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Poland: Neighborly Home To 2 Million Ukrainians



A boat floats across the Oder River on Aug. 2, 2017, in Poland's city of Wroclaw, more than 1,000 kilometers west of Kyiv. Neighbors Poland and Ukraine have had a long history of friendship and tensions. Catholic-dominated Poland anchored with the West, whereas Eastern Orthodox Ukraine has been more heavily influenced by Russia. The two countries have also been at war several times over the centuries. Today, they have a better relationship, with two million Ukrainians working in Poland, sending billions of dollars back home each year. Poland is also a staunch supporter of Ukraine's drive to join the European Union and NATO and to punish Russia for its invasion of Ukraine. Total bilateral trade was \$6.2 billion last year between Poland and Ukraine. But that volume is expected to grow as Ukraine's EU trade agreements take hold. (UNIAN)

New language law could kill independent media ahead of 2010 elections

BY OLEG SUKHOV AND BERMET TALANT

SUKHOV@KYIVPOST.COM, BERMET@KYIVPOST.COM

Print media are struggling to survive around the world. But in Ukraine, they are now threatened by more than shrinking advertising budgets and falling subscription numbers.

New legislation has been proposed in parliament that, if passed, would force all media published in languages other than Ukrainian to produce an identical Ukrainian version, both in print and online. The extra costs could kill off many non-Ukrainian-language media, including the Kyiv

One of the authors of the bill, member of parliament Iryna Podolyak from the 25-member Samopomich Party, and MP Svitlana Zalishchuk from President Petro Poroshenko's 135-member faction, told the Kyiv Post they would submit amendments to exempt Englishlanguage media from the bill's provisions.

There are no guarantees, however, that these English-language exemptions will be adopted by the Verkhovna Rada. The amendments to the law must be submitted by Oct. 24.

What's the law about?

Passed in its first reading on Oct. 4, the new language bill garnered cross-factional support, with 261 MPs voting in favor.

The law declares Ukrainian, which is the state language, as the main language in all spheres of public life, from education and culture to telecommunications, the service sector, tourism, and book publishing. Every Ukrainian national must know the state language, and anyone who wants

more **Language** on page **18**



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by Kyiv Post

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Ukraine trains to fight Russian landings on coast of Azov Sea

BY ILLIA PONOMARENKO
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URZUF, Ukraine — As dawn broke on Oct. 9, Ukrainian radar batteries along the shores of the Azov Sea reported unusually intense Russian military activity at an enemy shore base.

According to the reports, Russian marine forces were starting to board amphibious troop carriers in the Russian port of Yeysk, less than 70 kilometers southeast of the fortress Azov Sea port city of Mariupol, with nearly 500,000 people some 800 kilometers southeast of Kyiv.

Worse news came after just a few minutes.

From all along the 400-kilometer frontline in the Donbas, Ukrainian army units started reporting unusually fierce attacks by Russian-led

The situation deteriorated rapidly. Very soon, a fleet of Russian troop carriers, accompanied by missile boats, was detected crossing the narrow sea strait, headed for the Ukrainian coast.

Ukrainian commanders ordered two of the navy's UMC-1000 patrol boats on a nearly suicidal mission: Hold the Russians back for as long as possible, to give the army time to deploy its troops to defend the coast.

Ukrainian commanders' worst fears were being realized: It was an all-out Russian blitzkrieg, and the Azov Sea was the theater of war.

Fortunately, it was all just a war game.

The above scenario was used as the basis for joint maneuvers held by the Ukrainian military on Oct. 9 and Oct.12 on a section of the coast close to Mariupol, some 620 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. But while Ukrainian forces were only practicing this time, this or a similar scenario could easily happen for real, Ukrainian commanders say.

Over the past few months, Moscow's pressure on Ukraine has switched from its stalled land campaign in the Donbas to the Azov Sea, where Russia has greatly enhanced its military power. The Kremlin now effectively has control over the sea.

In response, Ukraine is now taking its first belated steps to resurrect its own fleet in the Azov. At the same time, it has launched some of its biggest and most intense drills to prepare its military to meet an enemy amphibious assault with all guns blazing.

Outgunned

Having opened the bridge over the Kerch Strait between the mainland Russia and Ukraine's Russian-occupied Crimea in May, Russia started treating the Azov Sea as its own lake, harassing and impeding merchant shipping from the major Ukrainian ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk.

In recent months it has also redeployed at least 40 navy vessels to the region, including amphibious assault carriers, artillery gunboats, and missile warships armed with Kalibr cruise missiles — which Russia



Ukrainian military helicopters fly by a group of parked cars during military drills on the Azov Sea coast near the town of Urzuf on Oct. 12, 2018. (Volodymyr Petrov)

launched from the Caspian Sea to carry out devastating strikes on Syria.

And according to Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak, Russia recently added to its Azov flotilla at least five corvettes armed with Iskander cruise missiles.

Moscow's military buildup left Ukraine's Azov Sea coast looking dangerously vulnerable. Other than a handful of old patrol boats at coastal defense outposts in Mariupol and Berdyansk, Ukraine had no other forces in the area.

Only in autumn, when the media started to report on the perilous situation, did Ukraine's leadership started redeploying the first several small combat craft overland to the Azov Sea.

In September, two new armored gunboats were sent to Berdyansk. Then two more craft, the tugboat Korets and search and rescue ship Donbas, entered the Azov Sea via the Russian-controlled Kerch Strait—the first Ukrainian navy ships to do

so since Russia invaded and started to occupy Crimea in early 2014.

Together with two U.S.-produced Island-class boats, which were officially handed over to Ukraine on Sept. 27, those craft are to form the core of a new Ukrainian naval force, based in Berdyansk, that the government has vowed to set up by the end of 2018.

Worst-case scenario

The sea is only the first line of Ukraine's defense — in the event of a Russian attack, the heaviest fighting would occur on the landing grounds.

Ukraine's military believes the Kremlin may still hope to gain a land corridor from mainland Russia to Crimea by capturing the Ukrainian cities of Mariupol, Berdyansk, and Melitopol along the northwestern coastline of the Azov Sea.

This would help Russian resolve dire problems in supplying water and electricity to the occupied pen-



Horrific school shooting in Kerch: 21 people killed, at least 35 injured

BY VERONIKA MELKOZEROVA

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At first the large blast that shook Kerch, a city of 146,000 people in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian territory of Crimea, was reported to have been a gas explosion.

But soon the dreadful truth started to emerge. The blast at Kerch Polytechnic College on Oct. 17 had been no accident, but a combined shooting and bomb attack on the institution by one of its own students.

As dozens of emergency vehicles and National Guard of Russia military vehicles headed to the college, locals nearby began to report that they had heard multiple gunshots.

An hour after the blast, which occurred at noon, the National Anti-Terrorism Committee of Russia reported on its website that it had been caused by an explosive device. It classified the incident as terror attack.

Russian media soon started speculating about "Ukrainian links to the attack." Russian website Lenta. ru even published a story, citing its own sources, that claimed that the gunman who planted the explosive device and shot dozens of students looked like a Crimean Tatar.

However, the Investigative Committee of Russia later identified the gunman suspect as an 18-year-old student of the college, Vladyslav Roslyakov.

After the shooting spree, the lone attacker reportedly committed suicide.

The Russian Investigative Committee confirmed on its website on Oct. 17 that Roslyakov's body had been found in the college.

The investigators said that "after shooting other students and staff workers of the college, Roslyakov committed suicide," the Investigative Committee message reads.

Russian authorities initially reported that there were 18 victims, including the gunman himself. But three more people died in hospitals on Oct. 18.

At least eight more people remained in intensive care with severe wounds, the Russian-backed High Council of Crimea reported on its website on Oct. 18.

After the findings, the investigators



CCTV footage shows gunman Vladyslav Roslyakov during the attack. (Courtesy)



People lay flowers near a college in Kerch, Crimea, on Oct. 18, 2018, a day after a student opened fire with a rifle and set off bombs at a technical college in the Russian-annexed territory. At least 21 people were killed in the attack, including the gunman, who shot himself. Another 35 people were wounded. (AFP)

reclassified the criminal case from a "terror attack" to a case of "the murder of two or more people."

School shooting

The incident started when an unknown explosive device caused a large blast at approximately 12 p.m., the National Anti-Terrorism Committee of Russia reported on its website.

"All of the victims were taken to nearby hospitals. The Federal Security Service of Russia is investigating at the crime scene, searching for more explosive devices," Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee said, revealing no more details.

However, Olga Grebennikova, the college principal, told the Kerch.Net news website that the tragedy had been a school shooting and a terror attack.

"There are so many corpses there. This was a real terror attack. Someone broke in 30 minutes after I left the building. Started running and throwing explosive devices, bombing everywhere," Grebennikova said at a scene on Oct. 17.

"After that they were running all across the second floor, opening the doors of classrooms and shooting everyone they found there. My staff and children died."

The principal was away when the incident occurred, arranging a practical training session for students at a district council, so at first she thought that there were several attackers.

The Telegram Channel Mash, which is linked to the Russian police, published a photo of a young blond man, later identified as Roslyakov, armed with a rifle — supposedly a screenshot from security cameras.

He entered the college in 2015 and was in his fourth year of education.

Columbine-style

Roslyakov had allegedly prepared for the attack carefully. He obtained a gun permit in September and bought a rifle and 150 rounds of ammunition several days before the shooting, news channel 112 reported.

After the tragedy, investigators conducted a search of the apart-

ment where Roslyakov lived with his mother Galyna Roslyakova, a worker at the Kerch Oncology Center, 112 reported.

They found more rounds of ammo and several homemade explosive devices, filled with shrapnel.

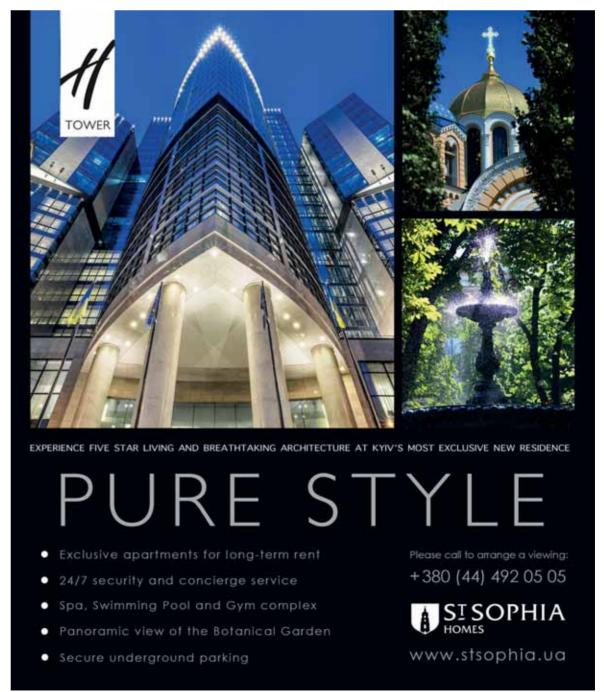
Roslyakov reportedly used the same type of explosive device in the college.

He planted an explosive device in the dining room of the college and then, after the explosion, he allegedly started shooting the confused and scared students as they fled from the blast

In the end, he shot himself in the head in the school library, Russian media reported on Oct. 17.

Roslyakov's tactics, as well as his clothes (a white T-shirt, black jeans and heavy military boots), were similar to those used by the attackers in another infamous school shooting that occurred in the United States in 1999 — the Columbine High School Massacre.

In that attack, two students of Columbine High School in Colorado, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, shot dead 13 people and wounded 21 more. They also used homemade explosive devices in the school cafeteria and committed suicide after the massacre.



Editorials

Bad faith

There's a good reason why modern countries try to separate church and state: religion and politics produce a toxic mix, and nowhere can that be seen more clearly than in Russia.

The Russian Orthodox Church, since the times of the Grand Duchy of Moscow, has been intertwined with the evolving Russian state. Rising in power during the czarist Russia in the 16th to 18th centuries, the church was brought to heel by Peter the Great, who established its governing body, the Holy Synod, in 1721 — a body that Peter and subsequent czars kept under their control.

During the Soviet Union's first decade, the church was closed down with more than 1,200 priests being murdered and many more persecuted. By the late Soviet Union, Orthodox Christians were allowed to practice their faith but the church had been thoroughly co-opted by the state, and according to secret documents discovered after the collapse of communism, was riddled with KGB agents.

Under the regime of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin, the church has again allied itself with the Russian state, and has been corrupted by it the church is thought to have made \$1.5 billion from a scheme in the 1990s under which it gained the right to import cigarettes tax-free. The leader of the church, Patriarch Kirill, has been seen wearing a \$30,000 wristwatch

But most importantly, the church has aligned itself politically with Putin's regime, adopting Kremlin positions and supporting Russia's wars against its neighbors. It is effectively an arm of the Kremlin, and it has a reach that stretches far into Ukraine and other former Soviet republics.

With the likely granting of independence to the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, the Russian church's influence here will be reduced — and that can only be good for Ukraine. Like the Russian state with which it has tied its fortunes, the Russian Orthodox Church is an imperialistic, expansionist venture. Its continued presence in this country is a relic of

Nobody in Ukraine, including the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, is suggesting that the Russian church be expelled from the country. But hopefully, as Kyiv continues to assert its political independence from its old Kremlin masters, Moscow's priests will see their spiritual influence on Ukraine wither away. This should have happened at least 27 years earlier, if not centuries ago.

Kyiv Post at 23

For many of us here at the Kyiv Post, Oct. 18 is a miracle. It's our birthday. This month, the newspaper is 23 years old. Every year is a milestone, but we already are looking forward to our 25th year jubilee, God willing.

We're grateful and lucky to be alive and strong. We hope those who rely on our journalism feel the same way. A short history: American Jed Sunden founded this newspaper in 1995, a stroke of entrepreneurial genius. In 2009, United Kingdom citizen Mohammad Zahoor saved us from the devasting global recession and kept us going until March 21, 2018, when Odesa-based businessman Adnan Kivan, a native of Syria, bought the newspaper.

Sunden, Zahoor and Kivan understood that money isn't everything and that the Kyiv Post is important to Ukraine. They have defended our editorial independence despite political pressure. Of the three owners, Kivan has the most ambitious plans for us, so the best may be yet to come.

We have been through a lot with Ukraine: two revolutions, Russia's ongoing war, multiple recessions, assassinations of journalists, enough corruption to fill a big book, numerous elections, multiple attempts to buy, sue or censor us — all failing thanks to the moral strength of the staff and the influence of our supporters, advertisers and subscribers.

The road ahead isn't easy. We feel pressure to support President Petro Poroshenko's re-election bid in 2019. But we're going to continue to provide fair, accurate and non-partisan coverage, without fear or favor. Our editorial independence was set in stone a long time ago.

Ukraine's future is full of opportunities and challenges, but life is unquestionably much better for most Ukrainians since 1995. Whatever lies ahead, we will stay right here in Ukraine, an international team providing a global voice in the global language for our beloved home.



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NEWS ITEM: Serhiy Semochko, first deputy head of the Foreign Intelligence Service and a former You're all just Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) official, on Oct. jealous! 16 admitted that his wife Tetiana Lysenko owns a luxury house, but denied any wrongdoing. "I didn't see any confirmation or evidence," he told ZIK television, commenting on an investigation by the Bihus.info journalism project into his family's assets and the fact they have Russian Tell your friend up there I want another term. NEWS ITEM: Parliament on Oct. 18 approved Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko's special bill to give the use of St. Andrew's Cathedral in Kviv to the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople on a permanent basis. The church remains state property, the bill reads. The Ecumenical Patriarchate will use it free of charge for conducting prayers and services. The Ecumenical Patriarchate on Oct. 11 lifted its excommunication of Ukrainian Orthodox bishops and made Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate part of its dominion - the next step in granting the church in Ukraine its independence. I'm breaking up with you! Never mind! We'll create our own Constantinople This looks like a job for Civilian-Man The Russian Orthodox Church accused the Istanbulbased Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople of intruding on its canonical territory and decided to cut religious ties between the two patriarchates during a meeting of the Holy

NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak left the Ukrainian Armed Forces on Oct.13, becoming a civilian defense minister, in line with NATO standards, However, the fact that Poltorak left the army soon after a catastrophic explosion and fire at an army ammunition depot near the village of Ichnya in Chernihiv Oblast was seen by many as an attempt by Poltorak to distance himself from responsibility for the incident

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Reformer & Anti-Reformer Of The Week



Denys Bihus Investigative journalist continues exposing top intelligence official



Stanislav Shchotka Top judicial official uses false statement to smear civil society watchdog

Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church in Minsk on Oct. 15. The

Constantinople on Oct. 11 recognized the legitimacy of bishops of the Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox

Ukraine's Friend & Foe Of The Week

move came after the Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of

Church under the Constantinople Church

Kurt Volker U.S. envoy to Ukraine keeping Russia's war on Ukraine in the spotlight.



