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15th
Anniversary

Secret State

Democracies need openness to flourish, while autocracies thrive on secrecy. By that standard, Ukraine – nearly 20 years into national independence – is stuck in the Soviet past, with leaders denying citizens essential information.

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
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In the Soviet Union, everything belonged to the state, including information. It was tightly controlled under the watchful eye of one party, and publicly delivered through state-run media outlets.

It was a true monopoly of power.

The unraveling of that empire was hastened by its last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, whose policies of glasnost and perestroika eventually revealed to society many of the sinister crimes the Soviet state had committed against its citizens for 70 years. → 14



Activists hold placards and CDs with 'secret' information during a rally in Kyiv on Sept. 15. Some 200 activists staged a rare demonstration outside the headquarters of the Security Service of Ukraine, the successor agency to the Soviet KGB agency, in protest of a criminal probe launched against a museum director for allegedly disclosing state secrets. (Yaroslava Debelyi)

Westerners, local observers rip Oct. 31 elections as undemocratic

BY PETER BYRNE
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If the fix wasn't in during Ukraine's Oct. 31 local government elections, the contests sure didn't pass the smell test to a host of reputable domestic and international observers.

As much as Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich tried to put the elections behind him and say all was fine, an international consensus is taking shape that he failed his first big democratic test since taking power on Feb. 25.

The judgment could derail Yanukovich's stated goal of integrating Ukraine into the European family of democratic nations. The unfavorable assessments come at an unfortunate time, just ahead of the Ukraine-European Union summit in Brussels on Nov. 22, during which the administration will try to make headway on free trade agreements and visa-free travel for Ukrainians.

However, due to the elections' shortcomings, European leaders are more

likely than ever to take a skeptical view of Yanukovich's aims and claims.

One of Ukraine's largest election observation organizations, the U.S.-funded OPORA, stated on Nov. 1 that "there have been so many violations that we cannot say that [the election] was democratic, transparent and open."

The U.S.-based National Democratic Institute, which funds OPORA, followed up on Nov. 2, saying: "The environment surrounding Ukraine's Oct. 31 local elections has deteriorated → 16

Police hassle merchants at Troyeshchyna market; racism, corruption seen

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
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The biggest Kyiv street market, in the Troyeshchyna residential district, has lately been a dangerous place for entrepreneurs, with police detaining hundreds of workers with non-Slavic appearances.

According to those detained, they are packed on to buses, forced to spend the night in police stations without lawyers

or cause, accused of minor violations with trumped-up evidence, shaken down for bribes and then let go. They say the current problem reveals not only the enormous scope of Ukrainian corruption, but also big racial discrimination issues.

Most of the detainees have been repeatedly taken into custody several times during the last couple of weeks, despite the fact that many are Ukrainian citizens, while oth- → 17

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Tomorrow's News

Who won Oct. 31 elections? Results will be known today

The Central Election Commission must, by midnight on Nov. 5, announce the results of the Oct. 31 local elections to 15,000 municipal seats, including oblast, city, town and village councils.

The 15-member commission has kept the public in suspense by not posting real-time returns on its website from more than 12,000 territorial election commissions.

Various exit polls showed the pro-presidential Party of Regions has cemented its power on the local level, gaining ground in western and central Ukraine, winning a key mayoral election in Odesa and having one of its own in a close race for mayor of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city after Kyiv.



Nov. 5

A voter casts his ballot at a polling station during local elections in the village of Soffiyvska Borshchahivka, near Kyiv, on Oct. 31.(AP)

Communists still celebrate Lenin

Geopolitically conflicted Ukraine will witness how the Communist Party of Ukraine commemorates the 93-year anniversary of the October Revolution in which Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin orchestrated a coup d'etat over the Russian government in 1917.

Ukraine's communists will gather 11 a.m. on Nov. 7 near Besarabsky Square next to Kyiv's Lenin statue on Shevchenko Street. Their march will culminate at European Square, where a rally and concert are planned.

Financed by the German government, which knew that Lenin wanted to withdraw Russia from World War I, the Bolsheviks and their private Red Guard army succeeded in easily overthrowing a weak and unpopular provisional government ruling the ailing nation in place of Czar Nicholas II, who abdicated earlier in the year.

The Bolshevik uprising plunged Russia into civil war. This led briefly to a short-lived independent Ukrainian state until Red forces took over, creating the Union of Social Soviet



Nov. 7

A Communist Party supporter shouts in front of Vladimir Lenin's monument in Kyiv on Nov. 27, 2009, during a rally to celebrate its reconstruction after vandalism. (AFP)

Republics, which lasted from 1922 until 1991.

On Oct. 2, Ukraine's parliament rejected a proposal to make Nov. 7

a national holiday. Only three other lawmakers in the Ukrainian legislature besides the 26 Communist Party members supported the idea.

Compiled by Mark Rachkevych

Kyiv opens three new metro stops on the blue line

President Viktor Yanukovich will preside over the trial run of three new metro stations southwest of Kyiv, according to the Kyiv City State Administration.

All will be on the blue line (known as Kurenivsko-Chervonoarmiyska). The new Demiyivska, Holosoyivska and Vasylykivska stations will start transporting passengers at full capacity in one month, linking them with Lybidska station, currently the last stop in operation on the line.

City-owned Metrobud started building the 3,804-meter metro tunnel in 2005, but financial problems delayed the project. The total cost of building the three stations was more than Hr 2 billion, according to the Kyiv City State Administration.

The area, known as Teremyky, has a huge traffic bottleneck. Many new buildings have sprung up in the past five years while Kyiv municipal authorities failed to keep pace with infrastructure improvements.

Nov. 5

Employment Fair

Fair

November 6, 2010

The Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

(33 Velyka Zhytomyrska Street)

List of participants as of November 5

- Procter & Gamble
- KPMG
- BC Toms
- UkrSibbank
- Imperial Tobacco Ukraine
- FORTIS
- Bank of Cyprus
- InterContinental Kyiv
- PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Cargill
- Alumniportal Deutschland
- Richmond Recruitment Agency
- Phoenix Capital
- EDELWEISS Management Consulting
- Google
- DHL
- Edinburgh Business School
- Robota Plus
- Swedbank
- Study Bridge
- Lavrynovych & Partners
- Canadian Immigration and Jobs
- IBM Ukraine
- Steklopribor
- SCA Hygiene Ukraine
- CareerGuide
- Advanced International Translations
- HeadHunter (hh.ua)
- Sandora/PepsiCo
- BTL Ukraine
- Business Link

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European Business Association News

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Leaders Talk

Leaders Talk: This week's question: What are your forecasts for doing business in Ukraine in 2011.

THIS YEAR 2010 WITH ELECTIONS OF THE NEW PRESIDENT AND MASSIVE REFORM PLAN HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS FOR THE BUSINESSES BIG AND SMALL. ALMOST EVERYONE SENSED THE CHANGE. WITH THE BUSINESS YEAR COMING TO AN END, WE HAVE DECIDED TO ASK LEADERS OF EBA COMPANIES FROM INVESTMENT TO PRODUCTION SECTOR TO GIVE THEIR VIEW ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINIAN ECONOMY IN THE COMING YEAR 2011.

"What are your forecasts for the year to come?"

ALEXEI Kredisov,
Managing Partner,
Ernst & Young



"Greater stability in politics and state governance, together with positive external market developments, including on the capital markets, allowed Ukraine to report healthy growth in 2010 and to expect a positive outlook for 2011. Neighboring Russia and Central Asia are showing some signs of a strong rebound. The IMF is complimentary about how Ukraine weathered the crisis, managed its budget deficit and tackled difficulties in the financial services sector, all of which sends additional positive signals to businesses. Necessary reforms were initiated and, despite some delays and controversy, have the potential to develop into real changes for the better of the business environment.

If domestic policy is right, if reforms progress and if external market factors remain favorable, 2011 will be better than 2010 for business. We expect either gradual or robust recovery."

Trond More, Telenor

"I believe the next year will be good for business in Ukraine for those that are prepared and know the market well. The economy should grow, and there is political stability. But it is still very difficult and risky to do business in Ukraine, and that will prevent a big increase in foreign direct investment.

We may see a gradual improvement in areas such as customs and the permit system, but I still see no real progress in easing the complexity of the tax system or ensuring real impartial judicial protection of ownership rights.

Still, Ukraine has lots of opportunities, and if you can handle the difficulties and the risk, long term I am very positive. In the short term, the most important event would be the signing of the deep and comprehensive free trade agreement with the EU. That would be very positive for business and it is the key event to expect in the next year."

Dario Marchetti, Danone Ukraine

"2011 will be a key year for Ukraine, the country and its people. Everyone agrees that there will be a "recovery" but few agree on "what type" of recovery we will experience. Why? I believe that the eco-

nomical questions are linked to the political questions that business are asking. 2011 will be the year that will decide the fate of such fundamental issues/questions as corruption, civil society and investment climate. The government is making the right noises. Some progress has been made and this is encouraging. Yet for every step forward in one area we see a new issue arise in another area. So what business is asking itself are fundamental questions like "Who is really in control? or "Does the government have the will to tackle corruption?" The answer to these questions by the business community will decide what type of recovery we have in 2011."

HANS Grisel,
ING Bank



"The stabilization of the political situation and the consolidation of power significantly reduced the political risks this year. The expected further strengthening of the president's power base as well as the anticipated absence of conflict between the various power branches should increase the predictability of the political environment for business entities and foreign investors, at least in the medium-term future. We therefore expect the revival in foreign direct investments starting from 2011. Possible large privatization sales and the necessity to finance infrastructure projects on the eve of 2012 Euro football competition will be the likely catalysts for the growth in FDI, next year.

We further expect that the IMF program itself as well as the adherence to the requirements of the IMF will add to the further improvement in business environment next year, particularly as we expect the IMF to also keep an eye on the tax code that is currently in the process of preparation now. The recommendations of the IMF regarding the deregulation of markets should be an additional boost to the business climate in the country in the near future.

Although the banking sector is in the process of recovering, more activity in lending can only be expected next year as banks still continue their recapitalization and the adjustment of their balance sheets to the real level of NPLs."

Tomas Fiala, Dragon Capital

"The government has put forward a comprehensive reform package ranging from tax system reform to business deregulation. Several positive steps have already been made. Authorities slashed the number of business permits and controlling bodies. Despite some deserved criticism, the soon-to-be-approved Tax Code will streamline Ukraine's cumbersome tax legislation. Yet, no positive initiative will bear fruit without progress in fighting corruption, civilizing the judiciary and reducing overall tax pressure on business.

We hope to see improvements in these highly problematic arrears and see Ukraine move up in the key investment climate and economic competitiveness ratings closely watched by the international investment community."

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In Focus:

EBA's Big 7 – Update on Reform

The EBA is striving to stay at heart of the change in Ukrainian economic and political matters and constantly keeps track of the mood of Ukraine's key investors and big taxpayers by monitoring seven major problematic areas. Here's the view of the EBA Board Members:

When we asked how they estimated the overall investment climate in Ukraine, 62% said that it is neutral and does not serve to attract investments.

Response	Chart	Percentage
Very Satisfied		0%
Satisfied		0%
Neutral		62%
Unsatisfied		25%
Very Unsatisfied		12%

Although, some 12% acknowledged that the investment climate has improved, still compared to the last month 75% say that the investment climate has remained the same. Other 12% witnessed certain decline.

	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Unsatisfied	Very Unsatisfied
The fight against corruption	0%	0%	38%	38%	25%
Judicial reform	0%	0%	50%	25%	25%
Land Reform	0%	0%	88%	12%	0%
Currency Regulation	0%	0%	100%	0%	0%
VAT refunding	0%	38%	38%	25%	0%
The simplification of customs procedures	0%	0%	38%	12%	50%
The removal of technical trade barriers	0%	0%	62%	0%	38%

Commenting on the results, EBA Executive Director Anna Derevyanko explained that packed meetings schedule with governmental working groups and state officials give positive signs.



Anna Derevyanko,
EBA Executive Director

"The massive reform work which is underway in the Ukrainian economic sector has caused companies to keep their guards up and to very cautiously follow government's actions. Regrettably, even "white" and "green" companies still keep complaining about overcomplicated custom's procedures, almost half of the respondents said that this focus area has deteriorated as compared to the previous review period. Similarly, technical barriers to trade have experienced no change for the better. We hope that cancellation of obligatory certification of products will improve this component during the next Big 7 measurement. We are pleased to know that some positive changes have

taken place with refund of VAT due to issuance of VAT bonds. Though, it still remains to be seen, if the government decides to give more time to companies to be able to adapt to the new taxation rules".

Things to know

We are happy to announce that as of October 2010 the European Business Association has a representative to Brussels!



TETIANA Shulga

For complimenting and reinforcing the EBA lobbying agenda aimed to create a favorable investment climate in Ukraine the EBA Brussels representation will now also advocate for reducing barriers to Ukraine-based business operations; provide information support to the membership on EU-Ukraine bilateral political and economic matters; conduct meetings with European decision-making bodies and promote Ukraine as an attractive and predictable investment destination. EBA Brussels representative to whom companies may turn for information and assistance is Tetiana Shulga



TROND Moe

"I see the opening of the EBA Brussels office as a big step forward in our ability to participate more deeply in the EU-Ukraine integration process, especially in establishing a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement. Another focus area for EBA is to promote Ukraine as an investment destination. More investments from Europe will help all of us, and make the



DARIO Marchetti

business community in Ukraine stronger. A Brussels office of EBA will be able to much easier attract those companies that are interested in Ukraine and help them gain a true and correct picture of both opportunities and challenges."

"Brussels office is a key asset to EBA members. We see today that an effective lobbying tool is not only to lobby KIEV but also to lobby Brussels. This has been made apparent in the recent FTA discussions. We are using our Brussels office to explain to the commission and European Parliament that some requests made by Ukrainian negotiators are reasonable and SUPPORTED by European Business in Ukraine".



TOMAS Fiala

"Given Ukraine's continued economic and political rapprochement with the EU and its institutions we find it important for EBA members to have the opportunity to lobby their interests in Brussels. We are starting low key but over 2011 EBA should be able to establish important contacts and communication channels and increase its impact".

Editorials

Fix was in

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich flunked a big test by failing to ensure that the first elections that took place under his watch were fair and democratic. These 15,000 nationwide contests on Oct. 31 matter greatly, as the local government officials chosen wield great powers over how state budget money is spent and how land is allocated, among other duties.

Yanukovich, still hobbled by his complicity in fraudulent elections during the era of ex-President Leonid Kuchma, had a chance to show he is a democratic leader. Instead, the president showed he's the same old conniver unworthy of leading a great nation of 46 million people.

As this edition of the Kyiv Post went to press, neither the Central Election Commission nor any other state body had posted anything close to official results of the Oct. 31 election in a way that the public, observers and oppositionists could see and use to judge the vote's fairness.

How the final official results are reported on Nov. 5 could provide another sign of a fraudulent election. The results should have been reported as soon as the commission received them from precincts. In the end, they need to be reported, polling station by polling station, and not simply by aggregate total for each constituency.

Why? The answer is there is no way to know the vote count was honest unless the public has access to all the figures – the official protocols – that went into the final tally.

But the vote count is just the important final stop in what was a badly flawed, undemocratic and unfair election.

These were not simply mistakes by well-intentioned government officials. These flaws were by design, in our opinion. Why do we say that?

The administration and its loyal media took pains to ignore and hide the findings of well-respected, professional observers such as the OPORA civic organization. For the most part, an increasingly supine Ukrainian news media were all too eager to accept the administration's spin.

These elections were troubled from the very start. First scheduled in May, postponed to October, they took place under an undemocratic election law that was hastily amended and approved by Yanukovich's ruling parliamentary coalition this summer. Elections commissions were stacked with supporters of the president's Party of Regions. Numerous problems took place during the campaign and on voting day, and are likely to continue through the final vote tally and appeals.

It would be a bitter irony for this nation if the last election generally accepted as fair and democratic was the Feb. 7 one in which Yanukovich came to power.

Spin cycle

Our editorials have been highly critical of President Viktor Yanukovich for years, well before his election as president on Feb. 7.

But readers should not conclude that this makes us an opposition newspaper. The Kyiv Post will never be an opposition newspaper. It's not what our publisher, our journalists and, most importantly, it's not what our readers want.

We cultivate contacts and value our working relationships with the administration and recognize its members are running the nation. We quote their views in news stories. We believe in the marketplace of ideas, so we routinely publish opinions we disagree with, such as the ones published on page 5 by pro-presidential lawmakers Leonid Kozhara and Oleksandr Feldman.

But journalism should be about telling it like it is – fairly on the news pages; honestly on the opinion pages.

Unfortunately, we are finding that Ukrainian news agencies that we subscribe to, such as Interfax-Ukraine, are selectively offering mainly pro-administration information.

We are also dismayed that, rather than lead as democrats, the Yanukovich administration is responding to criticism by hiring PR spin doctors to pump out pro-presidential propaganda often devoid of logic and facts. Andrew Rettman of the EU Observer, in an opinion published on page 5, details how the Yanukovich administration – stung by criticism – has set out to hire PR firms to peddle its side of the story.

This flurry of English-language opinion pieces is coming ahead of the Nov. 22 Ukraine-European Union summit in Brussels, Belgium, during which important free-trade and visa-free travel agreements are at stake for Ukrainians. These come on top of a daily bombardment on Ukrainian news stations of sycophantic journalists whose reports are eerily similar to the pro-Kremlin mouthpieces that many journalists have become in Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Such poppycock just makes more work for honest, independent journalists everywhere who are trying their best to give people the true picture of what is happening.



NEWS ITEM: It took a discerning person to get a fix on Ukraine's Oct. 31 local elections. The most professional observation was undertaken by the OPORA civic organization, which sent more than 1,000 representatives across the nation. The group concluded that the elections were unfair and undemocratic, but their findings were ignored by most top Ukrainian television channels and news agencies. Meanwhile, pro-government election observation "tourists" got lots of attention in many Ukrainian media outlets for pronouncing the elections clean and democratic. For example, Marat Sarsembayev, personal envoy for Kazakhstan, which currently chairs the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, did not see any violations in Kyiv Oblast. (Drawing by Anatoliy Petrovich Vasilenko)

Rule of lawlessness prevails in this nation



PETER BYRNE
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We must guard against the cynical and dangerous conclusion that the United States and Europe are only interested in Ukraine as a pawn in their geopolitical chess game with Russia. But it is hard sometimes.

U.S. Ambassador to Kyiv John F. Tefft and a European colleague, Ake Peterson, representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe for the coordination of co-operation programs with Ukraine, attended a judicial reform conference only days before the Oct. 31 local election. Their effusive praise for a new court law adopted in July could only be construed as a clear endorsement of President Viktor Yanukovich and his attempts to establish a functional system of justice in this nation.

Tefft said he was pleased Ukraine had adopted the court law suggesting that it "encourages fair, transparent and merit-based judicial selection and disciplinary procedures." He praised the president and judicial officials for their reform eagerness, while Peterson lauded them for moving Ukraine closer to Europe.

Both envoys, however, downplayed scores of new provisions in the court law that further infringe on judicial independence and the rights of citizens to get a fair trial. They made light conversation during the first intermission, took some questions from journalists and then exited. Volodymyr Kolesnychenko, chairman of the High Council of Justice, left minutes later.

The intermission also provided David Vaughn with an opportunity to deliver a key message. A consultant with the

Chemonics International development firm managing the U.S. government's rule of law campaign in Ukraine, Vaughn said patience is important because judicial reform is a long process.

"This is not sprint a race," he said. "It's more like a marathon."

The Venice Commission, also known as the European Commission for Democracy through Law, on Oct. 18 published its analysis of the 154-page court law. The brief identified only four positive aspects and criticized 28 others. That's one step back for every seven steps forward, or, to use Vaughn's analogy, the equivalent of adding six extra kilometers to a standard marathon.

The 37-page critique was welcomed by Yanukovich's adversaries, who opposed adopting the law in the first place, saying the administration's version could prevent Ukraine from becoming a European-style democracy. Similar criticism was directed at Ukraine's local election law, which was railroaded through parliament in February, changed in July and again in August. It did not produce a democratic election on Oct. 31.

It's not looking good in Ukraine right now. No matter how many times Western diplomats talk about the importance of rule of law and democratic elections in Ukraine, no matter how many millions of dollars are spent on such aid programs, the results are painfully obvious.

There is no progress in rule of law; there is slightly better progress when it comes to holding democratic elections, but Oct. 31's vote shows that the nation is retreating in this area as well.

After nearly 20 years of taxpayer-funded programs to promote democracy and rule of law, it seems more and more pointless to listen to these talks from Western diplomats and to attend such conferences. This is a nation whose leaders are still highly resistant to both concepts.

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Yanukovych's search for friends in Brussels



ANDREW RETTMAN

BRUSSELS, Belgium – Ukraine's new administration pulled out the stops to win a better name for itself in the European Union capital ahead of the Oct. 31 local elections and the EU-Ukraine summit in November.

Rattled by what they see as a stream of hostile articles against President Viktor Yanukovich in the best-respected media in Brussels, such as the Financial Times, the new authorities are putting together a constellation of various supporters.

Yanukovich is a relatively frequent visitor to the EU capital.

Public relations consultancy Glocal Communications is helping to organize off-the-record press meetings with high-level members of Yanukovich's circle when they pass through Brussels. The little-known firm is based well-away from the EU district in the city. It has not signed up to the European Commission's lobbyist register and refused to disclose its list of clients when asked by this website.

Meanwhile, PR giant Burston Marsteller is working for Rinat Akhmetov, an energy-and-steel-sector billionaire who is also a member of parliament for the president's Party of the Regions.

