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# KyivPost

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**IT Business Solutions**  
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INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

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November 11, 2011

## Creeping Paranoia



Nation can be dangerous for those who flee persecution

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
[GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM)

When businessman and politician Kadyrzhan Batyrov escaped Kyrgyzstan for Ukraine in 2010, he thought he would be safe from the threat of imprisonment that he faced back home.

Instead, Ukraine came close to extraditing him back to Kyrgyzstan, and he was only saved when Sweden stepped in to offer asylum.

Many people from Central Asia take advantage of the visa-free regime with Ukraine to flee here to escape political or ethnic persecution, but often end up being sent back despite criticism by human rights defenders.

Batyrov, an influential politician and businessmen from southern Kyrgyzstan who led the Uzbek community in the country, managed to escape that fate. →14

Elton John talks about saving lives in Ukraine

BY ALYONA ZHUK  
[ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:ZHUK@KYIVPOST.COM)

Legendary British singer Sir Elton John and Olena Pinchuk, famous in her own right, talked on Nov. 9 about their joint charitable project to help Ukrainian girls and young women who are homeless or destitute.

"This project will help the most vulnerable group, the group with the highest risk of HIV and AIDS contamination," said Pinchuk, head of the Anti-AIDS Foundation. She is also the daughter of ex-President Leonid Kuchma and wife of billionaire Viktor Pinchuk.

The press conference came the day after John's sold-out concert at Palats Sportu in Kyiv. The singer's friendship with the Pinchuks, as well as their shared charitable interests, has led to his occasional visits to Ukraine.

John was in the nation in 2009, when he unsuccessfully tried to adopt a →18



As Ukraine's hopes for closer integration with the European Union fade in the wake of political persecution, President Viktor Yanukovich (L, at Yalta European Strategy in September) is warning about the prospect of violent revolution. However, the administration has not produced any evidence to support its claims. Anger is certainly rising on the streets (above, Nov. 3 demonstration outside parliament) as the administration's popularity plummets and people see less hope for economic improvement or democratic change. Is the president paranoid, facing a real threat or merely trying to divert people's attention from his record?

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV and VLAD LAVROV  
[ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM)  
AND [LAVROV@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:LAVROV@KYIVPOST.COM)

President Viktor Yanukovich has sounded the alarm: Kyiv could soon plunge into violence, with armed attacks on government agencies as his opponents attempt a coup to destabilize the nation.

That is the scenario that

Yanukovich raised earlier this month, when he told a cabinet meeting of armed threats to his rule.

"There are calls for a revolution. I learned from law enforcement agencies that arms are being bought in the country and armed attacks on government agencies are being prepared," the president said on Nov. 2.

The dark pronouncement has

triggered a flurry of theories about what is really happening.

Some observers suggested he was preparing the grounds for a Russian-style clampdown on opponents.

Others said high-ranking members of the security service could be using the alleged threats to gain greater control over Yanukovich. According to one former Yanukovich insider, the →14

Inside:

News → 1, 2, 14, 18

Business → 6 – 13

Opinion → 4, 5, 15, 18

Lifestyle → 19 – 28, 32

Employment/Real Estate/  
Classifieds → 29 – 31

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 [advertising@kyivpost.com](mailto:advertising@kyivpost.com)

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 [news@kyivpost.com](mailto:news@kyivpost.com)

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-3408 [subscribe@kyivpost.com](mailto:subscribe@kyivpost.com)



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**Mailing address:**

Kyiv Post,  
18 Novokostiantynivska,  
Kyiv, Ukraine, 04655

**Advertising**

tel. +380 44 591-7788  
fax +380 44 591-7789  
advertising@kyivpost.com

**Editorial staff**

tel. +380 44 591-3344  
fax +380 44 591-3345  
news@kyivpost.com

**Subscriptions**

Elena Grysiuk  
tel. +380 44 591-3408  
fax +380 44 591-7789  
subscribe@kyivpost.com

**Distribution**

Andrey Beley  
tel. +380 44 591-3409  
fax +380 44 591-7789  
distribution@kyivpost.com

**Marketing**

Iuliia Panchuk  
tel. +380 44 591-3040  
fax +380 44 591-7789  
marketing@kyivpost.com

# Expats To Watch

**Editor's Note:** This Kyiv Post feature introduces readers to interesting expatriates who have chosen to make Ukraine their home. We welcome readers' suggestions about expats to profile. Please send ideas to news@kyivpost.com

## Casimiro: No easy ride for TNK-BP in Ukraine

**Didier Casimiro**

**Nationality:** Belgium-born Portuguese.

**Age:** 44.

**Position:** General Director of TNK-BP in Ukraine.

**Length of time in Ukraine:** Almost two years.

**Tips for succeeding in Ukraine:** "Patience is not enough. You can have that and not become successful. What is necessary is what the Dutch call *gedrevenheit* – it's like drive, but not the type of drive that is easily upset. Sustainable drive."

**BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA**  
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

By the end of September, Didier Casimiro was already celebrating \$17 million in profits for TNK-BP Ukraine, where he is general director, and hoping for more before the end of the year.

That's a sharp turnaround from 2010, when prospects looked much bleaker, with a \$68 million loss and talk that the company's flagship plant, the Lysychansk oil refinery in Luhansk Oblast, may have to be mothballed.

The company – the Ukrainian arm of the British-Russian joint venture – had a number of competitive disadvantages compared to some peers. One of them, for example, was inability to access government-run domestic oil auctions that sold crude below the market price. Casimiro says access to the auction was limited to one company that belongs to Igor Kolomoisky, a billionaire co-owner of Privat Group. Kolomoisky's companies have 25 percent of the market share, while Lysychansk has about a 23-percent share.

Other issues were related with value-added tax and excise payments on import of crude and gasoline, wholesale price fixing by the government and other peculiarities that distorted the market in favor of individual players, including foreign ones.

Had things continued that way, eventually the company would have faced



TNK-BP's flagship plant in Ukraine is the Lysychansk oil refinery in Luhansk Oblast (Courtesy)

the need to close down or mothball the loss-making Lysychansk refinery.

Yet Casimiro decided on a two-way strategy: on one hand, he revisited the cost structure of his own business while lobbying – along with other market players – to introduce cleaner rules of the game for the whole sector.

At the same time, he picked a new business model for Lysychansk, using its capacity to refine oil from Russia for a fee. "The domestic margin of the refinery is negative, but if you can supplement that by volumes that are tolled back to Russia and receive a service

fee [for refining], you have increased the utilization of your refinery, achieve better contribution to your fixed costs et cetera," he says.

As a result, 82 percent of the 5 million tons of crude refined at Lysychansk currently goes back to Russia, while the rest feeds TNK-BP's domestic network of 150 gas stations and 250 franchises. The domestic refining margins at times can run to a loss of \$50 dollars per ton of crude throughout the industry, Casimiro says.

He says agility is key to having a successful business in Ukraine. "You



Didier Casimiro

need to be able not to dissolve in the minutiae of working in a difficult environment, to keep your company agile and flexible, but within the norms of Western-style corporate governance," he says.

He says that the need to bring to Ukraine those Western-style rules is what pushed him to give an emotional speech in Brussels at the end of last month, urging the Europeans to "decouple" the free trade agreement and the association agreement, to be able to sign the former by the end of this year.

This is an idea that was heavily entertained by the government for most of this year, but Casimiro says he does not mind being in the same camp on this issue – he believes in change through participation.

"The investment climate here has to change for better," he says, adding that Western rules could drive the change.

*Kyiv Post* editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com

## Yanukovych rewards tough loyalists with promotions

**BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA**  
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

Toughness is rewarded, so are loyalty and patience. These are the messages that President Viktor Yanukovych sent the nation with the latest government reshuffle on Nov. 7.

Anatoliy Mohyliov was dismissed as Interior Minister and sent off to head Crimea in place of the late Vasyl Dzharty, whose seat has been vacant since Aug. 17. Mohyliov's job was taken over by Vitaly Zakharchenko, who previously headed the Tax Administration. His deputy, Oleksandr Klymenko, was moved up to replace him. The trio has the following in common: They are loyal to the president or members of his family, have reputations for ruthlessness and are expected to do what the president wants.

The appointment of Molyliov, 56, was greeted with horror by many groups in Crimea. He once headed the peninsula's police force between 2007 and 2010, gaining him plenty

of enemies. When he took over the Interior Ministry, critics pounced on him for increasing human rights abuses and brutality by officers.

Yevhen Zakharov, head of the Kharkiv Human Rights Group in Ukraine, noted that Mohyliov dismissed a department within the ministry that investigated human rights violations, introduced compulsory fingerprinting for everyone detained by police and radically increased the number of troops at rallies and demonstrations – all in the first couple of month as a minister. It is under Mohyliov that stationary police units along highways were restored, a Soviet hangover abandoned by former President Viktor Yushchnenko. He is disliked even in the police ranks. A famous video on Youtube shows a traffic police officer from Kharkiv swearing at the minister for issuing "decrees that are impossible to fulfill."

Representatives of the Crimean Tatars, a native people of the peninsula, said his appointment is a bad idea.

"The period of his work in Crimea



Anatoliy Mohyliov

did not leave any positive memories, to put it mildly," said Mustafa Dzhemilyov, head of the Crimean Tatars' parliament. He said Mohyliov is remembered for praising the Stalin-era deportations

of the Crimean Tatars, as well as the shooting of unarmed people in 2007 by police under his command.

The macho cowboy style, however, is evidently what Yanukovych wants in governing one of the most divided regions. Loyalty to Russia is strong in Crimea. Arriving to Crimea in a diamond-studded police general's uniform, Mohyliov said on Nov. 9 that he would "search for compromises" with the Crimean Tatars and will work to bring investment into the region.

Mohyliov's replacement in the Interior Ministry, 48-year-old Zakharchenko, has the reputation of "a man of the family," one tax inspector told *Kyiv Post*, referring to his loyalty to Yanukovych's family.

Zakharchenko is also from Yanukovych's home turf in Donetsk Oblast, where he enjoyed a law enforcement career from 1984 and 2008. He shifted to the Poltava Oblast tax administration before becoming the nation's top tax collector at the end of last year. On his watch, business complained

of increasing and heavy-handed tax inspections.

Zakharchenko is expected to pay close attention to economic crimes in leading the nation's 300,000 police officers. "Our task is to make sure that every criminal who robs the state should pay the money back with big penalties on top," Yanukovych said. "This is the task I set for the minister."

He will also impose discipline. "The tightening of screws within the ministry will come first of all," predicted political analyst Kost Bondarenko.

Zakharchenko's replacement in the tax service, Oleksandr Klymenko, 31, is a dark horse. Also hailing from the president's home turf in Donetsk Oblast, Klymenko is a financier by education. He worked in business and then in the regional tax administration until February, when he moved to Kyiv to become the No. 2 person in the nation's tax service.

*Kyiv Post* editor Katya Gorchinskaya can be reached at gorchinskaya@kyivpost.com



# On the road to DCFTA

## OPINION Poll

The deep and comprehensive free trade agreement (DCFTA) is the part of the European Union's Association Agreement that is tailored to honing Ukraine's trade policy and promoting Ukraine's integration into Europe's markets. The European Business Association, as a strong proponent of a free trade area between the European Union and Ukraine, underlines its consistent commitment and support for the signing of the DCFTA. For this reason, we are conducting an opinion poll of leaders of EBA member companies to gauge the business community's sentiment towards Ukraine entering a Free Trade Area with the European Union.

We continue our series of Opinion Polls of business leaders from a range of economic sectors by inviting them to comment on the following questions:

1. What is your vision of the DCFTA as part of the EU Association Agreement? Do you think the DCFTA will provide the anchor point for a successful reform process in Ukraine?
2. What are the benefits, both for the EU and Ukrainian business, to be gained from this partnership?
3. How do you evaluate the current progress Ukraine is making on its way to the DCFTA?
4. What are the key challenges and hurdles facing Ukraine on its way to integration in the EU trade zone?

### ANTOINE Ernst

General Director of JTI Ukraine



As a foreign investor we believe that free trade between Ukraine and the EU would improve conditions for doing business here with growing transparency of Ukrainian markets, protection of investor's rights, harmonisation of regulatory environment with EU standards, such as principles of good regulation (regarding excise tax policy). For our business it is very important that government has a consistent excise planning.

In a long-term perspective it would mean improved business climate, growing foreign direct investment, development of infrastructure and improvement of legislation.

Judging from the latest news after Vice Prime Minister Andriy

Klyuyev's negotiations with the EU, the Ukrainian government have moved past the most disputable areas, such as competition, customs tariffs, intellectual property rights, etc. and the EU Association Agreement is expected to be signed by the end of the year. Hopefully, political issues would not impair the negotiation process.

### NATALIE Jaresko

Founding Partner and CEO,  
Horizon Capital



1. For Ukraine DCFTA means that not only barriers to trade will be minimized or eliminated, but, more importantly, that the regulatory environment for doing business in Ukraine will be harmonised with the EU. The EU's readiness to sign an Association Agreement and the DCFTA with Ukraine makes it clear that the EU would like to see European standards extended and Ukraine fulfill its potential in the global economy. The EU's interest is in making Ukraine a reliable and predictable partner, and European standards are seen as one of the ways to accomplish that. Therefore, in my opinion, the DCFTA will become a strong impulse for reforms in Ukraine.

2. The DCFTA foresees a deep economic integration between the EU and Ukraine, so the benefits for Ukrainian business and the overall Ukrainian economy cannot be underestimated. The benefits for our portfolio companies will stem from elimination/decrease in tariffs/quotas. Overall, greater access to the EU market is key for us. If the DCFTA is signed, Ukraine should be able to reverse its declining trade trend with the EU. Ukrainian companies should be able to reach out to 500 million potential consumers with higher average income. Ukrainian exporters should be more competitive compared to other exporters because of lower labor costs, as well as tariff and duty elimination.

The need to remain competitive on EU markets will encourage modernisation of production in Ukraine which in turn will enable Ukrainian business to compete more successfully in the global economy.

Moreover, I believe Ukraine, with its strategic geographic location, will become a recognised platform for export into the EU. As investors come to understand Ukraine's competitive and comparative advantages, direct foreign investment will increase. Investors will become confident that Ukraine can serve as an export platform into the EU. M&A activity should meaningfully increase as a result.

3. Ukraine has made tremendous progress in the negotiations. Many issues that were stumbling blocks for a long period of time have been resolved not only conceptually, but also technically (tariffs, the protection of intellectual property rights, use of geographical names, and tariff quotas for agricultural products, as well as the issue of compensation for gas disruptions).

Ukraine is now very close to finally signing the DCFTA in December. It can become the deepest, most far reaching FTA offered by the EU to any potential accession member state. I am very keen to see this long and complex process come to a successful conclusion.

4. Adjusting the regulatory environment will be the most challenging task. It will require not only technical changes to legislation and institutions (which will require a lot of hard work in and of itself), but also a major shift in values will be required.

Of course, short term some companies will suffer from more intense competition from EU business, but they will adjust to new economic conditions by modernising production processes and streamlining operations. In the end, for Ukrainian companies, benefits from an improved regulatory environment and access to EU markets will significantly outweigh the costs of these changes. The Ukrainian economy will take its rightful place in the global economy. The country known for its "potential" will have a real opportunity to fulfill this "potential".

### MAURIZIO Patarnello

CEO, Nestle Ukraine and Moldova



The signature of the DCFTA is very important for the future of Ukraine. It is a unique opportunity to anchor its future to EU.

Ukraine has an untapped potential in numerous areas including agricultural, industry, services and trade, however needs to reinforce the political and legal conditions to attract foreign investments. The DCFTA will establish a framework in which EU companies will feel re-insured to invest directly in the Country. This will contribute to create new jobs, infrastructures and ultimately wealth for the population.

Ukraine should not miss this opportunity and should rapidly reach an agreement with EU. While we understand the importance for Ukraine to maintain a balanced position between East and West Europe, the DCFTA is a life time opportunity that cannot be missed for the prosperity of such a high potential Country.

## THINGS TO KNOW

### New Customs Code to Take Effect in 2012

On November 3, 2011 the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine approved a new Customs Code, which will enter into force on January 1, 2012.