Patriarch Kirill Russian church head and ally Putin create miracle of free church in Ukraine.

VOX populi:

Who should control Kyiv's Pechersk Lavra?

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Ukraine's largest telecom carrier helps police find missing children

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV

KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Officially, every day at least 10 kids go missing in Ukraine.

Longing to bring every one of them back to their parents, Ukraine's largest mobile operator Kyivstar has been helping police search for those missing children with the help of its telecom resources.

Called Kid Search, the service provided by the carrier uses a technology that locates people within a particular area and contacts them to get evidence in case they turn out to be crucial witnesses.

It's statistically important to look for missing children especially actively within the first day after they went missing, according to Ganna Zakharash, corporate communication director at Kyivstar. If ever found, 95 percent of missing children are located within this time

"Therefore it is important to report about the disappearance as soon as possible," Zakharash told the Kyiv Post. "If we can help do that, then why not?"

She said the operator had been testing the service in Kyiv for half a year and then asked police if it helped them. It did, and so the service has been rolled out across Ukraine.

This is how it works: police contact the carrier, and as soon as Kyivstar knows where a missing child was seen for the last time, its technology allows locating all of its subscribers who were active - those who used



messages – within the radius of 3 kilometers around the spot, over a particular time span.

As the carrier locates them and draws a list of phone numbers, it sends them text messages put together by the police and the child's parents. Such a message has information about the missing kid: the location place where the child was last seen, distinguishing characteristics, and a link to a police operated website or Facebook page with several photos.

If people who receive the message

the internet, made calls, or sent text know of anything, they dial a number together with the authorities — conmentioned in the message and provide evidence.

> The whole cycle, from a parent talking to a police to sending out text messages, takes up to 25 hours, but Zakharash insists it depends on how fast the police can give the information and parents' permission to Kyivstar. The police, in turn, inspire parents to contact them as soon as the parents realize something went

In order to make this service work, Kyivstar partnered with the National necting Ukraine oblasts to its system ever since.

Only at the end of September, the carrier launched the service in three new oblasts (Rivne, Khmelnytskyi, and Sumy), now being present in 20 oblasts in total. Kyivstar plans to cover the whole country by 2019. This means its messages will be able to reach as much as 26 million people, the amount of Kyivstar subscribers.

Today 17 million people are on the database to be contacted if a child goes missing in the area next

Every region connected to the service has a Facebook page as well, moderated by police. They post profiels of missing children and include links to them in Kyivstar text

The operator stresses that it does not give out any information about its subscribers to any third parties. And that all the data collection is done by artificial intelligence.

Besides, such a service can work only for children as their parents can give permission to process their data on their behalf. Sending out information about an adult is thus restricted without the adult's permission.

As soon as the kids are found, Kyivstar and police delete their profiles from their databases.

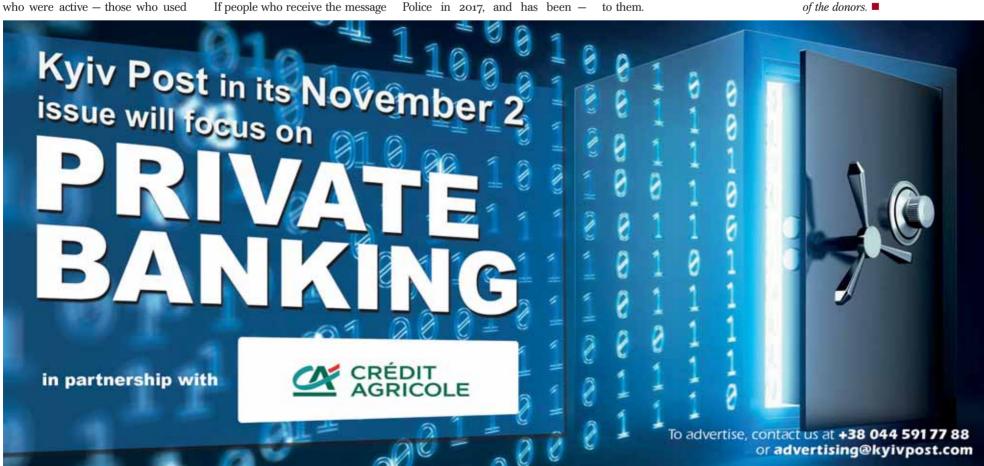
The service works by default for free, but can be canceled. Only 0.1 percent of users have ever asked for that, though.

Since the launch of the service, from summer of 2017 to summer of 2018, the carrier has sent out 87 text packs across Ukraine. By accident or not, all these missing children were found.

Zakharash, however, would not say that it's so specifically because of Kyivstar's text messages: "We are just providing police with another tool," she said.

She continued after a short pause, "You know, just as we launched the service we thought, 'If we can help find at least one child, then this is worth all the effort we made."

The Kyiv Post's technology coverage is sponsored by Ciklum and NIX Solutions. The content is independent of the donors. \blacksquare



Businesses help Ukrainian army, those affected by Russia's war

BY NATALIA DATSKEVYCH

DATSKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

For some businesses, corporate social responsibility means helping those affected by Russia's war in the east.

And as the state was either unable or unwilling to provide the necessary support to the Ukrainian army and citizens, businesses played a vital role in 2014–2015 in defending the country from Russia's military invasion.

Today, businesses continue to help, but on a smaller scale.

"The army did not exist four years ago — there was no military uniform, no food, nothing," said Oleg Polischuk, founder of a support group for soldiers and director of the prevention and counteraction to corruption department at Energoatom, Ukraine's state-owned national nuclear power company.

"Guys were asking simply to bring them sneakers," he said.

By the end of 2017, Ukrainian soldiers started to have their basics covered as a result of government reforms.

"If earlier they did not have enough food, now (some) eat salmon in tomato sauce and smoked ham," said Oleksandr Makhno, deputy director of logistics and technical support at Energoatom. "Engineering, optical equipment, weapons are all at a completely different level."



Coca-Cola volunteers do makeup and hairstyles for graduates of a social rehabilitation center in the city of Svyatogirsk in Donetsk Oblast, where about 500 children from eight orphanages were resettled from the occupied Donbas in 2014. (Courtesy)

And yet, more than 10,300 people were already killed as a result of the armed conflict, of whom roughly a third were civilians and almost

24,000 more were wounded, according to the United Nations.

And while the army's basics are finally covered, the humanitarian cri-

sis in the Donbas region still remains acute: around 40,000 civilian houses were damaged or destroyed. While some 4.4 million people continue to live in the Russian-occupied territory, more than 1 million have been internally displaced.

Understanding the needs

Polischuk's first trip as part of Energoatom's corporate social responsibility initiative was to the city of Izium in June 2014.

"I was shocked — there were real troops, tanks, checkpoints," said Polischuk. "That's where I first saw dead Ukrainian soldiers."

After returning back from the front, fueled by what he saw there, an entire social program was made to raise money and buy everything necessary for the army.

Energoatom used its staff of 36,000 to raise Hr 1 per person on a regular basis.

"At first we traveled weekly, then several times a month with the objective to gradually improve the situation," said Polischuk. The team would deliver everything they could: underwear, hygiene basics, night vision equipment, and even cars.

"10 cars were delivered. We bought them from the Baltic countries or Poland, took off the plates and delivered them to the front," said Polischuk.

more **Help** on page **8**



Happy Birthday, Kyiv Post!

Dear colleagues,

The Kyiv Post team is already close to me since I became publisher seven months ago. I am glad to wish all of you a Happy Birthday. For 23 years, you have been one of the most independent and truthful information resources. The newspaper is a great example of democracy and openness for everyone here in Ukraine, and in other parts of the world. As I have said, I support the editorial independence of the Kyiv Post and I'll do everything necessary to keep it. The 23rd birthday is significant. Every year, you kept up the quality and transparency. And I really admire it. I'd like to thank all of you for such a great job. I hope that together we will continue this glorious traditions of true journalism - together we will objectively cover the events of the world and Ukraine, will dispel the web of lies and provide information, truthfully, transparently and unbiasedly, and will create new and interesting content. After all, words are a great force. Information is a force. So over the past years of the work of our beautiful newspaper, you have proven that this force is capable of doing good and keeping the truth afloat. I warmly congratulate you and wish every success in your noble and very important mission!

Yours sincerely, **Adnan Kivan**, owner and publisher of the Kyiv Post



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DIABETES CAN'T STOP FROM REACHING THE TOP - proved by children with diabetes

This summer, 12 teens who live with Type 1 diabetes, scaled the highest mountain peak in Ukraine by taking part in the DiaGoverla project run under the slogan "Diabetes can't stop to reach the top!" Youngsters got the opportunity to travel to the Carpathian Mountains and climb Goverla as a reward for their victory in the ninth National Drawing Contest among children with diabetes. The annual Sanofi Ukraine CSR initiative was held under the auspices of the Association of Children's Endocrinologists.

Country Chair of Sanofi Ukraine Guilhem Granier accompanied the young travellers as well as relatives, experienced doctors, trekking instructors and Sanofi Ukraine employees.

In this article, Kviv Post readers will delve into the young participants' preparation, challenges, and the final conquest of Goverla.

PREPARATION

Guilhem Granier, Sanofi Ukraine Country Chair

Sanofi focuses not only on providing patients with therapeutic solutions, but also on expanding opportunities for people, so they can live life to its full potential.

For more than 10 years, we have been implementing our CSR program "Act for Diabetes" in Ukraine, focusing on educating patients to live with diabetes and manage their disease, raising awareness about diabetes and diabetes prevention in society as well as how to reduce the diabetes stigma.

One of the key projects within this program is the National Drawing Contest among children with diabetes. This year the project acquired the continuation and turned into the DiaGoverla initiative, thus lending a great deal of color to our CSR activities and becoming an extra milestone for us.

In the run-up to this project, I was impressed by the strong motivation of Sanofi Ukraine employees engaged in this initiative. So many people wanted to accompany children with diabetes and provide support on this challenging journey to the top.

We launched DiaGoverla project to empower patients emotionally for disease management, strengthen their desire to get involved in sports, develop their skills and creativity. We also wanted to give them the opportunity to say to their relatives, friends, teachers and all Ukrainians that with proper diabetes treatment and management anything is possible.

Vladyslav Chumachenko, mountaineering instructor

I have been mountaineering for 14 years, and since 2009, I have been working as a trekking instructor and hiking. Now I lead the children's camp "Extreme". We involve different children in our activities - with disabilities, with autism.

When I first heard about the DiaGoverla project, I was sure that with the experience of working with different children, we would succeed. Nevertheless, there is absolutely no way to foresee what experience your climb will bring you.

Before taking children with diabetes to Goverla, my team and I were afraid of the heat. We understood that the pace of movement would be slower than usual, and it could be a real problem. On cloudy days, climbing the mountain is easier. We even discussed with organizers the possibility of beginning the ascent at 4 am in the morning to traverse the open space before the sunrise, thereby preventing children from a heat stroke. However, we were lucky with the weather.



highest mountain in Ukraine, Goverla, I felt even happier.

The thing is that my dad and I have already attempted to conquer Goverla, but due to some reasons, we had to descend. Then my dad promised me that we would try again someday. Since that time, it has been my dream to climb Goverla!

ASCENT

Guilhem Granier

While ascending the mountain I was constantly inspired by the children, by the fact that they do not let their diabetes hold them back. Mountain hiking is one of the greatest things you can do for your health, both mental and physical. Standing on top of the mountain with a 360-degree view is some-

thing everybody should experience. I am happy that teenagers with diabetes achieved this!

Vladyslav Chumachenko

I was very pleased to see how children and adults were enjoying the trip. This is much more important than just

climbing the mountain. The most remarkable thing for me was the great motivation and confidence of these teenagers. In the most difficult moments - when someone had a fast heartbeat or high blood sugar levels - they still smiled and reacted to my jokes, and I thought: "This means everything's under control."

Daria Gaidash

The last meters of ascent were the most challenging for me. When we finally reached the top, I had incredible feelings and such gratitude for this beautiful world, for being able to do this and I felt as if I could conquer the world. I was proud of myself for pushing through until the end, no matter how difficult it was.



I am very pleased that my colleagues and I took part in the DiaGoverla project, as it gave us an opportunity to spend time with people with diabetes in an informal and unique atmosphere and to communicate with patients whom we work for at Sanofi.

Vladyslav Chumachenko

I am proud that my team took part in the DiaGoverla project. It is nice that in Ukraine there are people and companies with the courage and responsibility to implement such meaningful projects.

Daria Gaidash

I am very grateful for the opportunity to climb Goverla together with other children with diabetes. After all, only friends with the same illness can fully empathize and support. After this journey, I became even more aware that the most important thing is not to stay alone with the illness. It is the friendships I made during this project that made it

Diabetes does require careful monitoring of blood glucose level, regular examinations and continuous treatment. However, the disease should not be a reason to reject the joys of life like daring endeavors and new experiences. Thanks to the DiaGoverla project, we have proven that diabetes cannot stop us from reaching the top!



Businesses send laptops, clothes, medicines and heaters to Ukraine's soldiers in Donbas

Help from page 6

For the entire period, Energoatom raised Hr 5 million from its staff to help soldiers, or some \$200,000.

However, it's becoming harder to collect money to help the Ukrainian army at Energoatom - the \$10,000 raised for one trip in 2014 plunged to \$4,000 raised today, according to Makhno

The demand from the army has also changed during the war - now soldiers mostly ask for specific electronics that the state can't provide in time, car parts, or home cooking.

"We brought them eight laptops allowing them to handle intelligence data," said Makhno.

Supporting veterans and children

Nova Poshta, Ukrainian e-commerce shipping company, has also been supporting those affected by the war since 2014. It has been helping volunteer organizations to send tons of goods to the war zone for free.

Most of the shipments went to the front, as well as to orphanages, military hospitals and forced migrants. according to Lilia Zagrebelna, head of Nova Poshta's social initiatives program.

In 2015 – its peak year – some 37,000 shipments were delivered with a total weight of nearly 8,000



Nova Poshta has helped volunteers send aid for free to Ukrainian soldiers and locals near the front line since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014. (Courtesy of Nova Poshta)

tons, according to Zagrebelna. Among the main categories of goods were warm clothes, shoes, food and heating equipment.

But this is not the only way in which the company assists Ukrainian

For four years in a row, together with the National Institute of Surgery and Transplantology, Nova Poshta has been helping to rehabilitate war veterans. It has donated medical equipment costing Hr 2.4 million, or \$85,000. More than 2,000 soldiers have already been assisted, according to Zagrebelna.

Coca-Cola

Some foreign companies also expressed their desire to help the country's war-torn Donbas.

In cooperation with UNISEF and Red Cross, international beverage giant Coca-Cola helps to deliver products to the occupied territories. For example, in 2014 the company provided transport for UNISEF and 6,000 liters of drinking water for forced migrants.

In 2017, when the conflict esca-

lated in Avdiyivka, a city of 35,000 people, the company supplied 8,000 liters of drinking water, according to Andriy Bublyk, communication director at Coca-Cola Beverages

But some of the most vulnerable are children at the eastern border.

And four years ago Coca-Cola started a program to assist a social rehabilitation center for children called Smaragdove Misto (Emerald city) in the city of Svyatogirsk in Donetsk Oblast. The center shelters about 500 children.

"The first time I came there was in October 2014, and there were frozen puddles and children walked in slippers or their bare feet," said Bublyk. "Now the situation is much better."

During the first year, the company organized 12 charitable trucks delivering clothes, shoes, medication, and

water. This project began to develop rapidly and today it covers 15 boarding schools across the country, located not only at the occupied territory. Bublyk would not disclose the total amount contributed.

Medical support

Other companies provide medical assistance to Ukrainian soldiers, the elderly, and veterans.

During 2015–2018, Ukrainian pharmaceutical giant Darnitsa donated medication worth Hr 12.7 million, or \$470,000, according to Oksana Pyrozhok, head of corporate communications department at

Darnitsa, co-owned by member of parliament Glib Zagoriy, had a net profit of Hr 342.1 million, or \$12.7 million, in 2017, according to the company's financial report.