Another PR major, Apco, is working for billionaire member of parliament Olexandr Feldman.

Feldman was on Yanukovich's side before the president was ousted from power in the 2004 Orange Revolution. He then switched over to Yanukovich's nemesis, former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. With Yanukovich back in power, Feldman now says he is "independent." But the Apco-Feldman tandem is circulating and endorsing pro-Yanukovich op-eds to Brussels reporters, penned by Yanukovich members of parliament, such as Leonid Kozhara.

Glocal Communications is also reaching out to media to attend debates with Feldman. And Yanukovich-sympathetic analysts from Brussels-based think-tanks have encouraged members of the press to meet with the parliamentarians at intimate dinners, describing him as "objective" and "a philanthropist."

In perhaps its biggest coup, the Party of the Regions on Oct. 14 signed a two-year cooperation deal with the center-left Socialists & Democrats group in the EU parliament. Following the move, Socialists & Democrats vice president and Romanian center-left parliamentarian Adrian Severin lobbied to quash a vote on a Yanukovich-critical resolution in the EU assembly on Oct. 21.

On the other side, Tymoshenko is working with the small, Hampshire, United Kingdom-based lobbying



Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich (L) and European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso are seated prior to their talks at the European Union headquarters in Brussels on March 1. Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich visited Brussels on his first foreign trip, with European leaders hoping to hear that his pro-Russian reputation won't reverse Kyiv's turn to the West. (Andrei Mossienko)

firm Ridge Consulting.

Ridge Consulting arranges meetings for the press with high-level Tymoshenko supporters, such as former Deputy Prime Minister Hryhoriy Nemyria, in the EU capital and it sends out email alerts of alleged Yanukovich abuses of power.

Tymoshenko's lobbying activity is concentrated in the center-right European People's Party, however. Her faction, the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, joined the group in 2007 and Tymoshenko attracts fierce loyalty from some senior European People's Party euro-deputies. The party adopted an anti-Yanukovich resolution on the very day of his visit to Brussels in September, thoroughly annoying Kyiv.

The party's sister organizations, such as the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the conservative German think tank, are also helping Yanukovich critics, such as Taras Kuzio of the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, to reach out to Brussels-based media.

The competing narratives paint a phantasmagoria of heroes, villains and monsters doing battle in the former Soviet country of 46 million people.

The pro-Yanukovich narrative says that Orange Revolution leaders Viktor Yushchenko and Tymoshenko are solely to blame for the political chaos of the past five years; that Tymoshenko is a messianic figure in a cult-like party; that Yanukovich is a pragmatist who can deliver stability and pro-EU reforms; and that the notion that he is anti-democratic is a lie believed by people who do not know what

is really going on in Ukraine.

The pro-Tymoshenko narrative says he is a Kremlin stooge who will destroy Ukrainian independence; that the recent constitutional reforms handing him more power were carried out illegally; that his people in the Ukrainian secret services are strangling free speech and civil society; and that his friends in the gas business are crooks.

For their part, EU officials are trying to remain agnostic.

Brussels' top decision-makers on the Ukraine dossier – EU Council President Herman Van Rompuy, EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton and neighborhood commissioner Stefan Fuele – have said that Oct. 31's election would be a test of Yanukovich's democratic credentials and have ratcheted up warnings that he must respect free media and nongovernmental organizations.

The Yanukovich camp may be cheered to learn that Russian gas transit is more important than the romance of revolution and counter-revolution to some of the most influential behind-the-scenes figures in the EU capital, however.

"I don't think people [in the EU] will care who is in power in Ukraine if they can't heat their houses this winter," a senior EU official told this website, referring to the 2009 Russia-Ukraine gas crisis.

Andrew Rettman's opinion was first published on the EU Observer's website at <http://euobserver.com/9/31161>



WITH NATALIYA SOLOVONYUK

Were the Oct. 31 local elections honest?



Daryna Zhamska, banker. "No. Those in power greatly affect the elections, with fraud and a lack of information. People failed to get the real result they voted for. With the abolition of voting, we are turning into another Moscow."



Andriy Bart, waiter "Yes, the elections reflected the mood of the people who voted. At every election, at

least one group of people get what they want. If you do not like the president, choose another."



Volodymyr Latysh, retired "Our people do not get those who they actually voted for. That's because our politicians

only [have] the desire to enrich themselves."



Raysa Stavnyi-chuk, retired "We are disappointed in our president. During the campaign, he promised

a lot, especially for retirees. After the election, I received a meager one hryvnia increase to my pension. Right now, the government thinks more about Russia than about Ukraine."



Vadym Baks, guard "Partially. The technical side of the election was weak: problems with ballots, organizing

elections and the reluctance of people to go vote. But I hope that the ruling party does not disappoint the expectations of their constituents.

Oleksandra Martynenko,



student "The voters will get an honest result. Violations were not major, so we can say that the elections were

successful."

Avoid leaping to judgment about Yanukovych's alleged authoritarian impulses



LEONID KOZHARA

Local government elections are not usually regarded as matters of international importance, but the ones held in Ukraine at the end of October managed to attract unprecedented attention.

They take place against a background of siren claims that democracy in Ukraine is being rolled back and that the new government elected earlier this year is in the process of turning the country into a one-party state.

The international community should avoid taking these claims at face value as the reality of what is happening in Ukraine is very different and the opportunity to achieve lasting political and economic reform remains very real. To understand the changes taking place it is first necessary to appreciate the difficulties Ukraine has experienced over the last few years.

Although elected on a platform of reform and modernization, the leaders of the Orange Revolution presided over six years of stagnation in which they squabbled endlessly over the spoils of power without carrying out any of the changes they had promised. That era reached its nadir last year when, in the midst of the severest economic crisis in our history, the Orange leaders failed even to agree a → 18

Politics in Ukraine often a very passionate affair; sometimes too passionate



OLEKSANDR FELDMAN

Politics in Ukraine is a passionate affair; sometimes too passionate for its own good.

Competition for power often assumes the character of a life or death struggle in which few limits are respected and truth is an all too frequent casualty. Campaigns of smear and bitter denunciation are routinely employed, even between politicians ostensibly on the same side as each other. Just look at the destructive rivalry between ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and

ex-President Viktor Yushchenko that turned the 2004 Orange Revolution [which overturned a rigged presidential election that year] into such a farce.

So when opposition politicians compare the new president, Viktor Yanukovich, to Pol Pot and accuse him of wanting to turn Ukraine back into a one-party state on the Soviet model, it would be wise for outside observers to take a skeptical view and consider the facts on their merits. No one pretends that Ukraine is a model European democracy. The new government is fallible and capable of making mistakes. But it is far too early to conclude that Ukraine is taking an authoritarian turn in the style of Vladimir Putin's Russia, especially since there is considerable evidence to the contrary. → 18



Airlines switch to new Boryspil terminal

The new terminal F at Kyiv's Boryspil International Airport welcomed its first passengers on Oct. 31. The terminal, which is located to the right of main terminal, B, serviced 6,000 passengers on 30 flights on its first day. A number of airlines work out of the terminal, including Ukrainian International Airlines, WizzAir, UtAir and FinnAir. The new building, the capital's first Western-style airport terminal, boasts a spacious interior and a large duty free store. The terminal can service up to 1,500 passengers per hour. Another new and bigger terminal is currently under construction at Boryspil International Airport and is scheduled to open next year. (Hryhorii Salay)

Firtash launches new titanium plant in Zhytomyr

Group DF, the holding company for Ukrainian gas trading billionaire Dmytro Firtash, announced on Oct. 29 that it had launched a new factory in Zhytomyr Oblast that produces raw material for Ukraine's promising and lucrative titanium industry. Group DF say that about \$17.5 million was invested into the Mezhyrichensky factory. Close to current President Viktor Yanukovich's inner circle, Firtash controls much of Ukraine's promising and lucrative titanium business. He gained control of previously state-owned titanium assets across Ukraine in 2004. Back then, current President Leonid Kuchma issued a presidential order setting up a joint venture that gave Firtash de facto control over the businesses. (Oleksiy Boyko)

→ On the move

Send On the Move news to gnaviv@kyivpost.com, or contact Olga Gnaviv at 234-6500. Send business photos and press releases to: news@kyivpost.com, or contact the newsroom at 234-6310.



IGOR MULYARCHUK

has joined the international litigation practice of Kyiv-based law firm AstapovLawyers as a junior associate. Prior to joining

AstapovLawyers, Igor worked as a chief expert for maritime safety at the Ukrainian state inspectorate for maritime safety. Mulyarchuk also gained experience during his internship as an assistant at the Ministry of Justice in the department of state representation at international and foreign courts. Mulyarchuk holds a master's degree in international law from the Ukrainian State University of Finance and International Trade and a bachelor's degree in international law from Kyiv International University.



VOLODYMYR POKLAD

has joined the performance and technology group at KPMG, one of the Big Four audit and accounting firms. In his new position as of leader of the

performance and technology group, he will focus on delivering management consulting services for KPMG clients in Ukraine. Poklad has previously worked at McKinsey & Company, a global management consulting company. He has also worked at Chicago-based fund Alpha Capital and Masterfoods & Effem Ukraine. Poklad holds a Master of Business Administration degree from the Chicago University Graduate School of Business and a master's degree from the National Academy of Management in Kyiv, Ukraine.



IVAN TROFIMENKO

has been hired as a counsel at Kyiv-based law firm Orlov, Mikhaileiko & Partners. In his new position, Trofimenko will focus

on real estate and corporate matters. Prior to joining Orlov, Mikhaileiko & Partners, Trofimenko worked for eight years as an associate at the Kyiv offices of Magisters, a leading Ukrainian law group which has expanded throughout the CIS region in recent years. Trofimenko also has extensive experience in international trade and customs and a number of other sectors. Trofimenko graduated from Kyiv International Relations Institute of National Taras Shevchenko University and holds a master's degree in law from Pantheon-Assas University in Paris.



JOE RICE JOHNSON III

was appointed vice president and general manager for Grayling, a global public relations consultancy, in Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

Johnson has over 20 years of international consulting experience on strategic, political and corporate communications on four continents, including 15 years advising on senate and gubernatorial campaigns in the U.S. Prior to joining Grayling's office in Ukraine, Johnson worked as country director in Russia for the International Republican Institute, a political advocacy and international relations wing for the U.S. Republican Party, based in Washington, DC. In Russia, Johnson was also country director for international oil trading firm IOTC, managing public affairs. He chairs the Republicans Abroad in Russia and worked with Hill and Knowlton, a public relations-affairs firm.

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Despite risks, EBRD willing to lend more

BY JOHN MARONE
MARONE@KYIVPOST.COM

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development might help finance a controversial deal still being discussed by Kyiv and Moscow that would allow Russia's Gazprom to take a stake in Ukraine's strategically vital gas pipeline system to Europe. But the bank, Ukraine's all-time biggest investor, won't take a stake in the project, EBRD director in Ukraine Andre Kuusvek told the Kyiv Post in an Oct. 28 interview.

Kuusvek, a 43-year-old Estonian who's been in his job since 2008, said the EBRD would also like to get in on big privatization deals in Ukraine such as the long-awaited sale of state fixed-line monopoly Ukrtelecom. But the bank won't partner up with any bidders beforehand, he said, acknowledging that the tender conditions set by the government for the sale of Ukrtelecom already raise concerns.

The EBRD, which has been investing billions of dollars from mostly Western donor countries into the emerging markets of former Soviet satellite states for almost 20 years, continues to ratchet up its investment in Ukraine, even as it takes on more risk, Kuusvek said.

Kyiv Post: How much has the EBRD lent to Ukraine from the start of its operations to date?

Andre Kuusvek: Close to \$8 billion as of today.

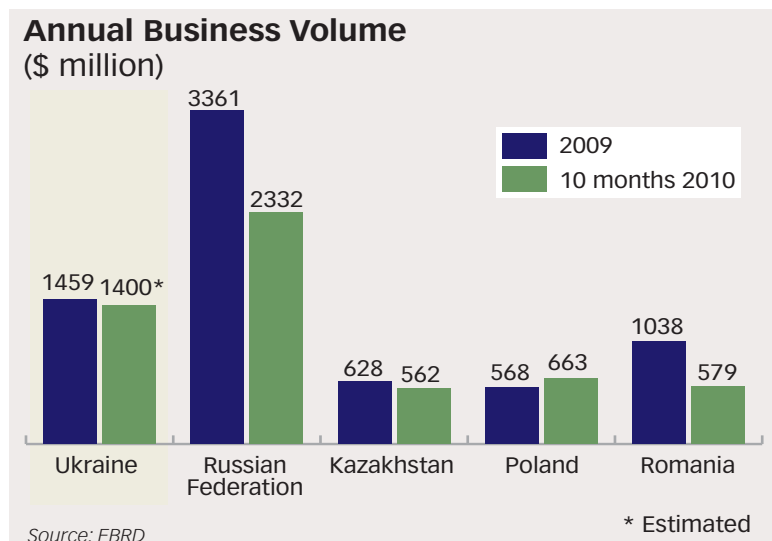
KP: How does that figure compare to other countries? Is Ukraine a big borrower?

AK: If you look at cumulative figures, I believe we come in second after Russia. Poland is a big competitor though. But clearly over the past five years, Ukraine has been ranking second each and every year in terms of volumes, and it's now that the volumes have really taken off.

KP: Why is that so? Why is Ukraine a big borrower?

AK: Well, two reasons mostly. First of all, because of EU enlargement: the relative share of the new EU countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, the Baltics, Romania, etc., has been going down for obvious reasons. The second reason is that we have really increased volumes significantly.

KP: So you are lending more overall?



The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development makes a financial impact in a country by purchasing equity stakes in businesses, or granting loans to them.

The Bobrovnytska gas compressor and storage station is located in the village of Mryn, about 130 kilometers outside of Kyiv. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has expressed interest in investing in Ukraine's energy infrastructure, including its vast pipelines that carry most of Russia's natural gas supplies to Europe. (AFP)



AK: We are lending and investing more overall. And if you think of lending and investing into share capital, then increasingly we do more into equity, more into the actual capital base of companies and banks than we used to do in the past.

KP: Is that because you want to make sure that you get your investment back?

AK: Well, it first indicates that we are willing to take higher risks. Number two, the same amount of money actually has a much bigger impact in equity, because you become a shareholder. You are part of the business.

KP: Do you get a seat on the board of directors?

AK: We get a seat on the board in the vast majority of cases.

KP: What's the minimum stake that you will take in a company before you go into equity?

AK: There is no minimum stake. When we talk about equity investments in a traditional sense, we are talking about somewhere around 25 percent. We can take 35 percent maximum. There are very few exceptions

where we have to take 49 percent. We never take a majority. And sometimes, mostly when we go into a debt relationship granting a loan, we take 2 percent to 3 percent either in connection with an IPO [initial public offering] or in what we call an equity kicker.

KP: How much have you written off in bad debt?

AK: To Ukraine, we have not really written off anything so far. If you only look at the loan portfolio, there is only one bank out of 13 that has not been able to keep up with payments.

KP: What's it called?

AK: It's Kreditprombank. It just recently made an announcement about restructuring. We, together with many other lenders, decided to convert part of their debt into equity to strengthen the capital base, and then restructure the rest of the debt into longer term.

KP: Is it your worst investment?

AK: We haven't lost any money. I don't think we will lose any money. I am pretty convinced that the debt we have in Kreditprombank will get repaid.

KP: How about other problem loans?

AK: I will not be able to give you the names. But the other ones are corporate entities, industrial entities, a retailer, etc.

KP: How much do you plan to invest this year?

AK: [Laughs] When I am asked 'how much do you plan?' I think, what is a plan? It means nothing. You can ask about capacity, how much can we lend. The capacity is roughly 1 billion euros, or roughly \$1.4 billion, depending on the exchange rate. We did that last year and could do the same this year.

KP: Where are you at this year?

AK: At the moment, we are at \$650 million.

KP: Wow, you only have a couple of months left to give out that money.

AK: We only have a couple of months left, but I can tell you that we have significant projects that have yet to be signed. One is a big road project which in dollar terms is \$350 million – just one deal. And then we have another six to eight [projects] in the private sector that could be signed.

KP: And you said that you are investing more via equity than with loans?

AK: In October 2008, the crisis really hit Ukraine. At that time, we had a portfolio of \$3.2 billion – 8 percent

→ 'Only one bank out of 13 has not been able to keep up with payments'

of that was equity. Now our investment portfolio is \$4.7 billion, and the share of private equity has gone up from 8 percent to 13 percent over the last two years.

KP: Are EBRD loans generally lower than the market rate?

AK: Let me put it like this: The interest rate on any loan from any source comes from two key components. One is the cost of funding for the lender, and the other part is the risk margin. Our risk margin is pretty much market, but because we are a 'Triple A' institution, our own cost of borrowing is much lower.

KP: So, you have a cheaper source of cash, but you aren't

cutting anyone slack on the risk that they present?

AK: That's it, there's no soft lending. One additional point: We are now increasingly doing loans to the Ukrainian state, which we call sovereign loans. Now sovereign loans across all EBRD countries have a standard credit margin of 1 percent.

KP: Why is this the case if one country is more stable than another?

AK: This is the one kind of political concession that our shareholders have made: All sovereign loans come at 1 percent.

KP: If you go into equity, what's your normal exit strategy?

AK: We have different types of equity exits. The most utilized exit strategy is a sale to a strategic investor. Either we go into a company where there is already a strategic investor and we take 20 percent or 30 percent of the company for about four or five years and sell it back to them at a pre-agreed formula – that's number one. Or it could also be that we go into an equity stake with a local partner and then together with them sell to a strategic investor – that's the second most common. The third most common is an IPO or sale to a [private] equity fund.

KP: What's your longest standing equity investment in Ukraine to date?

AK: I think it is Ukrainian International Airlines. We have been there for 11 or 12 years now.

KP: Are you happy with your investment?

AK: It has served us very well in terms of the financial outcome. The company, believe it or not, has been able to show a profit for the past nine years.

KP: Planning on leaving any time soon?

AK: Possibly. As I said, financially we have done OK. Whenever we invest, we have other targets besides finance. And one of the targets has been privatization [of the state's majority stake in the airline]. That has not happened. So that is a big failure that we have not been able to fix yet.

KP: What sectors are priorities for you?

AK: Ukraine is our second largest market, so there is no sector that we can ignore. If you look at the portfolio today – that's the \$4.7 billion that I was talking about – then it comes down to three equal sectors: corporate, financial and infrastructure.

KP: Are you still gung ho on finance?

AK: We just had a record year in Ukraine. We invested more in the financial sector last year than we have done cumulatively in the previous 10 years because of the crisis.

KP: That's a bailout, right?

AK: That is cementing the industry so that it doesn't fail. And it did not fail. We put lots of resources into it. We worked very closely with the foreign banks that had subsidiaries here, because we saw during the Russian crisis of 1998 that some of the banks had started to pull the plug. We → 9

EBRD chief in Ukraine: Lender ready to make more loans, take more risks in development

→ **8** saw at the end of 2008 that the biggest risk was that by the summer of 2009, [Ukrainian] banks might go bust one after the other, everyone would owe everyone else money and no one would actually have the money to pay.

KP: Where did the initiative come from?

AK: We had a meeting in the EBRD office in January 2009, where we invited in all the foreign banks that had operations here, with the local CEOs but also people from their head offices. We invited the National Bank and the minister of finance, and said: 'We need a plan.'

KP: Ukrainian media recently reported that the EBRD was willing to partner up with bidders for the privatization of state-owned fixed line monopoly Ukrtelecom, and that this offer would also be extended to the privatization of state-owned Ukrainian energy companies. Is this true?

AK: The short answer is, yes, this is true. Privatizing – the government having less of a role in the economy and the private sector taking over – this is one of our general goals.

KP: What role do you normally play?

AK: Mostly as an equity investor, sometimes even doing what we call pre-privatization equities. Before the actual privatization, we have actually invested money into the equity of a state-owned enterprise ...

KP: Knowing in advance ...

AK: ... that there would be a privatization eventually.

KP: Wouldn't you be concerned that the wrong company would win the privatization?

AK: We normally safeguard ourselves ...

KP: How?

AK: In those agreements that we sign, the subscription agreements for the purchase of shares, we often have an agreement, and sometimes we have other ways of exiting when an investor comes in with whom we cannot work for integrity or transparency reasons.

KP: This will actually be the first time you do it in Ukraine, right?

AK: Well, once again I come back to Ukrainian International Airlines, where we took an equity stake with a view that the company would eventually be privatized. But that has not worked.

KP: So that was your first attempt at getting involved in a big privatization and that was a failure.

AK: So far it has been a failure, because the government still owns 62 percent of the company.

KP: Ok, so now you are going to try again. What stake size would you take in Ukrtelecom?

AK: Depends on what the investor who is going to buy the majority would like us to take, but we can be

somewhere between 20 percent and 30 percent.

KP: Who would you like to be the investor?

AK: Somebody who, number one, has a transparent structure; number two, knows the industry; and number three, has a long-term commitment to Ukraine, to stay here not for speculative purposes but to come and develop the network for Ukraine over the long run.

KP: You are aware, of course, that the tender conditions for the privatization of Ukrtelecom are effectively custom written to two companies: Russian Sistema or MT's and Ukrainian billionaire Rinat Akhmetov's SCM holding – would you be willing to partner with either one of these companies?

→ **A good investor is 'somebody who, number one, has a transparent structure.'**

AK: First of all, let me tell you that this is not true. The fact is that there are certain exclusions of potential bidders – those that are over 25 percent state-owned. And yes this does, in my view, eliminate a number of high quality investors such as Deutsche Telecom, Telenor and many other companies.