Following extensive EBA lobbying, the new document now contains a number of favourable provisions, namely:

- The customs clearance of goods and vehicles for commercial purposes can be carried out at any authorised customs office. Goods thus cannot be declared outside the location of a subject of foreign economic activity (Article 88 of the new Customs Code).
- The new Customs Code frees importers from the obligation to pay a deposit on goods to be included in the intellectual property registry (as stated in Article 257 of the current Customs Code). However, Article 410 of the new document states that in the case of the suspension of customs clearance for goods specified in this Article, the customs authorities' expenses associated with the storage of goods are to be paid for by the copyright owner. Imported goods previously exported for repair are exempt from duties.
- Chapter 10 of the new Customs Code sets out the procedure for obtaining the status of an authorised economic operator (AEO) and special affiliated benefits.
- Chapter 40 of the new Code regulates the issue of the taxation of temporarily imported goods. A list of such goods is indicated in Article 114 of the Code and Annexes B.1 - B.9, C and D of the Convention on temporary admission (Istanbul, 1990).
- The Law of Ukraine on Tolling Operations in Foreign Economic Activity expires on January 1, 2012.

However, despite the fact that a number of progressive and beneficial changes have been included in the new Customs Code, it still contains some ambiguously stated provisions that lack clear definitions.

## EBA TENDER ALERT

The essential content of the WEB site is agricultural biotechnology - the technology of growing genetically modified crops.

We are pleased to announce bidding for WEB site development initiated by EBA Biotech Committee. Any IT company among the EBA's members is encouraged to participate in the tender.

The core requirements to the website functionality are:

- More advanced than basic (e.g. Joomla - Artisteer), creative design
- Design concept tags: Eco, safety, green colors, healthy looking products, DNA, green technology, achievements of science, economic benefit for Ukrainian agriculture, Food for future billions of Earth population.
- User friendly CMS, Joomla and similar systems are possible in case design requirements are complied with
- UA/RU/ENG mirror language versions
- RSS functionality and e-mail subscription service
- Users registration functionality with opportunity to assign access rights to different users categories, manage users database
- Search by site content service
- Acceptable speed of site pages downloading
- Training for content managers for working with proposed CMS
- Training for content manager for basic SEO methods as additional option
- Twitter, FB and others buttons

Call for bids is open till 18 November, 2011. The one-stage bidding process will result in choosing the winning bid and announcement of tender results after November, 18. In case you have any questions do not hesitate to contact Maria Savchenko, EBA PR & Communications Manager by phone 044 496 06 01 or via email [Maria.Savchenko@eba.com.ua](mailto:Maria.Savchenko@eba.com.ua).

## EBA EuroDebates

### NBU's monopoly for domestic card payments in UAH: pro and contra

16 November 2011, 9:30  
Hyatt Regency Kiev (5 Alla Tarasova Str)

The European Business Association invites you to take part in the discussion of National Bank of Ukraine's intention to set a single state-owned network for domestic electronic transactions. We invite you to voice your concerns and share opinions in the panel discussion with the heads of Visa and MasterCard in Ukraine - international e-payments vehicles, which fuel the domestic payments turnover and capture a major share of Ukraine's internal transactions, and the leaders of reputable Raiffeisen Bank Aval and UkrSotsbank.

At this stage the following speakers confirmed their attendance:

- ★ **Sergiy Ravnyago**, Head of MasterCard Europe Representative Office in Ukraine
- ★ **Svetlana Georbelidze**, Head of Visa Ukraine office
- ★ **Volodymyr Lavrenchuk**, Chairman of the Board at Raiffeisen Bank Aval
- ★ **Borys Tymonkin**, Chairman of the Board at UkrSotsbank
- ★ **Mykola Katerynychuk**, Member of the Parliament
- ★ **Iryna Akimova**, Deputy Head of President's Administration (though still to be confirmed)

EVENT PARTNERS



To attend the event please RSVP via [events@eba.com.ua](mailto:events@eba.com.ua) till 15 November 2011, 14.00

## Editorials

## Unpresidential

If President Viktor Yanukovich is to be believed, saboteurs in the nation are illegally buying up massive amounts of firearms in preparation for a coup. The public has yet to hear any sort of proof to back up these claims, however, because most likely nothing of the kind is happening.

"They want to disrupt the financial stability in Ukraine, to disrupt the political stability and go to the streets with pitchforks," the president said earlier this month. "I learned from law enforcement agencies that arms are being bought [in Ukraine] and armed attacks on government agencies are being prepared."

The groundwork for the irresponsible presidential pronouncements was laid by the helpful Security Service of Ukraine, the nation's elite law enforcement agency, which asserted that 120 handguns, two Kalashnikovs and a machine gun were missing from the Interior Ministry training university in Lviv, the largest town in western Ukraine. But illegal sales of firearms from impoverished state military institutions are old news in Ukraine.

What's new and revealing here is presidential paranoia, which appears to be deepening. Since taking over as president in 2010, Yanukovich has built a five-meter high fence around his vast multimillion-dollar Mezhyhirya estate north of Kyiv. His traveling entourage includes tractors and trucks to block side roads when he is traveling from home downtown to his office, aside from the normal presidential security detail. He insulates himself more frequently from contact with the people he represents, undoubtedly sensing his current unpopularity.

In this game, the Security Service appears to play the role of feeding the president's fears with stories of terrorists and planned attempts on his life. It seems as if someone close to the president is capitalizing on his fears, either by winning over loyalty points or pinning the nation's leader against his people.

Many presidents receive threats. Most nations investigate these threats quietly and professionally. If crimes are solved, suspects are arrested, supporting evidence becomes public and the cases move to trial swiftly. This almost never happens the right way in Ukraine.

What could be the purpose of making such unfounded claims public? To scare people? To justify harsh crackdowns on peaceful protests, or to lay the groundwork for a return to a police state that curtails civil liberties?

Only the president, and perhaps his inner circle, knows for sure. But until the threats are accompanied by credible evidence or a logical call to some concrete action by the public, these pronouncements are unpresidential, irresponsible and possibly signal the dangers ahead – not from saboteurs, but from the administration.

The seven-year imprisonment of ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko on what Yanukovich recognizes to be a ridiculous Soviet-era "abuse of office" crime shows the irrational extent to which this administration is prepared to go in crushing its enemies.

Yanukovich keeps talking about Ukraine as a democratic European nation while behaving like a Soviet-era apparatchik. He has a thing or two to learn about modern-day security, as well as responsible ways of talking about safety.

## Stay strong, IMF

The International Monetary Fund is holding firm on its demands that the Ukrainian government raise the price of natural gas for households and heavily-subsidized utilities. Its latest mission left Kyiv earlier this month without agreeing to unfreeze its \$15 billion lending program.

Government officials say they will try to convince the fund to drop or soften its requirements once Kyiv agrees to a cheaper gas price with Russia.

The IMF should stick to its guns.

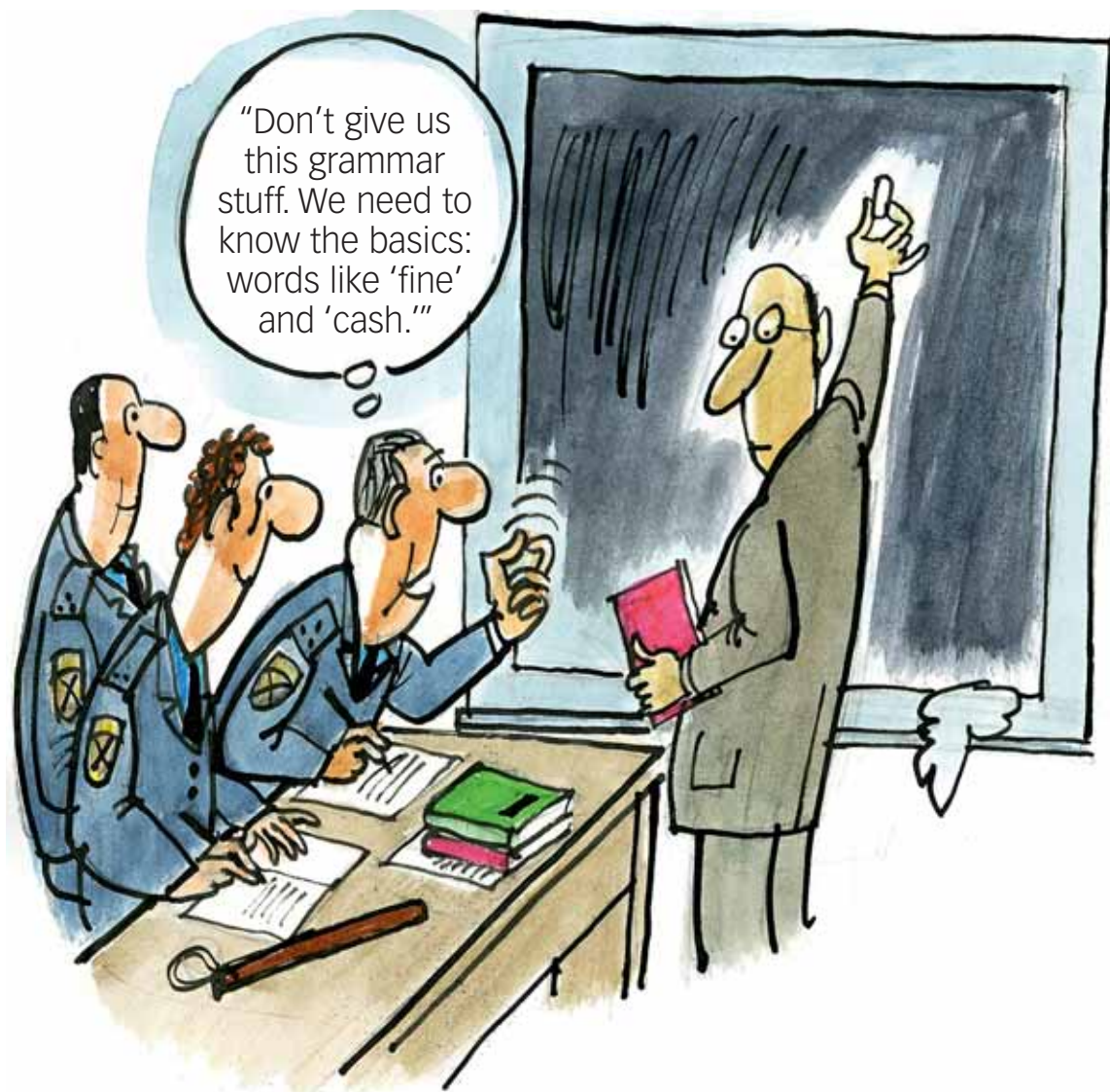
It would require a huge discount to bring import prices into line with those charged to households. Such a large price cut is unlikely.

A deal with Russia to reduce the gas-import price will not solve the long-term issues of financial imbalances and waste in Ukraine's gas sector. Raising the gas price for households will aid the long-term financial stability of state energy company Naftogaz, which currently sells gas to households and heating companies at below cost price, with the losses covered by the government.

It will also encourage consumers to use gas and heating more efficiently, as opening a window instead of turning the heat down will soon seem like an unnecessary expense.

Undoubtedly, there are many in the population who cannot afford such a rise in prices. For this reason, the government needs to introduce targeted subsidies for the poorest members of society, rather than supporting everyone, including the well-off, with a blanket subsidy.

If this is correctly and fairly implemented and explained, the political damage to President Viktor Yanukovich and his ruling Party of Regions will be minimized. If not, Ukraine will continue to face problems each year balancing Naftogaz's books or be forced into making unappealing concessions to Russia to regain a lost era of cheap gas.



**NEWS ITEM:** Ukraine's Interior Ministry announced on Nov. 8 that it plans to teach 27,000 officers to speak English by June, when Ukraine and Poland co-host the Euro 2012 football championships that will draw hundreds of thousands of tourists. Most of the officers will take three-month courses, the ministry said. Such pronouncements provoke an avalanche of jokes that all the notoriously corrupt police need to know is how to ask for a bribe.

## Back Story: Looking for a worthy legacy



MICHAEL WILLARD

Don't blame Alexander Hamilton for the calamitous shape of today's world economy. He was founder of the first national bank as America's treasury secretary, but he died a man of modest means while engaged in a dual with a well-to-do vice president in July 1804.

Before Aaron Burr's fatal bullet, however, Hamilton managed to survive America's first real political sex scandal and trumped up charges he misused his position. An imperfect founding father, his legacy is still that of a towering giant. Perhaps only America's first president, George Washington, outshines him. But that's a judgment call.

Stay with me as I pursue this line of thinking. It is relevant to the following Ukraine politicians:

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, and former presidents Viktor Yushchenko, Leonid Kuchma and Leonid Kravchuk, not to mention current Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, jailed former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, and lesser but notable lights that glittered momentarily and faded.

All of these leaders will eventually pass from the scene – but none, most likely, will have a favorable legacy unless there is a sea change that leads to momentous transformation. We're not talking slapping on wallpaper, but rebuilding load-bearing walls.

→ Doing the right thing feels good and will make your nation and children proud

But first, let me somersault back to bankers and the fellow on the \$10 bill, the West Indies-born Hamilton. He did, indeed, start it all. But I don't think he ever envisioned a Goldman Sachs or a Citibank betting against its own customers. If this greed wasn't illegal, it was damned immoral.

I don't think for one moment Hamilton's fertile financial brain could ever consider a scheme as ill-conceived and complex as some good mortgages being packaged with a basket of bad ones and re-selling them several times over to financial institutions around the world.

Given his financial circumstances at the time, no one ever could call Hamilton money-grabber. He was a great lawyer, but he made relatively little at law, preferring to represent many without charge.

What would I as a fairly recently appointed Kyiv Post CEO, but a self-acknowledged public relations specialist recommend to the financial community today? Listen → **15**

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# Uniting Europe



VASYL FILIPCHUK

Ukraine's government takes pride in the pragmatic character of its relations with the European Union. Clearly, there have been times when this relationship was more filled with mutual compliments than now.

But there have never been times when Ukraine and the EU were more focused on substance. And there have never been times when Ukraine's chances to build a reliable, mutually beneficial and future-oriented relationship with the EU were as good as they have been in the run-up to concluding the association agreement.

Despite pessimistic comments on what is going on inside of the EU or in Ukraine, I am of the strong opinion that there are good reasons for optimism about Ukraine's European prospects. One of them is the tangible progress achieved over the last year on the future of a visa-free regime.

As we all know, while stating that Ukraine's future is clearly in the United Europe, Kyiv and Brussels have had their disagreements on how fast and in which form this future would materialize. Yet aside from discussions on membership, there have been a number of points on which both sides were quite unanimous. In particular, upon completion of the so-called "homework," Ukraine should enjoy the four freedoms on which the project of a united Europe is based: the free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

There is a reason why the free movement of people tops that list. If you ask an average Ukrainian why he or she wants Ukraine to be in Europe in the first place, the answer most probably will be – to travel freely. The very existence of the long and humiliating lines in front of the EU embassies in Kyiv is detrimental to national self-respect. Therefore any kind of visa relaxation on the part of the EU (and ultimately – a visa-free regime) is a matter of prior importance to Ukrainian voters. And because of that – it's a matter of political priority to Ukraine's government.

It has been almost a year since Ukraine and the EU concluded the seminal action plan on visa-liberalization with the EU. Ukraine's overall record from these months is very good. We joined four international conventions, membership to which was a major pre-



Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili (L), Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev (C) and Ukraine's President Viktor Yanukovich speak prior to a session at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Warsaw on Sept. 30. (AFP Photo/Janek Skarzynski)

requisite to any further progress on the issue. Eleven necessary laws have been passed by the parliament.

Ukraine adopted six strategic concepts and action plans pertaining to visa facilitation. The State Migration Service and the State Service for Personal Data Protection have been created. The only thing nation's parliament has to do is to approve a good law on biometric passports.

Every one of these steps has been discussed for years. Yet it now until now, when Ukraine's government is consolidated and streamlined, that they could be made. Quite predictably, Ukraine's progress in implementing the first (legislative) phase of the action plan was graded by the EU as good in issues of public order and security and very good in the issues related to illegal migration and readmission.

Of course, Ukraine still has a lot to accomplish. In particular, more progress is needed in anti-corruption prevention of discrimination campaigns. But the most important thing is that after years and years of "talking the talk" we got the ball rolling. And in appreciation of that the EU seems ready to no longer describe the visa-free perspective as a long-term one.

Clearly, is a difficult time for the EU to talk about a visa-free regime. Euro-sceptics win one election after another. The euro-zone seems entangled between North's and South's mental discrepancies vis-a-vis fiscal discipline. The Schengen zone borders rattle under the pressure from North Africa. Isolationist moods are on the rise. Europe's xenophobic devils rejoice the advent of their blood-thirsty prophet from Oslo.

The very fact that the wheels of Ukraine's EU integration keep rolling amid this unfavorable environment is due to the pragmatism of Ukraine's approach and its readiness to do the homework. The second factor (not to sound too boastful though) is that Ukraine is an essential asset to a united Europe.