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ON THE MOVE



Dmytro Shchur

KPMG in Ukraine is happy to announce that Dmytro Shchur has been promoted to Director, Deal Advisory. "I'm delighted to stand

Dmytro Shchur and helping them to write their success stories." says Dmytro Shchur.

Dmytro joined KPMG Audit in Kyiv in 2006 and participated in a number of engagements on compilation, consolidation, and audit of Ukrainian statutory, IFRS and U.S. GAAP financial statements

Since 2007, Dmytro has been working in the Transactions and Restructuring group (currently - Deal Advisory). He was involved in a large amount of buy-side and sell-side due diligence, IPO-related services, financial restructurings and other advisory engagements performed by

Among Dmytro's clients are large and mid-size international and domestic groups with business interests in the CIS and Eastern Europe.

His sector experience includes services to companies operating in the agriculture and FMCG, metals and mining, telecommunication, media and technologies, oil and gas, and banking sec-

"I have full confidence that Dmytro's broad expertize will strongly support Ukrainian and international businesses in their complex projects, and will significantly strengthen our advisory practice in Ukraine," says Andriy Tsymbal, managing partner of KPMG in Ukraine.



KPMG in Ukraine is happy to announce that Olena Makarenko has been promoted to Director, Risk Consulting,

at the cutting edge of investment activity in Ukraine, contributing to investors' confidence

Olena Makarenko tancy practice, as well as the KPMG Insight Academy for the success of our clients," says Olena Ma-

Olena joined KPMG Risk Consulting in 2010. She previously worked in strategy and operation consulting in another Big Four firm in Ukraine. Olena had also worked for more than 10 years in large Ukrainian banks and other Ukrainian companies.

Olena specializes in helping clients assess and manage risk, conduct due diligence on counterparties, lead internal investigations, and prepare expert witness reports for use in international litigation and arbitration.

Olena's forensic experience includes anti-corruption compliance reviews, the development and implementation of an anti-corruption system and anti-fraud controls, financial investigations. analysis and improvement of business processes, internal control system analysis, and optimization. Olena has realized fraud-prevention system development projects, and also developed and implemented systems of controls to ensure compliance with anti-corruption laws.

In 2017, Olena Makarenko launched a brand new project among CIS countries for the company the KPMG Insight Academy - to enhance the professional knowledge and skills of the business community in Ukraine, and has become the recognized leader of this successful educational

"Olena's promotion is a credit to her personal contribution in creating and developing the KPMG Insight Academy, and recognition from us of her multifaceted expertise in fraud investigations, antibribery services, anti-money laundering and forensic technology in the Ukrainian markets," says Andriy Tsymbal, managing partner of KPMG in Ukraine.



Forensic. "My appointment will motivate me a lot, and give me lots of energy to develop the risk consul-

Olena Makarenko

Maksym Zavalnyy

fantastic opportunities for foreign and local investors in terms of the margins that can be earned here. But these opportunities are balanced by significant challenges, including tax risks and considerations that can be faced in Ukraine. I'm happy to be part of the experienced KPMG M&A team at my new position, to develop a range of solutions to manage or mitigate these challenges and risks," says Maksym Zavalnyy. Maksym Zavalnyy will be responsible for develop-

Maksym joined KPMG in Ukraine in 2006 and has more than 12 years of professional tax experience. In particular, Zavalnyy has solid experience in advising multinational and local clients on Ukrainian tax issues, including those relating to structuring investments into Ukraine and exiting a business from the Ukrainian market.

Maksym has participated in over 160 tax and vendor tax due diligence engagements on behalf of large international investors/vendors. In addition. Maksym Zavalnyy routinely advises clients on approaches to efficiently tax structuring the acquisition or disposal of businesses in Ukraine, participates in deal-related negotiations with sellers or buyers of businesses (as the case may be), drafts tax clauses in share purchase agreements, assists in deal closing, and performs tax modelling of the repatriation of profits from Ukraine.

Maksym Zavalnyy has significant experience in deal advisory (M&A tax) in various sectors, including agriculture, metals and mining, heavy industry, oil and gas, renewable energy, FMCG, IT, etc.

"We're very pleased to have Maksym Zavalnyy as a director in our firm, and look forward to his continued leadership and the growth of our M&A tax services team," says Andriy Tsymbal, managing partner at



"After a downturn in the Ukrainian M&A market over the last couple of years, we're finally seeing an increase in investment

rector, Tax & Legal

activities in Ukraine. The Ukrainian market brings

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Volodymyr Chyzhykov

Volodymyr Chyzhykov

Advertisement

KPMG in Ukraine is happy to announce that Volodymyr Chyzhykov has been promoted to Director, Tax & Legal, Transfer Pricing Group.

"A new role, with new opportunities. I'm delighted to accept the challenge of a director's position. As TP issues are among key

services in the T&L department, I see huge prospects for widening our clients' portfolios and implementing new approaches in our business strategy," says Volodymyr Chyzhykov.

Volodymyr will work on advising on various projects on TP and corporate finance issues for big Ukrainian and international companies.

Before joining KPMG, Volodymyr worked in an international auditing company for eight years, where he held the position of Director of Consulting Services and head of the TP department. Volodymyr Chyzhykov has professional experience of advising on various projects on TP and corporate finance issues for big Ukrainian and international companies.

"Volodymyr is an excellent practitioner with an outstanding reputation in the transfer pricing area. We believe Volodymyr to be a highly-skilled professional who can address the full range of challenges experienced by clients," says Andriy Tsymbal, managing partner at KPMG in Ukraine.

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Ukrainian social enterprises give help to homeless, employ people with disabilities

BY DARIA SHULZHENKO

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After being homeless for almost three years, Dmytro Malashchuk never expected to get back to normal life, let alone find a job again.

However, Malashchuk has finally received a chance for a new start in life: the 63-year-old was hired by one of Ukraine's social enterprises, Papa Carlo, in Chernivtsi, a city of 262,000 people southwest of Kyiv near the Romanian border, in July.

"I was more than glad to be hired by this company, it has really helped me to survive," Malashchuk says. "Now I again feel myself as a part of the society, I receive salary and have a roof over my head."

The carpentry unit of Papa Carlo is among the recently established small social enterprises. These businesses hire people with disabilities, war veterans or other socially vulnerable people. Part of the income is also donated to social or ecological

impact investigating project manager at Western NIS Enterprise Fund, social entrepreneurship is gaining momentum in Ukraine

"Social entrepreneurship is a jackpot for the community, since on the one hand it operates as a business and pays taxes to the state budget, and on the other hand it does not ask for budget funds to solve



According to Vasyl Nazaruk, the Employees of the social enterprise Papa Carlo, a manufacturer of wooden products, learn basics of the art of woodworking at a workshop as they prepare to launch the enterprise's operations in the city of Chernivtsi in the fall of 2016. (Ivan Kovalyshyn)

problems, but solves these problems taking money from its own income," Nazaryk says.

Although there is no official data on the number of social entrepreneurs in Ukraine, Nazaryk's directory published in 2017, includes 150 social enterprises all over Ukraine. Nowadays, Nazaryk estimates it to

be up to 1,500 units. "It is difficult to calculate the exact number as there is no such legal norm as social entrepreneurship in Ukraine. Moreover, some of

the enterprises do not even count how much they give to support the community and often it might be a half of their income," says Nazaryk.

Support for homeless

Established in Chernivtsi in

2017, Papa Carlo aims to support homeless people, as well as older people with limited sources of income, by employing them as wood workers.

The social enterprise currently has four employees - three of whom used to be homeless and one professional carpenter.

According to Ivan Kovalyshyn, the founder of Papa Carlo, the enterprise was initially funded by donations from public organizations, but currently it does not need additional funding due to self-financing and reinvestment of funds.

"We aimed to give (homeless people) an opportunity to earn money in order to be able to support themselves, to live their lives, to buy goods, therefore we provided them with temporary or long-term jobs," Kovalyshyn says.

Each of Papa Carlo's employees now receive up to Hr 5,000 in monthly salary, depending on the workload.

Before hiring, Papa Carlo arranges free training on woodwork and teaches how to manufacture wooden doors, chairs and tables - the main assortment of the company's products

Kovalyshyn believes that for homeless people and retirees such employment is more than just a way to earn money. It is also a great

more **Disabilities** on page **16**

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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.

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Why Poland and Ukraine took different post-communist paths

BY MATTHEW KUPFER

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It was a time of dramatic changes. In 1989, the Berlin Wall fell.

Two years later, the Soviet Union collapsed, giving birth to 15 newly independent states.

In this heady environment, Poland and Ukraine emerged: two large, neighboring, independent Eastern European countries poised to chart a new path after communism.

But nearly 30 years later, it is almost impossible not to notice how different their paths have been. Poland is a member of the European Union and NATO, as well as among the fastest growing economies in Europe. As of 2017, its gross domestic product, or GDP, was around \$524 billion. By contrast, Ukraine's was a relatively puny \$112 billion despite having an estimated four million more people than Poland -42 million compared to 38 million.

Poland has wages roughly four times higher than Ukraine, which attracts hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian labor migrants. Meanwhile, Ukraine flounders. It has become the poorest country in Europe and is struggling for its territorial integrity defending its borders from Russia.

Even a casual visitor to both countries can easily wonder: where did Poland go right and Ukraine go wrong?

Brave new world

The economic difference wasn't always so stark. In 1991, Poland's GDP stood at \$85.5 billion, according to World Bank data. By contrast, Ukraine's GDP was \$77.5 billion.

Ukraine also enjoyed one potential advantage over its Western neighbor: heavy industry. In the Soviet Union, Ukraine was a leader in machine-building, arms production, chemicals, iron, automotive and aerospace manufacturing, and high- Leszek Balcerowicz, former tech research. Throughout much of the late Soviet period, it outpaced Poland economically.

But after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, independent Ukraine's GDP fell throughout the 1990s, only picking up again after the year 2000. Poland's GDP, on the other hand rose more steadily until the global financial crisis of 2008. Even then, it was the only country in the EU to avoid a recession.

Early decisions

Why did these two countries' paths diverge? The most obvious source of Poland's success was a clear political consensus for decisive economic reform, experts say.

In 1989, when Poland shed Soviet dominance and communism imposed after World War II, the country was already in an economic crisis that had been brewing



Solidarity leader and future Polish President Lech Walesa (C) is carried on the shoulders of Lenin Shipyard workers in Gdansk on Aug. 30, 1980. After two months of strikes, Poland's communist government recognized the trade union and granted far-reaching concessions to the demonstrators: independent trade unions, the right to strike, an easing of censorship, and the release of political prisoners. (AFP)



finance minister of Poland (1989-1991; 1997-2000) (Mykhailo

since the 1970s. Its government also emerged from the opposition, the independent trade union movement known as Solidarity.

This new political class was committed to a free market economy, rule of law, a division of powers and checks and balances. And because Poland was relatively more open than the 15 republics of the Soviet Union, many economists and new officials had received education or spent time in the West.

One of them was Finance Minister Leszek Balcerowicz, who had received a master's in busienss administration from St. John's University in New York in 1974. He transformed Poland with economic shock therapy.

"At the beginning, there was huge public support because people, to a certain degree, accepted the reality that these kinds of reforms were inevitable," says Adam Balcer, a Polish political scientist. "That was a kind of window of opportunity for the political elite."

The so-called "Balcerowicz Plan" helped to bring down inflation, lay the groundwork for a market economy, and even produce growth in 1992. Additionally, it led to the creation of a middle class of self-made entrepreneurs. But it also brought long-term high unemployment and hit the poorest segments of society hard.

By contrast, in Ukraine, the first post-independence government was largely drawn from the Soviet ranks. And unlike Warsaw, Kyiv lacked officials with significant experience abroad, and its economic advisors understood market economics poorly.

Ukraine's institutions were also weaker. Because Poland was not part of the Soviet Union, its ministries were more experienced in conducting policy, says Pavlo Kost, a Polish-Ukrainian independent political consultant. Moscow influenced that policy significantly, but it was still Polish-made. By contrast, Ukraine's Soviet-era ministries were directly plugged into Moscow.

"Ukraine had to start building its institutions from zero in 1991," Kost says. When the country received independence, these institutions were simply "not prepared to build effective ways of curbing corruption" and "conducting state policy effectively."

Ukraine's potential advantage - heavy industry - may also have turned out to be a disadvantage.

Business people who would become modern Ukraine's oligarchs took control of large state companies, launching themselves to wealth and political power. And Ukraine's Soviet-era industry was heavily integrated with Russia, making Moscow the major business partner for the country.

Poland, on the other hand, had fewer huge firms. It also did one thing differently: although many reformers and Western institutions wanted to privatize state companies as quickly as possible, the opposition pushed back. As a result, large-scale privatization was delayed.

"When it came in 1996, the institutions and civil society were strong enough to ensure transparency and there was a market (with) market prices, so people knew what these assets were supposed to be worth," says Marcin Piatkowski, a Polish economist and the author of the book "Europe's Growth Champion."

By contrast, in Ukraine, Russia, and the Czech Republic privatization went forward at the very beginning of the post-communist transition before the countries were ready to do it transparently.

"They ended up making oligarchs, and Ukraine is struggling with that until today," Piatkowski says. "And Poland has virtually zero (oligarchs)."

Different realities

But not everything can be attributed to good decisions in Warsaw and bad ones in Kyiv. Despite appearing roughly the same on paper in 1991, Poland and Ukraine came from different political and social contexts.

Unlike in Ukraine, agriculture was never truly collectivized in Poland and agricultural land largely remained in private hands. Compare that to Ukraine, where a moratorium on the sale of land remains in place

And while the Soviet Union suppressed religion in the name of state atheism, Poland's position was milder - especially after the 1953 death of Stalin.

Due to the Nazi genocide of Polish Jews and Soviet-engineered population transfers, after 1945 Poland became a nearly monoethnic and entirely Catholic country. The Roman Catholic Church proved to be a central component of Polish identity and a unifying alternative to the communist authorities.

"When you look at the church from the point of view of a social institution, you can see it gives people the opportunity to connect, to communicate, to create something... that is not controlled by the state," says Iryna Fedets, a senior research fellow at Kyiv's Institute for Economic Research and Policy Consulting.

And Poland's 2004 accession to the European Union was not just the result of government efforts. It also stemmed from a Europe that committed to returning Poland and many Eastern Bloc countries to the fold.

By contrast, Ukraine was a diverse society with cultural, linguistic, religious, and even economic divisions. It spent more years under communism than Poland, and suffered the brunt of collectivization early on.

And, until 2014, its elite never chose and maintained a clear path for the country: toward Russia, toward Europe, or toward neutrality. It lacked a clear political identity, and had a history of less engagement with the West than Poland.

For this reason, while Fedets doesn't want to "play the victim," she also stresses circumstance played a key role: Ukraine was fully integrated into the USSR, while Poland wasn't.

"At least in Poland there was some more economic freedom on a very small level... it was less restricted than Ukraine," she says.

Political scientist Balcer also agrees. Despite their similar GDPs in 1991, he believes that Poland and Ukraine cannot be entirely viewed as starting from the same point.

But this shouldn't be used as an excuse for the failures of the country's leadership.

After the EuroMaidan Revolution drove President Viktor Yanukovych from power in 2014, Ukraine "achieved much more in these four vears than in the (last) 20 years." Balcer says. "And that is evidence that they could have achieved much more in the past."



Business and trade are building new bridges between Ukraine and Poland

BY JACK LAURENSON

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Jacek Piechota, the former Polish economy minister, is bullish about the future of Ukrainian-Polish trade relations, while acknowledging there's still a lot of room for improvement.

The economist and former government minister, now co-president of the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of ${\bf Commerce-alongside\ his\ Ukrainian}$ counterpart, Oleksandr Shlapak suggests that Ukraine and Poland are beginning to jointly establish an Eastern European powerhouse that bridges East and West.

The potential for joint projects between Ukraine and Poland is endless, suggests Piechota. Polish businesses realised this a while ago, and they're increasingly setting their sights on the opportunities that Ukraine has to offer.

"Poles are seeing exceptional benefits from investing in Ukrainian assets like land, real estate and human resources," the former minister told the Kyiv Post as he travelled home to Warsaw from a business conference in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kharkiv. "There are also relatively low costs for investors too," he added.