KP: The other condition is that a potential bidder cannot have more than 25 percent of market share in Ukraine according to sales – which rules out Russian Alfa Group.

AK: Correct. I am saying that, yes, the conditions of the privatization have been set to eliminate certain players, which in my view, is not right. It's not right for the government, number one, because they are eliminating bidders who could ultimately offer more money. Number two, it's not right for the customers, because they might not get the best service for the best price.

KP: Would you be willing to partner with either one of these companies that I mentioned?

AK: What we would like to do is have a fair competition. It has to be fair because Ukrtelecom privatization is something that has been discussed for 10 years on and off. We have been spending an enormous amount of time restarting our machine every time there was a chance. Now, we have sent a letter where we have formally expressed our interest in being involved in the process – if need be in

financing the company.

KP: Have you got a response?
AK: We only sent it this week.

KP: How would you see your involvement in this?

AK: We would not partner up with anyone in advance. We will not join anyone's bid. We have let the State Property Fund and the government know in advance that we are happy to finance, and they can consider that whoever wins can then come to EBRD and start negotiations with us. And then we apply exactly the same principles as we do with any other project: It depends on the quality of the investor, the structure that we can agree with, and the risks and rewards that come out of that structure.

KP: But you know that it could very well turn out that the two companies that I mentioned are the only ones to apply due to the conditions set by the State Property Fund.

AK: It could turn out that way. And it could well be that we are involved or not involved.

KP: And so you would also be willing to do the same thing for privatizations in the energy sector?

AK: We would be willing to do that for any privatization that comes up – anything that makes business sense and is not damaging to any principle we have such as arms dealing, tobacco and alcohol, environmentally harmful industries, etc.

KP: The EBRD has been cited as a possible player in some kind of consortium to manage Ukraine's international gas pipeline. Would you take an equity stake or would you just lend? Would you get involved if Gazprom or companies controlled by Gazprom took a controlling stake? Does Ukraine really need investment in its pipelines, especially considering that this may involve giving up control?

AK: First, I am not a technician, but whoever I speak to tells me that modernization is absolutely necessary. So, yes, modernization is necessary and it will be hugely expensive. Whether we would like to be an equity partner – we are not dreamers. I don't think we actually can be an equity partner.

KP: Why not?

AK: We do play an equity role when we see that the private sector will take over, either at the time of the investment or later on. And frankly I don't think that's going to happen.

KP: There would be no exit for you?

AK: There is no exit. And if Gazprom gets involved – and Gazprom is a state-owned company – we cannot talk about an eventual privatization. Can we become a lender? Yes, we can. Can we do it all? No we cannot, because it's a huge chunk. We can think of a maximum of half a billion dollars from us as a risk from one single entity.



Andre Kuusvek. (Oleksiy Boyko)

KP: That would be a loan?
AK: That would be a loan.

KP: Ok, what about if Gazprom gets a majority in the consortium, either on its own or through some dummy company in Austria, would you guys still get involved?

AK: This is a difficult question. Because on the one hand, if you ask whether Gazprom is an acceptable partner to the EBRD, aside from this particular project, then I would say 'yes.'

KP: Because they can pay.

AK: It's not only that they can pay. We have found them to be an acceptable partner. We have signed loan agreements with Gazprom, for gas and banking subsidiaries.

KP: So is this just about money? Is EBRD investment just about whether someone is a good customer or are there other issues at hand?

AK: There are many other issues, so that's why I say this particular project – if it were to be majority owned by Gazprom – it's a very difficult question to answer.

KP: It goes above you?

AK: It goes way above me. It goes to the board, to the shareholders of the EBRD: Is this something that we would like to do?

KP: Do you feel there is political concern about this whole thing that goes beyond finance and repayment?

AK: Of course.

KP: Geopolitical concerns?

AK: There is no other way for me to answer the question: Yes, it has very significant geopolitical concerns. And, yes, we need to think whether we can get involved in this process and under what conditions. But frankly we would like to think of ourselves as a non-political institution.

Kyiv Post staff writer John Marone can be reached at marone@kyivpost.com

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Help wanted! Employers say they will start hiring

BY OLGA GNATIV
GNATIV@KYIVPOST.COM

With surveys indicating that companies are ready to unfreeze hiring in 2011, employers will be able to choose from a plentiful crop of talented and willing employees stung by two years of layoffs.

Job hunters, meanwhile, should fine-tune their resumes and aggressively seek opportunities to put themselves ahead of the competition.

Recruitment experts say businesses are looking for talented, creative, brave and open-minded employees who can add value and rise above the pack of applicants.

"Many companies have plans for hiring in 2011," said Stanislav Vilyukha, managing partner at Exon Recruiting.

International survey Regus Business Tracker reports that 49 percent of Ukrainian companies plan to hire personnel next year. Regus questioned 1,000 companies worldwide and 50 in Ukraine.

The survey also notes that Ukrainian employers are more willing to expand their staff than the global average – 36 percent of companies.

This is good news, but not for everybody who's looking for a job. To stand out from the crowd employees must demonstrate sharp skills, energy and be able to add value to the business.

"Many businesses are now paused because there are neither a lot of available financial resources nor friendly environment, which forces companies to be more flexible and creative in their strategies," said Roman Bondar, a consultant at Ward Howell recruiting agency.

It means that key management positions will be filled with people able to

identify and seize opportunities.

"It has become clear that people who work according to templates and are incapable of adjusting to new realities will lose out to job seekers with flexible thinking and high energy levels," said Bondar.

"What is more surprising there are few of people who can meet these requirements," he added.

According to the Head Hunter employment website and consultancy, the highest number of job applicants are for the positions of general director, economist and sales and financial directors

There are 21.6 applicants per vacancy for general directors, 19 for economists, 14 sales directors and 12 for financial or commercial directors.

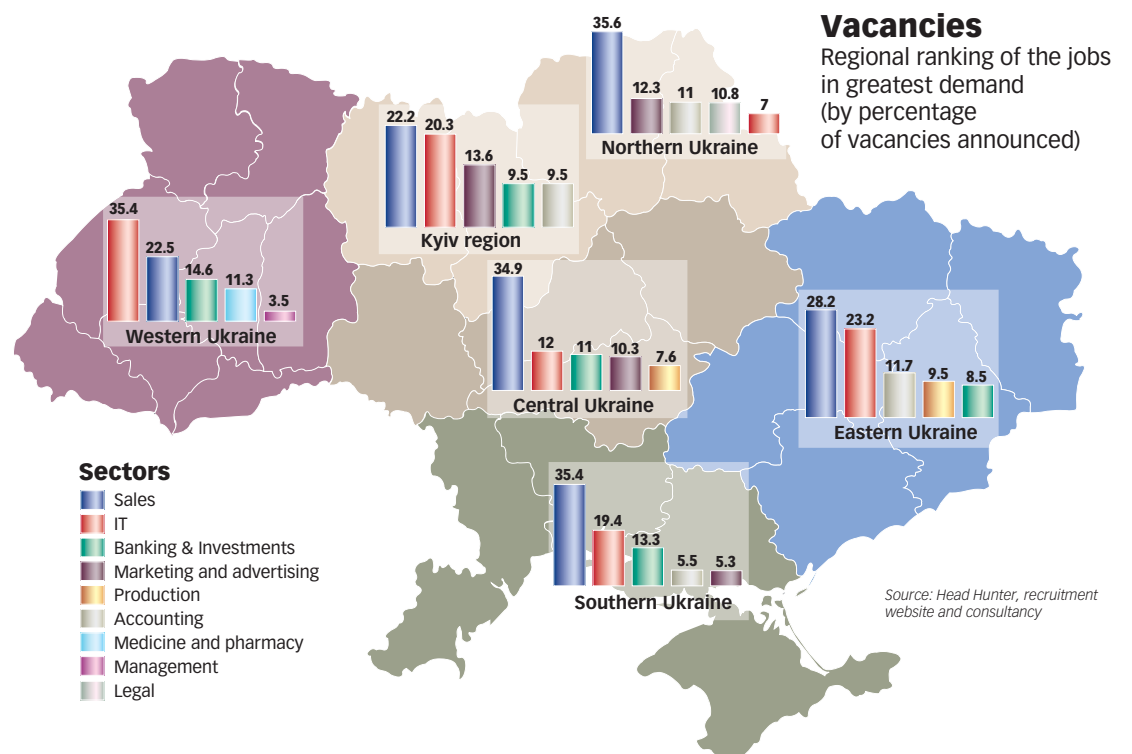
Overall in Ukraine, the most needed personnel are sales managers, says the Head Hunter report, because it has the biggest number of vacancies and applicants – from 22 to 35 percent of all vacancies in different regions.

Sales people are followed by IT personnel in the highest demand, from 19 to 35 percent of vacancies throughout Ukraine.

"In the next year demand for highly qualified marketing specialists and sales specialists will remain high," said Olena Lymarchuk, human resource director at 3M, a global technology company.

Recruiters said that job seekers' personalities and characteristics are more important than ever, which influences the job application process.

Recruiters recommend being precise in targeting your job applications and having a clear understanding where you want to be in several years. It is



important to set the priorities for a work-life balance and look for a position that fits it. Despite hard economic times, betting on a lower salary in order to get a job is not the best strategy.

"To ask for lower payment is not a good option. It is better to know the value you can bring to the company and be able to explain it to your potential employer," said Bondar.

These days it is also not enough just to have a nice resume, speak fluent English and have excellent presentation skills.

"Employers want genius profes-

sionals who can and want to work late hours, show the highest levels of responsibility and be proactive," said Andriy Kryvokorytov, general director of Brain Source International.

Apart from finding vacancies on job websites or professional social networks and applying to recruiting agencies, it is now better not just to companies with vacancies, but for ones that suit your skill set.

"Persistence and a systemic approach is the unfailing recipe for an effective search and success in acquiring a new job," said Lymarchuk.

A perfect candidate adjusts his or her resume to the demands of a company, then contacts managers or directors, establishes a good relationship with them and shows a high level of motivation to work. Chances are higher for such job-seekers to be invited for an interview, say recruiters.

"In the era of brave, strong, quick, initiative and open people, you can't just wait for a human resources manager to call you back anymore," said Bondar from Ward Howell.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Gnativ can be reached at gnativ@kyivpost.com



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Salaries start to inch up after two years of freezes or cuts

BY OLGA GNATIV
GNATIV@KYIVPOST.COM

Despite challenging economic times, companies are ending the trend of cutting or freezing salaries and are even starting to slowly increase pay and benefits.

Employment experts say the increases are more cautious and selective than in the boom years leading up to the 2008 crash, but employees who have shown they are key personnel over the crisis period are now being rewarded with pay rises.

Ukraine Compensation & Benefits Survey 2010, conducted annually by global Big Four auditing firm Ernst & Young, estimates companies increased wages by 12-13 percent on average. The first to be rewarded were top-performing managers.

"The percentage was more or less the same for different industries, but increases were a bit higher for top and senior management," said Olena Veselkova, senior consultant on human capital at Ernst & Young.

The survey notes a recovery in the labor market and growth in employees' wages.

In 2010, companies have "stopped cutting personnel and about one third of the companies, that took part in our surveys, had begun to recruit personnel, especially middle management and professional staff," the report reads.

After the painful lessons of the economic downturn, most of companies have put a stop to the rash salary growth that ran from 2005 to the first half of 2008. Most companies plan to raise wages in the next year, but the increases will be smaller.

Companies also started to rethink their approach toward hiring and retaining top employees and are now linking rewards more directly to performance. Special attention was paid to retaining key employees.

"In some cases there were even separate policies for key employees and top talents, and this sort of differentiation is increasing with each passing year," said Veselkova. "And key employees earn the highest pay."

Alex Yurchenko, country manager at Hudson, a global recruiting agency, said that some specialists in the same position at the same company could earn totally different amounts, depending on their performance.

2010 Ukraine Salary Survey (Hr monthly)

	Ukraine	Kyiv	Retail	FMCG	Banking	IT	Production
Receptionist	2,463	3,535	2,903	2,267	2,971	4,071	1,797
Secretary	4,950	5,645	4,568	5,776	4,746	5,200	3,580
IT specialist	6,860	8,585	5,092	7,068	6,406	8,400	3,846
Account manager	9,000	9,683	4,540	9,819	8,758	12,000	5,708
Brand manager	14,377	14,925	9,066	15,793	10,791	10,400	6,275
Human resource director	19,088	24,000	19,338	28,095	16,500	23,400	12,225
General manager	46,600	52,500	39,750	56,345	40,000	43,200	30,300

Note: Average figures do not include bonuses or any other additional payments. FMCG stands for fast-moving consumer goods, while IT is information technology.

Source: Hay Group, global management consultancy.

→ **Workers who proved worth in crisis reap pay rewards**

Industry experts say that employers are also showing a more pragmatic approach towards salaries and benefit packages compared to earlier times.

"If an employer wanted a certain professional, he might previously have simply offered to double his salary. This year such cases are extremely rare," said Yurchenko from Hudson.

The gap in pay between the highest positions and the lowest continued to increase, according to the survey.

Employment experts also note that bonuses now make up a larger proportion of total salaries.

"Potentially an employee could receive higher bonus than in previous years upon achieving certain targets. However, it is worth noting that targets have become really tough to achieve," Yurchenko said.

Another salary study for 2010 conducted by Hay Group, a global management consulting firm, showed that the best paid jobs can be found in

companies that produce fast moving consumer goods.

"The majority of such companies are international, they kept the compensations stable or even growing during the years of downturn," says the report.

Kyiv as the capital traditionally gives opportunities for best paid jobs. According to the Hay Group study, salaries in Kyiv are 14 percent higher than average in Ukraine.

The highest levels of pay are offered in finance, sales, marketing, informational technologies and legal services. The lowest-paid jobs are in production, human resource management and administrative services.

Hay Group research also has some good news for employees: 78 percent of companies plan to increase wages in the first half of 2011.

Head Hunter, an employment website and consultancy, also surveyed well-paid positions on the basis of compensation levels that employers announce in their vacancy advertisements.

Top positions like general director are on average offered Hr 40,000 per month, financial director – Hr 25,000 and sales directors – Hr 18,000.

Public relations managers, lawyers, chief accountants, brand managers, IT project managers and developers are in a mid-range from Hr 7,000 to Hr 13,000.

The lowest pay for professionals is offered to accountants, human resource managers and designers, with an average of from Hr 3,000 to Hr 5,000.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Gnativ can be reached at gnativ@kyivpost.com

Kyiv Post on Nov. 6 brings together job seekers, top firms at Employment Fair

The 15th anniversary Kyiv Post Employment Fair will take place on Nov. 6 at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska Street.

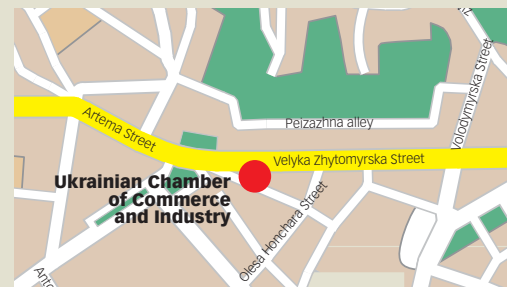
This is the first and the largest employment fair in Kyiv since fall 2008, when the economic downturn set in. The last Kyiv Post Employment Fair was held in October 2008, with 35 top local and foreign companies participating and more than 4,000 visitors.

The Kyiv Post re-launched its Employment Fair in 2010 after noticing signs of an economic revival in Ukraine, where gross domestic product slumped 15 percent in 2009. By the end of October, more than 30 top-notch Ukrainian and international companies in banking, auditing, legal, information technology, agriculture and recruitment, universities and business schools have agreed to participate in the fair.

The names include information giants Google and IBM, Big Four auditing firms KPMG and PricewaterhouseCoopers, five-star Intercontinental Hotel, global logistics company DHL, international UkrSibBank, Bank of Cyprus and Swedbank, investment bank Phoenix Capital, top agriculture company Cargill and international consumer goods companies Procter & Gamble and SCA Hygiene.

"The Kyiv Post Employment Fair is not only the best place to look for a job, but also the best place for companies to find qualified personnel and young promising professionals to hire," said Kyiv Post chief executive officer Jim Phillipoff, who urged job seekers to bring their CVs with them.

More than 4,000 people are expected to visit the one-day Employment Fair in search of career opportunities. In the past, the typical visitor has been a young, ambitious professional with knowledge of at least one foreign language. The fair is also an attractive place for top university graduates interested in finding internship opportunities and gaining experience.



A Kyiv Post job fair was held in 2008, before the economic crisis. Another one takes place at 10 a.m. Nov. 6 at 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.

WHAT: Kyiv Post Employment Fair
WHEN: Nov. 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
WHERE: Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 33 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.



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Top 3 factors in choosing jobs

BY OLGA GNATIV
GNATIV@KYIVPOST.COM

Choosing a job usually comes down to three factors: the size of the pay packet, the possibility for personal and professional growth and the employer's reputation.

A recent survey by Big Four auditing firm Ernst & Young put these at the top of the list of what employees are looking for when hunting a job as Ukraine's labor market starts to pick up.

The 2010 Best Employer in Ukraine report by Ernst & Young revealed that professional candidates in Ukraine have several expectations from employers: 68 percent of job seekers are interested in high salaries, 63 percent look at personal and professional growth

opportunities and 60 percent make judgments about the company's market position.

"Both a positive internal image among employees and the right external image significantly contribute to a company's employer image," said Olga Gorbanovskaya, partner and head of the human capital group at Ernst & Young.

That is why in the fight for best professionals, many employers look carefully at their image. Before the crisis, such concern was more common for international companies represented in Ukraine than local businesses.

Harsh economic times force companies to fight harder for business, making reputation all the more important.

→ Pay is only one factor that workers value in seeking employment

A company's products and industry can also significantly affect its attractiveness in the eyes on potential employees, added Gorbanovskaya.

Recruiters say the employers' reputation not only plays an important role, but can even be decisive.

"If the reputation of the company is bad, people may turn down the job even it offers more money," said Ruslan Gromovyuk, a partner at Talent

Advisor, a consulting agency.

"At the same time, employees are happier working for respected companies, even if compensation is smaller," added Gromovyuk.

More than money, people are interested in being part of a leading and successful business with strong corporate culture and respect among employees.

"Some companies even have a spe-

cial professional who keeps their finger on the pulse," said Gromovyuk.

When looking for a job, one third of the respondents in the Ernst & Young survey use employment websites as the main source of potential employers.

Apart from on-line resources, candidates consider relatives, friends and the mass media as trusted sources for such information. Some job seekers find out about a company from working with it in a business partnership.

"In this era of new information technologies and a growing number of Internet users in Ukraine, personnel and client satisfaction levels are critical to an employer's external image," said Gorbanovskaya from Ernst & Young.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Gnativ can be reached at gnativ@kyivpost.com

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TEL / FAX	TOP EXECUTIVE	OWNERSHIP UKRAINIAN / FOREIGN (%)	# OF FULL TIME EMPLOYEES	HQ	SERVICES	STAFF SEARCH FIELDS	SEARCH METHODS	# OF FULL TIME PLACEMENTS	# OF INDIVIDUALS IN DATABASE	MINIMUM SEARCH TIME	FEE FROM ANNUAL GROSS SALARY	MAJOR CLIENTS	
Almond Ukraine , (in Ukraine since 2010), www.almond.com.ua, info@almond.com.ua, 44 Shota Rustaveli Str., off.#15, Kyiv 01033, Ukraine													
(044) 227-5197 (044) 536-5744	Julia Skidan	50/50	4	Kyiv, Ukraine (with an office in Manchester, UK)	Executive search, headhunting, regular recruitment as well as mass recruitment campaigns, training services	All industries	Direct search, database, headhunting, media	11	5,700	5 days	15%	WND	
Archers , (in Ukraine since 2008), www.archers.com.ua, info@archers.com.ua, 6-B Nickolsko-Slobodskaya Str., Kyiv 02002, Ukraine													
(044) 360-4610	Anna Bobel	100/0	5	Kyiv, Ukraine	Middle and top management recruitment, event management	All industries	Direct search, mass media, database	WND	75,000	2 weeks	20-25%	WND	
Brain-Source International , (in Ukraine since 1999), www.brain-source.com, info@brain-source.com, 3 Sportyvna Sq., 2nd floor, Kyiv 01061, Ukraine													
(044) 390-5010 (044) 390-5006	Andrey Krivokorytov	100/0	27	Kyiv, Ukraine	Middle- and top management recruitment, outplacement, temporary staffing, management assessment	All industries	Direct search, database headhunting	100	50,000	2 weeks	20-25%	Procter&Gamble, Novartis, Philip Morris, Dragon Capital, ING Bank	
Capital Recruiters , (in Ukraine since 2007), www.capitalrecruiters.com.ua, pr@capitalrecruiters.com.ua, 7 Vandy Vasilevskoy Str., off.#705, Kiev 03055, Ukraine													
(044) 238-9081 (067) 230-4208	Pavel Rozdobud'ko	100/0	5	Kyiv, Ukraine	Middle and top management recruitment	IT, telecommunications, banking, finance, jurisprudence, logistics, sales & marketing, oil & gas	Executive search, headhunting, database	40	40,000	2 weeks	WND	Celenia Software, Kuehne+Nagel, Nokia Siemens Networks, Piraeus Bank, SC Johnson	
Clarus Eastern Europe LLC , (in Ukraine since 2005), www.claruskyiv.com, kmk@claruskyiv.com, 36 Voloska Str., Kyiv 04070, Ukraine													
(044) 461-9794 (044) 461-9795	Clara Bodin (Swedish), Joop Allers (Dutch)	0/100	14	Kyiv, Ukraine	Recruitment, executive search, payroll outsourcing, outstaffing, business start-up support, Thomas Int. Ass.	All industries	Direct search, database search, advertised search, headhunting	250	100,000 +	3 weeks	WND	Shell Ukraine, Swedbank, Astra Zeneca, Oriflame, IKEA, Fortis, Sandvik, Itron	
Diamond Recruiters , (in Ukraine since 2007), www.diamondrecruiters.net, kyiv@diamondrecruiters.net, 5 Leonid Pervomaiskogo Str., off.#3, Kyiv 01023, Ukraine													
(044) 332-3100	Alexandre De Raemaeker	0/100	WND	Kyiv, Ukraine	Middle management recruitment, HR advisory (performance), coaching of senior managers	All industries. Specialties include analytical functions, finance, IT and change managers	Direct search, database headhunting	30	WND	24 hours	18-20%	Confidential	


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The stories on the news pages of Business Focus are written by Kyiv Post editorial staff members, but the lists of companies are paid advertisements. Listing is arranged in alphabetical order. For more information about publishing your company's information in our list, please contact the advertising department at advertising@kyivpost.com. Key to abbreviations: WND – would not disclose.