After all, wouldn't the word "united" be misplaced here, unless the largest (and, as of now, perhaps the most euro-optimistic) country of Europe becomes an integral part to the unification project? Eliminating lines in front of the EU embassies in Kyiv would be a major step forward in making Europe united – in deed, not just in word.

*Vasyl Filipchuk is the director of the policy and security department of Ukraine's Foreign Ministry.*



VOX populi

WITH ANASTASIA FORINA

What do you think about the recent claims by President Viktor Yanukovich that unknown people are making mass purchases of weapons and are preparing to attack the authorities?



**Oleg Lazarenko,** surgeon  
"The [authorities] ... are true gangsters. They are impudent and indifferent to ordinary people."



**Oleksandr Sych,** engineer  
"I don't believe in what he's saying. He's talking nonsense. That could be done

to head the people off from more important things."



**Oleh Bondarenko,** scientist  
"I've heard Yanukovich's claims, but I have no idea who, where

and why [anyone] is buying weapons in Ukraine. It could be a way to increase pressure against the opposition, I suppose. Yanukovich's government is not much better than the previous one, I must say."



**Svitlana Ignatenko,** retiree  
"To tell the truth, I don't know anything about that situation with the weapons. That can't

be true. They [authorities] just want to take people's minds off many other problems that Ukraine is facing now."



**Oleh Arnautov,** worker  
"If he's afraid of something, there is a reason for that. But his claims are baseless. I've not seen

any armed man so far as well as any weapon-buying craze."

## A chance for compromise



MARYNA STAVNIYCHUK

There is now a chance that the political deadlock around the law on parliamentary election will be solved. Parliament earlier this month found rare consensus to vote to create a temporary special commission to draft a new law on elections.

The Venice Commission and other international experts have repeatedly told Ukraine that the rules for elections have to be created openly, and based on public debate, and have wide political support to guarantee public trust in the election and its result.

As a presidential adviser and a member of the Venice Commission, I have been making this point for the last year while the law was being drafted.

Parliament will make a final decision on the election system, and the president agrees with this point. Therefore, the fact that several competing drafts have been submitted is also positive.

The 2012 parliamentary election can potentially be based on one of three systems: a new mixed system; a proportional system based on the current election legislation as recommended by the International Foundation for Electoral Systems; and the proportional system based on open regional lists as recommended by a resolution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Venice

Commission and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's election body, ODIHR.

The latter is clearly the best option for Ukraine. This system gives us a chance to minimize the flaws of proportional representation with closed party lists which Ukraine had in 2006 and 2007, and leave behind the flaws of the majority system that were evident in the 1998 and 2002 elections and the 2010 local elections.

It will contribute to structuring political forces (and later parliament itself), will personalize the choice, and allow for the most adequate representation. We can even say that there will be less corruption during the election.

Understandably, like any new idea, this one is accepted with difficulties both in society and among politicians. Yet a national expert poll conducted by the Civic Consortium of Election Initiatives has shown that it has the greatest number of supporters among election experts.

However, the political preferences are different. The majority of parliament favors a mixed election system, where half of parliament is elected in majority constituencies, and half through proportional representation. At the same time, the opposition insists on closed lists.

I have to note that the elections of 2006 and 2007 were recognized as democratic not thanks to, but despite the use of this system. Its flaws have been consistently criticized both at home and abroad.

The parliamentary majority's draft law has the greatest chance to become the basis of a new law. If that turns out to be the case, then parliament's

main task is a thorough analysis and improvement of the procedural part of the draft that would take into account the conclusions if the Venice Commission and IFES, as well as our own experience.

### What not to do

In its better times the Constitutional Court set the principles of good elections. Hence the opposition's drafts, which contain deliberately unconstitutional proposals, are unacceptable. This includes the right of candidates to run in both a majority constituency and on the party list; deprivation of voters living abroad to elect deputies in majority constituencies; establishing different deadlines for nomination and registration of candidates in the single mandate and majority constituencies. The Constitutional Court ruled such practices to be illegal in 1998.

Also, Ukraine's Constitution guarantees free elections, therefore none of the drafts should contain clauses to the contrary. Therefore the proposal in the majority's draft to set zero financing for election campaign, in my opinion, significantly reduces chances that election will be free. Reducing the levels of protection of ballots and opportunities to challenge the results can also lead to violations.

It's also inadmissible to leave some electoral issues and procedures unregulated by the new law, proposing instead to either draft other laws to supplement it or to leave it up to the Central Election Commission. This primarily concerns the formation of election districts and polling stations.

It's also unjustified (to say the least) to make a law on election while conducting the 2012 election → 15

Vox Populi is not only in print, but also online at kyivpost.com with different questions. If you have a question that you want answered, e-mail the idea to kyivpost@kyivpost.com.

# Pinchuk launches new steel mill with \$700 million investment

BY MARK RACHKEYVCH  
 RACHKEYVCH@KYIVPOST.COM

A \$700 million greenfield investment by billionaire Viktor Pinchuk will soon bring Ukraine – already one of the world's top 10 metals producers – its first brand new steel mill of significant size since Soviet times.

Pinchuk's Interpipe, a global top 10 steel pipes and railway wheel producer with most of its factories in Dnipropetrovsk Oblast, said construction of the energy-efficient Dniprostal (Dniprosteel) electric arc steel furnace which first commenced several years ago is winding up.

Company officials said that cold testing – testing of equipment in idle operation – has already started at the Dnipropetrovsk-based steel smelting plant.

"The beginning of these cold tests demonstrates that we have made another step towards the realization of a large-scale project," said Alexander Kirichko, general director of Interpipe.

"For our company it is a new step in the testing of equipment. For the country, it is a principally new method of metallurgical production."

A formal launch is scheduled for March of next year with production levels gradually being churned up to 13 million tons of steel per annum by 2014.

Not only does the plant stand out



Construction workers are engaged in the last stage construction work at Interpipe's brand new Dniprostal steel plant. (Courtesy)

in the nation's sea of open hearth furnace steelmakers, it also will reduce dependence on increasingly expensive natural gas imports from Russia.

Italy's Danieli, a leading producer of metallurgical turn-key equipment and technology, was hired in 2007 to build the mill. It will consume eight times less natural gas per metric ton of steel than Soviet-built gas-guzzling steel furnaces.

That's good news for Pinchuk, con-

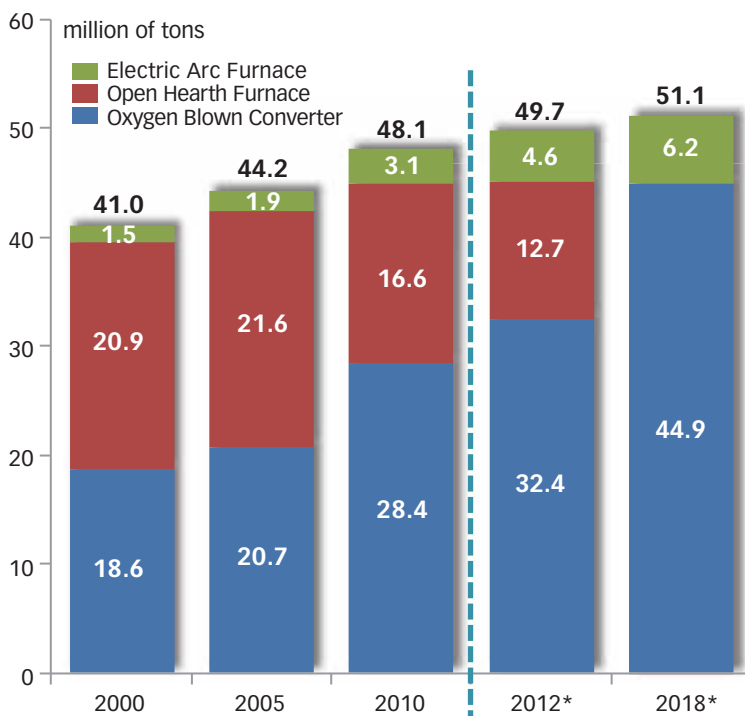
sidering that Ukraine currently pays about \$400 for 1,000 cubic meters of gas imported, up from \$95 in January 2006. But his big capital expenditure into Dniprostal is just a drop in the bucket overall for Ukraine's metallurgical sector, where a dozen factories churn out between 35 and 40 million tons of steel annually.

The World Steel Association says that electric furnaces account for only 4.5 percent of steel production in Ukraine compared to 44 percent in the European Union and 27 percent in Russia. Steel produced with basic oxygen furnaces account for 69 percent of steel production in Ukraine while 26 percent is produced using obsolete open hearth furnaces. And this not only adds to Ukraine's \$10 billion-dollar annual gas import bills, it also reduces the quality and competitiveness of the nation's steel on global markets.

Interpipe's cost of producing steel billets using electric arc technology is about \$100 per ton less expensive compared to its open hearth furnace, said Oleksandr Makarov, steel analyst at Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital.

"The cost saving...includes 2.2 times

## How Ukraine makes steel



\* Forecast

Source: Metallurgprom Production-Economic Association

lower energy consumption, lower melting loss, and four-fold higher working efficiency," said Makarov.

Dniprostal will gradually replace an open hearth production facility in Dnipropetrovsk operated by Pinchuk's Interpipe, reducing dust emissions by 2.5 times. The electric arc furnace will also lower noise levels to municipal levels and reduce industrial waste into the nearby Dnipro River.

The only drawback is access to enough scrap iron, the primary input used in electric arc furnace steelmaking yet not abundantly available in Ukraine.

"This is a major problem," said Dragon's Makarov.

The investment bank expects Dniprostal will receive 30-40 percent of its scrap from pipe making subsidiaries. "In addition, Interpipe plans to expand its scrap collecting network by establishing new sites in seven

regions."

Interpipe said that the new mill completes the company's vertical integration, in turn boosting efficiency and margins.

Pinchuk gained control over a handful of steel pipe factories now consolidated into Interpipe when Leonid Kuchma, his father-in-law, served as Ukraine's president from 1994 through 2005.

The group expects to generate nearly \$2 billion in revenue this year producing 990,000 tons of pipes and 190,000 tons of forged railway wheels.

Sales are largely concentrated in the CIS region, but plans envision that increased efficiency will boost competitiveness, helping it expand business in the U.S., Africa and The Middle East regions.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

### Three main technologies of steel production

The oxygen blown converter (OBC) process accounts for 70 percent of global steel production. In basic oxygen steelmaking, molten iron from a blast furnace is charged into a refractory-lined steelmaking furnace, and then oxygen is injected into molten iron at high speeds resulting in oxidation of carbon and impurities. The refined hot metal is then charged into a basic oxygen furnace.

The electric arc furnace (EAF) process uses generally scrap for 100 percent of the charge. Heat is supplied from electricity that arcs from the graphite electrodes to the metal bath. Furnaces may be either an alternating current (AC) or direct current (DC). DC units consume less energy and fewer electrodes, but they are more expensive. This process accounts for 29 percent of global steel production, according to the World Steel Association.

The mostly obsolete open hearth furnace (OHF) is a process of steelmaking in which the charge is laid in a furnace on a shallow hearth and heated directly by burning natural gas as well as radiatively by the furnace walls. This process accounts for 1.2 percent of world steel making, mostly in Easter Europe.

Sources: World Steel Association, American Iron and Steel Institute

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Computer visualization of what is billed as the first international brand hotel in western Ukraine, the Radisson Blu, which is scheduled to open in Bukovel on Feb. 1. (Courtesy)

## Posh Radisson hotel set for February start in Bukovel ski area

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO  
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

A decade ago nobody in the little village of Polyanytsia in Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast would have thought that it would host a five-star hotel with a famous international brand name. But on Feb. 1 of next year, the 252-room Radisson Blu will welcome its first guests to its hotel there, built to service the increasing number of tourists who are coming to Bukovel, the biggest ski resort in the area.

"This is the only hotel in western Ukraine that is internationally branded," said Peter Tichy, the hotel's general manager.

A 2 1/2-year building project by the time it opens, Radisson is only the managing company. The owner is Ukrainian and remains unidentified.

The hotel will have 252 rooms, more than 2,000 meters of spa area and five conference halls to be able to service a business audience in low season. The biggest conference room will be able to accommodate 300 people. There will be a fitness club, a range of health and beauty treatments, including a swimming pool and various saunas.

Unsurprisingly, "the prices will be around Kyiv prices," Tichy says.

That means a standard double room will cost up to 500 euro per night dur-

ing the ski season and up to 100 euro during the low season. The prices are high compared to competitors.

Bukovel Hotel, located in the same area, charges 50 euro for a standard room during the low season, and around 300 euro for the same room in ski season.

Anna Zhuk, a skier and regular visitor to Bukovel, says she will not be spending top dollar to ski in Ukraine. "I am sure that Radisson is a great hotel," she says. "But the price they offer is the same as in Austrian and Swiss resorts, while the level of service in Bukovel is still much lower. I would rather go to Europe for that money."

The new hotel's manager is not deterred. "We are not targeting people who will go to cheap places," Tichy explains. The target is "the Ukrainian upper class and hopefully Russian upper class or mid-upper class."

Tichy says he has been courting companies in Kyiv and inviting them to consider coming over to Radisson Blue Bukovel in the low season for their seminars, conferences and team-building exercises, combined with rafting, mountain biking, paintball and walking in the mountains. "The response has been 'At last!'" Tichy says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Daryna Shevchenko can be reached at shevchenko@kyivpost.com

# ISTIL Group launches satellite TV business

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH  
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

Viewing premium TV channels just got easier for Ukraine's more than three million free-to-air satellite TV households.

The Xtra TV brand this month launched an easy-to-access pre-paid card system requiring no lock-in contracts or additional equipment purchases.

Satellite TV users will now be able to augment their viewing with pre-paid cards that offer premium channels not offered through free-to-air platforms.

Xtra TV belongs to the ISTIL Group of companies, owned by United Kingdom citizen Mohammad Zahoor, who also owns the Kyiv Post.

"The cards are compatible with most decoders on the market so all a viewer has to do is insert the card into the decoder's slot and start watching," said Jim Phillipoff, ISTIL Group's media and telecom director who is leading the \$50 million project.

Xtra TV offers five different thematic cards ranging from films, sports and universal, to knowledge and children's packages that total 39 channels. Each package has, on average, eight channels.

The start-up cost is Hr 99 (\$12) for the access card good for 30 calendar days that has all the channels. Prices for one card after that will start at Hr 29 (below \$4) while the full package of channels will run Hr 89 (\$11).

"The market is ready but the question is how much people are ready to pay and for which channels ... but this move puts them into the top 10 providers," GfK's senior market researcher Tetyana Ilyashenko said in July.

Phillipoff said much market research was conducted. He noted that the company found a "right price" point.

The channels will be available on Russian-language audio tracks and, when available, in English such as National Geographic, Discovery, Eurosport, Animal Planet as well as others.

"Customers are free to choose and pay for each package as they wish," Phillipoff said.

Phillipoff said the cards are avail-



Jim Phillipoff, media and telecom director of the ISTIL Group, talks about the launch of a pre-paid card system by Xtra TV during a Nov. 4 news conference. The ISTIL Group also owns the Kyiv Post, among other media, real estate and manufacturing assets. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

→ Xtra TV premise: People want ease of prepaid service

able nationwide through a network of 31 large distributors and 700 dealer satellite installers at radio markets. He said 2,000 more dealers are interested in obtaining certification from the company to sell the cards.

Monthly card payments can be made at state-owned Oshchad Bank branches – the largest bank branch network in the country with some 6,000 – as well as through Ukrposhta outlets. Users can also order cards by dialing 759 toll-free that will be delivered to the nearest post office where they can be subsequently purchased.

Less than 3 percent of satellite

households, or 93,000 households, pay for satellite TV as of June, according to GfK Ukraine, a leading market researcher. The remaining 3 million satellite households use free-to-air platforms.

However, according to GfK Ukraine, each month 46,000 new satellite users enter the market.

Ilyashenko said the fastest growth of satellite TV households are located in rural areas where 50 percent of existing satellite TV users are located and where terrestrial TV signals are weak with no cable TV available.

NTV+ Ukraine and VisionTV, known under the Viasat brand, are currently the two pay satellite TV companies in Ukraine's market.

This is ISTIL Group's second foray onto the satellite TV market. Its first experiment ended in disappointment last year when the company wrote off Zahoor's \$58 million investment into the Poverkhnost digital TV project.

Phillipoff cited "corporate culture problems" with partners for the failed project, saying that it "wasn't the right formula."

Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

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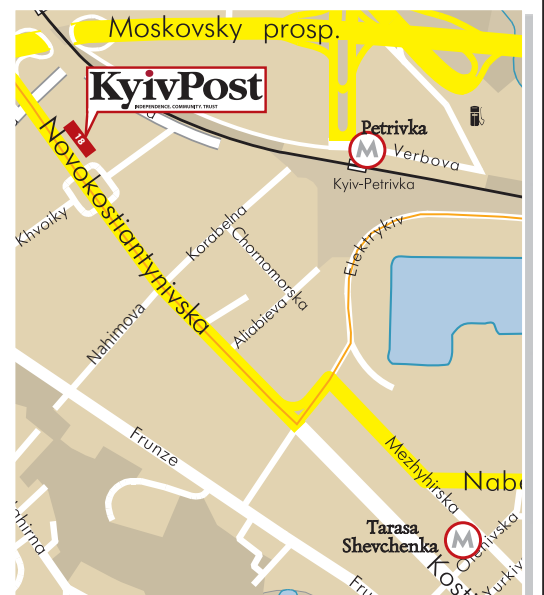
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## IT sector takes its orders from abroad – literally

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
[GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM](mailto:GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM)

In a spacious and colorful office in Kyiv's Lukyanivska district, nearly 200 young Ukrainians are locked in front of their computer screens, crunching computer code for a leading American e-commerce software developer.

The Kyiv-based subsidiary of Magento resembles the relaxed and creative environment at dot.com and IT companies in California's Silicon Valley. Workers are provided with free biscuits, jams and juices to keep the 24-hour software development process in motion. The kitchen area is designed much like a colorful bar or disco.

But don't be fooled by the informal atmosphere.

The Ukrainian programmers at Magento's fast-expanding Kyiv office – as well as budding branches in Donetsk and Dnipropetrovsk – are engaged in a serious and lucrative business. They receive instructions from Magento's headquarters in the Los Angeles area about what kind of e-commerce software to develop.

"The software concept was designed in the U.S., but all the programming is done here," said Yevhen Shevchenko, general director of Magento Ukraine.

Why?

A decent programmer in Ukraine with 2-3 years of experience makes about \$2,000 per month, according to

Shevchenko. That's much less than a comparable programmer in Europe or the US would get. Healthcare packages and other benefits, if included, also come cheaper.

To capitalize on such a cheap option for quality software development services, Magento – which entered Ukraine in 2007 – plans in the coming year to double its Ukrainian workforce.

Magento is one of a growing number of global software developers that see Ukraine as one of the world's new hubs after India and China for skilled yet relatively inexpensive programmers.

The nation's billion-dollar IT industry has been growing annually at double-digit levels in the past decade, largely thanks to orders from abroad.

Often, the programmers are employed through subsidiaries of foreign companies, much like Magento does.

Fat software development contracts also go to thousands of highly skilled "lone wolf" programmers who operate in the shadows – unregistered and untaxed.

Dozens of large domestic software development companies employing hundreds of students and polished programmers have also popped up since the 1990s. Examples include Kyiv's Miratech and Lviv's Softserve.

Much of the world's Fortune 500 companies "to some extent rely on Ukrainian programmers for their software development needs," said → 10



Yevhen Shevchenko

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# IT programmers look to Germany for more business with opening of outreach office

BY OLGA RUDENKO  
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's IT Association has launched a representative office in Germany to help attract more software development contracts for the nation's talented yet inexpensive web of programmers.

Experts said the development could help Ukraine, which has in recent years sharply boosted export-oriented software development services in excess of \$1.5 billion, tap into a new clientele market. The lion's share of orders currently comes from the U.S., Canada and Nordic countries.

"In opening the representative office, we thought it would be foremost useful for small and medium companies, as big domestic IT firms are already fully loaded with orders coming from Northern America. Smaller companies are in need of new clients", said Igor Lisitski, the head of HUB Concept GmbH, a company, established by the Ukrainian IT Association to act as its branch office in Hamburg, Germany.

HUB Concept will organize events and meetings in Germany between representatives of domestic IT business and German companies.

"The first event is scheduled for February 2012. We'll take representatives of 2 or 3 Ukrainian companies, those that will be prepared the best by that time" to make proper presentations and proposals, Lisitski said.

Accuracy is essential, as reputation means everything in this highly competitive market. That is why Dmitry Belich, head of Ameria Ukraine, an IT company with long-term relationships with German partners, is still interested in working the new Ukrainian-Germany IT representative office.

"I can't master this huge market alone. I need allies. It is important that Ukrainian companies do not make any mistakes at this market level, because after we make one, it is very hard to regain a good image again and make clients trust you,"



Igor Lisitski

he said.

According to Belich, the German IT market is estimated to be worth 14.6 billion euros annually, with 6 billion euros of the work being outsourced to software developers in other countries.

With so much money up for grabs, the stakes are high for Ukraine.

"Germans are very careful about giving the chance of developing software for their expensive business to someone they don't know. So our mission is to make them trust our IT companies, instead of trying to steal our IT specialists," said Lisitski. "What they are afraid of is poor discipline. They know that getting our specialist under their control will make him work most effectively. So we must care about our discipline here."

Ukraine's IT companies are sharing the cost for of promoting their potential in Germany. According to Lisitski, organizing an event for 20-30 representatives typically leads to two or three contracts being signed.

*Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com*



Programmers at Magento IT write code for an American e-commerce software developer. Hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian programmers are working for foreign clients and employers. (Anya Korbut)

# Nation's IT workers in demand abroad as Ukraine suffers

→9 Mykola Roenko, Miratech's CEO.

Roenko, who also heads the IT Ukraine association, said the country owes much of its IT success and potential to high level Soviet education and institutions.

Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv are currently the hotbeds for quality and quantity of Ukrainian programmers. Their salaries often exceed the national average by six fold.

## The darker side

There is a darker side to Ukraine's IT success, however. Experts say that it's a good thing, on the one hand, that demand and salaries are increasing for Ukrainian programmers. But unfortunately for Ukraine, most of the profits and tax receipts from the value-added work to globally-prized software products end up abroad, where the clients are located.

"There are hundreds of thousands of programmers in Ukraine, working in the industry and earning good money. But how much does it contribute to country's value added product?" asked Ivan Makushenko, vice president of the investment and banking department at Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital.

Makushenko said that most programmers who operate legally typically get paid for services. They pay a privileged tax for small entrepreneurs under the simplified tax regime. The subsidiaries they work for in Ukraine show little profit.

"The cost of the final product exceeds several times the costs of the outsourcing performed by Ukrainian programmers. As a result of this, Ukraine loses huge sums of money," Makushenko added.

Yegor Anchishkin, founder of Viewdle, a domestic IT start-up and owner of Zakaz.ua Internet software for online grocery shopping, said that two thirds of Ukraine's IT industry are operating in the shadows due to the nation's heavy and complicated tax system.

Programmers at Magento's Kyiv office (Anya Korbut).



It's the same unreasonably high taxation that suffocates much of small- and medium-sized ventures in Ukraine as opposed to the favored tax treatment for well-connected big businesses.

Some relief could be on the horizon in the form of tax breaks.

Government officials are talking about introducing tax privileges as an incentive to attract fresh investment and encourage the industry to pay more of its fair share of taxes on home turf.

Such measures could help to "legalize" the business, said Andriy Kolodiuk, head and owner of AVentures, a leading domestic IT investment company.

But critics say tax breaks will likely be applied selectively giving an advantage to a select group of IT investment projects that are being backed by oligarchs and government officials.

"There is an opinion in IT sector that those draft laws were prepared for a select group of companies where vested interests are at play," said Magento's Shevchenko. "Some companies just want to obtain a financial edge."

Brain drain is another problem. European and US companies are increasingly trying to snatch away Ukraine's top programming talent, offering business visas and immigration assistance in return for long-term

contracts. "It is very hard to staff a major development or IT project in the US," said Maxim Motovilov, the U.S. chief architect at Adstream Holdings Plc, which works with Ukrainian IT outsourcing firms.

Volodymyr Flioints, chief programmer at Kharkiv's Meta internet company, said the full potential of Ukraine's programmers is often not exploited by foreign companies who directly hire domestic talent through subsidiaries.

Often, they put Ukrainians to work at "factories that produce standard, pipeline product," he said. Programmers who opt to work for Ukrainian-based firms lose in wage but have the opportunity to develop their own ideas and improve their skills, he added.

Andriy Terekhov, head of the strategic technologies department at Microsoft Ukraine, said the nation needs to start developing more home-based "innovative products."

Another risk with hiring domestic programmers or developing anything within Ukraine in general, he added, is the very high level of software piracy, some 86 percent, and lack of protection for intellectual property rights.

*Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com.*



## Bypassing Ukraine

From left, French Prime Minister Francois Fillon, CEO of leading German energy company E.ON Johannes Teyssen, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Netherland's Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, CEO of Gazprom Alexei Miller and EU Commissioner for Energy Guenther Oettinger, officially opened the Nord Stream natural gas pipeline in Lubmin, Germany, on Nov. 8. They celebrated the first shipments of gas through the pipeline, which pumps Russian gas to Europe through a pipeline on the Baltic Sea floor. The pipeline cost a \$10.2 billion to build, but was seen as strategic for Russia in that it circumvents Ukraine, increasing Moscow's leverage over Kyiv. (AP)

# Young millionaire scores big creating computer games

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO  
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Computer gamers have a reputation as geeks locked up in their bedrooms and unable to translate their button-pushing skills into the real world.

Not so Sergiy Grygorovych, 33, the founder and chief executive officer of GSC Game World. Building on his passion for computer games, he became

a millionaire at the age of 18, created several games played across the world and turned his firm into one of the leading operations in Eastern Europe.

His strategy seems to have come straight out of a game: He started with the simplest things, practiced hard, got useful experience, then moved to higher levels and never gave up when something goes wrong, just restarted.

This simple strategy has taken him

to 150th in the list of the richest Ukrainians compiled by Forbes magazine in 2010 with an estimated fortune of \$32.8 million. He was nominated for Ernst & Young's Ukrainian entrepreneur of the year award in 2010.

Grygorovych, whose relaxed clothes make him look more like a young gamer than a top businessman, said the key to his success has been adaptability.

"You need to have a flexible mind, manage to find a way to overcome difficulties," he said in his quiet but confident voice. "Otherwise it's all fine, you can earn money here."

Grygorovych started his business career in the 1990s as a 12-year-old schoolboy renting out computer games to his classmates.

At first the price was 50 kopecks, but when demand grew the young businessman doubled it, making the cost of lunch in the school cafeteria with every rental.

"I was depriving my classmates of lunch, but they were happy," he said, adding that his business collapsed when once his pocket games were broken by some irresponsible leasers.

Then Grygorovych turned to selling floppy disks at the radio market in Kyiv, which allowed him to earn more than his father, an engineer.

His success put him off from pursuing a higher education, twice quitting universities in the first year of study. Instead he created his company GSC, the initials of his name, Grygorovych Sergiy Costiantynovych.

He had start-up capital of about \$8,000 and a new Peugeot 605, as cars are another of his passions.

"A person needs to start from what he already has," Grygorovych said. "Then you take this money and multiply it, and develop yourself simultaneously."

At the beginning, his firm digitized paper manuals and encyclopedias, which were popular the middle of 1990s as the Internet was almost unheard of in Ukraine at that time.

Grygorovych distributed his encyclopedias through a pirate chain, copying and selling about 20-30 of them per

→ A game set in Chernobyl became a global hit



Sergiy Grygorovych

month and earning from \$500 to \$3,000 for each one.

Then he started making computer games by borrowing ideas and improving other developers' products. This was a tough sell, however, as its legality was questionable, to say the least. That's why Grygorovych said his company wasn't able to sell its WarCraft2000, though he believed it was better than the one made by its original creator Blizzard Entertainment.

Cossacks: European Wars, the real-time strategy game that made GSM GameWorld popular, was Grygorovych's own idea and creation, inspired by Microsoft's Age of Empires.

Cossacks appeared in 2001 at the same time as Age of Empires, riding the wave of popularity of this kind of strategy game and achieving sales hundreds of times higher than expected.

"It was at the right time and place," Grygorovych said. "Microsoft was hugely investing in its game's advertisement, and we were making our game simultaneously and made it better," he said.

The firm reached a new level of success with the release of first-person shooter S.T.A.L.K.E.R. The game combines the plot of the novel Roadside Picnic by Boris and Arkady Strugatsky with the setting of the Chernobyl zone.

Grygorovych said the aim was to combine Soviet, post-apocalyptic and spooky elements in one game. It worked: The game sold five million copies worldwide.

The businessman said he thought the game's popularity stemmed from the alternative reality it offers. He

has since turned the game's plot into a book series and started shooting a movie.

Now GSC Game World not only develops games, but also publishes them, selling about half of its products to Ukraine and ex-Soviet states and the other half to the West.

Grygorovych said pirates were one of the main obstacles in the sector, stealing profits by making and selling illegal copies.

Another big problem he sees in the often "low moral values" of partners or staff. "I consider myself not a stupid guy, but I have been constantly cheated roughly every two years," he said. He recounted the story of one of his former employees stole a suitcase containing \$430,000 and escaped abroad.

He is now focused on further developing the S.T.A.L.K.E.R. game, creating a sequel, set for release in 2012.

"It's more useful to focus on one thing in the IT business than to spread yourself on various projects," Grygorovych said. "This way you can create the best stuff."

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at grytsenko@kyivpost.com



A screenshot of the S.T.A.L.K.E.R. computer game released by GSC Game World, which was founded by Ukrainian Sergiy Grygorovych.



GSC Game World's S.T.A.L.K.E.R. and Cossacks flew off the shelves and gave the company a worldwide reputation. (AFP)

November 18

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# Survey: Ukraine's high tech market shows rapid growth

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO  
IRKLIYENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Economic downturn or not, the demand for high tech products shows no sign of abating.

Ukraine's IT and office equipment market grew by 44 percent, in the second quarter of 2011 compared to the same period a year ago, according to GfK Ukraine market research company. This makes the market worth Hr 2.16 billion, or roughly \$270 million.

The most popular IT device sold these days is the portable computer. In 2011, laptop sales almost doubled, helped along by a significant price drop.

## Sales of IT and office equipment in hryvnia, million

	Q3-2010	Q4-2010	Q1-2011	Q2-2011	Q2-2011/ Q2-2010
Monitors	252	369	299	248	27%
Computers	435	622	451	473	46%
Laptops	1,300	1,781	1,542	1,229	51%
Multi-functional devices	149	214	179	132	30%
Printers	78	111,8	84,1	74,8	18%
Scanners	9.1	9.5	7.0	7.5	-11%
Total	2,223	3,107	2,562	2,164	44%

Source: GfK Ukraine

## Sales of telecommunications in hryvnia, million

	Q3-2010	Q4-2010	Q1-2011	Q2-2011	Q2-2011/ Q2-2010
Faxes	8	10	8	8	10%
Mobile phones	1,430	1,592	1,312	1,058	-11%
Smart phones	428	612	619	566	122%
Landline phones	35	53	44	28	-3%
Total	1,902	2,267	1,983	1,659	12%

Source: GfK Ukraine

"When there's an offer on the market of Hr 2,500 for a laptop, it's a ridiculously low price," said Valentyna Pechonchyk, an analyst from GfK Ukraine.

Although more affordable prices are helping drive the increase in sales, the market remains far from saturated in Ukraine.

Laptop computers are the top sales item at Comfy electronics retail stores in Ukraine. Olha Royenko, a spokesperson for Comfy, said that the variety of laptops is also stimulating demand. Tablet PCs are currently the hottest product in the computer segment, coming second in sales. The tablets have all the personal computer functions

and more, only with less weight and a smaller size, making it a hit with consumers who want mobility.

"This segment is growing rapidly," GfK's Pechonchyk said.

Tablet PCs, however, are somewhat expensive in Ukraine, with Hr 5,300 on average, or \$660. So far the tablet PC market share is insignificant in Ukraine, but that is likely to change soon.

Apple's famous iPad 2 is the most popular gadget among tablets, with almost a monopolistic 42 percent of the market share. Other popular models are Samsung Galaxy Tab and Acer Iconia Tab.

Despite iPad being originally targeted at younger people, it has become increasingly popular with professionals as well, Comfy's Royenko said. "Comfy had a number of corporate orders of tablet PCs from Apple for office use."