Ukrainians too are embracing opportunities across the border, even if they approach them with slightly more hesitation and seem to face a steeper learning curve than their Polish neighbours.

"Three or four years ago most Ukrainian workers were coming here for seasonal jobs or to work in factories - today we see a new wave of Ukrainian entrepreneurs moving to Poland to build their businesses here," says Margarita Sytnik, a Ukrainian television journalist based in Warsaw since 2015. "Often they are quite successful - opening beau-



A view taken on June 15, 2018 from the 44th floor of the Cosmopolitan apartment tower in the heart of Warsaw. Opened in 2014, the building boasts a minimalist design cooked up by German architect Helmut Jahn, who also designed the European Union's headquarters in Brussels. (AFP)

ty salons, restaurants, cafes and buying property here," she added.

From the perspective of Warsaw, Ukraine is also making good progress with its "complicated process" of internal reforms, says Piechota, adding that it's worth the struggle: Polish businesses are already seeing the positive effects today, he said. As this continues, more Polish companies will take an interest in Ukraine, he suggested.

"Polish-Ukrainian economic cooperation is improving, as evidenced by the impressive results in mutual trade through the past year," he said. "We cooperate in almost every field of the economy and are developing joint, cross-border projects in priority areas like agriculture, infrastructure, security and energy."

The numbers speak for themselves: In 2017, total bilateral trade between the two countries reached about \$6.2 billion, according to Ukraine's state statistics agency – a 26.2 percent year-on-year increase compared to 2016.

While the numbers aren't tallied yet for 2018, Piechota says there's reason to expect more growth in trade between Poland and Ukraine. Moreover, business ties could deepen further if political relations strengthen and business conditions continue to improve.

"We strongly believe that the potential for our cooperation is still not fully realized," said Piechota, adding that both countries can do more to progressively develop their economies, establish new trade agreements and be "consistent in the implementation of European standards."

Investing in each other

Poland has been constantly investing in Ukraine since 1991. After 2005, following Poland's integration into the EU, capital investments really took off — moving into the hundreds of millions per year, as opposed to the tens of millions.

Today, official figures show that there are about 3,000 businesses registered with Polish capital in

Ukraine. Given the improvement of business ties between the two countries and Ukraine's ever-closer integration with the EU, that's likely to increase further.

"From the perspective of trade, we see great growth dynamics," said Andrii Romanchuk, a business lawyer for the Warsaw Legal Group of EUCON and Board Member of the Ukrainian Business Association in

"The most promising sectors (for bilateral trade and investment) are infrastructure projects, construction, building materials, energy, agriculture, the food industry - and obviously IT," he said. "There are great prospects for joint business projects for, and in, both countries," he added.

"There is always the problem of how people adapt to the specifics of doing business in this country," said Romanchuk. "One of the biggest challenges faced by Ukrainian investors, is one of mentality - they're beginning to realize that it's impossible to transfer the rules of doing business in Ukraine to Poland – they simply don't work here."

Exporting labour

While Ukrainian capital investments into Poland are still modest, workers from Ukraine make a substantial contribution to the country's economy through its migrant labour force

A recent official study carried out jointly by Ukraine and Poland concluded that over the next two years, about a million more Ukrainian workers will travel to Poland for work, while about two million Ukrainian workers already live and work there.

As the political climate between Warsaw and Kyiv has worsened the ruling Law and Justice Party in

> more **Poland** on page **15** Advertisement -

COULD POLAND BECOME AN ALTERNATIVE FOR OFFSHORE? THE ANSWER – DEFINITELY YES!



In the context of globalization and the development of innovative technologies, business is seeking to simplify and optimize work and related processes. More and more companies are delegating part of their functions to other companies that are competent in a particular industry, and the usual regulated labor relations are undergoing significant changes. Thus, businesses are tending to concentrate on their own profile activities, and increasing their time, labor and financial resources by outsourcing non-core areas of their

Why do some Ukrainian companies employ foreign elements in their corporate structures? In order to answer this question, it has to be emphasized that this is done mainly to meet export requirements and promote their goods and products in new markets. But use of foreign jurisdictions also helps to hide the ultimate beneficiary of the company, thus, concealing the real

owner. In addition, a foreign element in the structure resources of Poland and the EU – the refinancing rate of a group of companies is often used for reinvestment, of the National Bank of Poland is 1.5%; as well as to increase the investment attractiveness of —the opportunity to have a transparent foreign com—can independently issue invoices in the program. a business group to a foreign investor.

Ukraine has joined the unified international tax rules set protection in Ukraine; (BEPS Action Plan), committing itself to implementing the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). Given that the minimum standard (4 p. out of 15). country is joining the BEPS plan, including signing on Similar trends and business needs in corporate fied staff tailored to the needs and peculiarities of the to, within its implementation of the MLI agreement, structuring led to the initiative of the Association of business, optimizing the business's workflow, resolvthe work of the system of automatic exchange of tax. Ukrainian Business in Poland to create the "Ukrainian" ing issues related to the presentation of goods vehicles information, soon the need for an offshore element Business Hub" Business Center in Warsaw, which was for commercial use to the authority overseeing income will simply disappear: taxes will have to be paid, con- implemented by the EUCON Legal Group. Under this and goods deliveries, as well as other customs issues, ingless and impossible.

able tool for protecting a business from third parties, are Ukrainian residents. The best example is neighboring Poland, which is atsearch, agriculture, green energy, and so on.

jurisdiction. Businesses, primarily exporters, having In addition, the EUCON Legal Group provides account- not only in Ukraine but also in Europe. More detailed inregistered a company in Poland, receive:

the opportunity to be closer to their customers;

number of other risks; - the access to cheap leasing programs, the financial stored - both parties have permanent access to this of-

pany in the corporate structure of the business for as-

cealing the beneficiary and real incomes will be mean- project, various companies in one large building pro- and picking in the shortest possible time convenient vide a wide range of outsourcing services in various premises. All the same, having an international corporate fields. The clients of the center for business services

tractive country for involving as a foreign element due the opportunity to obtain all of the services they re- meeting rooms and a small conference room, as well to its open beneficiaries, rich financial resources and quire in one place. Clients receive a legal address and as a social office area at their disposal. favorable investment conditions. Thus, Poland has can register their company at this address. In addition, become the most successful beneficiary of EU funding the EUCON Legal Group, which provides legal services Ukraine" will take place in Kyiv on Nov. 15. Since 2014, in 2014-2020, having received over EUR 111 billion in within the UBH, has more than 10 years of experience the forum has usually been held twice a year - in Kyiv investments in innovation, job creation, scientific re- in the Polish market. The company's specialists pro- and Warsaw - bringing together large business playvide a full range of legal services, particularly, legal as- ers, young entrepreneurs, government and community Thus, Poland can be a good alternative to an offshore sistance in the corporate restructuring of a business. leaders, and those who have desire to develop business ing services and tax advisers.

The company has also successfully implemented the the opportunity to diversify the risks that exist in idea of introducing electronic services: first of all, a Ukraine, namely, foreign exchange, inflation and a personal client office is created for clients, where all documents generated by the client and company are

fice, and there is also a separate module which gives access to certain accounting documentation, so the client

Some offices are rented by companies that provide recruitment and logistics services, as well as services

There is also a co-working space to make the busistructure is a well-tried, optimal, universal and profit- are Polish companies, the final beneficiaries of which ness process convenient and efficient. When arriving in Warsaw, business owners and their employees can The business hub mechanism provides clients with use fully equipped workplaces, with internet access,

formation on the event can be found at www.eucon.ua.



exploring what's important for people with

Down syndrome; some of the artworks were

created by people with Down syndrome).

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depict-

ing people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11

Movies

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 12:25, 2:25, 4:35, 6:55, 9:15

p.m. Hr 50-100. Kyiv Cinema. 2 p.m. Hr 70 @ @

3 Days in Quiberon (drama, biography in German). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 70 @

Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 2

p.m. Free 6



'Donbas'

"Donbas," Ukraine's national film entry to the U.S. Academy Awards will premiere in Kyiv with English subtitles. The Belarus-born Ukrainian director Sergei Loznitsa has already won the best director prize at the Cannes film festival's Un Certain Regard competition for this drama about Russia's war in eastern Ukraine. Loznitsa will personally present the film in Kyiv cinema on Oct. 19 and Zhovten cinema on Oct.

"Donbas." Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) Zhovten (26 Kostiantynivska St.) Oct. 19-24. Check all the screenings in our Entertainment Guide on pages 12-13

Fantastic Planet (drama, animation in French). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 40 🚳

Shows Breezy Rodio Quintet (jazz). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 350-700 9

Tuesday, Oct. 23

Live music

Blues Jam Session by Max Tovstyi and Friends. Docker's ABC. 9 p.m. Free

Ukrainian Bandura Choir (Ukrainian folk and author's songs). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250 o

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center, 12-9 p.m. Free 10

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free 🙆

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free (5)

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kviv History Museum, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome: some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free 🐠

Movies

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 12:25, 2:25, 4:35, 6:30, 9:15 p.m. Hr 50-100. Kyiv Cinema. 4:50, 8:40 p.m. Hr 70-80 22 26

The Captain (war drama in German). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 70 @

Friday, Oct. 19

Live music

Basel Men's Choir. National Philharmonic, 7 n m Hr 70-300 o

Classics Under the Stars (Spanish serenades). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 😉

Clubs

Closer 5 Years Anniversary: Day 1 with Residents (electronic DJ sets), Closer, 11:55 n m. Price to be announced o

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 0

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 (B)

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free 🚇

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 😉

Mv Planet (paintings by Ukrainian artist Valentyna Zasutska depicting her world people, traveling, passions and everything around). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana) Kviv History Museum, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and phoexploring what's important for people with Down syndrome; some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 5-8 p.m. Free @

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other), Dom. 2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Free 6

Movies

Presumed Innocent (thriller, drama). America House. 6:30 p.m. Free. Bring ID 18

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 11:05 a.m., 12:55, 4:40, 6:55, 9:15 p.m. Hr 50-110. Kyiv Cinema. 4:50, 8:40 p.m. Hr 70-80 🚳 🚳

Shows

The Hardkiss (progressive pop, rock). Palace of Sports. 7 p.m. Hr 700-2,200 @

Vasyl Popadyuk (classical, world music, jazz). Ukraine Palace. 8 p.m. Hr 200-2,000 @

DaKooka (indie, pop). MonteRay. 8 p.m. Hr 250-450 🚳

Tabula Rasa (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1,400 @

Luiku (world music, dance). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 100-750 @

Theater

The Children of the Night (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 100-2,500 @

Saturday, Oct. 20

Live music

The Usafe Band: Glenn Miller Show (jazz). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 100-600

Godwin Louis (jazz, saxophone). Caribbean Club. 8 p.m. Hr 250-1,000 6

Eric Clapton Tribute (blues). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Hr 100-125 4

Ethno Under the Stars (Viktor Verba). Kviv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 @

Clubs

Closer 5 Years Anniversary: Day 2 with Andrés (electronic Dj sets by Andrés, Roman K, SE62). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced o

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 1

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 18

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 🕒

My Planet (paintings by Ukrainian artist Valentyna Zasutska depicting her world people, traveling, passions and everything around). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees 19

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free.

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees 40

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome; some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🥹

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2 p.m. - 2 a m Free 🚯

Kurazh Bazar Birthday. Flashback to 90's (charity flea market, food, drinks and entertainment). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day entrance - Hr 100. Free for veterans, people with disabilities, children under 12, pregnant women, retirees and those who have a birthday on one of the market days 19

Raion Block Party. Fall (market of both old and new goods, music and entertainment aiming to raise money for the development of Reitarska Street). Reitarska Street. 12-10

Whisky Dram (whiskey tastings, cocktails by Kyiv's best bartenders, lectures and workshops and food court). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 12-8 p.m. Hr 550 @

Movies

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 12:25, 2:25, 5:40, 7, 9:15 p.m. Hr 50-110. Kyiv Cinema. 4:50, 8:40 p.m. Hr

The Young Karl Marx (biography, drama in German). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 70 🚳

Shows

Inaia (pop). MK Music Space. 7 p.m. Hr 200 9 Wildways (emo, hardcore). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 350-600 1

Nizkiz (rock, alternative). MonteRay. 8 p.m. Hr 180-300 📀

Mad Heads UA (rock, ska). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 125-1,400 🚳

Theater

The Children of the Night (ballet). National Opera, 7 p.m. Hr 100-2,500 @

Samson and Delilah (opera recording in French). Multiplex (Lavina Mall). 7:55 p.m. Hr 190-240 🚳

Sunday, Oct. 21

Classical music

Masterpieces of Chamber Music (Beethoven, Schubert, Frank, Donizetti). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250 •

Live music

Jimi Hendrix Experience Tribute (rock, blues). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Free 4

Mystery of Sound (flute, duduk). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 @

Max Tovstyi's Blues Band. Docker-G Pub.

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center, 12-9 p.m. Free

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 🔞

My Planet (paintings by Ukrainian artist Valentyna Zasutska depicting her world people, traveling, passions and everything around). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome; some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depict-

ing people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11 Kurazh Bazar Birthday. Flashback to 90's

(charity flea market, food, drinks and entertainment), VDNH, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m. One-day entrance - Hr 100. Free for veterans, people with disabilities, children under 12, pregnant women, retirees and those who have a birthday on one of the market days 19

Movies

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 12:25, 2:25, 4:45, 7, 9:15 p.m. Hr 70-110. Kyiv Cinema. 4:50, 8:40 p.m. Hr

Nureyev: All the World His Stage (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 3 p.m. Hr 190 @

Volcano (tragicomedy in Ukrainian with English subtitles). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 70 🚳

Shows

Jenia Galich (rock). Docker Pub. 8 p.m. Hr 150-1,750 @

Theater

Teulis (shadow play). National Music Academy. 1 p.m., 4 p.m., 7 p.m. Hr 190-650 @

Monday, Oct. 22

Live music

Oravecz (piano). Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 0

Breezy Rodio Quintet (blues). Caribbean

Miscellaneous

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 19

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists

Oct. 19- Nov. 8

'What's Important'

Kyiv's Izone art center is putting on another exhibition raising important social issues. "What's Important" combines paintings and photographs by over 20 Ukrainian and German artists, who tried to discover through art what people with Down syndrome find to be the most important things in life. Some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome or in collaboration with them. The exhibition was supported by the Goethe-Institut Ukraine and German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"What's Important." Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) Oct. 19. 5-8 p.m. Oct. 20 - Nov. 8. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free

Shows

Kovacs (pop, soul). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 750-2.690 @

The Telnyuk Sisters (rock, crossover). Ukraine Palace, 7 p.m. Hr 150-300 @

Theater

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

Wednesday, Oct. 24

Live music

Pavlo & Petro Pryimaky (Ukrainian folk and author's songs). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-250 0

Star Sounds - Cinematic Symphony. Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 @

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 0

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 📵

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free (

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free (5)

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees @

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome: some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🥹

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free 6

Movies

Biography - The Google Boys (documentary). American Library. 3 p.m. Free 🧆

Casting (tragicomedy in German). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 70 @

Theater

Frankenstein: Lee Miller (drama, theater recording). Multiplex (SkyMall). 7:30 p.m. Hr

Thursday, Oct. 25

Classical music Elysée Quartet (Gounod, Rachmaninoff, Debussy). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr

Live music

Bandura Music Days Festival (author's music performed on bandura, Ukrainian folk music instrument). Ostannya Barykada. 8 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 10

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. 5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 (B)

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 📵

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 12-9 p.m. Free. Bring

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees 20

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome: some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11 p.m. Free 🐠

Movies

Donbas (drama in Russian with English subtitles). Zhovten. 12:25, 2:25, 4:35, 6:40, 9:15 p.m. Hr 50-100. Kyiv Cinema. 4:50, 8:40 p.m. Hr 50-70 🥝 🕫

My Generation (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80. Planeta Kino. 8 p.m. Hr 120-180 @

Shows

Aigel (hip-hop, electronica). Mezzanine. 7 p.m. Hr 300 @

Josef van Wissem (classical, minimal). Architect's House. 7 p.m. Hr 200-400 @

Nechto Sovershenno Inoie (rock). Docker's ABC. 7 p.m. Hr 100-750 🥨

Kuba Wiecek Trio (jazz). 32 Jazz Club. 8 p.m. Hr 600 🌚

Kasaï (rock). Docker-G Pub. 9 p.m. Free o

Theater

Raymonda (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 @

Friday, Oct. 26

Classical music

Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine (organ music). National Philharmonic, 7 p.m. Hr 70-350 o

Clubs

Closer: Eris Drew B2b Octo Octa (electronic DJ set). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Price to be announced o

Noneside E02 (electronic music by Monotronique, Unkkut, Kiddmisha and Lostlojic). Mezzanine. 11:59 p.m. Hr 150-200. Visitors must be over 21 @

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art

This year's Ukrainian movie

'Volcano'

hit "Volcano" will finally

be screened in Kyiv after

its national premiere at

the Odesa International

Film Festival in July. The

Roman Bondarchuk, who

film is a feature debut

of Ukrainian director

English subtitles.

Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 10

October 19, 2018

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 18

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free @

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 6

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House, 12-9 p.m. Free, Bring ID (8)

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal, 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80, Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kviv History Museum, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome; some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat society and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Free @

Zoo Bonus Fest (festival for animal lovers offering pet grooming workshops, competitions and tastings for pets, discounts for various pet products). UBI Conference Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. One-day entrance - Hr 30. two-day ticket - Hr 50 @

Movies

My Generation (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80. Planeta Kino. 8 p.m. Hr 120-180 @

Shows

Damien Escobar (crossover violin). Ukraine Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 450-3,550 @

Three Days Grace (alternative rock, metal, grunge). Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 950-1,950 🚳

Theater

Carmen (opera in French). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 @

Saturday, Oct. 27

Classical music

Classics Under the Stars: Capriccioso (Mozart, Vivaldi). Kyiv Planetarium. 7:30 p.m. Hr 200-400 @

Live music

Classics for Children (classical music and movie soundtracks). Cinema House. 11 a.m. Hr 175-425 6

Jazz Melodies (National Academic Symphonic Band of Ukraine). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 70-300 o

Kovacs

Dutch singer Sharon Kovacs will perform with her band in Ukraine for the first time. Kovacs infuses her soul singing with elements of pop, jazz and electronica to create dramatic performances, often fueled with tango rhythms. The Bond-like tango noir of the band's first song "My Love" was an instant European hit, and the debut



album "Shades of Black" charted in 36 countries, hitting number one in the Netherlands. In Kyiv, Kovacs will present the new album "Cheap Smell" and perform some of the older hits.

Kovacs. Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley). Oct. 23. 7 p.m. Hr 750-2,690

Jazz Love Songs. Cinema House. 8 p.m. Hr 175-425 6

Bandura Music Days Festival (music festival featuring Shpylvasti Kobzari, Georgiy Matviyiv, Roman Hrynkiv, Ivan Tkalenko, Tin' Sontsya, KoloYolo, Troye Zillia, B&B Project and others). Ukrainian House. 8 p.m. Free 6

Clubs

Closer: Rhadoo (electronic DJ set). Closer. 11:55 p.m. Hr 250-330. Visitors must be over

Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 0

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 📵

Leisure and Entertainment (paintings and graphics by Volodymyr Yershyhin deriding the mediocrity of modern society). Art 14. 12-7 p.m. Free 🚇

Nothing (paintings by Nina Denysova expressing her love for the art of painting). Ya Gallery. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Free 19

Iron Endurance (exhibition of abstract paintings by Ukrainian war veteran Andriy Baranovsky to mark Ukraine's Defender's Day). America House. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Free. Bring ID ®

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (1)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome; some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 29

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2 p.m. - 2 a.m. Free 6

100th Vsi Svoi Market (clothes, shoes and accessories for adults and children, home decor, ceramics and food by Ukrainian producers), Vsi Svoi D12, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Zoo Bonus Fest (festival for animal lovers offering pet grooming workshops, competitions and tastings for pets, discounts for various pet products). UBI Conference Hall. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. One-day entrance - Hr 30, two-day ticket - Hr 50 @

Vape Reality Fest (scientific innovations and technological advances festival featuring virtual reality helmets, electric cars, locomotives and bicycles, farms for mining cryptocurrency, robots and 3D printers). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🕖

Movies

My Generation (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80. Planeta Kino. 8 p.m. Hr 130-190 @

Shows

Epolets (rock). Atlas. 7 p.m. Hr 300-800 @ Machete (pop rock). Freedom Hall. 7 p.m. Hr

The Rumjacks (punk rock, celtic folk). MonteRay. 7 p.m. Hr 500-990 ூ

Theater

Funny Girl (musical recording). Multiplex (Lavina Mall), 3 p.m. Hr 190-240 🚳

La Bayadère (ballet). National Opera. 7 p.m. Hr 50-600 @

Sunday, Oct. 28 Miscellaneous

Democracy Anew? (mixed exhibition by international artists exploring the modern transformation of democracy). Pinchuk Art Center. 12-9 p.m. Free 0

Freedom vs. Empire (paintings, graphics about the French Revolution of the 18th century). The Khanenko Museum. 10:30 a.m. -5:30 p.m. Hr 7-27 🔞

Kurbas: New Worlds (exhibition dedicated to outstanding Ukrainian theater director Les Kurbas reconstructs sets, costumes, sketches and posters of his plays, and features photographs and recordings of plays). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Hr 80. Hr 40 for retirees, school and university students. Free for children under 12, people with disabilities of the 1st, 2nd group, veterans and any museum employees @

The Third Act (paintings by Petro Smetana). Kyiv History Museum. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Regular ticket - Hr 45. Hr 30 for school and university students, retirees (9)

What's Important (paintings and photographs by Ukrainian and German artists exploring what's important for people with Down syndrome: some of the artworks were created by people with Down syndrome). Izone. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Habitat (paintings by Daniil Trineiev depicting people's habitat, society, and the ways humans influence each other). Dom. 2-11 n m Free 🔞

100th Vsi Svoi Market (clothes, shoes and accessories for adults and children, home decor, ceramics and food by Ukrainian producers), Vsi Svoi D12, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free @

Vape Reality Fest (scientific innovations and technological advances festival featuring virtual reality helmets, electric cars, locomotives and hicycles, farms for mining cryptocurrency, robots and 3D printers). VDNH. 11 a.m. - 8 p.m. Free 🕟

Movies

Aerosmith Rocks Donington (concert recording). Kyivan Rus. 7 p.m. Hr 150 🚳

My Generation (documentary). Kyiv Cinema. 7 p.m. Hr 80, Planeta Kino, 8 p.m. Hr 130-190 @

Theater

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

Sleeping Beauty by Radu Poklitaru (modern ballet). Zhovtnevyi Palace. 7 p.m. Hr 70-750 🥸

Venues

Classical Music

(2 Volodymyrskyi Uzviz St.) +38044 278 6291

 Kyiv Planetarium (57/3 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 338 1991 **Live Music**

- National Philharmonic of Ukraine
- Caribbean Club (4 Petliury St.) +38067 224 4111 Docker-G Pub (13/5 Ihorivska St.) +38095 280 8340
- MK Music Space (57B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38095 179 3834 6 Cinema House (6 Saksahanskoho St.) +38044 287 7557
- Ostannya Barykada (1 Maidan Nezalezhnosti Sq.) +38068 907 1991 Ukrainian House (2 Khreshchatyk St.) +38044 278 3436
- © Closer (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.) +38067 250 0308 Mezzanine (31 Nyzhnoiurkivska St.)+38063 873 7306
- ① Pinchuk Art Center (1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 590 0858 ② Vsi Svoi D12 (12 Desiatynna St.)

is already famous for his documentaries. The film tells the story of local

the mission, gets lost and ends up stuck in a small village of Kherson

Oblast. There, Lucas gets to know the village life and rethinks his own

life. Aesthetic and charming, "Volcano" will be screened in Ukrainia with

"Volcano." Kviv Cinema (19 Velvka Vasvlkivska St.) Oct. 21, 7 p.m.

translator Lucas who works for OSCE, travels to the Crimean border with

- Wis Svoi D12 (12 Desiatynna St.)
 www.facebook.com/vsi.svoi
 America House (6 Mykoly
 Pymonenka St.) +38063 343 0119
 G Art 14 Gallery (14 Mykhailivskyi Ln.)
 +38044 461 9055
- (5) Ya Gallery (49B Khoryva St.) +38044 492 9203 © Dom Music Bar (10/5A Petra Sahaidachnoho St.) +38096 011 0515 VDNH (1 Akademika Hlushkova Ave.) +38067 824 1631
- 18 The Khanenko Museum (15-1) ereshchenkivska St.) +38044 235
- © Kyiv History Museum (7 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.) +38044 520 28 25 Mystetskyi Arsenal (10-12 Lavrska St.) +38044 288 5225
- Izone (8 Naberezhno-Luhova St.) +38067 622 8794 UBI Conference Hall (8) Dorohozhytska St.) +38044 451 9274
 - St.) +38044 462 5674
- Kyiv Cinema (19 Velyka Vasylkivska St.) +38044 234 7381 3 Multiplex Cinema (Lavina Mall, 6D Berkovetska St.) 0800 505 333 Zhovten Cinema (26 Kostiantynivska St.) +38044 428 5757
- Multiplex Cinema (SkyMall, 2T Henerala Vatutina Ave.) 0800 505 333 Kyivan Rus Cinema (93 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) +38044 486 7474 American Library Kyiy (8/5 Voloska
 - Docker Pub (25 Bohatyrska St.)
- +38050 358 5513 ② Atlas (37-41 Sichovykh Striltsiv St.) +38067 155 2255
- © MonteRay Live Stage (8 Prorizna St.) +38093 323 0644

 © Ukraine Palace (103 Vasylkivska St.) -38044 247 2476 © Palace of Sports (1 Sportyvna Square) +38044 246 7405 © Stereo Plaza (119 Lobanovskyi Ave)
- +38044 222 8040 6 Freedom Hall (134 Kyrylivska St.) 38067 239 8461
- A National Opera of Ukraine (50)
 - O National Opera of Okraine (So Volodymyrska St.) +38044 234 7165 National Music Academy of Ukraine (1-3/11, Arkhitektora Horodetskoho St.) +38044 279 1242 Zhovtnevyi Palace (1 Heroiv Nebesnoi Sotni Alley) +38044 279

+38068 411 1972 Architect's House (7 Borysa Hrinchenka St.) +38050 386 7410

© Docker's ABC (15 Khreshchatyk St.) +38050 440 1525

5 32 Jazz Club (32 Vozdvyzhenska St.) 1582

Polish ambassador in Kyiv sees irreversible progress

BY BRIAN BONNER

BONNER@KYIVPOST.COM

While tensions in the Ukrainian-Polish relationship are real, Poland's Ambassador to Ukraine Jan Pieklo thinks that both nations have so much in common - and so much at stake - that they will weather any rough times.

The current conflict is rooted in the shared and difficult history between the neighboring nations.

Ukraine is blocking Poland's desire to exhume graves in western Ukraine in search of victims of the Volyn Massacre, in which as many as 100,000 Poles were killed by the Ukrainian Insurgent Army in the Nazi Germany-occupied western border area from 1943-1945. Thousands of Ukrainians were also killed by Poles in the cycle of violence and revenge

"Poland is a Christian country." Pieklo said during a Kyiv Post interview in the Polish Embassy in Kviv on Oct. 16. "We believe it's our obligation to find the graves and pay homage to these people who got killed. And now it is the biggest issue and it is the biggest problem between Poland and Ukraine.

"We do hope it will be solved soon," he said. "We have no choice."

To continue feuding over events more than 70 years ago, he said, is to play into the hands of the Kremlin's "useful idiots," who he blames for inflaming historical tensions. "There are some marginal groups at work in both countries," he said. If the Kremlin succeeds, Pieklo said, "we'll be having the same problems as before."

Difficult chapters in Polish-Ukrainian history have included war in 1918-1919 during Ukraine's failed drive for independence, territorial disputes, allegations and counter-allegations of genocide and radical divides over the legacies of such controversial figures as Urainian nationalist Stepan Bandera.

It wasn't all bad, however.

"After Wold War I, there was a good understanding between the Polish political elites and Ukrainan political elites that the cooperation of our two nations against Bolsheviks is a must," he said. "With the help of Ukrainian colleagues, we were able to win the Battle of Warsaw in 1920. This battle saved the world from the Red Bolshevization of the rest of Europe."

High stakes

Despite the political tensions, the people of the two nations - with combined populations of 80 million people - are economically, socially and culturally intertwined.

"Ukraine was and is one of the top priorities of every Polish government," Pieklo said.

Ukraine seeks to emulate Poland's successful transformation to a prosperous market economy, joining NATO in 1999 and the European Union in 2004.

Poland, for its part, needs a strong and democratic Ukraine to keep



Poland's Ambassador to Ukraine Jan Pieklo speaks with Kyiv Post on Oct. 16, 2018, in Kyiv from the balcony of the Embassy of Poland on 12 Yaroslaviv Val. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Russia at bay.

"If nothing very catastrophic will happen in this part of Europe, we will have the democratic country of Ukraine ready to join the European Union and NATO one day," Pieklo said. "We have no choice. We are neighbors.'

Progress irreversible

Pieklo sees what he calls "the irreversibility" of Ukraine's democratic reforms, catalyzed by the right of Ukrainians to visa-free travel in most European nations since June 2017.

"It looks like it's not possible to move back to the old system," he

Ukrainians are traveling freely and working in EU countries, primarily Poland, where nearly 2 million Ukrainians have found jobs and are sending back \$4 billion a year back

Since the EuroMaidan Revolution that drove President Viktor now, municipalities in Ukraine are Yanukovych into Russian exile on Feb. 22, 2014, Pieklo said that the power of Ukraine's oligarchs have weakened, that fresh activist blood has entered politics and that the outlines of a rule-of-law system are starting to take shape with new institutions as the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine and the High Anti-Corruption Court.

"There are still old oligarchs. There is (Dmytro) Firtash, who thanks to God lives in Austria and not in Ukraine, There is (Rinat) Akhmetov and there is (Igor) Kolomoisky. There are others. They also know the rules have been changed and they need to follow these rules."

Polish model attractive

Since Poland shed its Soviet domination with the Solidarity movement in the 1980s and the transformative reforms in the 1990s, many Western politicians have lectured Ukraine to be more like Poland.

That is no longer the case.

Poland, under the party of Law and Order, abbreviated as PiS, leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski – the ex-prime minister and twin brother of the late President Lech Kaczynski – is seen as a more authoritarian state today.

It has been warned by the EU to stop its politicization of the judiciary, weakening the rule of law. Since Andrzej Duda of the Law and Order party became president, Poland has taken a more nationalistic turn and is criticized for rolling back media freedoms, among other setbacks.

But Pieklo said "the Polish model is still very attractive for Ukraine," particularly Poland's successful decentralization of government, which he said reduces corruption.

"We are trying to share our experience related to the transition with our Ukrainian partners," he said. "Right receiving more and more funding. Our experience regarding municipal management is very important and very interesting for our Ukrainian partners.'

Ukrainians working in Poland "are learning how to operate in the European Union. They are learning the legislation. They are learning what does it mean to operate, work, study in an EU country. It's going quite smoothly. It's beneficial for both — beneficial for Poland because of labor and beneficial to Ukraine because they are sending 3 percent of the Ukrainian gross domestic product back home.

Ukrainians who return home are setting up businesses and learning how to work to EU standards. He doesn't expect Ukrainians to stop working in Poland anytime soon.

"They are interested in living, working and studying in Poland because it's very close to their country," he said. "Over the weekend they can easily get to the border to visit their families.

Aside from EU assistance, Poland in 2017 invested \$63 million in development projects in Ukraine.

"This figure covers stipends, fellowships for 6,000 students, projects implemented in different parts of Ukraine on good government and entrepreneurship. We are involved in funding some projects for internally displaced persons in Mariupol, Sloviansk and Kramatorsk (in the eatern Donbas war zones.) Through the United Nations Development Program, we are giving small loans to the people who lost their property."

Steadfast ally

Poland has been a solid ally in other areas, offering military training and taking a hard-line stance against Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other Kremlin atrocities.

But he's not optimistic that Russia will withdraw from Ukraine soon, saying Russian President Vladimir Putin has turned the Minsk peace agreements into a "dead fish." He's concerned that Putin will become more aggressive because of his declining popularity at home, fueled by social unrest over a stagnant economy and pension cutbacks.