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DOPOMOGA Staffing Company , (in Ukraine since 1994), office@dopomoga.org.ua, 2/6 Novozabarska Str., off.#419, Kyiv 04074, Ukraine. Offices in: Donetsk, Zaporizhia, Kharkiv, Lviv, Odesa												
(044) 594-8178	Katerina Skibska	23/77	37	Kyiv, Ukraine	Permanent staffing, outplacement	All industries	Direct search, executive search, advertising, internet, database	92	253,000	5 days	20%+VAT	Kimberly-Clark, Kraft Foods, MARS, McDonald's, Pfizer, Philip Morris, SABMiller, SC Johnson, Unilever
Exon Recruiters , (in Ukraine since 2005), www.exon.com.ua, cv@exon.com.ua, 9/2 Velyka Vasylykivska Str., off.#28, Kyiv 01004, Ukraine												
(044) 492-8008	Stanislav Vilyukha, Managing Partner	100/0	15	Kyiv, Ukraine	Executive search, management selection	All industries	Direct search, advertised selection	WND	20,000	2-4 weeks	29%	WND
GP GROUP , (in Ukraine since 1999), www.gp.com.ua, az@gp.com.ua, ov@gp.com.ua, 24 Turovska Str., Kyiv 04080, Ukraine												
(044) 496-2530 (044) 496-2531	Alexey Zvolinsky	100/0	20	Kyiv, Ukraine	HR administration, staff leasing, outstaffing, payroll, HR audit, salary survey	FMCG, banking	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND
Human Capital Ukraine , (in Ukraine since 2009), www.human-capital.org.ua, info@human-capital.org.ua, 25-B Sagaydachnogo Str., Regus Business Center, 5th floor, Kyiv 04070, Ukraine												
(044) 498-5256 (044) 361-0703	Tatiana Skuratovska	100/0	10	Kyiv, Ukraine	Recruitment services, executive search, training, consulting, assessment, outplacement	Agriculture, finance & investment, accounting, legal, banking, HR, administration, FMCG, sales	Headhunting, database, direct search	WND	WND	5 days	15%	WND
Manpower , (in Ukraine since 2005), www.manpower.ru, info@manpower.kiev.ua, 34-B Predslavynska Str., 1 st floor, Kyiv 03150, Ukraine												
(044) 459-7191 (044) 459-7192	Vyacheslav Sapunov	0/100	15	Milwaukee, USA	Permanent, temporary, mass recruitment, contract staffing, outsourcing, consulting, outplacement, salary survey	All industries	Database, advertising campaigns, referrals, internet recruiting, executive search, career fairs, headhunting	WND	WND	3 days	WND	WND
MIP HR Consultancy , (in Ukraine since 1993), www.mip.com.ua, mip@mip.kiev.ua, 24 Starovokzalna Str., off.#19, Kyiv 01032, Ukraine												
(044) 581-5482	Valeria Lebedieva	0/100	6	Vienna, Austria	Executive search, assessment	Legal, finance, construction, agriculture, medicine/pharma, logistics, other	Direct search	27 (Jan.-Oct. 2010)	20,000	5 days	25%	WND
Pedersen & Partners , (in Ukraine since 2005), www.pedersenandpartners.com, kiev@pedersenandpartners.com, 59 Zhylyanska Str., 10nd floor, off.#1003, Kyiv 01033, Ukraine												
(044) 569-5988	Alexey Dolgikh	0/100	5 in Ukraine, 300 in CEE, CIS, MEA	Prague, Czech Republic (39 offices)	Executive search	Banking, agro, industrial, retail, FMCG, healthcare	Direct search	25	All top managers in CEE, CIS, MEA	4 - 6 weeks	33%	WND
PowerPact HR Consulting , (in Ukraine since 1995), www.powerpact.com.ua, info@powerpact.com.ua, 28 Yurkivska Str., 8th floor, Kyiv 04080, Ukraine												
(044) 583-0046 (044) 583-0047 (044) 583-0048	Alexander Zlotnik	20/80	12	Kyiv, Ukraine	Executive search, recruitment, outplacement, outstaffing, salary survey	All including B2B and particular specialties	Direct, database, mass media, recommendations, etc.	WND	70,000	1-2 weeks	WND	WND
Staff Service , (in Ukraine since 2001), www.staffservice.com.ua, info@staffservice.com.ua, 30/39 Schekavitskaya Str., off.#17, 1st floor, Kyiv 04071, Ukraine												
(044) 207-7076 (044) 207-1170	Yuliya Kyrylyuk	100	25	Kyiv, Ukraine	Recruitment, executive search, outsourcing, temporary staff	All industries	Direct search, database headhunting	WND	45,000	1 week	22%-30%	WND
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(097) 828-9474	Anders Ostlund	0/100	3	Kyiv, Ukraine	Employer branding, primarily towards Ukrainian students and young professionals	All industries	Online network with profiles, university network with faculty representatives	WND	32,000	1 week	WND	Atlas Copco, Astra Zeneca, Oriflame
UKRAINE CONSULTING , (in Ukraine since 2006), www.ukraine-consulting.eu, info@ukraine-consulting.eu, 42-44 Shovkovychna Str., Horizon Towers, Kyiv 01061, Ukraine												
(044) 490-5528 (044) 490-5529	Sven Henniger	0/100	20	Hamburg, Germany	Accounting outsourcing, tax consulting, due diligence, legal address, office sublease, IT-services, recruiting	Finance & accounting (chief accountant, finance controller, CFO), administrative staff	Database, direct, assessment via extensive accounting competence test developed by our experts	WND	WND	WND	WND	WND
United Consultants , (in Ukraine since 2004), www.ucon.com.ua, cv@ucon.com.ua, 9/2 Velyka Vasylykivska Str., off.#49, Kyiv 01004, Ukraine												
(044) 494-2885	Yan Vilyukha	100/0	5	Moscow, Russian Federation	Executive search	Telecommunication, FMCG, banking industry, retail	Executive search	100	WND	8-12 weeks	33%	WND
ZEST Outsourcing , (in Ukraine since 2001), www.hr-outsourcing.com.ua, office@hr-outsourcing.com.ua, 2/6 Novozabarska Str., off.#419, Kyiv 04074, Ukraine. Offices in Boryspil, Kharkiv, Odesa, Donetsk, Lviv												
(044) 594-8178	Katerina Shnyrkova	28/72	48	Kyiv, Ukraine	Temporary staffing, permanent staffing, outstaffing, staff leasing, HR administration, payroll	All industries	Database advertising, internet, college graduates, active search	81	37,000	3 days	14%+VAT	Coca-Cola, Kraft Foods, MARS, MTC, Philip Morris, Procter&Gamble, SC Johnson, Toyota

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Official misdeeds hidden by vast culture of secrecy

→1 Nearly 20 years since Ukraine's independence, the nation's rulers have not advanced far from that authoritarian heritage. A pervasive culture of withholding government information from citizens persists. If democracy flourishes in openness, then Ukraine's form of government is closer to autocracy – in which officials pull curtains of secrecy around their actions and decisions that affect the lives and fortunes of 46 million people.

Such a method of governing only fuels Ukraine's endemic corruption as officials abuse their powers in secrecy and with impunity.

The public, meanwhile, is left in the dark and denied their democratic powers to provide meaningful checks on the powers of the people they elect to govern. As a result, few know how national and local governments spend money – efficiently and for the public good, or ineffectively and for private gain.

On Nov. 1, parliament chose to let government continue functioning under the cloak of darkness when lawmakers postponed a vote for a public access to information bill on the eve of the scheduled vote.

The bill, championed by Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko parliamentarian Andriy Shevchenko, was supposed to ensure public and expedient access to government and municipal actions and budgets as well as open up other previously closed information. It had the endorsement of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.

"I view this law as part of a package of laws I've drafted that make civil society as strong as possible in the current political situation; the more we know, the more we have access to information, the better Ukraine will function as a state," Shevchenko said. "It's really not about legislation, it's about the culture of bureaucracy, and this law will make politicians more open and transparent."

President Viktor Yanukovich promised in July to ensure the bill gets passed. Hanna Herman, deputy chief of the presidential administration, also pledged on Oct. 13 to Dunja Mijatovic,

Activists picket the pro-presidential Party of Regions headquarters in Kyiv on Nov. 1, urging its members of parliament to adopt a European-endorsed public access to information law. President Viktor Yanukovich's party has stalled the bill's adoption twice this year. (UNIAN)



the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's representative on freedom of media and speech: "The president asked me to say that we'll do everything possible so that the public access to information law will be adopted as soon as possible in parliament..."

The mixed vote was seen by experts as another democratic milestone missed by the Yanukovich administration.

Instead lawmakers from his allied Party of Regions party registered a different law, which it will consider on Nov. 5.

The Party of Regions have twice stalled the "right to know" bill's adoption in July and October.

Ukraine has already postponed to Jan. 1 the date when a package of European-endorsed anti-corruption laws was supposed to enter force. The anti-corruption bill is part of Ukraine's obligation before the Council of Europe's Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), which it joined in 2006.

Earlier in October, Drago Kos, the president of GRECO, said that his organization sees no improvement in Ukraine's efforts to fight corruption.

"Any real fight against corruption is

not noticeable. Some institutions are created and that's it. It looks as though something is being done, but in fact nothing is happening," he said.

More than half the countries of the world have not yet adopted so called "right to information" laws and many that have done so have failed to implement them adequately, according to Article 19, a British freedom of expression and information organization.

This means the Soviet practice of arbitrarily classifying public information as "secret," "for internal use only" and "not for publication" will remain in place.

For this 90-year habit to change, "political will is needed as well as the understanding that the public owns information," said Yevhen Zakharov of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Association. According to Zakharov, there is no way of knowing how many existing presidential and Cabinet of Ministers' decrees are classified.

For example, Yanukovich issued three decrees in August whose contents are unknown and not listed on the presidential website.

"The information requested regarding a list of all acts bearing the stamp

'for internal use only,' which contain confidential information that is state property, is itself confidential," was the Kafkaesque response of Olena Lukash, first deputy head of the presidential administration, in a letter dated July 27 to freedom-of-information activist Oleh Severin.

This broad culture of secrecy is one reason why the Kyiv Post still hasn't received a response from Deputy Prime Minister Sergiy Tigipko to a July 27 faxed inquiry regarding allegations that he tried rigging an exit poll in 2004 for \$1 million.

According to legislation, government officials must respond within 30 days of receiving inquiries.

The Kyiv Post has also twice sent information inquiries to the State Affairs Department and to Yanukovich asking how much was spent on his lavish 60th birthday party on July 9, but twice received formal responses that money from the state budget was not spent on it, but provided no further details.

Online news source Ukrainska Pravda is currently suing Yanukovich in court for not revealing which joint-stock company he founded.

And it also remains a mystery why the Security Service of Ukraine, known as the SBU, recently classified as "top secret" its criminal case against Ruslan Zably, a historian and former director of a Lviv historical museum. Zably was detained by six state security operatives on Sept. 8 on "suspicion of disseminating state secrets and collecting information in an unlawful manner".

According to Zably, his research has focused on declassified materials dating to the Soviet-era and centered on the strategy and tactics of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army, known by the UPA acronym, the guerrilla fighters who battled Soviets to achieve Ukrainian national independence during World War II.

Human rights activists said classifying Zably's case top secret restricts his right to a defense and is being used to restrict public scrutiny over the case.

"This is absurd. We're talking about declassified, Soviet documents, which can't be secrets of the Ukrainian state," Helsinki's Zakharov said. "Now that the case is top secret, Zably would need a lawyer with access to state secrets, which makes it a violation of Article 6 of the European Convention on Human Rights," he said referring to the basic civil rights people have when facing criminal charges.

According to Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko lawmaker Shevchenko, the SBU would have a hard time classifying Zably's case "secret," since the bill has a three-step justification process in place through which a government body must go through in order to classify something.

A study conducted by the Kharkiv Human Rights Protection Group revealed that only 55 percent of 1,528 inquiries submitted by non-government organizations to government bodies in 2005-2007 were answered, of which 40 percent were answered in full, while 169 responded after the legally prescribed 30-day period. The same study showed that 1,274 responses contained parts that said information cannot be supplied due to classification.

Even lawmakers get rejected on information requests. →15

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→14 Hennady Moskal, an Our Ukraine parliamentarian within the opposition faction, told the Kyiv Post that "90 percent of my inquiries as an MP aren't satisfied." Apparently, the authorities have something to hide, he concluded.

Another study conducted by the Ukrainian Independent Center for Political Research, a reputable Kyiv think tank, in May 2007 revealed that 58 percent of the websites of central executive government bodies had the legally stipulated information listed according to a 2002 law on the activities of executive government bodies.

The vast majority of Ukrainian municipalities are not open to public scrutiny, despite the integral public interest roles they carry out. According to the East-Ukrainian Center for Civil Initiatives, only three out of 200 cities fully complied with requests from non-profit organizations to access city plans, including both text and cartographic information.

"A significant quantity completely failed to respond, and we counted over 15 different ways they directly or indirectly refuse public access to the plans, most of which have legal foundation in law," said East-Ukrainian Center for Civil Initiatives head Volodymyr Shcherbachenko.



Yevhen Zakharov,

The vast majority of municipalities said such plans bore the stamp "for internal use only," according to Shcherbachenko.

Some cities such as Kyiv, the nation's capital, even classify their entire general municipal development plans as "secret." While a handful of cities – Donetsk, Lviv and Odesa – claim to provide access to general plans on their websites, in fact these websites

display only rudimentary cartographic information.

The culture of secrecy is perpetuated from the top.

Political observers have noted that Yanukovich has only given one open press conference to journalists in the eight months he's been in office. According to an Oct. 29 issue of Korrespondent weekly magazine, only loyal journalists who toe the presidential line are allowed to accompany the president and ask him questions during in-country and foreign trips.

And often, requests for basic public information just linger and die.

For instance, Ukraine's treasury department still hasn't responded to journalists' requests asking where the \$4.8 billion from the sale of the previously state-owned Kryvorizhstal steel plant, the nation's largest, had been transferred.

"This trend of not disclosing what essentially is public information and owned by the public is worsening in the current political situation because we have a top-down form of governance and the lower ranking officials see what those at the top are doing and copy their actions," Shevchenko, the public information-crusading lawmaker, said.

An information law dating to 1992



Hanna Herman and lawmaker Andriy Shevchenko. (Ukrinform)

regulates public access. Another law on state secrets dating to 1994 regulates what can and cannot be classified. The latter emulates the Soviet practice of having "experts" based in every government agency who determine what information is public and what is not.

"These so-called experts have a very wide spectrum through which they could classify information and most often this depends on the will of the person classifying information," Zakharov said of the arbitrary way in which public information gets restricted. "The concept of public ownership isn't developed in Ukraine. Many Soviet habits persist today."

The human rights activist noted that every oblast administration has its own list of items of what can be classified and limited to public disclosure yet they all have the same amount of authority according to law.

The law on information currently in place is outdated compared to interna-

tional best practice, making a mockery of the country's international obligations including to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

"There's been a huge leap forward internationally and Ukraine has so far missed the boat," said Helen Darbishire, head of Access-Info, a leading European non-governmental organization pushing for freedom of information.

According to Darbishire, the main elements of the last decade's revolution in access to information encompass the clear presumption that it's the public that owns information, and that all public bodies, branches of power and private bodies performing public functions are covered.

Meanwhile, Ukraine lags decades behind with Soviet-level access to information that should be public.

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Advertisement



«EDAPS» is ready for prompt transition to biometric passports in Ukraine

The Ukrainian Consortium for a couple of years introduced Ukraine into the World Elite Club of producers of electronic documents.

It is quite notorious that simplification of entrance regulations between Ukraine and EU may contribute to additional investments, decrease of national and social inequality, raise of employment and social standards in this country. This delicate approach to the situation from the Ukrainian authorities, diplomats and society becomes even more clear and vital on the threshold of the Ukraine – EU summit scheduled for November, 22, 2010, to say nothing of the coming EURO-2012.

One of the basic requirements of the EU to be fulfilled by Ukraine for abolition of the visa regime is transition to electronic (biometric) passports for travelling abroad. One should note that at the forthcoming Summit this problem would be one of the major issues on the agenda.

People's Deputy, vice-chairman of the Verkhovna Rada's Committee on foreign affairs, Ambassador **Leonid Kozhara** talking about the necessity to adopt an adequate legislation has also emphasized in this connection that «... in all other respects, i.e. technically Ukraine is ready to fulfil the EU requirements straight away». The MP is firmly convinced that by 2012 the Ukrainians would be able to travel to the EU countries without visas. This confidence is based on the fact that the EDAPS Consortium can introduce the biometric passports for travelling abroad very quickly and without involving foreign technologies or assistance. As it was stressed by

Leonid Kozhara, «... to be more specific on production of protected documents, including passports, the country possesses technologies that are even better than those of many European countries. In particular, these technologies could be provided by the EDAPS Consortium».

The EDAPS Consortium is a Ukrainian company that is world known for its technologies in the sphere of protected printing, production of identification documents and information systems. The EDAPS has already successfully launched more than 300 large-scale projects both on the Ukrainian and international markets.

Since 2009 the EDAPS has been producing electronic (biometric) passports for the INTERPOL personnel. Representatives of the international police, UN (ICAO), OSCE, EU have appreciated protection quality of the documents developed and produced by the Consortium at its true high value. Regarding the new Ukrainian passport for travelling abroad that is produced by the EDAPS Consortium since 2007 (by the end of October 2010 the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine had issued more than 3.35 million of new passports), the INTERPOL Secretary General **Ronald K. Noble** has pointed out: «This document amazes. I am not a Ukrainian citizen, but if I were, I would be proud of such a passport». In the course of the visit of the EU migration mission representatives to the EDAPS

factories, the EU Commissioner **Francisco Bataller** has noted that «... in the EDAPS the security is organized better than in the Central Bank of Spain».

In 2008 the EDAPS Consortium has successfully launched a large-scale project in Kenya on creating, installing and putting into operation of the National Population Register with use of biometric technologies in unprecedentedly concise time-frame. The Ukrainian company has won the tender on this project among 25 leading international companies from 14 countries. Since 2008, experts of the Consortium have successfully implemented all stages of the Project providing Kenyan authorities and the population with information system providing supervision over social payments, quantities, time limits, issuance of travel passports, driver's licences, ID cards etc.

One should also mention that according to the conclusion of authoritative periodical The Tobacco Atlas, Ukraine has the lowest level of tobacco goods smuggling in the world – 1,7% only of the total volume of the Ukrainian market. As it was mentioned by the magazine- this is the result of the comprehensive protection system for excise goods developed by the EDAPS with the use of optical elements.

Since 2008 the company takes part in creation of the world identification system for the DeBeers trade mark and production of diamonds certificates of high protection level that guarantee authenticity of the De Beers jewel-

lery products. The appropriate agreement between the EDAPS and De Beers was signed in a day of opening of the first brand shop of De Beers in Kyiv. Now each piece-of-art product from De Beers gets its own identification passport that makes such jewellery counterfeit-proof for the next generations.

In October 2010 the EDAPS has introduced Ukraine into the World Elite Club of producers of equipment for documents personalization. At the INTERGRAF exhibition conference in Barcelona the Consortium presented its own system of laser engraving and electronic personalization of the identification documents.

The EDAPS has been several times rewarded for its social policy. Its branch companies have been many times recognized as best employers, best tax-payers etc. The Consortium employees enjoy free transportation to/from work, medical care centre service with own ambulance, stay at health resorts paid by the company. Enterprises of the Consortium have modern and well-developed social infrastructure. Taxes and duties paid by the EDAPS to the state budget of Ukraine total more than 1.3 billion UAH.

The Ukrainian negotiators at the coming Ukraine-EU summit might have solid arguments for their EU partners regarding the technical and technological ability of Ukraine to produce biometric passports in a short time without any participation of foreign companies.

Ukrainian news media mostly ignore sharp criticism of Oct. 31 local elections

→ **1** compared to the situation during the presidential election earlier this year.”

A big blow for Yanukovich, came on Nov. 3, when the U.S. Department of State said: “Preliminary reports from election monitors suggest that Ukraine’s Oct. 31 local elections did not meet standards for openness and fairness set by the presidential elections earlier this year.”

On the same day, Wilfried Martens, head of the European People’s Party of the European Parliament, Europe’s largest party, said: “I am disappointed with the conduct of local elections in Ukraine. Information so far reveals significant setbacks in democratic standards.”