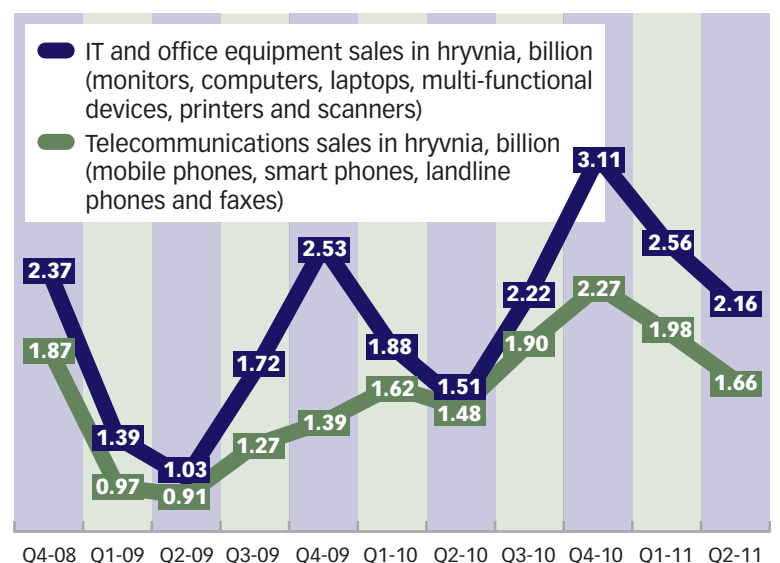
Apple's iPad is even getting noticed by parliament. One parliament member suggested buying 450 iPads for its members, arguing that it is cheaper than using paper. But bureaucracy dealt the idea a blow. One famous Ukrainian iPad user is ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Tablet PCs are a strong competitor of notebooks, which have similar advantages to tablets in portability, but come in the form of a laptop and without a touch screen. Notebooks trump tablets in price, but nonetheless sales declined by 23 percent in the period measured by GfK.

The march toward more mobile, more universal technologies is continuing. For instance, consumers don't have to buy a printer, scanner and copier separately – they can be found in one product at a lower price.

"People prefer buying multifunc-

## Sales dynamics of IT, office equipment and telecommunications



Source: GfK Ukraine

tional devices for almost the same money as one function devices cost," explained GfK's Pechonchyk. Sales of multi-functional devices grew by 30 percent, while, for example, sales of scanners decreased by 11 percent.

The trend for greater functionality has also spread to mobile phones. People continue switching to smart phones with more functions and possibilities than regular mobile phones. Their market share increased from 18 percent to 35 percent.

"Smart phone's market share indeed grows swiftly but, at the same time, in absolute numbers the mobile phone's share is much bigger," Royenko pointed out.

Sales of landline phones have dropped since 2000 as their use decreases in homes, but office demand remains high.

Another new arrival to Ukraine is 3D technology, from cinemas to monitors. So far the 3D monitor market share accounts for 2 percent.

And, even if the world slips back into recession, high-tech products are in their high sales season. "In retail the most active period in terms of sales is from September until January," Royenko said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Maryna Irkliyenko can be reached at irkliyenko@kyivpost.com.

# Court orders arrest warrant for Mykola Melnychenko

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV  
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

A Kyiv court on Oct. 18 issued an arrest warrant for Mykola Melnychenko, the former presidential security guard who claims to have secretly recorded conversations that allegedly implicate ex-President Leonid Kuchma and other top officials in murder and other serious crimes.

The development comes days after Prosecutor General Viktor Pshonka said that authorities are searching for Melnychenko, who they say is under investigation for treason but went missing this autumn.

"There is an international search warrant for Melnychenko, who is evading the investigation," Yuriy Boychenko, spokesperson for the general prosecutor's office, told Interfax-Ukraine news agency on Nov. 10.

A controversial figure, Melnychenko claims that his recordings caught Kuchma and Volodymyr Lytvyn, his former chief of staff and current parliament speaker, engaging in criminal activities, including a plot to kill Ukrainian journalist Georgiy Gongadze on Sept. 16, 2000.

Kuchma was charged earlier this



Mykola Melnychenko

year with exceeding his authority by giving orders that led to the murder of Gongadze.

Kuchma and Lytvyn have repeatedly denied such allegations and dismiss Melnychenko's credibility.

In an Oct. 13 telephone interview with the Kyiv Post, Melnychenko said he fled to the U.S. in early October after receiving information that his life was threatened. His current whereabouts are unclear.

Kuchma's lawyers said Melnychenko likely fled to avoid justice, but the ex-security guard told the Kyiv Post that he is "not hiding from any investigation."

Melnychenko told Kommersant daily on Nov. 10 that he would come back to Ukraine to give evidence at Kuchma's trial despite the warrant. There is currently no date set for the trial.

Former police general Oleksiy Pukach is currently on trial for physically carrying out the murder of Gongadze, a case which has repeatedly been covered up and continues to haunt Ukraine.

According to Valentyna Telychenko, a lawyer representing Pukach's widow in the closed trial, Pukach has given testimony that he conducted the murder upon orders of superiors, insisting Kuchma and Lytvyn knew about the plot. But Pukach has given conflicting testimony, according to Telychenko.

Three of Pukach's subordinates were convicted in recent years of killing Gongadze and are serving prison sentences.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at onyshkiv@kyivpost.com.



### Ode to a murderer

A Nov. 7 photo shows the reconstructed monument to Soviet dictator Josef Stalin during its inauguration ceremony in the southeastern Ukrainian city of Zaporizhia. The first 2.5-meter monument of Stalin was unveiled on May 1, 2010, but was blown up on Dec. 31 by unknown persons. (AFP Photo/Dmitriy Onishchenko)

# Kyiv Post Employment Fair attracts 3,000 job seekers

BY YURIY ONYSHKIV  
ONYSHKIV@KYIVPOST.COM

On a sunny Nov. 5, dozens of people lined up for start of the Kyiv Post Employment Fair at the Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce.

The fair attracted nearly 30 companies and almost 3,000 people, a clear sign that qualified employees are in strong demand and that plenty of job seekers are out there as well.

Herman Ovcharenko, director of the SuperJob.ua portal, said there are more jobs on the market now than last year. "Our online job portal currently offers around 2,000 jobs, which is 30 percent more compared to November 2010," Ovcharenko said.

That trend should be welcome news for the nation's 404,500 officially unemployed people.

Those who flooded the fair's venue were overwhelmingly young people in their 20s or early 30s, either looking for their first fulltime job or trying to find better opportunities for their skills and experience.

Colin Burdeniuk, a director of rooms at the soon-to-open Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kyiv, was happy to see the big crowd. "I thought we would be packed by afternoon, but people are coming and coming, which is good for us," Burdeniuk said.

There is obvious reason for his joy. Fairmont, a Canadian chain with hotels in many of the world's capitals, is looking to hire some 300 people for its hotel in Kyiv. It is scheduled to open in March 2012.

This season, information technology specialists and sales people are in greater demand, said SuperJob's Ovcharenko. There are also plentiful jobs for engineers and production workers.

The revival of the country's job market was noted by Diamond Recruiters, especially well-paid, high profile jobs.

Anita Taraniuk, a recruiter at the Diamond Recruiters, said that job market is slowly reviving from the dead summer season. "Although there are more job openings now, many of them also get frozen after failure to find properly qualified personnel," Taraniuk said. "For instance, there are many jobs for sales managers, but it's very hard to find good ones."

Diamond Recruiters' job database includes 50 job offering now, with an average salary of Hr 16,000 monthly.

Compared to Kyiv's average monthly pay of Hr 4,000, or \$500, and nationwide monthly average pay of Hr 2,700, or \$340, according to the Ukraine's State Statistics Committee, such salaries are highly competitive.

But official figures don't give the full picture, since a good share of



The Kyiv Post Employment Fair draws a big crowd and 29 companies.

the nation's labor market is in the shadows.

Hanna Krupa, a young university graduate, said she has already spent a month in a job quest as an HR specialist and still can't find anything in Kyiv. Due to lack of experience, prospective employers are not even interested in hiring her for Hr 2,500, or \$310, a month.

Google, whose stand attracted most of the youth at the fair, seeks to hire employees while they are still in college. They offer them various internships and professional training opportunities to prepare them for a full-time job at the company by the time they graduate.

Despite a generally good start to the fall labor market, Diamond Recruiters' Taraniuk warns that the future is not looking very bright in some sectors.

"We expect that due to unstable political and economic situation, companies with foreign investment will start to wrap up their presence in the country next year, thus, shrinking the number of their employees," Taraniuk said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at onyshkiv@kyivpost.com



The Kyiv Post's Iuliia Panchuk and Olena Grisyuk help fair visitors at the newspaper's booth.

## → On the move

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**ROSTISLAV LEVINZON** was born in Kharkiv in 1965. He received a Master's degree in engineering from Kharkiv Aviation Institute in 1988, and completed a course in business and financial management in Israel in early 1990s. Before his appointment as acting director of PJSC "Univermag "Ukraina" on November 7, 2011 Mr. Levinzon was executive director on Ukraine and Russia in real estate development company Plaza Centers, subsidiary of Plaza Centers NV, a public company listed at New York Stock Exchange and

Warsaw Stock Exchange. Earlier, between 2003 and 2007, Rostislav worked with Ukrainian and foreign companies in the sphere of investment and credit attraction for further development of companies, restructuring, implementation of progressive international standards of company management and production, mergers and acquisitions, etc. From 1995 to 2003 Mr. Levinzon was deputy director general of regional sub-divisions of leading Japanese producers of medical equipment and materials GC Corporation and Osada Electric. In the course of his professional activity Rostislav actively cooperated with reputable international companies, banks and institutions. Rostislav Levinzon possesses extensive experience in the field of company management and, in particular, optimization of companies' operations and increasing their financial efficiency.

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ACC

# Real threats or just noise?

→1 president is truly fearful that attempts will be made on his life.

This isn't the first time that Yanukovich and his allies have raised the possibility of violent attacks and hinted at involvement of the opposition.

In June 2010, Yanukovich said there were threats to his motorcade from a sniper.

On Aug. 22, the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) arrested three people outside of Kyiv, charging them with allegedly preparing an explosion during Independence Day celebrations in Kyiv on Aug. 24.

Interfax-Ukraine news agency quoted an SBU source raising the threat of an explosion on Oct. 11 near the court in Kyiv during the announcement of the verdict in the criminal case against ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Protests against Yanukovich's policies are certainly rising.

Several thousand Chornobyl rescue workers, small business owners and veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan have several times protested outside parliament and government offices in recent weeks against social benefit cuts. On a handful of occasions, they have torn down the recently erected high metal fence around parliament and tried to get into the building, scuffling with riot police.

However, even the SBU and the Interior Ministry initially appeared puzzled by Yanukovich's words, saying in statements on the same day that they knew nothing about such threats or arms purchases.

It was only on the following day, on Nov. 3 that the Interior Ministry reported that this year they confiscated about 2,000 firearms, grenades, explosives and other weapons from people who kept them illegally. According to a police statement, the people who had these weapons allegedly wanted to use them to storm government buildings. However, what the police presented as a successful operation only raised additional questions.

Valentyn Nalyvaichenko, a former

SBU chief and currently an opposition politician, said law enforcement bodies should explain why they failed to prevent illegal dissemination of weapons.

He added that law enforcers still have not reported on whether they had neutralized previous alleged threats.

"The prosecutor general and the security services never delivered a report on last year's information that there was a threat to the president's life by unknown snipers on his motorcade route," Nalyvaichenko said. "If the police fail to show the results of their investigations on preventing terrorist acts, then those in charge are not professionals. They are scaring themselves, the president and the society with such information."

Others who worked with Yanukovich say that some around him may be trying to capitalize on the president's sincere fears.

Taras Chornovil, a lawmaker in the pro-presidential coalition in the parliament and a former close adviser to Yanukovich, said he does not believe there is any information on threats to the president, calling such reports "a joke."

He said the president has phobias which originate from the wild and lawless 1990s, when he was a Donetsk governor. Then, someone allegedly tried to poison him.

"Yanukovich told me a story that [back then] somebody tried to poison him then, but he miraculously survived," he said.

In a December 2010 interview to the Kyiv Post Chornovil said that Yanukovich "constantly believes that someone wants to kill him." He said that people close to the president might be trying to take advantage of this fear in order to manipulate him.

"Some people from his (Yanukovich's) inner circle try to take advantage of these fears," he said.

In the light of growing social protests, the opposition raised concerns that Yanukovich and the authorities might be trying to create provoca-

tions in order to tighten security in the country.

Andriy Parubiy, a lawmaker in the opposition Our Ukraine faction, believes the president wants to use the information on alleged threats as a premise for political repressions.

"This is a premise in order to strengthen punitive authorities in Ukraine, which would fight the political opposition. This can lead to new political repressions," Parubiy told Gazeta.ua website.

Foreign security analysts also suspect that reports of alleged threats might be used to justify Russian-style new security tactics.

Jeffrey Murer, a research fellow at the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence of the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, calls it a "common practice" when a government raises the specter of threats to justify a security crackdown.

"This is a very well established practice. It reminds of a tradition of articulation of 'dark forces' in Russian politics: the idea that there is an imminent threat from dark forces becomes a way for the government to justify new security tactics," Murer said. "Yanukovich's statement about the preparation to attack the authorities seems to be a preemptive justification for increased security measures."

Vitaliy Klitschko, the boxing champion and opposition politician, said those who make allegations of a possible coup being planned in the country should either give more details of who is planning this and take measures to prevent the violence, or resign.

"It looks like someone is trying to create a virtual illusive world, where economic reforms are going forward, but armed opposition is creating obstacles for improving living standards. And the only way out is to jail the opposition, which they are doing very well," Klitschko said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuriy Onyshkiv can be reached at [onyshkiv@kyivpost.com](mailto:onyshkiv@kyivpost.com). And Vlad Lavrov can be reached at [lavrov@kyivpost.com](mailto:lavrov@kyivpost.com)

# Ukraine is no safe haven for persecuted from abroad

→1 Other refugees aren't so fortunate.

"Very few representatives of Central Asian states, including Uzbeks, have ever received the status of a refugee in Ukraine," said Maksym Butkevych, a spokesman for the Kyiv office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to a UNHCR report, Ukraine deported 11 refugees to Uzbekistan in 2006 who were accused of involvement in the uprising in the city of Andijan that was violently crushed by the authorities. They were arrested immediately on their return and have since been imprisoned.

International human rights watchdogs such as Amnesty International strongly criticized Ukraine, accusing the authorities of violating the UN convention on refugee status. A number of Uzbek asylum-seekers are currently in detention in Ukraine awaiting extradition.

Butkevych said most cases of extradition from Ukraine don't even become publicly known.

Batyrov, 55, a former parliamentary deputy received a life sentence in absentia for his alleged role in ethnic conflicts in southern Kyrgyzstan in summer 2010. He was accused of inciting violence between ethnic Uzbeks, who make up 30 percent of the population in that part of the country, and Kyrgyz, which ended in hundreds of deaths on both sides.

He denies any wrongdoing and claims the prosecution against him was a politically motivated attempt to win favor among Kyrgyz ahead of recent presidential elections.

"They twisted it all like I was guilty," he said in an interview.

Batyrov has long pressed for wider rights for the Uzbek community, such as a special status for its language.

He said the ethnic violence between Uzbeks and Kyrgyz was sparked not by the hatred but by the politicians who wanted to use it for their benefits.

"Kyrgyz are peaceable people. This conflict was needed by those who stole in [former President Kurmanbek] Bakiyev's times or those who feared for their own seats" in government, he said.

Asyl Osmonaliev, a Kyrgyz journalist, said she believes Batyrov wanted to strengthen both the Uzbek community and his own political status, but instead became a scapegoat.

"Hundreds of people died, thousands were wounded, somebody had to be held responsible for sedition," she said. "Batyrov appeared to be a convenient lightning rod."

After he was blamed for inciting the violence, he left Kyrgyzstan and travelled for a year between Uzbekistan, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine and the United Arab Emirates, where his family has lived for the last nine years, to avoid prosecution.

He spent most of his time in Ukraine, mainly in Kharkiv, Sumy region and sometimes in Kyiv. In the middle of September 2011, he applied for asylum, only to be told in October that Kyrgyzstan had requested his extradition.

The request for extradition had been under consideration for a year, leaving Batyrov in limbo. He discussed his case with several Ukrainian lawmakers on parliament's human rights com-



Kadyrzhan Batyrov

→ Asylum seekers not always guaranteed protection in Ukraine

mittee and with ombudswoman Nina Karpachova. "Nobody told me anything bad, but I heard nothing concrete at the same time," he said.

Butkevych said Ukraine's authorities were facing a tough choice – to damage relations with Kyrgyzstan or violate international law – and so decided to play for time, spending one year considering the request.