Warsaw has also been adamantly opposed to both the Nord Stream 1 and now the Nord Stream 2 gas pipelines, which can transport 110 billion cubic meters of natural gas directly from Russia to Germany under the Baltic Sea – bypassing Ukraine and, for that matter, Poland.

Poland supports tough sanctions against the companies involved in building the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which may be completed as early as 2019, and wants the U.S. to export more liquified natural gas as an

alternative to Russian energy supplies, which make Europe dependent on the Kremlin.

"Ukraine is receiving gas from Slovakia and through Poland. Partly it's also Russian gas, but it's coming from Europe, so it makes a big difference," he said.

Language law

While the Polish language is strong in Poland, Pieklo is skeptical of Ukrainian lawmakers' attempts to strengthen the Ukrainian language through punitive measures such as requiring all media in other languages, including Russian and English, to publish in print and online accompanying Ukrainian versions.

"Ukrainian is a beautiful language. They do not need to use the punitive measures to promote the language. It usually works against the goal. We fully understand the Russification of the Ukrainians under czarist empire and then by the Bolsheviks... (but) it can be also case that the real Ukrainian patriots are speaking Russian."

Tough road ahead

Ukraine's move to the West is coming at a bad time, with the EU facing internal dissent. The 28-nation bloc's troubles "makes some things much more difficult for the Ukrainians to accomplish," he said. "There is also this burden of corruption, which was inherited from the Soviet system. Unfortunately, when privatization was done in Ukraine, it was done in a very wrong manner, with industries given to the colleagues of the local elite. It is very difficult to reverse this trend and to change the status quo."

The West needs "to help Ukrainians to strengthen their law enforcement rule of law and their institutions," he said. "Together with our allies from the U.S., from Canada, from Britain, from the EU, we need to be strong on these issues and we need to push and put pressure on the Ukrainians to fulfill these obligations."

Like the Polish president and many Poles, Pieklo, 65, is pro-American, believing in the importance of U.S. troops on Polish soil to ward off the Kremlin and strengthen his nation's defenses.

His positive impressions were solidified during the former journalist's studies at the University of Missouri in Columbia and his sixmonth stint in 1991 at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram in Texas. His editors assigned him to write a weekly column about his perceptions of Texas.

"It was a very popular column. I was receiving plenty of phone calls and invitations from different people, including the KKK (Ku Klux Klan), who wanted to invite me and believed if I wrote about their issues in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, it would be beneficial to them."

He even picked up a Texan southern drawl accent. That's disappeared, but the good memories remain.

"I still have lot of friends there and it was a fantastic experience," he said. "It was a lot of fun." ■



Ukrainian entrepreneurs adapting well to business environment in Poland

Poland from page 11

Warsaw are seen by many observers as less supportive of Ukraine – many Ukrainian workers report that they've experienced negative attitudes and xenophobia in Poland, but tolerate it for the higher salaries — up to four times more, on average, by some official estimations.

At the same time, according to an official study, 21 percent of Polish employers say they employ Ukrainian workers - compared to only 11 percent at the start of 2018 - and 17 percent say they're ready and happy to hire more.

That about 4.6 million Ukrainians, or roughly 25 percent of the country's economically active population, now work abroad - a large portion of them in Poland - is a cause of significant debate and concern in the country. But emigrant workers also send home to Ukraine about \$9 billion per year, with a big chunk of that coming from Poland, according to the National Bank of Ukraine.

Jacek Piechota recognizes that there are challenges with regards to the status of Ukrainian workers in Poland, and says that civil society and government is working to find solutions

"We have a social campaign that's aimed at combating perceptions about the recruitment of workers from Ukraine," he said. "But we're also creating points of contact and a framework for Ukrainian employers and Ukrainians who will perhaps return home when they receive good offers of work."

Road to improvement

While the Polish-Ukrainian economic relationship is strong, most agree and champion the idea that deeper and more streamlined trade cooperation is possible. Bilateral trade may have grown, but for many \$6.2 billion is still not regarded as satisfactory when compared to the sizes of the two countries' domestic markets

Suggestions as to how the situation can be improved, as usual, orbit around Ukraine's lagging process of internal reforms

"To my mind, Polish investors face the same challenges as do businesses (coming here) from Germany, Austria or Belgium," says Anna Derevyanko, Director of the European Business Association, or EBA, in Kyiv.

Stifling bureaucracy, a weak justice system and corruption are the chief obstacles to better trade relations between Ukraine and Poland. Legal

harmonization with EU norms is seen as the solution.

For Derevyanko and the EBA, a top priority is reforming and streamlining customs regulations, which are currently causing "significant problems" along the lengthy land border between Poland and Ukraine.

"The EBA in western Ukraine has started to receive a number of appeals from the largest companies in the region about the difficulties in crossing the Polish-Ukrainian border," Derevyanko said.

There are a number of challenges (in this area) that are affecting honest and transparent business... the situation is having a negative impact on the business climate as a whole," she said, adding that the EBA plans to lead efforts in reforming customs

Despite the challenges, there is a strong base of optimism for further improvements to Ukrainian-Polish trade relations, as the two countries cement their status as an economic, logistics hub that bridge East and

"Ukrainian entrepreneurs are easily adapting to the European business system," said Piechota, adding that Ukrainian business already has a home in Poland.

"We're seeing a significant increase



Government type: parliamentary republic



Andrzej Duda





\$524.5 billion (2017)

GDP per capita, PPP \$13,811 (2017)



312,696 square kilometers

Population: 37.9 million

World Bank's Doing Business Ranking: 27

S&P, Fitch – A- (stable), Moody's – A2 (stable)

Machine building, iron and steel, coal mining, chemicals, shipbuilding, food processing, glass, beverages, textiles



Trade: \$6.2 billion



Exports from Ukraine to Poland: Wires and cables, agricultural products, iron ore, machinery, timber, chemistry \$2.72 billion

Imports to Ukraine from Poland: Machinery products, chemical products, cars, agricultural and food industry products, clothing, refrigerators, paper \$3.45 billion



Poland foreign direct investment in Ukraine: \$611 million (as of April 2018)

Source: The World Bank, State Statistics Service of Ukraine, Ministry of Economic

in the number of Ukrainians who are EU and Ukraine's implementation bringing their business to Poland... and the improvement of trade conditions between Ukraine and the

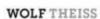
of European standards is building a solid foundation for further mutual, economic cooperation."











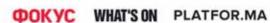


MEDIA PARTNERS









EUCON 16 Business October 19, 2018 www.kyivpost.com

Ukrainian social enterprise hires deaf, gives job opportunities to the disabled

Disabilities from page 9

opportunity to socialize and be useful for society.

"There is a need for social enterprises and it is especially relevant for people who have no money to exist. Moreover, it is useful in terms of the restoration of labor skills, as people need new skills after living on the streets for years," Kovalyshyn says.

People with disabilities

Olena Polozok, the founder of Kyiv-based confectionery Dobra Tsukernia, arranges workshops that teaches people how to make sweets and establish their own enterprises.

Polozok established Dobra Tsukernia in January 2016 to employ people who have suffered loss of hearing. Nowadays, Dobra Tsukernia's staff includes only four people – two with total hearing loss. It also donates about 14 percent of its income to charities.

"People with disabilities face many problems with employment, socialization and the use of their abilities," Polozok says.

Tsukernia's employees work mainly from home, producing sweets and cookies for sale. But it is willing to expand its activities in order to hire more people and make more goods.

Social enterprises must donate at least 20 percent of their income for social causes or have 50 percent of its workforce consisting of people with disabilities, war veterans or other socially unprotected parts of the population.

A textile manufacture, Vesna, located in Bila Tserkva, a city of 200,000 people 80 kilometers south of Kyiv, employs people with disabilities and helps them socialize.

One of Ukraine's oldest social enterprises, the textile manufacture is located near the Ukrainian Association of the Deaf that has been operating since 1935. Vesna now employs 81 people, 50 of which are people with varying disabilities, mainly with hearing loss.

Vesna manufactures female clothes for export, spending 60 percent of its income for monyhly salaries that vary between Hr 5,000 and Hr 9,000, depending on the employee's qualification and workload. It also supports people with total or partial hearing loss. Vesna head Liudmyla Tiukhta said the enterprise was established at a time when people with disabilities had extremely limited opportunities for education or employment. Now the situation is better, but there's still room for improvement.

"It seems to me that all companies should try hiring people with disabilities. Of course, they can donate a percentage from their profit to the development of some social projects, but it is more about corporate social responsibility," Polozok says. "And regarding social entrepreneurship, enterprises should be responsible not only for themselves, but also for their employees, as well as give them financial independence, development and new opportunities. I believe that this is exactly what we need to do, and this is how I see the future of social entrepreneurship."

Poland picks Ukrainians for top jobs in information technology

BY DENYS KRASNIKOV

KRASNIKOV@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukrainians have given a real boost to Poland's economy.

At least that's what Polish officials

And why wouldn't it?

An estimated 2 million Ukrainians who live and work in Poland – either officially or illegally – are expected to send \$4 billion home this year. And these numbers will only grow along with Poland's need for more workers.

The perception of Ukrainians abroad, however, is one of migrants who come to the European Union for temporary hard labor, such as picking fruit. But that's not always the case. Some Ukrainians work there in top management positions.

Ciklum Poland

Oleg Shkuropat is one example. He has just recently moved from Odesa to Gdansk, a northern Polish city of 500,000 people on the Baltic Sea coast, to become a branch head of tech firm Ciklum. For him, Poland was a good career option, because it kept him in the same company, while moving up.

Shkuropat has been in Poland for three months only, and so he hasn't met many Ukrainians in top jobs there. But he thinks he'll find them.

"It might be connected with the general trend of big tech companies extending their business operations from Ukraine to Poland," he said. "Tech companies do their best to keep good managers nowadays."

Many international IT firms presented in Ukraine have offices in



A man glides down the slide in the Odesa office of software development company Ciklum. Oleg Shkuropa used to be an Odesa Branch Manager at Ciklum for six years. But Shkuropat relocated in 2018 and now manages the company's branch in the Polish city of Gdansk. There are currently an estimated 2 million Ukrainians living and working in Poland, either officially or illegally. (Courtesy of Ciklum)

Poland, too. Shkuropat's Ciklum as well as EPAM, SoftServe, Infopulse, Luxoft together hire 20,000 people in Ukraine, and as they run their operations in Poland, they sometimes need Ukrainian managers to help managing their European Union branches.

That's why Ciklum relocated Shkuropat. Now at a new country, he has only started learning Polish, but the language isn't a barrier for him, since typically all of the communication at tech companies is done in English.

Shkuropat thinks that Poles are "more mature, more professional" and better at being loyal to their employers. At the same time, it's harder to find in them "this startup mindset every client is dreaming of." But all of these differences are subtle as "Poles and Ukrainians have similar approach to business

and life," Shkuropat said.

EPAM Poland

Daria Gara, the head of tech company EPAM Poland has been in Poland for much longer than Shkuropat, but her career path looks similar. She was internally promoted and relocated to Poland, too.

The purpose in Gara's relocation was to ensure that EPAM opens its branch in Poland with the same work principles and business patterns as the company already had in Ulymine

According to Gara, EPAM needed not just a new branch abroad under the company's brand — the business processes and the work culture had to be the same as they were in other existing locations such

"They had to be unified," she said. That's why Gara moved and brought her Ukrainian team with her.

Having moved in 2015, Gara has easily adapted to the new country.

"People with Slavic roots don't face any entry barriers (in Poland). Ukrainians, Belarusians, or Russians can easily communicate. All the rest is done by the organization that relocates you," she said.

"Therefore, sometimes the change is much more abrupt for you when you start a new project in the same location," she added.

Gara has the same feeling about Ukrainian top managers in Poland as Ciklum's Shkuropat does: they are present here, but not more than any other nationality, especially from the post-Soviet countries the rest of Eastern Europe.

"I think it's just globally a common thing — to move from East to West (for job opportunities)."

The Kyiv Post's technology coverage is sponsored by Ciklum and NIX Solutions. The content is independent of the donors.



Hopes of independence

Kyiv's St. Andrew's church, sitting on a hill above the capital's historical Podil district, overlooks a sculpture of Ukraine's national poet, Taras Shevchenko, on Oct. 18, 2018. The famous church has been leased out to the Partiarchate of Constantinople for an indefinite period, and for free. Ukraine is hoping to recieve autocephaly for the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate, giving the nation a church recognized by Constantinople that is independent of the Russian Orthodox Church. The Moscow church has reacted furiously to the Partiarchate of Constantinople's decision to lift its excommunication of the bishops of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the Kyiv Patriarchate and the Ukrainian Autocepholous Church, and decided on Oct. 15 to break ties with Constantinople. Meanwhile, Ukraine is hoping that Constantinople will soon grant the Ukrainian Orthodox Church a tomos - a document that will grant autocephaly, or independence, to the church in Ukraine. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Ukraine holds drills on Azov Sea coast as tensions with Russia rise in region

Fight from page 2

insula — but it would also involve an amphibious assault similar to the one gamed against by the Ukrainian army during its Oct. 9 drills.

During the drills, the mock battle against the imaginary Russian troop carriers went well.

The two Ukrainian UMC-1000 boats immediately went into action against the enemy, and managed to severely damage one of the hostile vessels.

Every gained minute was precious; as the sea battle unfolded, Ukrainian mine planters started laying dense minefields along the beach. Then the thunder of jet engines shook the sky: Ukrainian Su-25 ground-attack aircraft launched air strikes on simulated moving targets at sea, their rockets raising high white water plumes.

With the enemy drawing closer, a pair of Ukrainian Mi-24 strike helicopters also flew over the beach side by side, firing a swarm of rockets at the approaching imaginary troop carriers.

"This is how a Russian amphibious attack would unfold," Lieutenant General Serhiy Nayev, the top commander of all Ukrainian troops deployed to the Donbas war zone as part of the so-called Joint Forces Operation (JFO), told the Kyiv Post during the maneuvers.

"In total, there are approximately 10 locations in the JFO area that are vulnerable to Russian seaborne landings. All of these areas are being very closely studied, and whole sets of troop obstacles have been installed there. In the nearest future, we also plan to reinforce and expand the obstacles (to include minefields, and so on) to ensure we have all available capabilities to repel amphibious assaults."

Shore battle

Back at the drills, the simulated



A Ukrainian tank fires a round during military drills on the Azov Sea shore near the town of Urzuf on Oct. 12, 2018. (Volodymyr Petrov)

Russian attack had not been thwarted by the airstrikes.

Ukrainian reconnaissance units observing the sea battle from small, entrenched observation posts shouted into their radio sets that many of the enemy vessels had made it to shore and started landing hostile troops. Very soon, the simulated Russian marines would advance deeper into Ukrainian territory to take key Ukrainian defense points prior to the arrival of their main forces.

The situation was deteriorating for the Ukrainian side with every minute

"During these drills, we intentionally opted to work on a worstcase scenario, in which the Russian attacking forces break through our sea defenses," said Lieutenant General Nayev as he watched, through high-powered binoculars, his troops maneuvering on the bare steppe land next to the coast.

"Now the simulated enemy is consolidating and securing a bridgehead on the shore."

"But we have prepared a small surprise for them."

A massive cannonade roars from somewhere beyond a line of trees far to the rear, and heavy shell bursts started cratering the contested shore, flinging earth up into the air, and raising dense clouds of gray, pungent smoke. Batteries of Ukrainian 152-millimeter artillery howitzers had entered the fray.

The coastguard craft and air force had won enough time for Ukraine's ground forces to reach the battlefield and meet the enemy on the shore.

The landing beach turned into an inferno, caught in intense crossfire from Ukrainian tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and heavy machine guns, and relentlessly pounded by heavy artillery.

Soon, a crescent of counter-attacking Ukrainian forces started to close gradually on the attackers, all the while subjecting them to a hail of fire. Then a squad of Ukrainian infantrymen stationed on a hill overlooking the beach reported that the attackers had been thrown back into the sea, and that the few surviving hostile troops could be taken captive. "In actual combat, we would know that Russians were launching a seaborne invasion as soon as their troops start boarding their troop carriers," said Colonel Oleksandr Domanskiy, the deputy commander of the JFO. "After that, the main ground troops would take up to one hour to land on Ukrainian soil. Today's drills showed that our forces are potent enough to consolidate and fight off a Russian amphibious assault.