These were some of the softer critiques.

Maryna Stavnichuk, former deputy head of Ukraine’s Central Election Commission, said the elections were fixed from the start. Like many observers and experts, she said the trouble started months before the voting, when Yanukovich’s ruling coalition adopted a cynical election law that undercut the election chances and oversight by opposition and independent candidates – giving Yanukovich’s Regions Party control over the vote.

“Not only does the law not provide for creating conditions for fair, competitive and transparent elections, it does not allow for them to be declared invalid – even if serious election violations took place,” Stavnichuk said during an election night marathon hosted by TVi.

OPORA head Olha Aivazovska and Oleksandr Chernenko, head of the Committee of Voters of Ukraine,

had long warned that the flawed law would form the basis for skewing election results in favor of the president’s Regions Party.

As of Nov. 4, the vote counts were coming in slow and disputes had broken out over some of the more than 15,000 races for city council and mayoral seats. The legal deadline for publishing official results is Nov. 5. But exit polls showed big wins for the Regions Party in villages, cities and oblast councils across Ukraine.

“I’m not surprised by the mess on Oct. 31, but by the reported margin of victory for the Party of Regions,” Chernenko said. “I thought they would do well, but not as well as they did.”

Of course, the administration acknowledged little of this criticism. Nor were the shortcomings covered by many popular Ukrainian media outlets, whose journalists have been noticeably serving up pro-administration PR rather than hard-hitting, independent news coverage.

Quoted on Nov. 3 by reporters in his native Donetsk, President Viktor Yanukovich said everything was generally fine. “Overall, it is good that there were no systematic violations. This is emphasized by international observers and the police,” Yanukovich said. “There were those satisfied and dissatisfied, winners and losers. That is life.”

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, who on election night proclaimed the elections as problem-free, sought to move the nation quickly forward.

“The elections are over. Two years of calm work are ahead of us,” Azarov said. “The government and local authorities

are now facing a lot of important and complicated tasks and there’s no time to waste before getting started.”

Ukrainian media also dutifully quoted fly-in, fly-out visitors from the Commonwealth of Independent States – made up of largely undemocratic former Soviet republics – as saying everything was fine. Outlets also publicized a visit by a representative from Kazakhstan, an authoritarian Central Asian nation that holds the rotating chairmanship for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. The envoy, Marat Sarsembayev, visited eight polling stations, saw no violations and concluded everything was fine.

Many Party of Regions officials found vindication in a GfK Ukraine exit poll, which showed the party outpolling its second-place rival, the opposition Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, by a nearly three-to-one margin – 36.2 percent to 13.2 percent.

Yuriy Miroshnychenko, a Party of Regions deputy and the president’s representative in parliament, said that the voters supported the Regions Party in the local elections because they sensed a sincere desire by the president’s party to conduct serious economic and political reforms. “This was another test of democracy; Elections were marked by real competition between political groups,” he said.

That’s not the way their opponents saw it.

A group of 10 opposition parties on Nov. 2 said the president, prime minister and pro-presidential parliament at every stage of the election campaign worked to fix the election.

“The election law facilitated the flagrant disproportional representation of the composition of the territorial and district election commissions. In practice,

it permitted the president to grab control of the territorial election commissions and their heads, and form exclusive district election commissions that became a major element in facilitating vote-rigging. The completely subordinated law-enforcement agencies provided a mechanism for protecting vote-rigging facilitated by the commissions at different levels,” the opposition parties’ letter said.

So, what was so wrong?

A simple chronology shows numerous problems, from adoption of an election law only two months before the voting, to ongoing problems with the transparency in reporting the results of the Oct. 31 vote:

- Pre-election problems highlighted by national and international groups included postponing the elections from May to October and hasty adoption of a new election law, which incorporated complicated new candidate nomination and voting procedures;
- A provision blocking parties registered less than a year before the election was rescinded in August, but other controversial provisions remained. Foremost, it allowed for Ukraine’s president to stack commissions with allies, giving opposition parties little oversight;
- Tymoshenko’s Batkivshchyna Party complained that several mayoral candidates were pressured by law agencies to withdraw their candidacy;
- The decision by territorial election commissions in Kyiv and Lviv oblasts and in Ternopil to register bogus opposition candidates instead of recognizing Tymoshenko’s Batkivshchyna Party candidates; and
- Numerous incidents of alleged unauthorized printing of extra bal-

lots (Kharkiv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Khmelnytsky) surfaced several days prior to the election.

The most common problems reported by OPORA and the Committee of Voters of Ukraine observers on voting day involved ballot papers, including:

- Ballots for many single-mandate constituency races were delivered to the wrong polling stations;
- Polling stations stamped out certain political parties and candidates from the ballots;
- The number of ballots received by polling stations was incorrect;
- An insufficient number of voting booths combined with the large number of ballots for each voter led to the formation of long lines, which caused many voters to leave without casting ballots. Preliminary figures suggest that voter turnout was below 50 percent, considered low compared previous years and a sign of voter apathy.

Territorial election commissions have until midnight on Nov. 4 to report the results of elections in their regions, according to the election law, which allows candidates and parties to contest them in the administrative courts, which critics say are stacked with presidential allies.

Batkivshchyna leader Oleksandr Tymoshenko said on Nov. 4 that his party has already filed 2,000 petitions to courts to overturn dozens of races in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv and Luhansk regions. “We know, of course, that they will not rush to hear these cases, but we are not giving up the battle and will do everything in our power to defend election results,” Turchynov said.

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Spinning an election, Kremlin-style

BY ROMAN FESHCHENKO
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Anyone who relied solely on Ukraine’s leading television channels and news agencies for coverage of the Oct. 31 regional election would have come to the conclusion that the contest was democratic and blessed internationally. Serious criticism from the nation’s most reputable domestic monitors, OPORA, as well as international organizations and governments were all but ignored.

Leading television channels, controlled largely by oligarchs loyal to President Viktor Yanukovich, primarily aired the views of election monitors from Russian-controlled missions who are notorious for seeing no problems. Russia, after all, has not had democratic elections in a long time.

The same pro-presidential spin came from reports by Interfax-Ukraine, Ukraine’s leading news agency. The business is run and co-owned by Oleksandr Martynenko, who served as press secretary to former Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma, the media-stifling authoritarian who ruled the nation from 1994 to 2005. The Kyiv Post is a subscriber to Interfax reports.

Media analysts said the slanted coverage demonstrates that Ukraine’s news media are moving closer to Russian-style journalism, in which the Kremlin line is obeyed, at least by the major national TV networks.

In other cases, comments were distorted.

For example, the conclusions of European monitors – such as European Parliament member Pawel Kowal – were presented selectively. Citing Kowal and other monitors, leading TV channels and Interfax-Ukraine left their audiences with the conclusion that Ukraine’s elections were fair. Kowal was quoted by Interfax-Ukraine saying that he and colleagues personally saw no major violations while monitoring a handful of voting stations on Election Day. Kowal was similarly quoted by Inter TV channel, owned by Security Service of Ukraine chief Valery Khoroshkovsky: “Apart from the long lines that people had to stand in, there were no other problems.”

But other relevant comments by Kowal were ignored. For example, Kowal expressed concern that “big problems” that affected the election and that a final assessment would come later. “Changing election rules months ahead of the vote is clearly a big problem. It’s also a problem when a party cannot take part ... in several regions,” Kowal said. The quote made it

into London’s Financial Times, but was nowhere to be heard on Ukraine’s major TV channels or Interfax-Ukraine.

A tough statement by the U.S. Department of State was made public on Nov. 3, which began: “Preliminary reports from election monitors suggest that Ukraine’s Oct. 31 local elections did not meet standards for openness and fairness set by the presidential elections earlier this year.” Reports by international media focused on this conclusion, but Ukrainian television ignored questioning of the fairness of the vote. Instead, the TV stations focused on the last part of the statement, where the U.S. reiterated its eagerness to help Ukraine develop better election laws. Interfax-Ukraine’s short report on the U.S. statement, for example, had the following headline: “The U.S.A is ready to help Ukraine reform its election laws.”

The U.S.-funded OPORA, which fielded the largest and most professional group of election monitors nationally, found their conclusions downplayed by most Ukrainian news outlets. The organization found that the election was not fair, democratic or open – a finding ignored by Interfax-Ukraine and the nation’s largest TV channels.

When asked by the Kyiv Post why comments challenging the fairness of the election never made it into its reports, Interfax-Ukraine declined to comment. But media experts said there is an explanation.

“Ukrainian television news programming is becoming just like in Russia,” said Natalia Ligachova, head of the Kyiv-based Telekritika media watchdog. In such a model, Ligachova said the news media’s role is to praise the nation’s leadership, refrain from criticism and leave citizens with the impression that everything is well. “This became evident in the first days of this new leadership,” Ligachova said. “It is very clear now that the quality of news reporting at almost all television channels has noticeably worsened. Reports are to be positive about the group in power, or not reported at all. In contrast, the opposition is to be reported on with a negative twist, or not at all.”

Considering that billionaire oligarchs backing Yanukovich own many of the nation’s top media outlets, Ligachova said the situation on TV was unlikely to change soon. “What is important is to raise awareness of this situation to citizens,” and direct them to alternative sources of news, Ligachova added.

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Note: See full story and related table at www.kyivpost.com

Merchants at Kyiv's largest market say they are harassed by police

→ **1** ers have long-term residence permits or are in the process of getting Ukrainian citizenship.

Police deny wrongdoing and say the crackdown at Troyeshchyna market is part of their legitimate law enforcement duties.

"Amid entrepreneurs who work legally, illegal immigrants often hide," said Volodymyr Dmytrenko, a Kyiv police spokesman. "During the last nine months, we have detained 236 people from the market who were accused of breaking the law on terms of registration in Ukraine. Another 655 people were detained due to violations of procedure for foreign citizen's employment."

But the targets of the police crackdown say they have violated no laws or immigration rules and have legal status.

"Approximately three weeks ago, police buses arrived for the first time and more than 100 people were detained. It happened around 10 a.m. and we were let go at 3:30 p.m. so the whole working day was wasted," said market worker Masud, who sells jeans. A Ukrainian citizen who is originally from Bangladesh, Masud did not give his last name because he fears police revenge. Masud was detained twice already during the last couple of weeks.

Masud has lived in Ukraine for more than 15 years. He is married to a Bangladeshi woman, also a citizen now. Their two children go to Kyiv schools.

"After a night in detention, when I was arrested for the second time, I was shown the police protocol where it was stated I cursed police officers and was

→ **Police often seek to extort bribes from merchants rather than enforce violations**

arrested for that. They brought me to court in the morning and I told the judge the whole story. She was quite mad and said 'I don't know why they keep bringing you people here, like we have nothing to do!' and let me go," Masud said.

His furious wife called the Security Service of Ukraine, known as the SBU, but they advised her to write to the general prosecutor.

More than 120 people from Bangladesh work at the market. Another 500 come from Afghanistan, several hundred from Pakistan, many from China and other countries. A lot of them are already Ukrainian citizens, having lived in the country for decades, most graduated from local universities.

"I spent 21 years in Bangladesh and 27 already in Ukraine. Here I graduated from Kharkiv University. I consider myself Ukrainian. But it turns out I am



Kyiv merchants (L) say hundreds of them have been repeatedly taken into custody several times during the last couple of weeks with trumped-up evidence, pretexts for demanding bribes.

a second-class citizen. Apparently there are 'right' Ukrainian passports and 'wrong' ones," one of Masud's colleague said bitterly. He is also a Bangladeshi native afraid to identify himself out of fear of police retribution.

Abdul Navit Abdulkayum, a Ukrainian citizen of Afghani origin, tells how he was detained on Oct. 6: "The protocol was ready at the time when I was detained; they just showed it to me with the accusation that I cursed a policeman. I was just packing to go home and didn't speak to anyone at all! There were already two 'witnesses' written in the protocol. I asked the policemen - why are you doing this? They laugh and say, 'we do no harm to you, our boss just wants us to show good detention statistics.'"

Yevgeniy Zakharov, chairman of the board of the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, is aware of the mass detentions at the market.

"I think the police are getting ready for parliamentary hearings on the human rights situation in the Interior

Ministry. The hearings are to take place on Nov. 11, Zakharov said. "Surely they have to report they are actually doing something, like fighting illegal immigration."

Experts say detentions are either designed to help boost statistics, make money from bribes or squeeze foreigners out of the market. "To me this looks like a special operation. Because to detain people multiple times for no reason is outrageous," said Mridula Ghosh, chairwoman of board of the East European Development Institute in Kyiv.

The explanation has the ring of truth.

Mykhailo Brodsky, head of a government committee for regulatory police and entrepreneurship, recently posted a very controversial statement on his blog:

"Citizens of various countries come to Ukraine, they arrange falsified marriages and get our passports. There are very few Ukrainians working at our markets and they mostly are employees, not owners." He also stated that

police are checking the market for smuggling, but never backed up his claims.

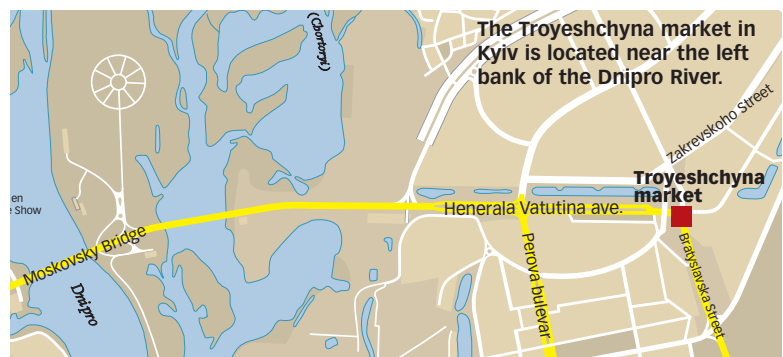
According to those detained, they were asked to pay up to Hr 100 in bribes.

"When they get dozens of people to a police station, it takes them hours to write something down, take pictures and fingerprints. It looks like they are dragging out time in purpose. They say: 'If you are in hurry, pay Hr 50 and go before others,'" said Ukrainian citizen of Pakistani origin Ahmad Zahoor.

Dmytrenko, the Kyiv police spokesman, was even sympathetic to his colleagues for making the arrests.

"Even if they are citizens of Ukraine, what positive contribution are they making to this country? None. They stand on their market, sell goods of bad quality," Dmytrenko said. "It's scary to walk in that market. This is my personal opinion."

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Kozhara: Political debate in Ukraine remains noisy, argumentative and free

→ **5** budget. Our national policy is aimed at avoiding a repeat of those wasted years.

Since coming to office, President Viktor Yanukovich and his government have managed to carry out long-delayed economic reforms – cutting the deficit, strengthening the financial sector and modernizing the energy network – that have attracted praise from the International Monetary Fund. This has been accompanied by two successful bond issues and an improvement in Ukraine's credit rating.

We want these reforms to continue, but we know that further success will only be possible if we lay the foundations of political stability and effective government. That is why we welcome the recent decision of the Constitutional Court to invalidate the 2004 constitutional reforms that created overlap-

→ **'We were given a mandate by the people of Ukraine to put an end to political chaos'**

ping lines of executive authority and institutionalized conflict between the president and the parliament.

The opposition leader, Yulia Tymoshenko, has described this move as a "usurpation of power," yet she herself called on the Constitutional Court to do precisely the same only four years ago when she thought it would serve her interests.

The key is whether steps to make government more effective are com-

bined with measures to guarantee democratic accountability. Critics argue that the new electoral law was an attempt to penalize the opposition and restrict political choice. Yet they ignored the willingness of the government to amend the law ahead of the local elections, for example, by allowing newly registered parties to take part.

Less than one percent of nominees have been barred from standing, so this is hardly an attack on democratic

choice. The law also strengthens the role of independent election monitors and the government has gone to great lengths to invite the OSCE and other international bodies to send observers. This action to strengthen democratic oversight deserves recognition.

The same goes for media freedoms. The opponents claim that censorship is back, but the examples they cite relate to the editorial policies of privately owned media outlets, not action by the state. In fact, the government wants to expand media pluralism and is committed to establishing a new public television channel designed to further that aim.

Political debate in Ukraine remains noisy, argumentative and free, and the government is determined that it should remain so. In this, as in all areas, we want to engage with our

international partners as we carry the process of reform forward.

We were given a mandate by the people of Ukraine to put an end to the political chaos that brought our country to the brink of ruin, and we intend to honor that mandate. But we are also determined to do it in a way that remains true to European democratic values. The Ukraine we want to create is one in which human rights are respected, civil society is strong and leaders are chosen by an open and competitive process of election. In striving towards that goal, all we ask is that we are judged on our actions, not pre-judged according to prejudices skillfully cultivated by our opponents.

Leonid Kozhara is a Party of Regions member of parliament in the Verkhovna Rada and the deputy chair of the assembly's international relations committee

Feldman: Yanukovich is moving in democratic European direction

→ **5** Far too much credence has been given in the Western media to the idea that Ukrainian politics can be boiled down to a bipolar struggle between Westernizers and Russophiles. According to this simplified narrative, the Orange Revolution was an attempt to embed Ukraine in the Euro-Atlantic camp, whereas the new government is determined to return it to a Russian sphere of influence. Decisions to renew the lease on Russia's naval bases in the Crimea and renounce attempts

to join NATO are taken as confirmation that Ukraine is back in Moscow's grip.

As anyone with real experience of the country knows, the actual picture is infinitely more complicated. Yanukovich has certainly moved to repair relations with Russia, but he has also set firm limits on how far he is prepared to go. Proposals to merge Ukraine's national gas company, Naftogaz, with Gazprom were politely but firmly rebuffed in order to

maintain control of a strategic national asset. Forced to choose between a customs union with Russia and a free trade area with the European Union, Kyiv continues to make clear an overwhelming preference for the latter. The influential industrial lobby from Yanukovich's home region of Donetsk wants access to the bigger and more business friendly markets of Europe.

Much like Kazakhstan, another former Soviet state squeezed between larger and more powerful neighbors, Ukraine is seeking to construct the broadest network of multilateral and bilateral alliances as a

way of strengthening its independence. To portray Yanukovich's desire to rebalance his country's diplomatic focus as an attempt to subordinate Ukraine to Russia's will is therefore mischievous and false. The European strand of his foreign policy remains of central importance and provides the EU with an opportunity to influence Ukraine if it chooses to see beyond the headlines and engage.

The more serious charge made is that Yanukovich is systematically eroding human rights and democracy in Ukraine and reverting to a familiar pattern of post-Soviet autocracy. Media censorship is said to have returned and a new electoral law has been passed which critics argue threatens the fairness of local elections being held at the end of this month. Again, this black and white picture turns out, on closer inspection, to have more color and shade than the critics allow.

In its original form, the new electoral law did indeed contain provisions that were criticized by international observers and opposition parties as unfair and likely to restrict electoral choice by disbaring parties registered less than a year before polling day. But the reaction of the government belies the opposition caricature of it as authoritarian and inflexible. Before being passed, the law was amended to allow new parties to take part. Only around 1 percent of candidates nominated for the local elections have been prevented from standing, mostly for self-evidently valid reasons. This is hardly an attack on political pluralism.

Also omitted from the account given by the opposition is the fact that the new electoral law establishes the right of independent monitors to scrutinize elections to ensure their fairness. Indeed, the government has gone out of its way to encourage experts from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international bodies to come to Ukraine and oversee the ballot. Again, such openness is hardly suggestive of a desire to bring multi-party democracy to an end.

One thing that much of the commentary on Ukraine fails to acknowledge is the need to reform the political system to make it more effective and less crisis prone. Too often in the last

six years, government has been paralyzed by infighting and a constitution that created confused and overlapping lines of executive authority. The recent decision of the Constitutional Court to annul the 2004 constitutional changes and restore presidential government should therefore be welcomed, not least by the Orange parties that urged it to do precisely the same in 2006. To call this a return to dictatorship, as Tymoshenko has done, is sheer hypocrisy.

The final charge is that freedom of expression is under threat. An example of this was Alexa Chopivsky's article in Open Democracy last month, which claimed that media freedoms in Ukraine were being severely curtailed and that there had been a dramatic rise in the number of articles criticising the policing of political demonstrations. Surely the second claim casts doubt on the first. The fact is that open debate is thriving in Ukraine. Yes, there are concerns about limited ownership and access to the media, but these are not new. What may surprise readers of Open Democracy is that Yanukovich is committed to increasing media pluralism by establishing a new public television channel capable of providing balanced news coverage. He at least deserves a chance to show that he means it.

Of course, no one expects the EU to remain silent when it sees things it considers incompatible with democratic norms and values. The Yanukovich administration will undoubtedly make mistakes and should be taken to task when it does. But friends of Ukraine should endeavor to weigh evidence in the balance, retain an open mind about what it is trying to achieve and engage in ways that encourage reform. Bitter campaigns waged by opposition parties are a familiar part of Ukrainian politics. It would be shame if this one succeeded in creating a barrier of mistrust that forced the EU and Ukraine apart, not least because there are good reasons to believe Yanukovich is sincere about wanting to take a European path.

Oleksandr Feldman, a Kharkiv businessman, is a Verkhovna Rada who is part of President Viktor Yanukovich's ruling majority after he left the opposition minority bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister.