"They decided: We will not give him refugee status but will also not give him to the persecutors, and will better wait until somebody else accepts this man," Butkevych said.

Finally, in October this year, Ukrainian prosecutors granted the request to extradite him, despite reports by human rights groups that Uzbeks detained over the ethnic conflicts had been treated brutally by Kyrgyz law enforcement bodies.

Prosecutors eventually withdrew permission to extradite Batyrov after UNHCR helped him to receive an offer of asylum in Sweden.

"Sweden granted me refugee status in 84 hours," he said.

Batyrov said he keeps in touch with the Uzbek community in Kyrgyzstan and hopes to be able to return home. As for Ukraine, where he wanted to launch a business, he still has hopes to receive refugee status here and return. This way he could indirectly provide help for the Uzbek community in Kyrgyzstan and it would be a good precedent, UNCHR officers believe.

"I feel more comfortable here [in Ukraine] than in Sweden or any other Western European state" as "it's one of the ex-Soviet Russian-speaking republics," Batyrov said. "But I don't want to stay in this suspense."

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Grytsenko can be reached at [grytsenko@kyivpost.com](mailto:grytsenko@kyivpost.com)

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# Stavniychuk: Seeking transparency

→5 on the basis of transitional clauses of the same law – the majority's draft suggests such a scheme for formation of election commissions.

The new election law should not regress from the achieved level of legislative regulation of the election process and the generally accepted practice. It should instead be a step forward toward international standards.

In this context I would like to point out a number of European tendencies in election legislation. One of these issues is guarantees for women to

stand in the election, which are usually achieved by regulating the quota to increase their presence in party lists. There are studies that indicate that failing to stimulate women's representation in parliament will cause a slide in their number from the current 8.2 percent to around 6 percent if a mixed election system is used.

I would also like to stress that as many remarks and recommendations made by the Venice Commission and IFES as possible should be taken into account during the upgrade of the draft.

Ukraine's president has pointed out that he will personally take this issue under his control, and I hope that the parliament treats these recommendations with full responsibility.

Both the quality of the new election law and the assessment of the election by the international community are dependent on that. We need to do our best to make sure the next parliamentary election is transparent and legitimate, and are accepted by the Ukrainian society and the international community.

At the moment the process of approval and the quality of this law are one of the issues in closing down the association agreement between Ukraine and the European Union. Politicians have to rise above personal interests and take steps towards the nation's European dream.

*Maryna Stavniychuk is an adviser to President Viktor Yanukovich and head of the office for modernization of law and constitution. She is also a member of the Venice Commission.*

## Willard: Doing right thing should not be rare

→4 up, it's free advice and you will emerge the financial leader of the 21st century.

Let's use Goldman Sachs as an example because they seem to need sound PR advice more than most anyone else in the galaxy. First, and this is no joke, I would recommend they pack hundreds of box lunches and take them to the "Occupy Wall Street" protesters.

Once everyone has broken bread, as they say, the CEO of Goldman Sachs, Lloyd Blankfein, should invite the press over and make a heartfelt apology to the American people (French, Spanish, Ukrainian, etc., as well) for contributing to the disaster.

Thirdly, and on the same day, Goldman Sachs should issue an appeal to the U.S. Congress to enact (re-enact) stringent legislation on financial markets. This, in essence, is the "stop-me-before-I-kill-again" strategy.

Finally, Goldman Sachs should issue a proclamation that it will never again make a financial contribution to the people who regulate them; and, at the same time, urge other financial houses and banks to follow suit.

The result: Goldman Sachs would become the world's most trusted financial institution overnight and position itself as the undisputed leader well into the future. They would also have secured legacy nirvana. Disney would make a movie about it.

What does this have to do with a gaggle of Ukrainian politicians who talk the talk on good government but when it comes to walking the walk appear as wobbly as a drunken uncle holding to a lamppost?

Everything, and it really isn't about public relations. It has more to do with historic immortality, and the fact that regardless of the money earned, saved or stolen, it won't stay with you past your autopsy.

The Ukrainian leader that does the political equivalent of what I recommended for Goldman Sachs – mainly becoming a good citizen – will, for starters, surprise the bejesus out an entire nation that will erect pigeon-proof statues that will last eons, not decades.

But there are practical reasons, as well, for doing the right thing.

Chances are no future leader will put you in prison on false charges. A grateful nation wouldn't let them. You won't retire to a palace you constructed with taxpayer money, but you would have a very pleasant sea-view home in Yalta to write your memoirs while raking in book advances.

But most of all, and this shouldn't be underrated, you will go down in history as the first – and so far the only – Ukrainian political leader to deserve a golden legacy. Your grand and great grandkids would be proud.

*Kyiv Post CEO Michael Willard can be reached at willard@kyivpost.com*

## Why the Kyiv Post?

"The *Kyiv Post* has been a good friend and companion for the years I have worked in Ukraine. There are some publications you read, even like, but don't necessarily trust. I trust the *Kyiv Post*, even when I occasionally disagree with it.

It would be hard to imagine a Kyiv without a *Kyiv Post*. As long as the *Kyiv Post* remains a watchdog for the community, an independent beacon of independence, and an aggressive protector of peoples' rights, I would urge all in the business community to support this newspaper. I know we will."

*Krzysztof Siedlecki,  
Country Manager, Astellas Pharma*

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**AutPab** (3/25 Kominterna St.)  
**Babuin** (10 Kominterna St.)  
**Babai beer Club** (4 Sofiivska St.)  
**Baraban** (4A Prorizna St.)  
**Bar BQ** (10/1 Horodetskoho St.)  
**BeerBerry** (17/52 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)  
**Belle Vue** (7 Saksahanskoho St.)  
**Belvedere** (1 Dniprovskiy Uzviz)  
**Bierstube** (20 Velyka Vasylykivska St.)  
**Bochka Pyvna** (3B Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.; 19A Khreshchatyk St.)  
**Bulvar Cafe/Shaliapin** (44 Velyka Vasylykivska St.)  
**Cabaret 'Paradise'** (5-7/29 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)  
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**Dim Kavy** (15 Khreshchatyk St., Passage)  
**Dom Bergonie** (17 Pushkinska St.)  
**DOUBLE COFFEE** (42 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho 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.)  
**Fellini** (5 Horodetskoho St.)  
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**Fluger** (18D Artema St.)  
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**Grandal** (24B Polyova St.)  
**Himalai** (23 Khreshchatyk St.)

**IQ bar** (25 Lva Tolstoho St.)  
**IL Patio** (112 Saksahanskoho St.; 5A Besarabska Square; 5/13 Naberezhno-Khreshchatytska St.; 57/3 Velyka Vasylykivska St.)  
**Izumi** (46/2 Moskovska St.)  
**John Bull Pub** (36 Saksahanskoho St.)  
**Kaffa** (3 Shevchenko prov.; 22 Saksahanskoho St.; 5 Skovorody St.)  
**Klovsky** (16A Mechnykova St.)  
**Korifey** (6 Horodetskoho St.)  
**Kraina Kavy** (5 Spaska St.)  
**La Bodeguita del Medio** (21/20 Yaroslaviv Val St.)  
**La Casa Del Habano** (13 Klovskiy Spusk)  
**Le Cosmopolite** (47 Volodymyrska St.)  
**Leo** (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 Hlybochytyska St.)  
**Mare Azzuro** (1/10 Bankova St.)  
**Metropolis** (12 Amosova St.)  
**Monako** (20A Velyka Zhytomyrska St.)  
**Natürlich** (3 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.)  
**New Bombay Palace** (33A Druzhby Narodiv Blvd.)  
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**O'Connor's** (15/8 Khoryva St.)  
**O'Panos** (10 Tereshchenkivska St.)  
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**Panorama** (3 Sholudenko St.)  
**Pantagruel** (1 Lysenko St.)  
**Pizza Vezuvio** (25 Reitarska St.)  
**Pivna #1** (15 Baseina St.)  
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**SAD** (2 Bankova St.)  
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**Shokoladnitsa** (53/80 Saksahanskoho St.; 48 Velyka Vasylykivska St.; 1/2 Baseina St.; 31/27 Bohdana Khmelnytskoho St.; 4 Lunacharskoho St.; 33 Dniprovskaya Naberezhna; 12 Luhova St.; 58/2A Artema St.)  
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**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 Horodetskoho St.)  
**Wolkonsky Keyzer** (15 Khreshchatyk St.; 5/7-29 Taras Shevchenko Blvd.)  
**Yakitoria** (27A Taras Shevchenko Blvd.; 27 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd.)

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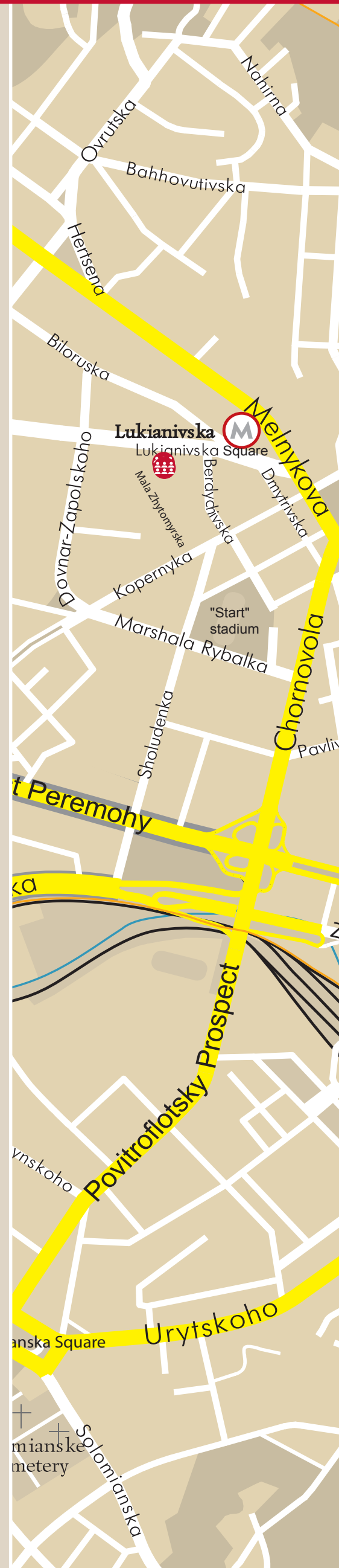
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**KMBS** (8/5 Voloska St.)  
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**Pechersk International School** (7A Viktora Zabiloy St.)  
**Runov school** (30 Velyka Vasylykivska St.)  
**Speak Up** (14 Kotsiubynskoho St.; 25B Sahaidachnoho St.; 4 Lunacharskoho St.; 136 Peremohy Prosp.; 14 Vasylykivska St.; 26 Lesi Ukrainki Blvd.; 3-a Hryshka St.)  
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**Eurasia Ukraine** (73-79 Zhylianska St.)  
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**Evropa Plaza** (120 Saksahanskoho St.)  
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**Horizon Park** (12 Amosova St.; 4 Hrinchenko St.)  
**Illinsky** (8 Illinska St.)  
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**NEWS ITEM:** Despite the government's repeated promises that Chernobyl liquidators, Afghan war veterans and other recipients of privileges and social assistance will keep their benefits, those and other groups continue to claim that the government is cheating them out of payments. Protesters have staged demonstrations outside parliament in the past weeks. They even went as far as breaking down a fence around the Verkhovna Rada twice, and storming the building on one occasion. The government lends credibility to the claims of benefit cuts. Deputy Prime Minister Sergiy Tigipko and Iryna Akimova, a top presidential economic adviser, both say the current benefits are unaffordable.



**NEWS ITEM:** With Ukraine's finances wobbly and fresh International Monetary Fund loans nowhere in sight, Ukraine's near-bankrupt state gas company Naftogaz was reportedly forced to borrow \$550 million from Russia to pay for the import of natural gas coming from Russia. Last year, Ukraine borrowed \$2 billion from Russia. Prime Minister Mykola Azarov is desperately trying to negotiate lower prices on Russian gas.



British singer Elton John talked about his charity project and gay rights the day after his concert in Kyiv (Anya Korbut)

## Elton John teams up with Olena Pinchuk

→ **1** boy named Lev after visiting an orphanage in Makiyivka with Pinchuk. Ukrainian authorities declared him ineligible to adopt because of his age and sexual orientation.

Pledging to visit the boy after the concert, John's first mission was to unveil the charity in Kyiv.

Ukraine has Europe's worst AIDS epidemic with 1.3 percent of Ukrainians above 15 infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, according to the United Nations. John's call to fight the virus in Ukraine coincided with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's speech in Maryland, the U.S., in which she called on world governments to create an "AIDS-free generation" in the world by 2015.

The British singer launched his anti-AIDS foundation nearly 20 years ago. In April 2010, together with Pinchuk, he set up a center in Kyiv where women can get access to HIV testing, psychological and legal counseling, medical help and even assistance for education and employment. Since its launch, more than 500 girls and young women have received help.

But there are tens of thousands more who need help. John met three or four of the mothers at the center. "They told me their stories, and showed me their courage, and I met their children, and I was incredibly moved by what they had to say," the singer said. He called it sad "when they are turned out of their families because of alcoholic or abusive parents."

He said there is still a stigma against homeless people, drug addicts and those who are HIV positive and have AIDS. "People are still ashamed to be tested, people are afraid to know they have HIV," exclaimed the singer. "It's disgraceful, people still have this 'oh, he has HIV and AIDS,' but it's not like that anymore. Hello, we've moved on!"

Getting women off the streets – by giving them access to medical care, shelter and support – gives them a chance for a new future. "These girls are not criminals, they are victims," said John.

A worldwide 64-year-old gay icon, he said that homosexuals also face discrimination. "They are just born that way, according to Miss Gaga," said John, referring to Lady Gaga's famous song about being yourself. "It's dangerous to be gay. It's dangerous to be gay in Ukraine. People get beaten up."

John lives happily with his male partner David Furnish. Together they are raising adopted son Zachary.

"I do matter, I do good things, I am a human being," John said. "All humans are born equal, all humans are going to die equal. And we are not treated equal during our lives. That is a disgrace, and I am afraid Ukraine is far behind the rest of the world. Wake up, Ukraine! Wake up to people rights, you are living in the 19th century! Get to the 21st century and start treating gay people as human beings!"

Kyiv Post staff writer Alyona Zhuk can be reached at zhuk@kyivpost.com.



Elton John performs during his Nov. 8 concert at Palats Sportu in Kyiv with his program "The Million Dollar Piano." (UNIAN)

A major contemporary art exhibit opens in Mystetsky Arsenal with Japanese artists leading in controversy →28



# Seniors look online for companionship



Olga Skibitskaya, a widow in her 60s, and Vladimir Horobets, 73, take computer classes at the Kyiv Institute of the Third Age. The couple stays after classes to study and later dine together at restaurants. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

BY YULIYA RASKEVICH  
RASKEVICH@KYIVPOST.COM

Women outnumber men in Ukraine by a million or so, a gap that widens with age. Since men have a life expectancy of 63, nearly 10 years less than women, romantic possibilities can be especially slim for older women.

But retirees have had much worse problems to contend with, including collapse of the Soviet Union, economic hardship and, for the oldest, World War II. And, since hope dies last, senior citizens in Ukraine are catching up with their peers online in learning how to find mates online.

While older Ukrainians use the Internet less than the younger generation, a simple online search returns hundreds of singles' profiles from peo-

→ Love knows no age or time, especially online, where a little searching can lead to lasting joy

ple 50 years of age or older.

Former police officer Nikolai, 61, joined the dating service almost a year ago by chance. While too shy to disclose his last name, the silver-haired man with a proud military posture admits that he had three serious attempts to build relationships with women he met online.

"I met women who I liked, even if they were from other cities," Nikolai

said by telephone. "We agreed that if we like each other, we'd move in together. But it never worked out. They were all nice and decent women, but... something was missing. A sparkle perhaps."

Many seniors can relate to Nikolai's situation. Out of 13.7 million pensioners in Ukraine, more than half are divorced or widowers, according to the Ukrainian Bureau of Statistics. And

most of them search for things that help fight loneliness: friendship, sex and love.

"I set myself a goal. I need to find her before winter comes," Nikolai said.

The former police officer learned computer skills at work. Others pick up perks of the digital age either from their grandchildren, who pass the knowledge along with old computers, or by going to a special university. In Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Volyn and Cherkasy Oblasts, city authorities opened schools for pensioners calling them Institutes of the Third Age.