The exercise scenario, however, did not include massive initial Russian air strikes on Ukrainian defenses — which would almost certainly precede an all-out marine assault on the Ukrainian coast.

According to Ukraine's military command, the country's anti-aircraft defenses in southern Donetsk Oblast cover areas with radii of at least 75 kilometers, meaning Russia's airfields on the southern coast of the Azov Sea are within their range.

No land to lose

Just three days later, on Oct. 12, the war game was replayed again on an even more massive scale, this time under the command of Ukraine's Naval Forces and involving of at least 600 troops and over 150 armored vehicles.

By the end of the year, according to JFO commander Lieutenant General Nayev, there will be another series of large-scale maneuvers for air, ground, and sea forces to practice defending against a Russian amphibious assault in the Azov Sea.

"We don't have any choice but to train our troops really hard for this type of warfare, and challenge Russia's actions in the sea," said Ukraine's top naval commander, Admiral Ihor Voronchenko, during the Oct. 12 drills.

"Once a Russian amphibious force lands on our beaches, we have nowhere to retreat to." ■



Language bill is latest step fueling fears of crackdown on media ahead of 2019 elections

BY OLEG SUKHOV

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The language bill that threatens the survival of non-Ukrainian-language media, which was given preliminary approval by parliament on Oct. 4, comes amid an intensifying battle over the media environment in the run-up to the 2019 presidential and parliamentary elections.

As the elections approach, politicians, oligarchs and other influential businesspeople are vying for control of television, radio and print media.

Two major television channels — NewsOne and 112 Ukraine — have reportedly been acquired by pro-Kremlin politician Viktor Medvedchuk. Both channels now offer lavish coverage of Medvedchuk, who was responsible for sending the presidential administration's orders (temniki) to journalists about coverage guidelines while serving as chief of staff under Leonid Kuchma, Ukraine's authoritarian president from 1994—2005.

Taras Kozak, a close associate of Medvedchuk, bought NewsOne on Oct. 5. An investigation by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty revealed in August that the channel may have been de facto taken over by Medvedchuk, although he denies this.

The sale of NewsOne was preceded by the Verkhovna Rada's Oct. 4 decision to ask the National Security and Defense Council to impose sanctions on NewsOne and 112 Ukraine for their pro-Kremlin coverage, including the possible cancellation of their licenses.

Critics believe that authorities are cracking down on pro-Kremlin coverage as part of a broader drive to eliminate all criticism of President Petro Poroshenko and the government ahead of the presidential election in March.

Their reasoning is that NewsOne and 112, besides bringing pro-Kremlin voices to the airwaves, have also hosted pro-Ukrainian opposition politicians who have effectively been banned from the major oligarch-owned TV channels.

Channel 112 has noticeably toned down its criticism of the authorities over the past year, and ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, Poroshenko's main competitor in the presidential race, has accused the president of partnering with Medvedchuk to take over the editorial policy of Channel 112 and NewsOne.

Poroshenko denies the accusations.

The ZIK television channel has also been under pressure and has reduced its negative coverage of the authorities over the past year.

In December, ZIK said that law-maker Glib Zagory, a member of the president's dominant 135-member faction in the 422-seat parliament, had tried to get the rights to run the channel on behalf of the Presidential Administration, which denied the allegation.

Medvedchuk has also been accused of taking over ZIK, although the channel denies this. However, in January, ZIK journalist Roxana Runo said she had quit the channel because she didn't want to comply

with the management's requests to provide positive coverage of Medvedchuk.

Meanwhile, in March, ZIK's general producer Natalia Vlashchenko said the 83-member People's Front party led by former Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk and Interior Minister Arsen Avakov had put pressure on the channel. ZIK also said in March that the Presidential Administration was planning to use radical nationalist groups to take over the channel, which the

Presidential Administration denied.

Another media outlet in trouble is UA.Pershy, a public broadcaster that airs the Schemes investigative journalism show. In September its broadcasts were terminated, with the official reason being it was in debt to the government. UA.Pershy CEO Zurab Alasania accused the authorities of sabotaging his channel because they want only positive coverage of the government.

Meanwhile, in July, Tetiana Terekhova's "Good Morning, Country" show on UA.Pershy was closed after she interviewed Tymoshenko. Terekhova accused the channel of censorship, while UA.Pershy claimed she had violated journalistic ethics.

Concerns over a sharp crack-down on free speech were also triggered in August when the courts allowed prosecutors to access the cell phone data of two investigative journalists, Natalie Sedletska and Kristina Berdynskykh.

The move prompted strong criticism by Ukrainian civic activists, journalists and Western officials. ■



Activists hold a poster that reads "How long do we have to wait for a law on our Ukrainian language?" at a rally in front of the Verkhovna Rada on Sept. 3. (UNIAN)

Media under pressure as presidential election campaign gathers pace

Language from page 1

to obtain Ukrainian citizenship must prove their proficiency in the language by presenting a certificate from a Ukrainian language testing center.

The bill states that attempts to introduce multilingualism in Ukraine go against the constitution and deems them "incitement to linguistic division of the country and inter-ethnic hatred and conflict, with the aim of forcibly overturning the constitutional order."

The bill also creates a new public post: the Ombudsman for the Protection of the State Language, whose job it will be to ensure that every Ukrainian citizen has the right to obtain any information or service in the Ukrainian language. Those who feel this right has been violated will be able to file a complaint to the ombudsman, who can order a language inspection.

Failure to comply with the language law is an administrative offence punishable by fines ranging from Hr 3,400 to 10,200 (\$120-\$365).

Language in media

According to the new bill, newspapers and magazines published in languages other than Ukrainian must have a Ukrainian version of the same size and content. The copies must be published simultaneously and distributed together.

News websites may write in multiple languages, as long as the Ukrainian version is the default one.

Television and radio also must be in Ukrainian, with shows and programs in other languages being dubbed. Programming in other languages is still allowed to meet the needs of national minorities and foreigners, and for educational purposes, but this can take up no more that 20 percent of total airtime each day.

Rising costs for print

Print media in other languages are particularly at risk. To comply with

the new law they would have to produce another issue in Ukrainian, at least doubling their expenses. In the financially struggling media market, that means many smaller publications will have to shut down.

Billionaire oligarchs, who own most of the major media outlets and use them as political levers, are well-positioned to absorb extra costs.

The Kyiv Post's deputy chief editor, Olga Rudenko, wrote that it would be extremely hard to produce two issues of the newspaper in two languages simultaneously.

"We don't have the resources to publish another newspaper: pay for print, and hire people who will have to, very quickly, rewrite articles in Ukrainian. Finally, it's impossible from a logistical point of view."

If passed in its current version, the bill will directly affect Englishlanguage publications such as the Kyiv Post, Business Ukraine, Lviv Today, the Odessa Review, What's On, and Ukrainian Weekly.

"I think it's potentially dangerous in the sense that it could isolate Ukraine by preventing foreign language media coverage within the country," said Peter Dickinson, the publisher of Business Ukraine magazine.

But even if there is a chance that English-language media are exempted from the bill, as members of parliament Podolyak and Zalishchuk told the Kyiv Post, the future of media in minority languages — Russian, Crimean Tatar, Romanian, Hungarian, Bulgarian — is still at risk.

"I would like to see some sort of protection included for other languages as well as English. Ukraine is a very multi-ethnic and multicultural state, and its legislation should reflect that," Dickinson said.

The bill's primary target is obviously Russian. But in its attempt

more **Language** on page **19**

Wonderful weather

Women enjoy the autumn sunshine on Oct. 18, 2018, in Shevchenko Park in Kyiv. The Ukrainian capital experienced highs of up to 21 degrees Celsius on Oct. 18, and the warm weather was forecast to continue for another day, while cooling off on the weekend. Meanwhile, Kyivans are still waiting for the city's central heating season to start, with many areas of the capital also lacking supplies of hot water. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

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Ukrainian politicians raising issues of language, religion to distract voters

Language from page 18

to boost Ukrainian over the second most widely used language in Ukraine could backfire.

"People will either turn to other Russian-language news sources, which Ukraine has no control over, or simply stop reading newspapers," said Oksana Bogdanova, the chief editor of the Russian-language newspaper KP in Ukraine. Formerly known as Komsomolska Pravda, the Ukrainian newspaper changed its name under the 2015 decommunization law, and claims to have no affiliation with its Russian namesake.

"Today, our weekly print run is 120,000 copies. If the draft bill becomes the law, we would either have to find a huge amount of resources to publish another 120,000 copies in Ukrainian, or halve our current circulation (in Russian). Prices for paper and the cost of Ukrposhta's distribution services are going up too," Bogdanova said. "It will be painful and costly."

Dickinson of Business Ukraine

believes it would make more sense for the government to promote better quality Ukrainian-language media, making them more competitive.

Adnan Kivan, who owns the Kyiv Post and Odesa's most popular television station, Channel 7, said such restrictions are not wise. He said that most viewers of his Odesa TV station prefer the Russian language, but that the station has switched to Ukrainian-language programming in anticipation that the new language law will be passed.

"We don't want to be closed down," Kivan said.

But he said such a forced switch may prompt viewers who prefer Russian-language news to go onto YouTube or get their news from Russia, where independent journalism barely exists because of incessant Kremlin propaganda.

Elections

The language issue has often been used in Ukraine by politicians to distract voters' attention from more



A woman buys newspapers at a kiosk in Kyiv on Jan. 31, 2016. A bill adopted by the Verkhovna Rada in the first reading on Oct. 4 obliges all non-Ukrainian language media to publish an identical Ukrainian version. It may lead to the closure of many independent media in Ukraine. (Volodymyr Petrov)

serious problems.

For instance, in 2010, former President Viktor Yanukovych ran on the platform of making Russian a state language, although he failed to deliver on the promise.

President Petro Poroshenko, who is running for a second five-year term, has chosen "Language. Faith. Army" as his election campaign slogan.

Political analysts say Poroshenko, his party, and the People's Front party are trying to shift the focus of the election campaign away from topics such as the failure to combat corruption and the lack of the rule of law in Ukraine to politically safer issues like language and religion.

It makes more sense for Poroshenko to focus on faith, language and the army because "the majority of voters are not happy with the reforms carried out in recent years," political analyst Volodymyr Fesenko told the Kyiv Post.

Raising the issues of language and religion may also help Poroshenko portray himself as the leading pro-Ukrainian candidate. The ideal scenario for Poroshenko would be to make through to the second round of the election to face a pro-Russian candidate, political analyst Oleksiy Kovzhun said.

Paul Niland, who publishes the English-language monthly What's On with his wife Lana Nicole Niland, said "what we are seeing now is (yet another) law being rushed through without the consequences being thought through."

"The issue of language in Ukraine has been used to divide, not unite, because of political opportunism, and there is an election coming."

"The language law, as it stands today, would put an end to many important publications," Niland added. "The motto of the Kyiv Post is 'Ukraine's Global Voice' and that title is well deserved. The publication I have been involved with since 2008, What's On magazine, is not so serious, but it is still an essential part of the fabric of Kyiv's community."



Participants of the Kyiv Post's "Bringing Peace to Syria & Ukraine" conference read the newspaper on June 18, 2018, in Kyiv. The Kyiv Post may be closed due if a language bill requiring an identical Ukrainian-language version is passed into law by parliament. (Volodymyr Petrov)



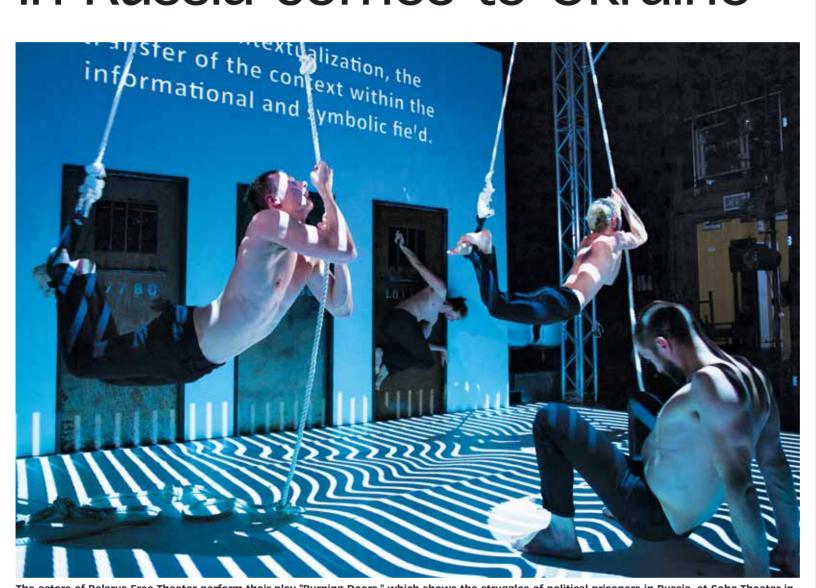
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October 19, 2018 www.kyivpost.com

Play about political prisoners in Russia comes to Ukraine



The actors of Belarus Free Theater perform their play "Burning Doors," which shows the struggles of political prisoners in Russia, at Soho Theater in London, England in 2016. The theater will perform the play in Kyiv on Nov. 6 and 7. (Nicolai Khalezin)

BY TOMA ISTOMINA

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Since its premiere in 2016, "Burning Doors," a theater play about political prisoners in Russia, has been performed over 100 times around the world. Now it is coming to Ukraine.

The play focuses on the stories of three of Russia's political prisoners — Maria Alyokhina from feminist protest group Pussy Riot and artist Petr Pavlensky (both Russian citizens), and the main character: Ukrainian film director and Crimea native Oleg Sentsov, who is serving a 20-year sentence in Russia for opposing the Kremlin's invasion and occupation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014.

Written and staged by the Belarus

Free Theater, which is banned in its home country, the play made headlines in top world media and has been listed as one of the 19 best theater plays of 2017, according to critics from U.S. newspaper The New York Times.

"Why were they sentenced? Because they are free people. They do what they want without asking for permission, and that is why they brought pressure on themselves," the co-founder of the theater Nicolai Khalezin told the Kyiv Post.

After performing in nearly 40 countries, the theater is coming to Kyiv to present "Burning Doors" to Ukrainian audience.

They will perform the play twice in Kyiv, on Nov. 6 and 7. in Russian,

with English subtitles.

All of the money raised from ticket sales will be donated to the families of Ukrainian political prisoners held in Russia and Russian-occupied Crimea — there are around 70 of them

Khalezin, 54, and his partner Natalia Kaliada, 45, founded the Belarus Free Theater in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, in 2005. After only a year, one of the theater's plays was banned by the Belarusian authorities, and the year after that some of their actors and audience members were arrested, fired from work, or kicked out of universities.

Belarus is often called "the last dictatorship in Europe." Its president, Alexander Lukashenko, has ruled the country for over 24 years since the post of president was created in Belarus in 1994. The European Union and the United States have imposed sanctions in 2011 and 2012 against Lukashenko and other Belarusian politicians due to their political repression and human rights violations. The sanctions were lifted later.

Khalezin says that it was the lack of control over the theater that irritated the authorities, who have influence over the 20 state theaters in Belarus. They could not control the Belarus Free Theater, however.

"So they just tried to shut us up," Khalezin says.

more **Theater** on page **24**

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City Life

WITH ARTUR KORNIIENKO

Kyiv's first block party gets pushback from neighbors

Reitarska Street, a backstreet in central Kyiv, seems an unlikely setting for civic tensions.

But a dispute on the street, where several businesses are organizing a fundraising block party, reached the point where one resident suggested hiring thugs to smash up the cafes and shops participating in the event.

What bothers some residents are the loud music, trash, and hordes of people that they claim flooded the street during the first block party, which was held on July 21. The organizers in turn say the claims are exaggerated and assert they have done a lot to reduce these inconveniences.

They say most of the problems at the first block party were resolved, and the event raised Hr 138,800 (around \$5,000) for street maintenance and improvements. The second block party is expected to be better organized and bring more profits from the sales of the cafes and shops that will set up stalls on the street on Oct. 20.

Critics and defenders

Andrey Titarenko, the co-organizer of the block party, says the main idea of the event is to attract more clients to businesses on Reitarska Street.

As a co-owner of the Riot Division clothing shop located on the street, Titarenko, 35, wants Reitarska Street itself to attract more visitors by renovating its sidewalks, infrastructure, and recreational areas.

"We wanted to draw attention to the street itself. So we decided to invest part of the money from the events into the street, its maintenance. Just to make it better," Titarenko says.

