness (if only about the national aviation industry or the artistic historiography), others — the advantage of weakness over strength. Some see ‘a strong gesture,’ and others see defeat as a way to reveal the true state of things,” Kadan wrote.

But since Mriya didn’t fly after all, some of the more positive interpretations of the project were automatically eliminated.

“This work now covers more issues that are deeper, more dramatic. There were no happy endings, no imperialistic victories over everyone else,” Anton Varga, a member of the Open Group told The Kyiv Post.

Why Mriya didn’t fly

The Open Group says it can only guess whose fault it was that the plane didn’t fly. At the same time, Varga says they were given promises that the flight would happen by the Ministry of Culture, the Antonov state aircraft company and Ukroboronprom, the state defense industry conglomerate.

Deputy Minister of Culture Svitlana Fomenko, the commissioner of the Ukrainian pavilion at the Biennale, told theBabel news website on March 14 that the Ministry talked to Ukroboronprom and Antonov about renting the airplane. She also said that the Italian authorities allowed a flight at an altitude of two thousand meters. The Kyiv Post reached out to Fomenko for comment, but did not get a response.

On March 25, the Antonov company finally refused to provide the aircraft, Varga says. The Open Group then tried to look for other flight options to no effect, before finally deciding to redefine the project as a myth that leads to public discussion.

For six months until Nov. 24, performers at the Ukrainian pavilion at the Biennale will retell the myth of the Mriya’s flight over the Giardini gardens of Venice. The story of “The Shadow of Dream’s” creation will be documented and published along with the criticism of the project.

“It’s a whole different project now. It revealed so much about how our society, art and government function and interact,” Varga says. ■

Marathon

Participants run the Kyiv Euro Marathon near Olimpiysky Stadium on May 12, 2019. Kyiv hosted yet another marathon in the heart of the city on May 12. The Kyiv Euro Marathon attracted around 3,000 participants from both Ukraine and abroad. Roughly 300 of them were children. Financed by the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine, the marathon is an annual event held in the spring. The participants started the run from the city’s Olimpiysky Stadium, did a circle around the city center, and finished at the starting point. (Volodymyr Petrov)



Uber launches bus service to rival Kyiv's iconic, maligned 'marshrutkas'

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV
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They're an iconic feature of Ukrainian public transport: "marshrutkas," the sometimes rickety, oft maligned, and almost always overcrowded private buses zipping down city streets. They also form an important part of Kyiv's overburdened public transport sector.

But now they have a fierce rival.

On May 14, global ride-sharing giant Uber launched its bus service, Uber Shuttle, in Kyiv.

The new service offers passengers the option of booking a seat in a minibus. Each bus will follow one of six regular routes across Kyiv at 15-minute intervals and can carry up to 19 people. A ride will cost Hr 15-30 (roughly \$0.50 to \$1), depending on the length of a route.

The Uber Shuttle option has been plugged into the existing Uber mobile application and is available from its pop-up menu from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. The list of routes and stops is also available in the app.

When a user chooses Uber Shuttle, the app will direct him or her to



At the May 14 launch of Uber's new bus service in Kyiv, (L to R) Joseph Pennington, a senior adviser to the U.S. ambassador; Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Volodymyr Omelyan; Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko; and Jamie Heywood, Uber's regional manager in the U.K., Northern and Eastern Europe all pose for a photo next to an Uber Shuttle minibus. (Andrey Skakodub)

the nearest stop. After each ride, the Uber user will receive an email receipt including information about the transaction, the driver, the route, and the trip time.

Riders can pay with a bank card connected to the system via the Uber app or with cash.

Uber will mostly use Mercedes-Benz Sprinter minibuses for Shuttle. It does not own the cars; rather, it will rent the minibuses from other firms. Each car will have seatbelts, something that is not available in Ukraine's marshrutkas.

So far, however, Uber has launched only two "pilot" routes. The first begins in the city's outlying northern Vynohradar neighborhood, passes through the city center, and ends in the Shevchenkivsky district near Peremohy Square and the Universitet metro station. The second route begins near Peremohy Square and travels to Vynohradar.

Uber will launch four other routes within 2 months, including several from the left bank of the Dnipro River. These are currently the high-

more Uber on page 24

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Remembering Victory Day

Top: A man salutes the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier as he takes part in the Immortal Regiment march during Victory Day celebrations on May 9, 2019, in Kyiv. (Volodymyr Petrov).
 Bottom: People hold pictures depicting victims of the crimes of the Soviet regime during Victory Day celebrations at the Memorial to the Unknown Sailor in Odesa on May 9, 2019. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)
 Across Kyiv, thousands of people have taken part in Victory Day rallies on May 9 to mark the 74th anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany. According to police, 3,000 joined the "Immortal Regiment" march, often regarded as part of Russia's propaganda effort, and another 1,000 took part in the "Immortal Groot," a counter-march. Similar marches took place around Ukraine.



Uber starts shuttle service: 'This will be a great addition for riders in Kyiv'

Uber from page 23

est-demand routes, and they are poorly covered by existing public transport, according to a survey Uber carried out with Kyivans before the launch.

Apart from Ukraine, Uber Shuttle only operates in the capitals of Mexico and Egypt, which makes Kyiv the first city in Europe to have the service.

"We are committed to trying to reduce emissions and congestion. By giving this city this choice of transport, people here will be less likely to have a private car. Cities will be better places," said Jamie Heywood, Uber's regional manager in the U.K., Northern and Eastern Europe, at a press conference in Kyiv on May 14.

"This will be a great addition for riders in Kyiv to chose how they want to get from A to B," Heywood added.

Uber is headquartered in San Francisco, California. It develops, markets and operates a mobile app to order taxi rides and another app for food deliveries, Uber Eats. Both function in some cities of Ukraine.

Overall, Uber operates in seven Ukrainian cities. And the company's executives said that Uber Shuttle may roll out in other Ukrainian cities if the service finds demand in Kyiv.

Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko appeared overjoyed at the press conference. He said he believes that Uber Shuttle will appeal to those who find taxis expensive but are unsatisfied with other means of transport in Ukraine: trams, buses or marshrutkas, which cost Hr 8, or \$0.30, a ride.

"Shuttle will create an opportunity to fill this niche," Klitschko said. "I have a mission to make the people of the capital's lives comfortable and modern. I am doing everything to bring new technologies to Kyiv."

The Kyiv mayor promised to improve bicycle routes in Kyiv to lure Uber's electric bike-share service, Jump, to the city.

As of 2019, Uber is estimated to have 110 million users worldwide, a 69 percent market share in the United States for passenger transport and a 25 percent market share for food delivery.

"Ukraine is a vibrant economy with a rich tech sector," Uber's Heywood said. "It has an innovative population who is willing to adopt new technologies. Hence, Kyiv is now one of the most important cities in Europe for us."

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