"The most popular course here is computers," said Lubov Krutko, a supervisor from Alfred Nobel's Institute of the Third Age in Dnipropetrovsk. The school opened three years ago, offering seniors classes in prac- →22

**Food Critic**

BY YULIYA POPOVA  
POPOVA@KYIVPOST.COM

## Sensational Latin cuisine and late night dancing in Buena Vista

I looked hard around this Latino house to find a photo of Che Guevara, but instead spotted a nice Soviet fridge Donbas lurking in the corner. A proud witness of another era, it works really well with a palm tree on top and a large fan above – all generating an atmosphere of a relaxed Cuban backyard.

Restaurant Buena Vista, however, is not just about Cuba, although its menu with Cuban rice and Cuban veal, among other things, may trick you into thinking about Castro's land. Luckily, the eatery also stands for all other positive cliches associated with Spanish fiesta and Latin salsa.

Opened half a year ago or so, Buena Vista took over the premises of what had been Etno Tapas Bar, which never really lived up to its name. To rebrand, the new owners positioned a black piano in front of a large glass pane, introduced salsa nights and cooked up a cozy little menu to woo patrons. If you order stuffed squid (Hr 78), you will know why it didn't take them long to find a loyal following. Ham and cheese make home in a large well-cooked squid in tomato sauce sided by Cuban black bean rice with slices of bacon.

Cuban rice (Hr 53) is another winner in the mains section. It's a full meal with chicken, bacon, eggs, green peas, chick peas and a shrimp on top.

With a very short menu and its very distinct items, it's nearly impossible to go wrong. Picadillo a la Cubana, a traditional Cuban dish, is a feast of ground veal, potatoes, onions, garlic, Bulgarian pepper and olives on the side for Hr 57. I could swear I tasted chick peas – a rare ingredient in Kyiv – but the description of Picadillo did not mention them.

All of this can be enjoyed either upstairs – in a five-table snug lounge with a bar – or downstairs, a spacious dark-wood, pub-like room. Live music heats up the floor every Wednesday through Sunday. Happy-looking couples and singles flood every inch of the space.

Sadly, heavy smoking may prevent some from joining the dancing crowds. The smog quickly rises into the upstairs lounge (also smoking). Opening doors to let the fresh air in doesn't help, so prepare your coat for the dry cleaner's as soon as you leave the premises.

To help you sacrifice both your coat and the lungs, Cuba Libre, Mojito and other sensational drinks are on offer. I wouldn't recommend trying the wines as their tastes don't seem to match →22

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Fri – Sat, Nov. 18-19



courtesy

# Radio and Juliet

What would happen if you turned "Romeo and Juliet" into a ballet and set it to rock music? Dance choreographer Edward Cluge wanted to find out, and is visiting Kyiv with his bold interpretation of Shakespeare's famous tragic play. The new action of "Radio and Juliet" is accompanied by music from the British rock group Radiohead. The performance trades traditional decorations for light effects and video installations and is marked by the unruly rhythm of the dancers – reflecting the characters'

unrestrained passion for life. In the cast are six male dancers and one ballerina – all stars of St. Petersburg's Mariyinsky Theater and National Theater of Slovenia. Shining brightest are Anastasia and Denis Matvienko.

The first act will feature the classical ballet "Carmen Suite" to Bizet's and Shchedrin's music, followed by the Ukrainian premier of "Radio and Juliet," which has already mesmerized the audiences across Europe and the U.S.

**Fri – Sat, Nov. 18-19, 7 p.m., National Opera of Ukraine, 50 Volodymyrska St., tickets: Hr 70-2,000.**



Mon, Nov. 14

# Electrified rock from Orchestra

The cult classic rock group from the 1970s, Electric Light Orchestra (ELO) returns to Kyiv in its new incarnation, called simply the Orchestra. The concert is part of the group's world tour in honor of the 40th anniversary since their debut album. The band will be accompanied by the State Symphony classical orchestra.

Hailing from Birmingham, England, the musicians initially dedicated themselves to "classical" rock and quickly gained a large following. Hits such as "Ticket to the Moon," "Roll over Beethoven" and "Don't bring me down" are still popular even three decades later. Their music will surely fill any senior listener with nostalgia.

There are currently six members in the band, including two original ELO players. In 2009, they released an album "Zoom" in collaboration with Ringo Starr and George Harrison from The Beatles.

**Mon, Nov. 14, 7 p.m., Palats Ukraina, 103 Velyka Vasylykivska St., 287-7777, tickets: Hr 150-1,150.**

# More British rock

Hard-rock fans will revel in the concert of the explosive "Whitesnake." After a year of hard work, British rockers are bringing to Kyiv the long-awaited album "Forevermore," which is the group's 11th. After leaving Deep Purple, the main "snake," David Coverdale, founded "Whitesnake" in 1978, which started off with softer rock. However, later the group transitioned into its more recognizable heavy-metal style. The two most recognizable songs of the group are "Here I Go Again" and "Is This Love." Today, Coverdale is the only member of the original band.

**Sun, Nov. 13, 7 p.m., Palats Sportu, 1 Sportyvna Plosha, 287-8787, tickets: Hr 300 -1,000.**



Sun, Nov. 13



Until Nov. 27

# Days of Buddhist Culture

Most of November will be devoted to discovering Buddha's ancient cultural heritage. "Days of Buddhist Culture in Ukraine" project invites you to learn about the roots of Buddha's philosophy and teachings. The program is comprised of exhibitions, master-classes, films and lectures to help unravel the mystery of the culture which started in the Himalayans over 2500 years ago. The exhibition "Treasures of Tibet" honors the heritage of the Himalayan region by displaying nearly 300 original artifacts such as statues, masks, temple music instruments and home objects from Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and India. To learn meditation, don't miss a couple of master classes. And, the films will tell the story of Buddha's life, personal accounts of travelers to

Tibet and the life of spiritual leader Dalai Lama. A few Ukrainian modern painters have joined the Days of Buddhism to share their understanding of the Oriental culture through contemporary art.

**Until Nov. 27, Ukrainsky Dim, 1 Hreshatyk St., 097 013-72-58, for schedule of events go to www.buddhadays.in.ua.**



Until Nov. 18

# Alternative art

Aficionados of Kyiv's art auctions have a chance to prepare for future bidding or simply admire contemporary art in the new pre-auction show "Ukrainian Alternative XX."

This fall's auction will display more than 100 works of painters and graphics of the 20th and 21st centuries, including masters from such groups as École de Paris, non-conformists, the artists of the "New Wave" and others. The collection is uniquely valuable for art collectors, since the lots are rare on the art-market.

The top lot of upcoming bids will be large-scale "African Woman" by Valeriy Gegamyan from the 1980s (pictured above). Another hot item is the work of artist Diego Rivera's wife Marevna, who was also Picasso, Chagall, and Modigliani's muse.

**Until Nov. 18, auction on Nov. 19, Museum of Modern Art of Ukraine, 17 Glybochytka St., modern-museum.org.ua, tickets: Hr 5-15.**

Movies



Short film 'Na Wewe,' which means 'You too,' sheds light on the civil war in Burundi in 1994. (www.na-wewe.com)

GO WEST

Short film festival  
Language: French with Ukr subtitles  
Nov. 11, 14-16 at 2:10 p.m., 5:50 p.m., Nov. 12, 13 at 12:35 p.m., 4:15 p.m. and 7:55 p.m. Zhovten cinema

Produced in 2010, five high-flying short films from the Francophone world are being presented under the roof of Go West festival. "Pigeon Impossible" is a six-minute spy saga of how one unlucky agent tries to save the world from a hungry pigeon. The bird, not Tom Cruise this time, penetrates a highly dangerous nuclear brief case setting the agent on a romp through the streets of Washington D.C. In "Na Wewe," things are much more serious as the civil conflict sets Burundi people – Hutus and Tutsis – against each other. The rebels clash with a passenger bus and order people to say which tribe they belong to. This short has been nominated for 2011 Academy Awards. The story of "L'Accordeur" has won international acclaim as well for a compelling account of a depressed pianist who becomes a tuner. The musician pretends to be blind to get access into people's homes in order to tune their instruments. Once he becomes a witness to a murder. In "Je Pourrais Etre Votre Grand-Mere," a successful lawyer notices an old Romanian woman begging on his porch. He gives her a board with a sign "I could be your grandma," which makes passersby stop and think twice. In "Scissors," an odd young woman loses conscience in a construction store. By picking her up, Pierre gets himself into a funny romantic comedy about scissors, an old piano teacher and a discussion of what is normal.

BEST OF NEW VISION  
Short films festival

Language: Ukr with Eng subtitles  
Nov. 11, 14 at 3 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., Nov. 12, 13 at 12:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Kyiv cinema

After a successful ride at many festivals, nine short films from all over the world are showing in Kyiv this week. In "Swings," a couple tests their relationship in an amusement park. A taxi driver picks up a dangerous client at the foothills of the snowy mountains in "Norwegian Taxi." A 12-minute encounter of two strangers in the mountains lends a plot to "Tommy," a psychological comedy. Being constantly nagged by his stage director, a hapless actor can't get into his part of a policeman until he finds himself face to face with a real criminal in "Reincarnation." The only Ukrainian film on the program is "Loyalty": It explores the dark side of humans with the help of Dakh theatre actors.

IN THE HEAT OF THE NIGHT

Mystery thriller  
USA 1967  
Language: Eng with Eng subtitles  
Nov. 17 at 7 p.m.  
Master Class cinema

One of the best films in the 1960s, "In the Heat of the Night" won five Oscars but since then has aged a lot. In a small Mississippi town, a black sheriff teams up with a white cop to solve the murder of a prominent white businessman. A theme of racial tolerance runs through the film showing major setbacks in American democracy only some 50 years ago. The cops despise each other because of the color of their skin but must find common language to find the killer. Set in the black South, the movie was mostly filmed in the North because of troubles that other productions had with black actors.

MIDNIGHT IN PARIS

Comedy  
USA 2011  
Language: Rus with Ukr subtitles  
Directed by Woody Allen  
Nov. 11-16 at 5:10 p.m.,  
Kyiv cinema

Woody Allen's power to attract top-notch Hollywood talent is dazzling. His star cast in "Midnight in Paris" includes French First Lady Carla Bruni, Owen Wilson, Rachel McAdams, Marion Cotillard, Adrien Brody and many others. But whether their presence makes the film any better is debatable.

A young Hollywood writer arrives in Paris with his fiancé and her family. Enamoured by history-strewn neighbourhoods, he roams the city day and night dreaming what it would be like to live at the time of Hemingway and Fitzgerald. Incidentally, he's drawn into a time carriage and is able to meet all the famous artists who, it turns out, are also unhappy about their era. The film's morale is so obvious that some viewers may get offended by Allen's naive plot. If a younger audience, however, gets inspired to read the classics after the film, then Allen nailed it again.

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Reviews by Yuliya Popova

Live Music

ART CLUB 44  
44B Khreshchatyk St., 279-4137,  
www.club44.com.ua  
Concerts traditionally start at 8 – 10 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Angie Nears, Hr 50  
Nov. 12 44 Birthday Party  
Nov. 13 Soiuз 44 Jam Session, Hr 40  
Nov. 14 Bloomland, free admission  
Nov. 15 Pirata Band, free admission  
Nov. 16 Indie Rock Night, Hr 30  
Nov. 17 Without Limits, Hr 30

DOCKER'S ABC  
15 Khreshchatyk St., 278-1717,  
www.docker.com.ua  
Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Motor' Rolla, Partizanskiе Vytivky,  
Hr 75  
Nov. 12 AC/DC Tribute: Easy Dizzy,  
Horoshiy, Plohoу, Zloy, Hr 100  
Nov. 13 Nochnoy Kvarтал, free admission  
Nov. 14 Animals Session, free admission  
Nov. 15 More Huana, Hr 20  
Nov. 16 The Magma, Hr 30  
Nov. 17 Esperanza, Hr 30

DOCKER PUB  
25 Bohatyrska St., metro Heroyiv Dnipra,  
www.docker.com.ua  
Concerts traditionally start at 9:30-10 p.m.  
Nov. 11 AC/DC Tribute: Easy Dizzy; Red  
Rocks, Hr 100  
Nov. 12 Motor' Rolla, Rockin' Wolves, Hr  
75  
Nov. 13 Antytila, Animals Session, Hr 50  
Nov. 14 Rock-Heroу, free admission  
Nov. 15 Tres Deseos Latino Party, free  
admission  
Nov. 16 Tex-Mex Company, free  
admission  
Nov. 17 Pink Floyd Tribute; Ruki v Briuki  
Rockabilly Party, Hr 50

PORTER PUB  
3 Mazepy St., 280-1996,  
www.porter.com.ua  
Concerts traditionally start at 7:30 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Riders  
Nov. 12 Jam Stew  
Nov. 15 Ace Ventura  
Nov. 16 Ivan Bliuz  
Nov. 17 Tysha

JAZZ DO IT  
76A Velyka Vasylkivska St., 289-5606,  
http://jazz-doit.com.ua  
Concerts traditionally start at 8:30 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Tatyana Arefieva  
Nov. 12 Midnight Blues  
Nov. 16 Dmitriy Garkavenko

FREEDOM CONCERT HALL  
134 Frunze St., 468-3232  
http://www.freedomhall.com.ua  
Nov.11 Freespeechilo Show: Serega, Deti  
Kapitana Granta Band



Karl Frierson from De Phazz – special guest at the White Party in Dejavu, Nov. 15 (Ganna Bernyk)

DA VINCHI FISH CLUB  
12 Volodymyrska St., 490-3434  
http://www.2k.ua/restaurants/catalog/  
da\_vinci\_fish\_club/  
Concerts traditionally start at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Scotch  
Nov. 12 X-trio  
Nov. 14 Scotch  
Nov. 15 Retro  
Nov. 16 Renaissance Trio  
Nov. 17 Retro

DEJAVU  
30 Bohdana Khmelnytskogo St., 235-9802  
http://www.dejavu-kiev.com/  
Concerts traditionally start at 8 p.m.  
Nov. 11 Top Secret  
Nov. 12 Dvazhdy Dva  
Nov. 13 Soultime  
Nov. 14 Via Paradox  
Nov. 15 White Party: Karl Frierson (De  
Phazz), Acoustic Quartet  
Nov. 16 Via Melodia  
Nov. 17 Dendi

Other live music clubs:  
GOLDEN GATE IRISH PUB, 15  
Zolotoviritska St., 235-5188, http://  
goldengatepubkiev.com/  
TO DUBLIN IRISH PUB, 4 Raisy Okipnoi  
St., 569-5531, http://www.to-dublin.com.  
ua/  
PIVNA NO.1 ON BASEYNA, 15 Baseyna  
St., 287-44-34, www.pivna1.com.ua  
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Kontraktova Ploshcha, 463-7330  
KHLIB CLUB 12 Frunze St., www.  
myspace.com/xlibclub  
CHESHIRE CAT 9 Sliyarenko St., 428-  
2717  
O'BRIEN'S 17A Mykhaylivska St., 279-  
1584  
DAKOTA 14G Heroyiv Stalinhrada St.,  
468-7410  
U KRUSHKI 12/37 Dekabrystiv St., 562-6262.

Compiled by Svitlana Kolesnikova

Hosting a party or an event?  
Have a lifestyle tip for us?  
Have an opinion to express about  
what's going on in Kyiv?

The Kyiv Post welcomes tips and contributions. Please e-mail your ideas to Lifestyle Editor Yulia Popova, at [popova@kyivpost.com](mailto:popova@kyivpost.com). Please include e-mail address and contact phone number for verification.

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**FEMEN does Rome**

Activists with the Ukrainian FEMEN women's rights movement held a rally on Nov. 6 against the "misogynist policies" of the Catholic Church in Vatican City. One of the leaders of the movement, Oleksandra Shevchenko, got to St. Peter's Square and staged a topless action under the balcony of Pope Benedict XVI. She struck provocative poses and chanted "freedom" until police officers took her away. The protest came after a similar one in Paris, where activists held a similar demonstration outside the home of ex-International Monetary Fund chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn to protest his exploitative attitude toward women. (AFP)



The black piano at the entrance to Buena Vista restaurant is designed to put you in the mood for a night of Latin music and delicious food. (Courtesy)

**Food Critic: Sexy salsa and fiesta atmosphere at smoky Buena Vista**

→ **19** what's offered on the menu. Sauvignon blanc once arrived tasting suspiciously sweet; other wines on the list didn't live up to expectations either.

Desserts are a chapter for you to fill in, because only pancakes with jam and fruit were available until recently, which I never felt compelled to try. Buena Vista's Facebook profile

tells me now that Lemon Curd tart (Hr 32), looking every bit fabulous, has been added to the menu. Another solution for a sugar craving would be milk, chocolate and coconut flans (Hr 29).