Businesses like Titarenko's joined together to organize the block party, which will feature open-air shops, cafes, and food courts, as well as areas for lectures, sports, and entertainment. Some of the profit from product sales is to be spent on street maintenance and improvements.

The block party should be a one-day event held three times a year: in the summer, fall, and spring. Based on the profits from the first event, the block parties should raise over Hr 420,000 (around \$15,000) a year to develop Reitarska Street.

Enjoy window views, hot drinks at these Kyiv cafes

BY TOMA ISTOMINA, DARIA SHULZHENKO

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The best way to enjoy the colder weather in Kyiv is to sit in a cozy cafe, sipping a tasty hot drink, and watching the world go by through a large picture window. And Kyiv has plenty such venues to choose from.

The Kyiv Post has picked out some of the best cafes in the capital offering pleasing window views along with the best selections of hot drinks and desserts.

Kachorovska na Lva

This cafe located on the busy Velyka Vasylkivska Street near Lva Tolstoho Square metro station is easy to miss, but it's worth tracking down. The place combines a store with shoes and accessories by Ukrainian brand Kachorovska and a cafe that has a couple of tables right next to its large, wall-sized windows.

The cafe's drinks menu includes ten kinds of coffee, including classic espresso, cappuccino and latte, and the rare flat orange (espresso with fresh orange juice). They also sell matcha latte, cocoa, cascara tea, and seasonal teas made with berries, fruit and herbs, such as sea buckthorn and grapefruit, raspberry and sage, and ginger with lime and cardamom.

Kachorovska serves breakfast all day, offering two kinds of French toast, oatmeal, scrambled eggs and a large English breakfast with eggs, bacon, mushrooms, vegetables and toast. They also make syrnyky, Ukrainian pancakes made of cottage cheese, salads, hot sandwiches and soups. To accompany hot drinks, the cafe offers various desserts - Napoleon cake, cheesecake with passion fruit and coconut, profiteroles, and granola and chia pudding.

Prices: breakfast - Hr 85-130, syrnyky - Hr 87, flat white - Hr 52, tea - Hr 50-80

Kachorovska. 14 Velyka Vasylkivska St. Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat-Sun. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. +38097 987 9900

One Love Coffee

At One Love Coffee, visitors can view Bessarabska Square from on high - the cafe is located on the sixth floor of the Pinchuk Art Center contemporary art museum and boasts lots of tables beside a long wall with windows.

One Love Coffee serves over 20 kinds of hot and cold brewed coffee, demonstrating the passion for coffee that inspired the cafe's name. The coffee choice includes all the classics, filter coffee, and coffee drinks with alcohol. They also offer regular and house-mixed herbal teas such as sea buckthorn, ginger, mint and lingon-berry, as well as milk cocktails, cocoa, matcha latte, and fresh juice.

The cafe has a wide choice of desserts - various cakes, pies, mousses, cookies and marshmallows. They also serve breakfasts, open sandwiches with vegetables, meat and fish, and a range of salads, soups and appetizers. The cafe's specialties include baked sweet potatoes with blue cheese, chicken with couscous, baked salmon with cheese sauce and



filet mignon with grilled vegetables.

Apart from that, One Love Coffee sells a variety of alcoholic drinks, including red, white and rose wine, and cheese and meat platters to compliment the drinks.

Prices: aeropress - Hr 60, tea - Hr 65, dessert - Hr 22-98, sandwich - Hr 140-165

One Love Coffee. 1/3-2 Velyka Vasylkivska St. 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. +38044 585 0758

16.coffee

Those who want to escape the busy central streets of Kyiv and enjoy a hot drink in a quiet yard should head down to Kropyvnytskoho Street and visit 16.coffee, a small cafe that tempts in passers-by with its two large windows and minimalistic design. The place has two long counters and high chairs standing along the windows. There, visitors can enjoy cocoa, cascara and regular tea, matcha, and matcha latte. The choice of coffee here includes espresso, doppio, hand brew, cappuccino, flat white, latte, and more.

The cafe's design matches its minimalistic menu. 16.coffee serves two kinds of sandwich: one with mozzarella cheese, tomatoes and pesto sauce, and the other with chicken. They also offer various pastries - croissants with chocolate, raspberries and almond, turnovers with apples, and a Danish pastry with cherries. They also sell other desserts - banana bread, éclairs, macarons, vegan candies and Portuguese egg tart pastry with cinnamon pastel de nata.

Prices: cascara - Hr 50, flat white -Hr 48, croissant - Hr 30-65, sandwich - Hr 70

16.coffee. 16 Kropyvnytskoho St. Mon-Fri. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sat-Sun. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. +38066 400 1104

City-zen Cafe

Located not far from the downtown area, on Velyka Zhytomyrska Street,

this venue is a great place to enjoy a cup of hot coffee sitting right next to its huge window. The café, the fourth in the City Zen chain, opened in August 2018.

The breakfast menu of the place includes pancakes with salmon and cream cheese, poached eggs with avocado, hummus and tomatoes, as well as cheese pudding and traditional espresso with figs. Breakfast is served until 12 p.m. on weekdays, and until 1 p.m. on weekends. The lunchtime menu offers a two-course meal Monday to Friday from 12 until 4 p.m. for Hr 129.

City Zen's special fall menu includes pumpkin soup with bacon and pumpkin seeds, as well as pumpkin cheesecake and a selection of five hot alcoholic beverages, such as classic mulled wine, tangerine mulled wine, and hot Aperol Spritz.

On the coffee menu, City Zen has about nine options, including Raf coffee and cappuccino in different flavors. Clients can accompany a cup of hot coffee with some sweets — City Zen offers a range of desserts such as apple cake with ice-cream, carrot and ginger pie, chocolate Napoleon cake, honey cake, and waffles.

Prices: pancakes with salmon and cream cheese – Hr 139, pumpkin soup – Hr 75, tangerine mulled wine – Hr 85.

City-zen. 20 Velyka Zhytomyrska St. Mon-Sun 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. +39067 547 4466

Varenie

This cozy little place offers seats by a wall-sized window with a view of Symona Petliury Street. The name of the venue ("jam" in English) is reflected in some of the options on the cafe's menu: there is a Varenie salad, with grilled chicken fillet and eggplant, feta cheese, tomatoes, and citrus fruit homemade jam as a salad dressing.

Breakfast is served daily, from 9 a.m. until 12 p.m. with six options to choose from, including omelet with

tomatoes and basil, and pancakes with cream and maple syrup.

Varenie serves nine types of coffee and six kinds of homemade tea, including ginger-orange tea, vibur-num-mint tea, cranberry-cinnamon tea, and others. The drinks menu also offers juices and lemonades, milkshakes, hot drinks like cacao and hot chocolate, and a variety of alcoholic drinks such as cocktails, beer, and sparkling and mulled wines.

On the appetizer side, Varenie has plenty of bruschettas with meat, cheese, and vegetables, as well as pâtés, salads and varenyky – traditional Ukrainian dumplings.

The cafe also has a piano, which visitors who play this instrument are welcome to use.

Prices: espresso - Hr 27, cheesecake with ice cream and cherry jam - Hr 86, Ceasar salad with chicken and bacon - Hr 133.

Varenie. 22 Symona Petliury St. Mon-Sun 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. +38044 288 2877

Bassano Dolceteka

This confectionery is a great choice for those who want a view of the lively streets of the capital. Located close to Sofiivska Square, Bassano Dolceteka can seat nearly 20 people by its large, wall-sized windows, which offer an excellent view of the capital's historic center.

Offering a wide range of desserts, including marshmallows, éclairs, honey cake with halva, mint cheese-cake mousse and many others. This venue also has a selection of coffee drinks to accompany them, such as classic espresso, filter coffee, as well as cacao and hot chocolate.

Bassano Dolceteka also serves main courses, such as spaghetti, salmon or rabbit fillet, and a range of soups, including mushroom soup, chicken broth, and pumpkin puree soup.

Apart from that, the confectionery serves breakfasts until 12 p.m. on weekdays, and until 2 p.m. on weekends. The breakfast options include sunny-side-up eggs, eggs Benedict or scrambled eggs, together with mozzarella or other types of cheese, and oatmeal with five different fruit flavors.

Prices: oatmeal with fruits - Hr 70, pumpkin puree soup - Hr 75, honey cake - Hr 35.

Bassano Dolceteka. 8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St. Mon-Sun 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. +38044 351 1710 ■



Visitors chat at the City-zen cafe in Kyiv on Oct. 18, 2018. The cafe serves nine kinds of coffee and offers a view onto Velyka Zhytomyrska Street. (Oleg Petrasiuk)

Opposition to block party raises tensions on Reiterska

Party from page 20

However, some residents don't think the inconvenience of the block party is worth it.

"We don't like the idea of such an event on our little street, because it's a residential street, not designed for such events," says Myroslava Khoroshun, who represents some of the residents who oppose the block party.

Khoroshun lists some of the problems that arose during the first block party in July: an insufficient number of portable toilets and a lack of directions for how to get to them; the use of residential houses' garbage dumpsters; people smoking marijuana in building entryways; loud music during the day and the noise of drunk people after 11 p.m.; and problems for an ambulance in gaining access to a residential building.

Another resident, Volodymyr Berkovych, supports the block party because he says it's the first time in over 15 years that businesses in the area have invested in the development of the street.

Berkovych, 55, dismisses Khoroshun's criticism of the block party's organization, saying there were 10 portable toilets, and a cleaning company was hired to clear away all of the trash after the event. He also says that the street is noisy regardless of the event, because it's located in the traffic-filled center of the city

"As for the story about the ambulance that couldn't drive up to a house to get a child... I asked 'What child?' but there was no answer. It's a manipulation like you'd see on Russian TV," Berkovych says.

Dialogue

Around the world block parties bring together communities to celebrate their street or reclaim it as public space. They were especially popular



A skater jumps over a barrier during a skate competition at the block party on Reitarska Street in Kyiv on July 21, 2018. (Bock party/facebook)

within the hip-hop community in New York City in the 1980s.

One of the legends of that time is Kenny Johnson, better known as DJ Kenny B, a black community leader from Brooklyn, NYC. He started to organize and perform at block parties from the late 1970s and still does it today.

Johnson, 55, says he also had pushback from local communities. The key to getting them involved is a personal touch and responsiveness to their suggestions, he says.

"On my block, I used to go door to door and let them know we wanted to have a block party for the community, we wanted everybody to participate, come on out. When we ran into opposition, we tried to accommodate them. And when we couldn't address their problem — we would solve it for the next block party," Johnson says.

Yuriy Vakhel, a city council deputy elected by the local district voters, also emphasized dialogue as a path forward. He first asked the district administration in September to prohibit the block party after he was approached by the opposing residents.

However, Vakhel changed his mind after talking to the organizers and some of the residents that support the block party. One of these is Marc Wilkins, a Swiss-British film director, who used to live in Berlin and New York before moving to Kyiv. Wilkins, 42, wrote an open letter to Vakhel.

"Every intelligent and creative person wanted to leave Ukraine. And what made me move here and gave me so much hope was that they now suddenly want to stay and create their own things. And that there are some people who are trying to sabotage it and fight against it — it's unbelievable," says Wilkins.

Vakhel then positioned himself as a mediator in the conflict, talking to both sides and coming up with a list of recommendations on how the event's organization could be improved. The organizers have pledged to follow them. The city administration finally issued a permit for the holding of another block party.

Meeting

Exasperated by the position of the city authorities, one resident, writing in a group chat between neighborhood residents, proposed hiring thugs to stop the block party.

"There is, of course, the option of Solomyanskyi district, if anyone heard... they fight originally, but effectively," Lada Kulikovskaya wrote. "They hire those same fans (...) they simply smash such cafes and shops, without causing people harm."

After screenshots of her message were made public, Kulikovskaya retracted her proposal and told the Kyiv Post she didn't think it was an acceptable solution, but a mere "example of how the city authorities drive people, ordinary residents, into a corner with their lack of action."

To clear the air, Titarenko organized a meeting between the organizing businesses and the residents three days ahead of the next block party. He vowed to take care of all the issues criticized by Khoroshun, except for people smoking marijuana, which, he said, he cannot control. However, as with the first block party, there will be police patrols that should take care of that problem.

Most importantly, Titarenko promised to wind up the event before 8 p.m. so participants would take down their stalls early and not make noise after 10 p.m. Khoroshun, however, wasn't impressed.

"Based on the experience of communication with the organizers, there's no guarantee that the event will be successful and not inconvenient," she says. "So far, every step they've taken has been a deception. For three weeks now we've been waiting for the plan of the event, which they promised to give our representatives."

But Vakhel, the mediator, is willing to give the block party a chance.

"I'll take my kid and go see it," he says. ■



Andrey Titarenko speaks with the residents of Reitarska Street at a meeting on Oct. 17, 2018. (Oleg Petrasiuk)



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Banned Belarussian theater group tells the story of Russia's hostages

Theater from page 20

Apart from that, when the theater performed abroad, Khalezin and Kaliada didn't miss a chance to inform people about what was happening in Belarus, and appeal to foreign politicians to put pressure on the Belarussian authorities.

But after Lukashenko won yet another presidential election at the end of 2010 and many of his opponents were arrested, Khalezin and Kaliada found themselves on the wanted list too. The co-founders of the theater fled the country and settled in London, England.

"After this, life changed, and the theater changed very much," Khalezin said.

Since then, Khalezin and Kaliada have managed the theater and staged plays from abroad via video chats, while their actors and actresses work in secret, rehearsing and performing in a garage.

Art vs. Russian regime

The story of "Burning Doors" started when a British theater asked Khalezin and Kaliada to write the script for a play about Russia's war in Ukraine's east.

Khalezin says that when they collected information for the play, they realized they wanted to use it for their own theater and focus on opposition to the Russian authorities by artistic people who have become the Kremlin's hostages.

Through "Burning Doors," they tell the stories of three prisoners: Alyokhina, who was sentenced to two years in jail after performing an anti-Putin song in a Moscow church with Russian band Pussy Riot; Russian performance artist Pavlensky, who was arrested and detained multiple times for his anti-Kremlin actions; and Sentsov, who was sentenced to 20 years after a sham trial for opposing Russia's occupation of Crimea.

"It seemed to us that these are three very bright figures to illustrate this time," Khalezin says.

The play reaches its climax with the story of Sentsov, because the cynicism of the Russian regime reached a new high in his case, Khalezin says.

"It's not a year or two, they didn't just beat or punish him, but gave him 20 years, which means he will spend the rest of his conscious life there (in jail) if he survives."

The script is based on the writings and spoken comments of all three prisoners. Alyokhina even plays herself, as she was released and joined the theater before "Burning Doors" was first staged.

And that's not the only unusual thing about the play — the story often tests the physical abilities of



Maria Alyokhina, a member of Russian protest music band Pussy Riot, and actor Kiryl Masheka perform in the play "Burning Doors" by the Belarus Free Theater at the Soho Theater in London, England in 2016. (Nicolai Khalezin)

the actors on stage.

"It's a very physically challenging play, and they (the actors) take it stoically."

The soundtrack for "Burning Doors" was written and performed by Ukrainian drummer Alexander Lyulyakin from the Ukrainian band Boombox. Khalezin says they chose drums, as they wanted the soundtrack to match the dynamism of the play.

"There is no place for lyrics — the authorities left no space for them."

Public discussion

Belarus Free Theater has performed the play in nearly 40 countries, including the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia.

Along with the performances, the theater is conducting an information campaign about Sentsov — holding public discussions after the play and inviting political leaders to join in. They have even spoken about the issue at the U.K. parliament.

Khalezin says that while most of their audience already knew about the issue, some didn't believe the stories behind the play were real, and looked up the cases on their phones right in the theater.

Khalezin believes that when people find out about repression from the media, they don't react to it as emotionally as when they see it in art.

Andrii Khlyvniuk, the leader of Boombox, has been a long-time supporter of the theater and the campaign for Sentsov. His song "Naodyntsi" (All Alone) is performed during "Burning Doors," and he himself campaigned in support of Sentsov at the U.K. parliament.

Khlyvniuk invited the theater to bring the performance to Ukraine, as, he says, it was a "matter of honor" for him.

The musician believes that "Burning Doors" gives everyone in Ukraine who feels powerless but wants to help a chance to contribute to helping the political prisoners held by Russia.

"We can bring this show here, we can try to help families of the political prisoners — just buy a ticket," Khlyvniuk said. ■

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