NEWS ITEM: Venezuelan strongman President Hugo Chavez nationalized the nation's biggest private steel mill, Siderur, on Nov. 1 by sending in his soldiers. Last year, Chavez nationalized a local unit of U.S. food giant Cargill. The expropriations of private property by the state are justified as essential to building a socialist state. Chavez visited Ukraine recently and is friendly with President Viktor Yanukovich, as well as Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko and Kremlin autocrat, Prime Minister Vladimir Putin. Ukraine's largest steel mill, in Kryviy Rih, has been in trouble with the Ukrainian government. The general prosecutor filed a lawsuit against its owner, ArcelorMittal, for allegedly failing to comply with conditions required by the 2005 purchase, a sale that denied leading Yanukovich backer, billionaire Rinat Akhmetov, of the asset. International pressure prompted Yanukovich to respond and the lawsuit against Arcelor Mittal was dropped.



Twelve months, twelve questions



Art Critic

WITH NATALIYA HORBAN AND SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA

Editor's note: Art Critic is an occasional feature on the capital's art scene. It is written by journalists to give readers down-to-earth reviews.

New Pinchuk exhibition challenges traditional notions of art

Which artwork deserves a \$100,000 award – water spilled on the floor, or a chair with a stone on it? This is the choice ahead, after the PinchukArtCenter opened an exhibition of 21 contemporary artists from around the world on Oct. 30. They are competing for the very first Future Generation Art Prize, founded and sponsored by Ukrainian billionaire Viktor Pinchuk earlier this year.

It is a biannual award for contemporary artists, regardless of their nationality. More than 6,000 applicants from 125 countries applied for the competition. Later, the selection committee narrowed the list down to 21 participants, including Artem Volokytin from Ukraine.

Unsurprisingly, the award of \$60,000 in cash and \$40,000 as a grant for future works drew a lot of attention to Ukraine. Famous Chinese artist Ai Weiwei is on the jury panel. Artist Damien Hurst and singer Elton John will make sure the winner lives up to the award. The winner will be announced after Jan. 9, but for now visitors can view the display but not touch anything.

On the opening night right after Halloween, many visitors looked skeptical mocking some art works and questioning the value of others.

Most of them failed to recognize a masterpiece in a blank wall with a phrase written across it in small print: "This wall has no image but it contains geography." Swedish artist Runo Lagomarsino said it should make you rethink definitions of an image and geography.

Installation "Holy Water" by the Cuban artist Wilfredo Prieto Garcia confused visitors as well. His artwork - water spilled on the floor, made art goers wonder if the roof was leaking, or someone had accidentally spilled a bottle of water. The security man's job on that night was to guard a puddle and explain that it's actually art on display. Garcia said he wanted to draw attention using absurdity and humor.

Some artworks, however, did make one stop and admire. Nicholas Hlobo from South Africa used colorful ribbons stitched to the walls to create images of weird creatures like a colorful tree and a salamander.

Animation attracted a →26



Journalism student Yulia Bondar flips a calendar to December, which shows her posing with a microphone to ask President Viktor Yanukovich if journalism is prostitution. Asking pointed questions, Shevchenko University students created the calendar. (Maria Savoskula)

BY ELENA ZAGREBINA
ZAGREBINA@KYIVPOST.COM

If you haven't got a calendar for 2011, perhaps you may like this one. Twelve female students from Taras Shevchenko State University pose on the pages of next year's calendar and ask the Ukrainian president some head-on questions.

They are the latest addition to the

calendar rush started in Russia in late September. First lingerie-clad girls, calling themselves journalists, posed in pin-up fashion to wish Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin a happy 58th birthday. Angered journalism rookies from the prestigious Moscow State University responded with a calendar of their own. With their mouths taped shut, young women asked Putin when former oil tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky would

be released from prison and who killed journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006. It was all part of their journalistic retaliation by calendar.

Inspired by the second Russian effort, Ukrainian journalism students created a version of their own and presented it to the media on Oct. 26. "What should we do with a president who doesn't keep his promises?" asks Yaroslava Kutsai on February's page.

With the rest of the months asking similarly frank questions, the calendar finally ended up in the Presidential Secretariat. And so the trouble began.

Students were called to the dean's office "to discuss how professional and appropriate" their questions were, Kutsai said. After that meeting, the students stopped talking to the press.

"There were some aspects we decided to keep in secret. →23

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Oct. 22 – Nov. 20



Peek inside your habitat

International festival KievFotoCom is a big event in the world of photography. Exhibitions and free master classes by Ukrainian and foreign photographers are here to stay for almost a month.

Held in Kyiv for the fifth year in a row, this year's festival chose the concept of a habitat as its main theme. People inside their houses, flats, offices and even cars will feature on most pictures. Work of Polish photographer Grzerorz Klatka deserves a special mention. His project "By the way" shows people locked inside their cars trapped in traffic. Klatka

skillfully mocks freedom and independence, which most people think of when they buy cars.
Oct. 22 – Nov. 20, RA Gallery, 32 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St., tel. 235 36 19. www.kievfotocom.com.



Nov. 11, 12

Virtuosos of classical music

The annual classical music festival "Virtuosos of the Planet" will infuse some high culture during a two-day event in Kyiv. Held in the memory of great pianist of Jewish-Ukrainian heritage, Vladimir Horowitz, it's a platform for all-star classical musicians and young talents.

In its fourth year now, the festival hosts winners of prestigious world musical competitions from Europe and the U.S. They perform classical and modern instrumental concerts, scenes and arias from operas, and symphonic compositions. The National Academic Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine and the Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic accompany the performers.

Nov. 11, 12, 7 p.m., National Philharmonic, 2 Volodymyrsky Uzviz. www.horowitzv.org/eng-home

Italian film festival

A week of Italian cinema will provide a smooth transfer for fans of Molodist international film festival, which closed on Halloween. Five works from the shoe-shaped peninsula will be shown in Italian with Ukrainian subtitles. Super-famous Italian actor and director Michele Placido will open the event. He's best known for his part as the chief police officer Corrado Cattani in the TV series Mafia. Placido will present his new autobiographical work "The Big Dream." The film tries to trace origins of the freedom that youth takes for granted today. After Kyiv, the new Italian movies will travel to Odesa, Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Kharkiv, Lviv.

Nov. 5-10, Kyiv Cinema, 19 Velyka Vasylkivska St., 234-7381, www.kievkino.com.ua.

Nov. 5-10



www.rusactors.ru

Street and gallery works will meet for an annual feast of contemporary art. International fair Art-Kyiv Contemporary unites famous artists, critics, and collectors to provide a wide perspective of the latest tendencies in contemporary art. The fair is a commercial event earning millions of dollars for works sold.

Art-Kyiv Contemporary

Notorious Swiss graffiti street artist Harald Naegeli is one of the stars of the show. In 1977, Naegeli's works were a bur in the throat of conservative Zurich streets. Using street monuments as his canvas, the artist with classical academic education was nearly imprisoned for vandalism. He escaped justice by fleeing to Germany. Watch the Kyiv Pechersk Lavra monastery walls as he presents his work in the nearby museum complex.

Nov. 8, 7:30 p.m., Mystetsky Arsenal, 12-14 Lavrska St. Tickets: Hr 30.



Rochus Aust is a trumpeter and composer from Germany. Yet when it comes to contemporary art, he turns his music around into a feast for your eyes as well as ears. He'll recreate a dining hall on stage and offer you futuristic cuisine with the help of electronic music and poetry.

Nov. 9, 7 p.m., Mystetsky Arsenal, 12-14 Lavrska St. Tickets: Hr 30.



Unique German artistic duo Molitor&Kuzmin will be making their neon light installations starting from Nov. 8. German Ursula Molitor and Ukrainian Vladimir Kuzmin have been working together for over a decade. They turn ordinary rooms into strong characters of their own, exposing sharp contrasts between day and night.

Nov. 8 onwards, Mystetsky Arsenal, 12-14 Lavrska St., Tickets: Hr.30



Russian group Provmyza define contemporary art by literally blending music, film, and installation into one. They won many international awards for short films and installations. It's hard to describe their style in words because they defy any logical structure, be it photography or film. From dramatic image transitions of a flying fish to a natural pace of a turtle, Provmyza is a nice illustration of Russian proverb: You can't understand Russia with the mind.

Nov. 8-14, 11 a.m. – 8 p.m., Mystetsky arsenal culture and museum complex, 12-14 Lavrska St., www.art-kyiv.com Tickets: Hr 30.



Nov. 8



(http://onbeauty.ru)

Georgian legends in Kyiv

A twist of ancient tales in a breathtaking show of Georgian dancers and singers will come alive in Kyiv with Georgian Legend project. A stunning musical and dance event called Samaia will present a story of the eternal battle of good and evil, love and hatred, and life and death of the Caucasus nation.

Despite its ethnic string, the project is a decade-old collaboration between an American producer and a French director. Under foreign management, the Georgian project can compete with Irish Riverdance or Lord of the Dance. The group is constantly touring Europe and the U.S. leaving a lasting impression of mountainous temper, deep vocals, intricate costumes and sharp swords.

Nov. 8, Mon., 7 p.m., Palats Ukraina, 103 Velyka Vasylkivska St. Tickets: Hr 80-650. www.samaia.com

Movies



A scene from the comedy *Due Date* (www.chrisandphilpresent.co.uk)

DUE DATE

Language: English
Comedy. USA (2010)
Directed by Todd Phillips
Starring Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis, Michelle Monaghan, Jamie Foxx, Juliette Lewis
The wife of a big boss from Los Angeles is about to give birth to their first child. But future Daddy, Peter Highman, played by sexy Robert Downey Jr., may not see it. The only chance for Highman to get home on time is to join a crazy nerd actor Ethan Tremblay. This horribly mismatched pair tries to cross a desert and not kill each other on the way.

LA BÊTE HUMAINE

Language: French with Russian or Ukrainian subtitles
Drama. France (1938)
Directed by Jean Renoir
Starring Jean Gabin, Simone Simon, Fernand Ledoux, Blanchette Brunoy
This psychological thriller is based on the 1890 novel by French classic Emile Zola. Train driver Jacques Lantier suffers from sudden anger attacks. After a minor accident on the tracks, he takes a short break to visit his godmother. In the train station, however, he accidentally witnesses his boss Roubaud and his wife Severine killing their former employer. It then transpires that the victim was Severine's lover. Lantier decides not report the criminal pair because he himself has a secret crush on Severine. A love triangle becomes a square in this captivating French drama.

DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

Language English with English subtitles
Drama/Romance/War. USA/UK (1965)
Directed by David Lean
Starring Omar Sharif, Julie Christie, Geraldine Chaplin

This film is based on the novel by Borys Pasternak, which won him the Nobel Prize in literature. A young man Yuri Zhivago begins to write poetry, but realizes that he can't make a living on it. So, he starts studying to be a doctor. He marries his childhood friend Tonya Gromeko, but his heart belongs to Lara Antipova. A brief moment of happiness with his muse, Antipova, is interrupted by the World War I and Russian October revolution. The story is told by Zhivago's half-brother who meets Zhivago and Antipova's lost daughter at the beginning of the film.

ROOM IN ROME

Language: English with Ukrainian subtitles
Drama/Spain (2010)
Directed by Julio Medem
Starring Elena Anaya, Natasha Yarovenko, Enrico Lo Verso
Russian girl Natasha, who was on vacation in Rome, is preparing to get married soon. The night before her departure to Moscow, she meets with Alba, who invites her to the hotel room. Natasha agrees and dives into experiencing her sexuality. Apart from having sex, the girls share secrets, and in the morning realize that they've developed a pretty strong bond. The film is a cinema adaptation of Matias Bize's novel "In Bed," where main characters were a man and woman share careless fun.

THE NAKED KISS

Language: English with Russian subtitles
Crime/Drama. USA (1964)
Directed by Samuel Fuller
Starring Constance Towers, Anthony Eisley, Michael Dante
Prostitute Kelly arrives to a small town of Grantville. She has sex with a cynical police officer Griff, but then decides she needs to change her life. Haunted by past experiences, she finds a job as a nurse in a hospital

ZHOVTEN

26 Konstantynivska St., 205-5951
www.zhovten-kino.kiev.ua
Soul Kitchen
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Nov. 6 at 7:50 p.m. and 9:40 p.m.
Room in Rome
Nov. 5, 8-10 at 7:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m.
Nov. 6 at 5:50 p.m.

THE MASTER CLASS CINEMA CLUB

34 Mazepy St., 594-1063, www.masterklass.org/eng
La bête humaine
Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.
Doctor Zhivago
Nov. 11 at 7 p.m.

YA GALLERY CINEMA CLUB

55/57 Voloska, 537-3351, www.yagallery.com.ua,
The Naked Kiss
Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.

BUTTERFLY ULTRAMARINE

1 Uritskoho St., 206-0362, www.kino-butterfly.com.ua
Due Date
Nov. 5-11 at 9:05 p.m.

for children with disabilities. She falls for Griff's friend and accepts his offer to marry him. Everything seems to be turning for the good, but then something happens, which turns Kelly's life upside down. Former crime news reporter and soldier-turned-movie director, Samuel Fuller has made a name in Hollywood. "The Naked Kiss" is considered the hardest and most cynical of his films. It was banned in the U.K. until 1990.

SOUL KITCHEN

Language: German with Ukrainian subtitles
Comedy. Germany (2009)
Directed by Fatih Akin
Starring Adam Bousdoukos, Moritz Bleibtreu, Birol Unel
Greek chef Zinos Kazantsakis runs a dilapidated restaurant on the outskirts of Hamburg. A couple of regulars help keep it afloat, but it's not enough to survive. Kazantsakis' personal life also lacks excitement. His free spirited brother is released from prison. His friend tries to steal his eatery by setting the Greek up with sanitary and tax inspections. His girlfriend breaks up with him to make things even worse. Feeling his lowest low, he thinks that the only way out of it is to hire a new chef. The movie won Best Film Prize and Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival.

Live Music



Band *Tabula Rasa* (Courtesy)

ART CLUB 44

44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137, www.club44.com.ua
Concerts traditionally start at 8 - 10 p.m.
Nov. 5 Legkiy Flirt, Hr 50
Nov. 6 VIA Zhiguli, Hr 50
Nov. 7 Jam Revolution: Riffmaster, Sontsekljosh, Indianapolis and others, Hr 50
Nov. 8 Revenko Band, free admission
Nov. 9 Autumn Jazz nights: New Generation, Yevgeniy Pugachev Band, Hr 30
Nov. 10 Trunti, free admission
Nov. 11 44 Pirate Birthday Party: Boobamara, MJ project

DOCKER'S ABC

15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717, www.docker.com.ua
Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.
Nov. 5 Chilibombers, Mr. Och and His Root Boys, Hr 70
Nov. 6 Ot Vinta, Partizanskije Vytivky, Hr 70
Nov. 7 Vostochny Express, free admission
Nov. 8 Mojo Jo Jo, free admission
Nov. 9 More Huana, Hr 20
Nov. 10 The Magma, Hr 30
Nov. 11 Tex-Mex Company, Hr 30

DOCKER PUB

25 Bohatyrska St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra, www.docker.com.ua
Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.
Nov. 5 Claptomania Party: D'Black (Russia), Antitela, Hr 70
Nov. 6 Tabula Rasa, Red Rocks, Hr 70
Nov. 7 Tex-Mex Company, free admission
Nov. 8 Lemmons, free admission
Nov. 9 Tres Deseos Latino Party, free admission
Nov. 10 Rockin' Wolves, free admission

Nov. 11 Mr. Och and His Root Boys, free admission

BOCHKA PYVNA ON KHMELNYTSKOHO

4B-1 Khmelnytskoho St, metro Teatralna, 390-6106, www.bochka.com.ua
Concerts traditionally start at 9-10 p.m.
Nov. 6 Lucky Band Retro Show
Nov. 7 3D Mambo Project, Hr 40
Nov. 9 Bochka Jack Pot 1/8: Proty Nochi Vs. Elektroklev, Hr 30
Nov. 10 Red Rocks
Nov. 11 Hot Guys

PORTER PUB

3 Mazepy St., 280-1996, www.porter.com.ua
Concerts traditionally start at 7.30 p.m.
Nov. 5 Yuhym Dym
Nov. 6 Abbey Road
Nov. 7 Lemmons
Nov. 10 Ivan Bliuz
Nov. 11 The Four From Liverpool

Other live music clubs:

PIVNA NO.1 ON BASEYNA, 15 Baseyna St., 287-44-34, www.pivna1.com.ua
JAZZ DO IT 76A Velyka Vasylykivska St., 599-7617, <http://jazz-doit.com.ua>
DRAFT 1/2 Khoryva St., metro Kontraktova Ploshcha, 463-7330.
KHLIB CLUB 12 Frunze St, www.myspace.com/xlibclub
CHESHIRE CAT 9 Sklyarenko St., 428-2717.
O'BRIEN'S 17A Mykhaylivska St., 279-1584.
DAKOTA 14G Heroyiv Stalinhrada St., 468-7410).
U KRUKHKA (12/37 Dekabrystiv St., 562-6262).

Compiled by Alexandra Romanovskaya and Svitlana Kolesnykova

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Publication of items in Kyiv Post Community Bulletin Board is free of charge. The newspaper will print as many submissions as space permits, but notices must be no more than 30 words, except for the people in need section. Advertising of paid services or commercial ventures is prohibited in this space. Permanent items must be resubmitted every three months. Deadline for submissions is 3 p.m. Friday for the next issue. New listings are boldfaced. Please e-mail news@kyivpost.com or contact lifestyle editor Yuliya Popova at 234-6500.

Business clubs – 4 listings

- ➔ The Business-English Center meets on Sundays at 3 p.m. for a series of business English skills workshops. For more information, call Alex at 234-0871 or email: e-club@com.ua or visit www.etcentre.com.ua.
- ➔ A new gentlemen's club is always open for well-educated, successful members (free admission) to combine establishing business relationships with unconstrained socializing. Please contact us: vadyrn@ukr.net, kobserg@yahoo.com, (067) 7406820 Sergio.
- ➔ The British Business Club in Ukraine meets every Saturday for business discussion and once every month for networking. Membership is by invitation only and is open to individuals and companies. Please email: administrator@bbcu.com.ua.
- ➔ Free English discussions about Internet marketing. Bold Endeavours, a British marketing and web development company, welcomes senior marketing managers/directors to an English language discussion group about search engines and Internet marketing at noon on the first Saturday of each month. Call 221-9595, or register online at www.bold.com.ua.

Public speaking – 6 listings

- ➔ Dnipro Hills Toastmasters Club would like to invite success-oriented people to learn and develop public speaking, presentation and leadership skills. Join us Sundays from 10 to 11 a.m. at Kyiv Business School, 34 Lesya Ukrainky Street, metro station Pecherska. For detailed information, please check our website www.dniprohills.org.ua
- ➔ European Business Association Toastmasters Club invites enthusiastic, goal-oriented people to learn and improve their communication and leadership skills in friendly learning and supportive environment. We meet every Monday at 7.30 p.m. at American Councils at Melnykova, 63. For more information, contact Svetlana Nesterenko at lana_svk@ukr.net or call 067 220 77 55. More information can also be found at: www.ebatmc.blogspot.com.
- ➔ Top Talkers Toastmasters Club is happy to invite ambitious and enthusiastic people to learn by doing. Together we will discover inner potential in public speaking and leadership in each of us. We meet every Tuesday at Kraft Foods, 23 Yaroslaviv Val St. at 7 p.m. Please check our website www.toptalkers.org
- ➔ American Chamber of Commerce Toastmasters Club invites English speaking business professionals to advance their presentation and communication skills in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. We meet each Wednesday at 7.30 p.m., at the Microsoft Ukraine office, 75 Zhylyanska St., Floor 4, Business Center Eurasia. To receive further details on the club and its membership, please contact our club vice president for membership, Anton Stetsenko at 093-609-5161.
- ➔ Kyiv Toastcrackers Club, a part of Toastmasters International, is a worldwide organization that helps men and women learn the arts of speaking, listening and thinking through effective oral communication. We invite new people to benefit from the meetings on Wednesdays, at 7 p.m. at the House of Scientists, 45a Volodymyrska St. For more information see www.toastcrackers.kiev.ua

➔ Talkers Toastmasters Club invites those interested in improving their public speaking, communication skills, English and creative abilities to join its meetings on Saturday mornings at 11 a.m. Please, check club's website at arttalkers.wordpress.com, call 096-565-6229 or e-mail: arttalkers@gmail.com

Religion – 8 listings.

- ➔ Christ Church, Kyiv. We are the Anglican/Episcopal Church, serving the English-speaking community in Kyiv. We meet Sundays at 3 p.m. at St Catherine's German Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Street, a five-minute walk from Khreshchatyk. Bible study on Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m. Please call Graham at 098-779-4457 for more information, www.acny.org.uk/8592.
- ➔ You are invited to the St. Paul's Evangelical Church. Roger McMurrin is its founding pastor. Music for worship is provided by the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Worship services are held every Sunday at 2:30 pm at the House of Artistic Collectives (Verioivka Choir Hall, 4th floor) at 50/52 Shevchenko Blvd. Call 235-45-03 or 235-6980.
- ➔ International Church, Kyiv. English and Spanish Bible study classes. We invite you to weekly services at 10.30 a.m. Saturdays at 13A Miropolskaya St. (metro Chernigovskaya, second stop by a tram Boichenka. Central entrance of two-story building). Telephone: 38-093-757-6848, 542-3194.
- ➔ Word of God Church offers Bible study every Sunday and Wednesday at 7 p.m. Sunday school, nursery for children. For more information call: 517-5193.
- ➔ International Baptist Church invites you to our English language worship services (Sundays at 10 a.m.). We are located near Vyrytsya metro in the downstairs hall of Transfiguration Church, 30B Verbytskoho. http://livingvinechurch.googlepages.com.
- ➔ The Evangelic Presbyterian Church of the Holy Trinity invites you to our worship service, held in Ukrainian and Russian with simultaneous English translation. We meet each Sunday at 50-52 Shevchenka Blvd., #402 (4th floor). Worship begins at 11 a.m. Sunday school for adults begins at 9:45 a.m. Pastor Ivan Bespalov: tel. (044) 287-0815; (097) 317-9598; e-mail: ivanbespalov@gmail.com.
- ➔ Kyiv International Bible Church, an English-language evangelical nondenominational church meeting at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays at 34A Popudrenka, between Darnytsya and Chernihivska metro stops. Contacts: 501-8082, orkievIBC@gmail.com.
- ➔ International Christian Assembly meets at 57 Holosiyivska St. Services are held every Sunday: 9 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. For further information contact: Paul, +050-382-2782, www.icakiev.com

Support groups – 5 listings.

- ➔ Divorce mediation, commercial mediation, consulting on diagnostics of conflict resolution in organization. Ukrainian Mediation Center, www.ukrmediation.com.ua Please contact Oksana Kondratiuk: 066-758-66-44, delo2@i.ua.
- ➔ Individual consultations, psychological support in divorce, family relations, stress management, health issues, relaxation, self-esteem, personal development. Call Elena: 097-294-6781.
- ➔ Alcoholics Anonymous English-speaking group meets Saturday/Sunday at 12.30 p.m. and Tuesday/Thursday at 7 p.m. at various locations. Contacts: aakyiv@ukr.net, 096-460-0137 (friend of Bill) for details of meeting location.

➔ Counseling/advising in relationships, personal growth, body/ mind/spirit matters. Well-known Ukrainian psychologist counsels expats in English and French in the center of Kyiv (Lyuteranska). See www.hohel.kiev.ua or call 050-595-3686 between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.

➔ Individual psychological counseling for Russian and English speakers. Family issues, mood disorders, anxiety, depression. Psychological Rehabilitation & Resocialization Center. Call Elena Korneyeva, 050-573-5810, between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., or e-mail: korniyeva@rambler.ru.

Social, sport and health clubs – 1 listing

- ➔ Kiev Hash House Harriers club meets every second Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Lucky Pub, 13 Chervonoarmiyska St. (near Lva Tolstoho metro station). For more details, visit the website at www.h3.kiev.ua.

International clubs – 9 listings

- ➔ Welcome to the friendly atmosphere of a French-speaking club. We meet once weekly on Saturdays or Sundays for conversation practice and movie sessions. Please contact Svetlana: 067-907-1456 or email: consonance-s@ukr.net.
- ➔ Student Embassy Project invites students to join intercultural events in Kyiv, Lviv and Ternopil. The initiative is aimed at international students' integration into Ukrainian society, youth leadership development, intercultural dialogue. To learn more please e-mail us at studentembassy@gmail.com or visit: http://studentembassy.org.ua.
- ➔ The Kyiv Rotary Club meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Andreyevsky Prichal restaurant, 6 Bratskaya Str. For more information, please contact Nataliya Rodovanskaya at 067-296-5672 or n_radov@yahoo.com.
- ➔ The International Women's Club of Kyiv (IWCK) welcomes women from around the world to join our support network and participate in our extensive social and charitable programs. For more information, see our website www.iwck.org, call or e-mail the IWCK Program Coordinator Yaroslava Neruh at 234-3180, office@iwck.org. Address: 39 Pushkinska, #51, entrance 5, door code 38.
- ➔ The Rotaract Club Kyiv meets on Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Ukrainian Educational Center, Prospect Peremohy, #30, apt. 82. For more information, please email: president@rotaract-kyiv.org.ua or visit our website www.rotaract-kyiv.org.ua.
- ➔ Amnesty International English Speaking Group. Meetings are being held every other Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. Become informed, get involved and brush up on your English. Meetings are held at the German Lutheran Church, 22 Lyuteranska St. For more details call 066-247-4099 or email at amnestykyiv@yahoo.com.
- ➔ Democrats Abroad Ukraine is the official organization of the

Democratic Party in Ukraine; connecting Americans with U.S. politics and the Democratic Party; registering, informing, and motivating voters; supporting U.S. candidates, holding events, and fundraising. To join, email info@democratsabroad.org.ua.

➔ The Kyiv Multinational Rotary Club welcomes all Rotarians who are in Kyiv and new potential Rotarians. Our meetings are conducted in English and are held every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, Yaroslaviv Val St. 22. For a map and further information please consult our website at: http://kmrclub.org.

➔ The Kyiv Lions Club is one of 45,000 Lions Clubs around the world. We raise funds and provide services to help those most in need in our community by supporting charities in our chosen sectors of giving: children, the disabled, and the elderly. We meet on the second Monday of every month in the downstairs bar of the Golden Gate Irish Pub at 7 p.m. For more information contact Paul Niland at 044-531-9193 or paul.niland@primerofunds.com.

English clubs – 11 listings

- ➔ English-Russian Conversation Club for adults. People of different ages are invited for international meetings. Mini-groups, individual approach. Making new friends. Conversational trainings. email: engruglobe@i.ua
- ➔ Sprout Christian International School is looking for native English-speaking volunteers who are enthusiastic and love working with children to help in pre-school and English club starting coming September. For more details please call ASAP: Natalie Istomina: +067 501-0406, +093 798-9840.
- ➔ Wave Language School offers free English speaking clubs to the public. Join us on weekends from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. or 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturdays and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Please contact us by email if you are interested: info@wavelanguageschool.com. We hope to see you soon – everybody is welcome.
- ➔ Free English practice at conversation club, regular meetings on Fridays at 7 p.m. near Akademgorodok metro. English native speakers. Interesting topics for discussion. Everyone is invited. Join us at 76 Irpenska str., off.31. http://english.in.ua/ 229-2838.
- ➔ Free book & DVD exchange. Hundreds of English books and movies. Bring one, take one at the Phoenix Center. Address: metro Pecherska, 2 Nemyrovycha-Danchenko, University of Technology and Design, blue 14-storied building, 3rd floor. Hours: Mon-Fri 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Sat noon until 1:30 p.m.
- ➔ Native English speakers. Meet the best and the brightest in Kyiv, well-educated, ambitious, and talented young people 20-30 years old. Share your English skills and make new friends. Everyone is welcome to visit for free. We also organize picnics, balls and excursions. Five days a week at different locations. Please contact Mark Taylor at jmt260@hotmail.com for more information.
- ➔ Free speaking English club in Irpen on Saturdays at Lan School. Call 093-623-3071.
- ➔ Improve your English-speaking skills and have fun. Be prepared to speak English most of the time with native speakers. Conversational club, thematic discussions on Saturdays and Sundays. For more information please contact Vadym. email: vadik_s@ukr.net or call 066-767-4407.
- ➔ Free international conversation club on Fridays at 7 p.m. at English Language Center. Interesting topics for discussion, studying the Bible sometimes. Join us at 4B Kutuzova lane office No. 106 (m. Pecherska) and 76 Irpenska, office No. 31 (m. Akademgorodok). The ELC LTD. Tel. 5811989, 229-28-38. http://english.in.ua
- ➔ Are you a native English speaker? We are glad to invite you to join our English-speaking club. Call 067-620-3120 (Olga) or e-mail Olga.Bondar@atlanm.com.ua
- ➔ Free English/German conversation club on Sundays. Druzhbi Narodiv 18/7, office No. 3. Everyone is welcome. Tel: 529-75-77.

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Ruling politicians not likely to pin up this student calendar

→19 We will comment if there's still interest in us after [Ukraine's local] elections," said Kutsai in an interview with the Kyiv Post. She denied she was singling out Viktor Yanukovich from her February page. "Whoever our president is,

the question stays the same," she said. By softening their public stance after the release, the group fueled suspicions that they had been pressured by the university's administration to play the story down.

Volodymyr Shevchenko, deputy rector of the Journalism Institute, denies these allegations.

He said the project invited suspicion because it was released on Oct. 30, on the eve of local elections. "It's a political project, which shouldn't have appeared in the university," said Shevchenko. "These kids are only 18 to 19 years old; they are too young and too inexperienced to ask such questions," he said about his budding journalists.

On the pages of the calendar, however, the questions seem to be quite penetrating and to the point. "When will officials stop taking bribes?" asks Miss April. "Journalism is not prostitution, right?" reads the December page.

Shevchenko, however, thinks that posing in pin-up style, like in the original Russian calendar for Putin, would have been a better project. "As for me, they should have spread calendars that proclaim beauty of youth," he said.

The organizers, however, deny that it was a political project. "We don't promote anyone and were not financed by any political party," said journalism student Oleksandr Klimashevsky.

Klimashevsky, however, said that the calendar was prepared specifically for Yanukovich. If former President Viktor Yushenko won a second term, "we wouldn't have included two questions: 'Is the death of Ihor Indulo [student] an official negligence?' and 'Why did Ukraine fall to the 131st position in the international press freedom rating?'"

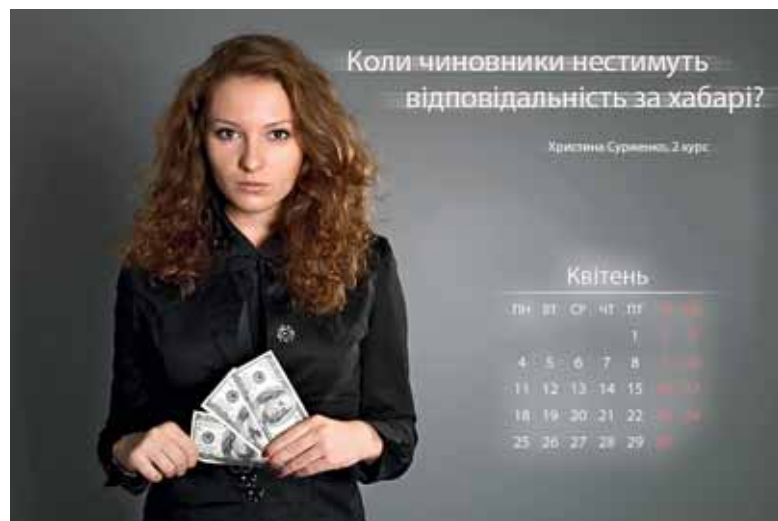
The president, however, didn't take offense. "This means that Ukrainian universities are able to educate real journalists who, unlike their Russian colleagues, can ask the politicians sharp questions," said Yanukovich's spokesman Denys Ivanenko.

Despite an unwelcome reaction from their teachers, the calendar crew members say they want the president to answer their 12 burning questions. "At least one per month," said Klimashevsky. "That would be a great start for changing something for the better."

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Zagrebina can be reached at zagrebina@kyivpost.com



Rival groups of Moscow State University students put out two calendars, the one (lower photo) represented by Miss March supporting Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on his 58th birthday on Oct. 7. That inspired a retort from students (top) who decided instead to pose hard questions in their version of the calendar, such as "When is the next terrorist attack?" (Courtesy photo)



Journalism students from the National Taras Shevchenko University strike controversial poses and ask tough questions on the pages of the political calendar presented on Oct. 26. (Oleksiy Furman, Serhiy Polezhaka)

1. Miss January: "When will there be affordable housing for young families?"
2. Miss February: "What to do with a president who's not living up to his promises?"
3. Miss March: "When will Ukrainian universities start merging theory with practice?"
4. Miss April: "When will authorities be held accountable for taking bribes?"
5. Miss May: "Is Ihor Indulo's death a matter of official negligence?"
6. Miss June: "Where's the infrastructure for the Euro 2012 Football Championship?"
7. Miss July: "How to make entrance exams to universities honest?"
8. Miss August: "Why did Ukraine drop to 131st place in the freedom of press ratings?"
9. Miss September: "Who killed Georgiy Gongadze?"
10. Miss October: "How much longer will we trample over our Constitution?"
11. Miss November: "Will Ukrainian remain the single state language?"
12. Miss December: "Journalism is not prostitution, right?"

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World in Ukraine

TNK-BP is the partner of "India in Ukraine" project

Editor's Note: The Kyiv Post continues its "World in Ukraine" series with a look at India, which on Nov. 5 celebrates its annual Diwali holiday, a festival of lights devoted to the Hindi goddess of wealth. The newspaper will highlight Ukraine's ties with Poland and Kazakhstan in the coming months.

Diwali festival of lights celebrates knowledge

BY KATERYNA GRUSHENKO
GRUSHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Fluttering around his restaurant, Indian Kuldeep Kumar prepares for one of the most important Hindu holidays of the year: Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated five days a year in India. Falling on Nov. 5, the holiday celebrates prosperity and the victory of knowledge over ignorance.

The Indian community has only a couple thousand members spread across Ukraine. Keeping a low profile, they are hard to spot, except perhaps during Diwali, a colorful time around Indian restaurants. "For us, it's as important as Easter for the Christians," Kumar said.

The 45-year old restaurateur came to Ukraine in 1996 to set up a business that would import clothes from India. After a successful start, he moved his younger brother Sandzhei to Ukraine, but soon the entrepreneurs were squeezed out by cheaper Chinese and Turkish imports. Kumar said he then found a niche in the restaurant business.

During an early celebration in Shastra on Oct. 30, about 100 of his fellow compatriots donned ethnic saris and shiny kurta (a long, men's cotton shirt).

Kumar's restaurant Shastra, as well as other Indian homes and businesses around this time, was decorated with candles. Their light is supposed to help the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, find her way to these places.

Traditions vary around the world. But many Indians, including the Ukrainian community, pray to Lakshmi during Diwali. It's also considered



Mita Chakroborty (L) and Simi Meherta (R) enjoy dancing in Shastra restaurant during the early celebration of Diwali holiday on Oct.30 (Serhiy Zavalnyuk)

good fortune to buy property, jewelry and clothes around this time. Some try their luck gambling in casinos.

"Our friends will come over for a game of flash [Indian three-card poker]. There will be some money involved, of course," Kumar said.

Saying his prayers to Lakshmi that evening, Kumar asked her "to come over to Ukraine this year." And while many Ukrainians don't know much about the Hindu holidays and gods, the name Lakshmi may ring a bell for them.

ArcelorMittal is the world's largest steelmaker and owns Ukraine's largest steel mill in Kryvyi Rih. The company's billionaire owner, Lakshmi Narayan Mittal, shares a first name with the goddess. He doesn't live in Ukraine, but needs her help, restaurateur Kumar said. With the two privatizations of the mill still a bone of contention with Ukraine's current government, Mittal faces regular pressure. In the beginning of October, the steelmaker was crying foul over

a legal case brought by prosecutors. The company feared it could have been the first step in an attempt to strip it of its \$4.8 billion investment in Ukraine's leading steelmaker. But the case was later dropped.

"I worry about Ukrainian politics and economics more than about Indian now," Kumar said. "Especially when Lakshmi Mittal was in question."

But Diwali is more about joy than worries, so Kumar attends mostly to his guests. "I wait all year for this holiday," he said. "It reminds me of my happiest childhood memories in India."

His cooks prepared a dozen Indian dishes ranging from deep fried aloo tikki potato balls to spicy orange lollipop chicken wings. Decorated with bronze statuettes of Hindu gods, Shastra was as festive as a Bollywood movie on the evening of Diwali celebration.

Most members of the community,

however, will spend Diwali at home. "We keep the windows open, put candles on windowsills and doorsteps and decorate our house with fairy lights to call Lakshmi in our home," said Kumar's brother, Sandzhei. Apart from Shastra, they also own New Bombay Palace restaurant and are setting up an Ayurvedic health center with massages and yoga classes.

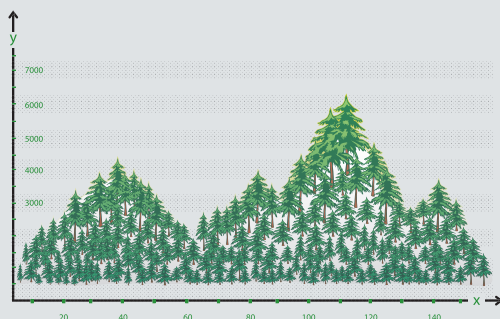
Married to a Ukrainian, Kumar feels fully assimilated. And although he visits India at least three times a year, he said Ukraine became his second motherland. Without him, "we wouldn't see each other as often," said one of the guests during the party.

Restaurant Shastra, 126 A Krasnozvezdny pr-kt, tel.524-5555, www.shastra.kiev.ua

Kyiv Post staff writer Kateryna Grushenko can be reached at Grushenko@kyivpost.com



Restaurateur Kuldeep Kumar hosts Kyiv's Indian community during Diwali celebration on Oct.30 (Serhiy Zavalnyuk)



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Indian ambassador: Cooperation in defense, aviation industries guides bilateral ties

BY KATERYNA GRUSHENKO
GRUSHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Medicine and airplanes have been fueling and driving Ukraine-India cooperation for decades. With bilateral trade reaching \$2 billion last year, India is Ukraine's fifth largest trade partner. While purchasing aircrafts, machinery, and steel, this South Asian country supplies Ukraine with pharmaceuticals, fruit, tea and leather in return.

Yet modern-day cooperation still has to catch up with Soviet times. Decades ago, engineers from eastern Ukraine helped to set up the steel mills in India. India's first and only female Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi, visited Kyiv in 1982.

Cultural and educational events are also on the wane, compared to the festivals and exchanges held in the Soviet Union when socialism was a binding factor between the two states.

In his interview with the *Kyiv Post*, Ambassador Jyoti Swarup Pande, 59, shared his thoughts on future cooperation. Appointed in September, Pande has 37 years of diplomatic service. He worked in Brazil and Malaysia and most recently served as the ambassador to Azerbaijan and Kyrgyzstan.

Kyiv Post: What are the latest projects that India and Ukraine are working on together?

Jyoti Swarup Pande: A substantial part of our relations is defined by the cooperation in aviation and defense industries.

The Indian air force has a fleet



Jyoti Swarup Pande, Indian ambassador to Ukraine.

of transport aircrafts from the [Kyiv-based] Antonov aviation plant. In cooperation with Antonov, we are refurbishing most of our aircrafts in Ukraine and send our personnel for training there. This project costs \$400 million, and it will continue for four years.

I believe that in the near future the Indian army will buy spare parts from Ukraine to prolong the life of the heavy trucks they bought from the U.S.S.R.

KP: Please describe the Indian community in Ukraine.

JP: We have around 2,000 Indian

students attending universities in Ukraine and studying mostly medicine. A substantial number of Indian pharmaceutical companies on Ukraine's market also bring Indian employees [to work here]. Some Indians who studied in Ukraine during the Soviet times decided to stay behind and they are now mostly involved in trade and manufacturing. Some of them decided to export Ukrainian know-how to India. For example, one businessman took to India a Ukrainian company that specializes in remote sensing, which now helps to find oil in our country. [Also], one of the stations in New Delhi metro was built by a Ukrainian construction company.

KP: Does the Indian community face any problems in Ukraine?

JP: Once they get to Ukraine, not so much. But obtaining a visa is a hurdle because Ukraine's visa regime is very restrictive. To cite just one example, there is no tourist visa for Indians to visit Ukraine. There are only student and business visas. Moreover, when they reach Ukraine's border immigration, [officers] are not polite to them: They grill them [with questions],

threaten to turn them around and let them in reluctantly.

KP: Do you see any interest in India on the Ukrainian side?

JP: Our embassy issues 400-500 visas per week for Ukrainians who want to go to India. The number of visas goes up in winter. Direct flights from Kyiv to Goa tempt many [travelers].

Some go to India for beach holidays, while others prefer "holy tourism," visiting Buddhist shrines. Many Ukrainian sailors go to Bombay to catch the ships they work on. Recently we noticed more and more Ukrainian dancing groups going to India to act in Indian Bollywood movies. Some Ukrainian models also work in India.

KP: Cooperation between India and Ukraine on the cultural and educational levels is not great. Will there be any change?

JP: Indeed, we don't have a dynamic cultural and educational cooperation. But the desire has been expressed to start a proper Indian festival in Ukraine and a Ukrainian one in India. We plan it next year.

Another very important change for the better is that Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, a famous private Indian aca-

India at a glance:

- Government type: federal republic of 28 states and 7 union territories
- Independence: Aug. 15, 1947 (from the United Kingdom)
- Population: 1.2 billion people.
- Per capita gross domestic product (Purchasing Power Parity): \$2,930.
- Population below poverty line: 25 percent
- Official languages: Hindi, English.
- Major historical figure: Mohandas Gandhi (1869-1948). He was the leading political and spiritual leader of India's national independence movement and is honored as the father of the nation. He pioneered mass, peaceful civil disobedience to tyranny and inspired similar movements for justice worldwide.

Useful links:

Indian Embassy in Ukraine:
www.indianembassy.org.ua
To learn more about Diwali:
www.diwalifestival.org

demic and cultural organization, will open its branch in Kyiv. They will have Indian cultural and language studies.

KP: Where do you eat Indian food in Kyiv?

JP: Indian restaurants are quite good here. Because their food has been somewhat adapted to the Ukrainian taste, we don't eat such rich food at home.

Some diplomats that have been here for a long time order dishes in the Indian restaurants off the menu. Indian cooks usually know how to tailor them [to authentic taste].

Kyiv Post staff writer Kateryna Grushenko can be reached at grushenko@kyivpost.com



The Indian community marks the 63rd anniversary of independence from the United Kingdom on Kyiv's Maidan Nezalezhnosti on Aug 15. (Yaroslav Debelyi)



ArcelorMittal steel factory in Kryviy Rih is co-owned by Lakshmi Mittal, an Indian steel tycoon. (Natalia Kravchuk)

Works of art at Pinchuk's never fail to amuse, shock



Stitch work by Nicholas Hlobo from South Africa recreates a tree.

→ **19** lot of visitors, especially teenagers and parents with children. Many enjoyed Swede Natalie Djurberg's cartoons, which featured colorful people made of plasticine (blu-tack) who were unexpectedly turning violent on screen.

Drawing lovers gathered in front of German Jorinde Voigt's work. Complicated shapes and forms reflecting mathematical precision and attention to detail look like grey mechanical design drawings. Yet if you step back, they may remind you of puffy and misshaped clouds. They surely took lots of time and talent to be put together.

While young artists are compet-

ing for a bit of Pinchuk's fortune, already established Japanese artist Takashi Murakami exhibits at the PinchukArtCenter, but on a different floor. Several classic works, like "Funky Flowers," "Mr. DOB in a Strange Forest" and "Emperor with New Clothes" actually present a modern take, not experiment, on art.

PinchukArtCentre never fails to amuse and shock visitors, be it Hirst's controversial cow corpses in formaldehyde or Garcia's puddle of water spilled on the floor. While many appreciate the controversy of exhibitions, some cannot help wondering if this kind of art is worth spending hundreds of millions of dollars in the country, where major significant problems remain unattended.

Kyiv Post staff writers Nataliya Horban and Svitlana Tuchynska can be reached at Horban@kyivpost.com and Tuchynska@kyivpost.com



Victor Pinchuk, founder of the PinchukArtCentre (L) and Ekchard Schneider, head of the PinchukArtCentre.

A stone by contestant Gareth Moore is open for interpretation.



Wilfredo Prieto Garcia's square-shaped watermelon is called 'Politically Correct.' (Courtesy)

PinchukArtCentre
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until Jan.9 (closed Monday)

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Victoria Myronenko from Ukraine's State Technical University, where many Turkish students study.



Turkey marks 87th birthday

Guests from other Muslim countries join the celebration.



Turkish Airlines Kyiv director Erol Akcal (L) and Larysa Bashkan of Creditwest Insurance Ukraine.



Ukrainian and Turkish flags seen outside the Hyatt Regency Kyiv hotel on Saint Sophia's Square.



Turkish Ambassador Ahmet Meric.



Japanese Ambassador Tadashi Izawa (L) and his Spanish counterpart Jose Rodriguez Moyano.



George Logush, vice president of Kraft Foods (C).

➔ The Turkish community in Kyiv marked their republic's 87th birthday on Oct. 29. The nation's founder, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (1881-1938) was the first Turkish President. His secular principles are revered in the predominately Muslim nation. The reception took place in the Hyatt Regency Kyiv hotel. More than 100 foreign diplomats, businesspeople and other friends of the Turkish community attended the gathering. Ukraine's Turkish community numbers approximately 20,000 people. (Yaroslav Debelyi)

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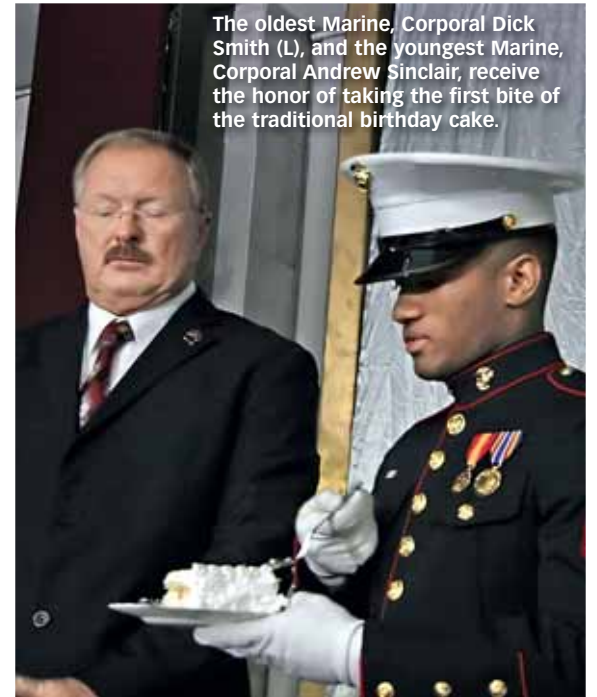


U.S. Marines celebrate 235th birthday

From left: U.S. Marines Marvin Menindez, Bradley Skidmore and Richard Woodall taking service in Kyiv, hold the traditional cake cutting ceremony.



U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John F. Tefft, who recently became a grandfather, holds up a gift – a matryoshka doll in honor of the Wisconsin native's favorite American football team, the Green Bay Packers, and its quarterback Aaron Rodgers.



The oldest Marine, Corporal Dick Smith (L), and the youngest Marine, Corporal Andrew Sinclair, receive the honor of taking the first bite of the traditional birthday cake.



One of the female guests enjoys an uplifting photo session with the U.S. Marines (from left): Andrew Sinclair, Thomas Krause, Bradley Skidmore, Richard Woodall, Marvin Menindez and Stephen Lowe.



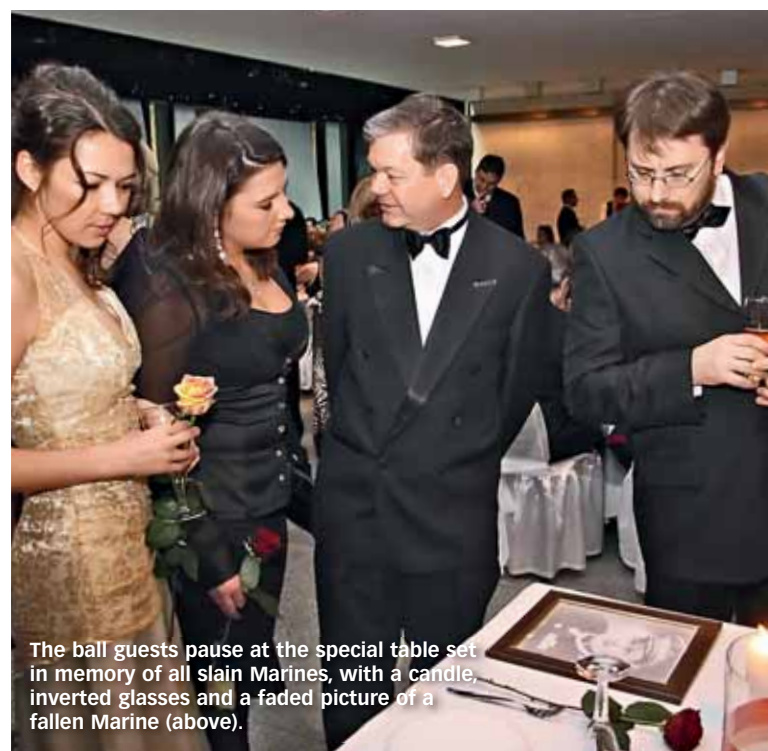
Semper Fidelis is Latin for "Always Faithful," the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps, whose members never forget their slain or missing comrades.



Sean Regan, an Irish businessman in Ukraine, sports a checkered purple kilt, with his color-coordinated wife, Natalia.



U.S. Marine Sergeant Thomas Krause and Alicia Jackman strike a pose.



The ball guests pause at the special table set in memory of all slain Marines, with a candle, inverted glasses and a faded picture of a fallen Marine (above).

➔ The U.S. Marine Corps organized a ball in Ukraine House on Oct. 30 to celebrate the military organization's 235th anniversary. The official ceremony included celebratory speeches, a flag ceremony and traditional cake cutting. In the memory of slain and missing Marines, a special memorial table was set. The U.S. Marine Corps is considered an elite fighting force in America, participating in interventions from Lebanon to the Dominican Republic with the most recent deployments in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Panama, Somalia, and Iraq. Six active-duty Marines in Ukraine guard the U.S. Embassy. As Marine Sgt. Tom Krause, who had previously been assigned to Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia, put it: "The job is nice, but it is tough." (Yaroslav Debelyi)

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MBA Strategy (32 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
SC Johnson (19B Moskovskiy Prosp.)
Senator Apartments (6 Pirohova St., 62/20 Dmitrievska St.)
Staff Service Solution (1-3 Frunze St.)
Student Travel International (18/1 Prorizna St.)
Ukraine-Europe Linguistic Centre (20B Kominterni St.)
UKRAVTO (15/2 Velyka Vasylivska St.)
Ukrsibbank (14 Pushkinska St.)
Via Kiev Lufthansa City Center (172 Horkoho St.)

Restaurants

Al Faro (49A Velyka Vasylivska St.)
Antresol Art-Café (2 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)

Amber (30A Lesi Ukrainki Blvd.)
Arizona Barbeque (25 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.)
Kraina Kavy (5 Spas'ka St.)
La Bodeguita del Medio (21/20 Yaroslaviv Val St.)
La Casa Del Habano (13 Klovskiy Spusk)
Le Cosmopolite (47 Volodymyrska St.)
Le Grand Café (4 Muzeinyy Lane)
Leo Club (20 Parkova Doroha)
Leonardo (2 Besarabska Square)
Luciano (33V Dehtiarivska St.)
Lun Van (26 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
MaLLina (27B Sahaidachnoho St.)
Marokana (24 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd.)
Marmaris (40 Hlybochyt's'ka St.)
Monako (20A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
Natürlich (3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Neopolis (19 Skovorody St.)
New Bombay Palace (33A Druzhby Narodiv Blvd.)
News café (6 Hetmana St.)
O'Brien's (17A Mykhailivska St.)
O'Connor's (15/8 Khoriva St.)
O'Panos (10 Tereshchenkivska St.)
Oliva (34 Velyka Vasylivska St., 25A Druzhby Narodiv Blvd., 5 Kominterni St.)
Panda (76 Saksahanskoho St.)
Panorama (42 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho; 34B Moskovskiy Avenue St., 6 Mykhailivska St.; 1/2 Konstantynivska St.)
Dubki (1 Stetsenko St.)
Dva Bobra (91 Komarova St., village Mila)
ETNO (23A Prorizna St., 25 Pushkinska St., 8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
Fellini (5 Horodetsko St.)
Fish Market (24A Volodymyrska St.)
Fluger (18D Artema St.)
Fridays (5A Besarabska Square)
Goodman Steak House (75 Zhylianska St.)
Grandal (24B Polyova St.)
Hameleon №5 (82 Turhenivska St.)
Himalai (23 Khreshchatytska St.)
IQ bar (25 L.Tolstogo St.)
IL Patio (112 Saksahanskoho St., 5A Besarabska Square, 5/13 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St., 57/3 Velyka Vasylivska St.)
IZUMrud (15/3 O. Gonchara St.)
Izumki (24A Mykhailivska St., 46/2 Moskovska St.)
John Bull Pub (36 Saksahanskoho St.)
Kaffa (3 Shevchenko prov., 22 Saksahanskoho St., 5 Skovorody St.)

Klovsky (16A Mechnykova St.)
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Kaffa (3 Shevchenko prov., 22 Saksahanskoho St., 5 Skovorody St.)

To Dublin (4 Raisa Okipna St.)
Trans Force (34B Moskovskiy Prosp.)
Tsarske Selo (42/1 Ivan Mazepa St.)
Under Wonder (21 Velyka Vasylivska St.)
Varenichna Pobeda (14 Sofiivska St.)
Videnski Bulochky (25B Sahaidachnoho St., 14/1 Instytutska St., 14 Mechnykova St., 1-3/5 Pushkinska St., 107/47 Saksahanskoho St., 34 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd., 20 Esplanadna St.)
Viola's Bar (1A Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)
Warsteiner Pub (4B Horodetsko St.)
Wolkonsky Keyzer (15 Khreshchatytska St., 5/7-29 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)
Yakitoria (27A Taras Shevchenko Blvd.; 27 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd.)

Sport Clubs

5 Element (29 Elektriv St.)
Favorit (6 Muzeinyy Lane)
Kiev Sport Club (5 Druzhby Narodiv Blvd.)
Planeta Fitness (10 Kropyvnytskoho St.)

Hotels

Adria (2 Raisa Okipna St.)
Attaché Hotel (59 Zhylianska St.)
City Park Hotel (20 Vorovskoho St.)
Diarso (5 Velyka Kiltseva Doroha)
Domus Hotel (19 Yaroslavskaya St.)
Express (38/40 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)
Gorniy Ruchey (66 Michurina St., village Gora, Boryspil region)
Hotel Dnipro (1/2 Khreshchatytska St.)
Hyatt (5A Alla Tarasova St.)
Impressa Hotel (21 Sahaidachnoho St.)
Intercontinental (2A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)
Kozatsky (1/3 Mykhailivska St., 2/32 Antonova St.)
Kozatsky Stan (Boryspilske Shose, 18 km)
Khreshchatytska hotel (14 Khreshchatytska St.)
Lybid (1 Peremohy Prosp.)
Opera Hotel (53 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Oselya (11 Kameniariv St.)
President Hotel (12 Hospitalna St.)
Premier Palace (5-7/29 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)
Radisson Blu (22 Yaroslaviv Val St.)
Riviera (15 Sahaidachnoho St.)
Rus (4 Hospytalna St.)

Salyut (11B Sichnevoogo Povstannia St.)
Senator Apartments (6 Pirohova St., 62/20 Dmitrievska St.)
Slavutych (1 Entuziastiv St.)

Educational establishments

Business School MIM-Kyiv (10/12B Shulyavska St.)
British International School (45 Tolbukhina St.)
British skylines (16 Khreshchatytska St., 10G Larysy Rudenko St.)
DEC school (19 Obolonska Naberezhna)
International Institute of Business (8A Brest-Litovskiy Highway)
Kyiv International School (3A Sviatoshynskiy Lane)
Master Klass (34 Ivan Mazepa St.)
Pechersk International School (7A Viktora Zably St.)
Runov school (30 Velyka Vasylivska St.)
Speak up (14 Kotsiubynskoho St., 25B Sahaidachnoho St., 4 Lunacharskoho St., 136 Peremohy Prosp., 14 Vasylivska St., 26 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd., 3-A Gryshka St.)
Sterling Business School (7 Nesterivskiy prov.)
The London School of English (39 Polytehnichna St.)
Valerie's school (14 Mykhailivska St.)

Business Centers

Arena (2A Baseina St.)
Artem (4 Hlybochyt's'ka St.)
Cubic Centre (3 Sholudenko St.)
Diplomat Hall (59 Zhylianska St.)
Eurasia Ukraine (73-79 Zhylianska St.)
Evropa (4 Muzeinyy Lane)
Evropa Plaza (120 Saksahanskoho St.)
GOOIOORD B.V. (34/33 Ivana Franka St., 36 Ivana Franka St., 11 Mykhailivska St., 52B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)
Horizon Park (12 Amosova St., 4 Grinchenko St.)
Illinsky (8 Illinska St.)
Khreshchatytska Plaza (19A Khreshchatytska St.)
Kiev-Donbass (42/4 Pushkinska St.)
Podol Plaza (19 Skovorody St.)



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Commercial Assistant at The Royal Danish Embassy in Kyiv



- The Embassy seeks a full time employee as of 1st March 2011 in its commercial section.
- The section acts under the conditions set by the Trade Council, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and is part of the worldwide TC network.
- Promotion of Danish business activities in Ukraine generally takes place on a paid for service basis. The employee and the section have a yearly earning target (results in bonus if reached).
- Requirements:** Relevant business degree and must have a minimum of three years employment experience from the Ukrainian private sector. Knowledge of market conditions in Denmark desirable. Good understanding of business processes in Ukraine, ability to seek opportunities for Danish business in Ukraine. Excellent communication skills. Good computer literacy.
- Language skills:** Must be fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian. Knowledge of Danish or related Nordic language will be regarded as extra qualification.
- The job offers a competitive salary as well as possible corporate medical insurance.
- Only applications with the necessary requirements above will be considered. Applications, including CV and any questions should be sent to head of the commercial section Soren Hansen: sohans@um.dk Deadline Friday the 26th of November 2010.



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- Participate in special projects on request

Position requirements:

- Higher education
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To apply for this job, please send your CVs to olena.stoieva@aval.ua

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IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, creates opportunity for people to escape poverty and improve their lives. We foster sustainable economic growth in developing countries by supporting private sector development, mobilizing private capital, and providing advisory and risk mitigation services to businesses and governments.

IFC's Ukraine Investment Climate Advisory Services project aims to improve Ukraine's environment for business and investments, through streamlining regulatory framework, monitoring business environment and conducting outreach, advocacy and awareness-raising activity. The Project is looking for qualified candidates to fill in the short term position of

Research Analyst

to be responsible for providing assistance to the project research component and contribute to the overall success of the project objectives. S/he will be responsible for providing assistance during design and implementation of Investment Climate Survey and report writing period.

The Research Analyst should be a well-organized person with a positive "can-do / will do" attitude to work, have a university (masters) degree in mathematics, statistics or economics, minimum one year of work experience in a similar role, fluency and excellent writing skills in Ukrainian, Russian and English, excellent analytical, communication, time-management and computer skills (proficiency in SPSS/STATA and Excel is a must).

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seeking a highly qualified professional for the position of

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The project goal is to improve the overall efficiency of the Bank's archive function and its further outsourcing with an independent contractor.

Responsibilities:

- Centralization of the Bank's documents archiving process
- Analysis and optimization of the current archives organization processes
- Workout and implementation of a strategic concept of the future archiving process
- Cooperation with outsourcing archive services providers
- Executive management of the archive centralization process

Requirements:

- The successful candidate must possess high organization and analytical skills, a system mindset, a proven track record of a successful project and HR management experience in a large company, excellent staff motivation and interpersonal communication skills. Command of English at least at the Upper-Intermediate level.

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Job Opening

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS **Leading International Non-Profit Organization**

Non-profit specialized in public health systems plans to start activities in Kyiv, implementing SPS (Strengthening Pharmaceutical Systems), a USAID funded program.

RATIONAL DRUG USE (RDU) MANAGER
The RDU Manager is the lead specialist for promoting activities related to the assurance of medicine quality and safety and their rational use in Ukraine. The Manager provides technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders in the areas of Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS. The Manager assists in design and implementation of technical approaches, tools, and workshops related to the promotion of medicine quality and safety.

PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, MIS
The Program Associate will provide support to the MOH programs in the roll-out and support of dedicated TB management software systems (e-TB Manager). The Program Associate will be responsible for training users, providing follow up support, and troubleshooting. The Program Associate will also work collaboratively with technical partners to support the data management needs for TB and HIV program management.

IT SUPPORT SPECIALIST
The Information Technology (IT) support specialist will provide technical support to resolve systems issues (LAN, WAN, hardware configurations, software installations) for SPS staff and at sites. The IT specialist will maintain a helpdesk system to record and respond to all requests. In addition to support, the IT specialist will also regularly assess staff/user training needs and provide some basic training activities to new users.

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Kreschatyk	1	45	85
Sofiyivska	2	70	100

RENT APARTMENTS

Pushkinska	1	40	1000
Volodymyrska	1	45	1200
Bekhterevsky Lane	2	60	1500
Yaroslav Val	2	60	1500
Shota Rustaveli	2	75	1800
Voloska	2	70	1300
Reytarska	2	50	1500
Mezhygirska	3	90	1800
Kostyolna	3	90	2100
Kreschatyk	3	110	2500
Pushkinska	3	100	3000
Yaroslav Val	3	105	1900
V. Zhytomyrska	6	170	5000
Horkogo	5	200	3200
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Help Nastenka to hear the world

Nastenka is one year old. She has been diagnosed with double sensorineural hearing loss. She is not able to hear the sounds that will enable her to grow as a normal child. Currently there is only one solution: a cochlear implant. It will allow Nastenka to hear the voices of her parents, learn how to speak and grow as other children do. This kind of implant could be done free of charge, but there's a big problem: Only 20 operations are made per year, and we are around 500 places from the front of the line. Time is critical here - Nastenka must get this implant as soon as possible, as doctors say the chance for a successful education and normal childhood are falling with each month without it. The operation and implant cost a total of about 23,000 euros, and this is far beyond what the family could find in a short time. That's why her parents are asking the community to help their daughter.



Nastenka's Parents:
Roman Dityatkov Tel. +3066-265-77-13
Galina Dityatkova Tel. +3066-112-91-71
Detail Information is available at www.help.mama.biz.ua

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Please help her to hear the world like all we do and grow up with a better chance in life!
We express sincere gratitude to the Kyiv Post



Fall into heaven in Kyiv

American poet William Cullen Bryant once wrote: "Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile."
It's hard to disagree with him.

Autumn is the brightest season of all, painting nature with a profusion of color – from the palest ivory to the deepest gold and crimson – the vivid genius of a Monet or a van Gogh.

It also provides the best weather for diverse outdoor activities and outings. After the bitterly cold winter this year, when the temperature dropped to -35 C, and the scorching summer, when temperatures rose to 40 C, it is the best time of the year to enjoy nature and spend time with family and friends outdoors before the bleak and cold days of winter come.

Kyiv offers a lot of attractions. One of them is Pechersk Landscape Park (Spivoch Pole) (1), where parents and kids can enter the prehistoric world in the World of Dinosaurs exhibition.

Mariyinsky Park has a lot to offer for both families and those who like to stay active. Its fallen leaves form a carpet for children to play on (2), make a colorful autumn bouquet (3) or take a plunge in their blazing yellow carpet (5). The park also boasts smooth asphalt tracks convenient for skateboarding lovers (4). Those who are tired of walking can take a short ride around the park on a white-and-blue train (6). The trip costs Hr 10 per person. The park adjacent to Mariyinsky Park (near the Water Museum) is especially adored by children for its big frog attraction, which is fun to climb (7).

*Story by Tetyana Boychenko
Photos by Yaroslav Debelyi*