Don't forget to bring cash to pay for the meals, as they don't take credit cards. And prepare for a long wait for service on a Friday night, because it seems like the whole city wants to squeeze in for that elusive feeling of fiesta and sexy salsa rhythms.

Kyiv Post lifestyle editor Yuliya Popova can be reached at [popova@kyivpost.com](mailto:popova@kyivpost.com)

**Buena Vista**  
8/14 Velyka Zhytomyrska St.  
Tel. 279-5127  
[www.facebook.com/buenavista.kyiv](http://www.facebook.com/buenavista.kyiv)

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**Seniors discover joys of online meetings**

→ **19** tical psychology, management, advertising and merchandising. There is no tuition fee.

"In our first year we had 432 students and our oldest student was 91." They graduate with certificates, new skills and most importantly new friendships, Krutko added. Learning how to use the Internet introduces elders to another way of socializing.

Sometimes love comes unexpectedly, from young students living in small towns and villages. Young women pursue older men, offering "pure feelings" in exchange for housing, said Nikolai, who lives in Crimea.

The former police officer said he turns down these kinds of offers: "Yes, I search not only for platonic love but also for a physical relationship. But I don't want to buy it."

Yuriy from Odesa, 63, who also shies away from revealing his last name, has a similar complaint. "A 43-year-old witch stole my heart, took my money and dumped me after we came back from vacations," he wrote in a message at dating site.

Detecting gold diggers is not the only problem. Another single, 70-year-old Yuriy complained that older women don't care about physical love and offer him pickling vegetables together instead.

The dating female online camp also has grudges to file. They blame 50 plus men for courting young models online.

"Nothing looks serious on this website," said Ludmyla, 60, from Beregovo. After six months online, she under-

→ **Here are some things that seniors do online: exchange cooking tips, search for love, get cheated and try to court young women**



On Nov. 9 senior students of Kyiv Institute of the Third Age learned how to register on Facebook and other internet skills. Computer classes, say Institute officials, became the most popular course

stood that "seniors are not interested in seniors" and created her own club for those "Who turned 30 ... twice." Calling it a social online community, which helps elders to get to know each other, Ludmyla puts the romantic pressure off her subscribers and encourages them to make friends before anything else.

"In the mornings we jog on the river bank. We also keep a healthy diet together and exchange recipes and perform gymnastics," said brunette Lyudmila, who like most other online friendly singles, is not willing to reveal her last name.

Nevertheless, online dating does sometimes end in serious relationships.

The story of Leonid and Iryna

proves inspirational for digital love newcomers. Iryna, 61, plans to move from Simferopol to Sudak, also in Crimea, to join Leonid, 69, in December. "Love knows no age, look at me," said Iryna, who celebrated her first anniversary with Leonid in October.

Kyiv Post staff writer Yuliya Raskevich can be reached at [raskevich@kyivpost.com](mailto:raskevich@kyivpost.com)

# 'We're No. 58' is not much of a chant for team's fans

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH and KOSTYA DOVGAN  
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM and DOVGAN@KYIVPOST.COM

The Ukraine national soccer team's friendly game against Germany on Nov. 11 marks a key moment in preparations for Euro 2012.

Not only is it the first match at the new Olympic Stadium, which will host the tournament's final and one of Ukraine's three group matches. It is also a chance for the blue-and-yellows to test their skills against the third-ranked team in the world and give fans a hint of what they can hope for in Ukraine's first ever major home tournament.

Ukraine, ranked 58th in the world, qualifies automatically for the finals as co-host with Poland. But there are major concerns about how it will perform given its recent struggles to score, never mind win games.

With four losses in seven games, coach Oleh Blokhin knows his team needs to turn its form around soon.

To make things more difficult, 10 players that Blokhin called up for the Germany match are injured.

"The team should have stability by now," he said on Nov. 8. "I can't do anything more in these circumstances. This isn't an excuse for a poor result, this is just a factual statement of what's happening in Ukrainian soccer."

Encouraging performances such as the last-minute loss to Uruguay in September, have been followed by embarrassing defeats like the 4-0 reverse against the Czech Republic.



The coach of Ukraine national soccer team Oleh Blokhin (UNAIN)



Oleksandr Aliev, Andriy Shevchenko and other members of the Ukrainian national soccer team train in Kyiv's Koncha Zaspas before their Oct. 11 match with the Italian side at Olympic Stadium. The game is broadcast at 9:45 p.m. on Inter TV. (UNIAN)

Limited to uninspiring friendly matches since failing to qualify for the 2010 World Cup, Ukraine has scored three goals while allowing 10 in five games against teams that have already qualified for Euro 2012, winning only one game.

In two losses – to France and Sweden – they allowed late goals after the 87th minute, both of which were decisive.

With just over 200 days left before official kickoff, Blokhin is still experimenting with his starting lineup. Bayern Munich midfielder Anatoliy Tymoshchuk is the only player to have

started in all seven matches since Blokhin returned to manage the team in April.

And with each additional friendly, new players are added to the starting lineup – 33 different players have started in the last seven matches, including four goalkeepers.

On Sept. 2 Illichivets Mariupol's Bohdan Butko debuted for the team's 2-3 loss to Uruguay.

Vorskla Poltava's 21-year-old Yevhen Selin debuted for the national team in their 3-0 victory over Bulgaria on Oct. 8.

And Blokhin called up more young talent in Roman Bezus to debut in the Nov. 11 and Nov. 15 friendly matches against Germany and Austria, respectively.

"I'm sure Blokhin has the core team in his head but he's calling up players who don't play regularly. ... It's still too early to assess the team's performance but team cohesion needs to be formed," said Valentyn Shcherbachov, a prominent sports journalist and television commentator.

Blokhin, a legendary Soviet forward and European Player of the Year in 1975, took Ukraine to the quarterfinals

of the 2006 World Cup – the farthest a post-Soviet team has advanced in the World Cup.

He resigned after the team failed to qualify for the Euro 2008.

Since losing a World Cup qualification playoff to Greece in 2010, Ukraine has played regular friendly games, but had no qualifying games where the pressure to perform is higher.

Retired player and coach Anatoliy Zayayev, who led Crimea's Tavria to its first Ukrainian championship, said it is hard motivating players for friendly matches.

"In Euro 2012 there'll be no weak or strong teams, so the players will have to start performing. They should be thankful to be part of the national squad. The qualities of having a fighting spirit and discipline need to be instilled," Zayayev said.

Experts predict Ukraine should advance past the group stage of Euro 2012 bolstered more by patriotic drive than technical ability. As a co-host, the team is seeded in the top group and should receive a favorable draw, avoiding top teams such as Spain and the Netherlands at the group stage.

"We know Ukraine doesn't play at

the top European level...it will rely on patriotic enthusiasm and Blokhin is the best person to lead this group in that respect," Shcherbachov said.

Blokhin has also admitted that time isn't on Ukraine's side. Euro 2012 participating teams have to submit their final rosters by May 28.

"We're entering the period when our sparring (matches) are approaching official status," Blokhin said in late September.

"It's a pity there's less and less than time..." he added.

And pressure to perform is already there.

"I think he (Blokhin) understands the kind of responsibility he's shouldering and that he has a Euro 2012 preparation strategy for the team," said Oleksandr Yaroslavsky, president of Kharkiv Metallist who has invested some \$300 million to ready his host city for next year's championship. "Is it the right strategy? Call me on July 2, 2012 (the day after the championship) and we'll discuss this."

Kyiv Post staff writers Mark Rachkevych and Kostya Dovgan can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com and dovgan@kyivpost.com, respectively.

## Oleh Blokhin's record is 3-4 since taking over on April 21.

Oct. 11	Ukraine	2-0	Estonia**
Oct. 7	Ukraine	3-0	Bulgaria
Sept. 6	Ukraine	0-4	Czech Republic**
Sept. 2	Ukraine	2-3	Uruguay
Aug. 10	Ukraine	0-1	Sweden*
June 6	Ukraine	1-4	France*
June 1	Ukraine	2-0	Uzbekistan

\*Qualified for Euro 2012

\*\* Euro 2012 playoff team



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# Greek Catholic monastery recalls saving Jews in war

BY NATALIA A. FEDUSCHAK  
FEDUSCHAK@KYIVPOST.COM

**UNIV, Lviv Oblast** – Observing a monastery nestled against a green hillside with its many pilgrims milling around, it is hard to imagine that this pristine place was the site of highly subversive activity during World War II in western Ukraine.

Yet during those years when the region was occupied by Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1944, Jewish boys were hidden within the walls of this religious commune in Univ, home to a group of monks from the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church.

Along with the handful of holy men who were the children's daily caretakers, three figures were instrumental in their safekeeping: Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky, the head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, his brother Klymentiy, and Omelyan Kovch, a priest from the nearby town of Peremyshliany.

November is a significant month for the church as it marks the anniversaries of both the metropolitan's death on Nov. 1 and his brother's birth on Nov. 17.

The concealment of Jewish children marks one of the most intriguing, yet often overlooked episodes of heroism during the war. Immediately upon their arrival in 1941, the Nazis unleashed terror on western Ukraine's Jewish population, murdering many people in the first days of their rule, frequently with the help of locals.

It was the "terrible lawlessness" of the Nazi regime that led to the effort to harbor Jews, said Ihumen Teodor, who today heads the monastery, known as the Univ Holy Dormition Lavra of the Studite Rite.

Metropolitan Sheptytsky, who had long enjoyed a friendly relationship with



This Greek Catholic monastery in Univ (Lviv Oblast) served as a hiding place for Jewish boys when the region was occupied by Nazi Germany from 1941 to 1944 (4jc.ru)

the region's Jews, abhorred the slaughter and turned to the Studites for help in saving as many children as possible, said Ihumen Teodor. The Studites were close to the metropolitan since he had fuelled the rebirth of this centuries-old religious society in western Ukraine.

Univ was particularly important because it was the main Studite monastery; with its large community of monks, younger boys would go unnoticed by authorities.

Furthermore, Sheptytsky's ancestors had long been associated with the monastery. His brother, Klymentiy, had lived at Univ since 1919 and became its head in 1926.

Because the Nazis declared that harboring Jews was a crime punishable by death, secrecy was paramount in the effort.

"The monasteries were a place one could count on and people would not tell" that Jewish children were being hidden there, Ihumen Teodor said.

Soon after the Nazi occupation of western Ukraine, a Jewish lawyer in Peremyshliany who worked with the monastery was approached with the message that the commune could hide Jewish boys as Ukrainian orphans. That lawyer turned out to be the father

of Adam Rotfeld, who was Poland's foreign minister in 2005.

Kovch, the local priest, arranged to bring Jewish boys to the monastery. They were given Ukrainian names and learned the Studite rituals. They shared the lives of monks from their daily prayers to way of life.

Still, discovery was always a threat. For that reason "the children didn't know who the other Jews were, and many of the monks didn't know either," said the Ihumen.

Because of the secrecy, the exact number of Jews harbored within Univ's walls is not known but could number the dozens.

"We only know of separate individuals," said Ihumen Teodor.

Sheptytsky was willing to sacrifice his church in order to save lives. "He personally came out in defense of those who were being killed. He did it with the simple motivation, to save a life," the Ihumen said.

Not only were Jews harbored at Univ, but they were also housed in other monasteries throughout western Ukraine, as well as St. George's cathedral in Lviv, where Sheptytsky resided.

Kurt I. Lewin, whose father was Lviv's last rabbi and who would later

become a renowned businessman, and David Kahane, later chief rabbi in the Israeli Air Force, were both harbored by Sheptytsky in Lviv.

Later in their lives, both men would write about their experiences, Lewin in "A Journey Through Illusions" and Kahane in the "Lvov Ghetto Diary."

The Germans never discovered that Jewish boys were hidden at Univ, although many of the monasteries where youngsters were harbored were destroyed after the war. Univ itself became a home for the mentally ill under the Soviet rule and was resurrected as a holy place in the 1980s.

Today, a small plaque placed on a courtyard wall in 2005 among centuries-old church relics commemorates Univ as a place of sanctuary during the war. The monastery itself is a pilgrimage site for tens of thousands who drink its holy water, visit its main chapel – the interior is covered completely in frescoes – and walk around the ruins of ancient churches located on its grounds.

The monks who protected Jewish boys are buried with their brethren in simple graves with iron crosses on Chernytsia Hora, a lush hill which for centuries was the site for dwellings and military battles.

Ihumen Teodor said the fates of Kovch and the Sheptytsky brothers were tragic, but offer rays of hope for the future.

Kovch was arrested by the Gestapo in the spring of 1943 for harboring Jews. Metropolitan Sheptytsky tried to win his release. Imprisoned initially at what is today's Lonskoho prison in Lviv, Kovch refused saying his place was to minister to those also incarcerated. He was sent to the Majdanek concentration camp near Lublin, Poland, where he eventually died.

Beginning in 1947, Klymentiy was arrested numerous times, he died in Russia four years later. The metropolitan perished on Nov. 1, 1944.

The religious community, however, has not forgotten the men who saved Jewish children. The Jewish Council of Ukraine awarded Kovch the title of "Ukraine's Righteous." He was also beautified in Lviv by Pope John Paul II in 2001. Klymentiy was also beautified by the pope and was awarded the title of Righteous Among the Nations by the State of Israel for saving Jews.

For various reasons, the beautification and official recognition of his role in saving Jews of Metropolitan Sheptytsky remains complex, the Ihumen said.

Still, decades after the war, Univ remains a place of refuge. For the last six years, the monastery has hosted conferences between young Jews, Ukrainians and Poles where they can meet to discuss history, culture and religion.

"They can talk about the past, ascertain it, and tell each other the truth," he said.

Staff writer Natalia A. Feduschak can be reached at [feduschak@kyivpost.com](mailto:feduschak@kyivpost.com)

# A prince, philanthropist, playboy – the exciting life of Mykola Potocki

BY NATALIA A. FEDUSCHAK  
FEDUSCHAK@KYIVPOST.COM

**BUCHACH, Ternopil Oblast** – If ever there was a cultural kingpin in this sliver of western Ukraine, Prince Mykola Potocki was it.

Known for his lavish lifestyle and ability to get on officials' nerves, Potocki is credited with being the driving force behind some of Ukraine's most enduring architectural marvels of the 18th century.

Many of the works Potocki sponsored are found in his native Buchach and nearby towns. Along with channeling major funds into building the Basilian Monastery, which welcomed seminarians from all over Europe, other jewels were the town hall and the imposing Church of St. Pokrova. He also financed the work of the enigmatic sculptor Ioann Pinzel, who carved many statues for area churches and constructed a number of monuments in Buchach.

Despite his philanthropy, Potocki was often condemned by the authorities. "A woman for me is better than food," he once said at a gathering where religious figures were present, noted Borys Voznytsky, the director of Lviv Art Gallery.



Mykola Potocki

The only son of Stefan and Maria, Potocki was born in 1712 and was educated at the Jesuit collegiums in Lviv, which Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky attended nearly a century before.

Potocki's father died when he was 15, and his mother, five years later. Her death resulted in him inheriting huge swaths of lands in several districts stretching east to Kyiv, as well as a number of towns, including

Buchach, Zoloty Potik, Horodenko and Holohory, all found in today's Ternopil oblast.

His architectural endeavors were as bold as his personal life. The prince primarily worked in tandem with architect Bernard Meretyn and Pinzel. This relationship is explored in Voznytsky's book "Mykola Potocki, Bernard Meretyn, Ioann Heorhiy Pinzel."

"The activities of being a founder... were the most important social-civic accomplishment, and, if we want, an impulse of his life," wrote Voznytsky.

The Potockis were a wealthy noble family that long dominated the territory, which comprised parts of modern-day western Ukraine and Poland. Buchach, for instance, was inherited by Potocki's grandfather, who also founded the town of Zoloty Potik, where the remains of the family castle stand to this day.

While past family members supported cultural endeavors, it is Potocki who seemed intent on giving away all his money in support of philanthropic activities. In his will dated eight years before his death, Potocki divided his remaining wealth among seven churches, thus hoping to take care of not only his soul, but the structures he financed. He did pretty much as he pleased, legal

or not, and was considered "banita," or someone who lived beyond the law, said Voznytsky.

Inappropriate behavior at times punctuated Potocki's persona. He loved women and had little need for his wife, Marianna Dombrovska, who was considered by many to be beautiful and hospitable. Soon after their wedding, she fled Buchach, where Potocki made his home, and entered a convent in Lviv where she remained until the end of her days.

Potocki paid someone to pray for her, while he himself turned to the Lviv metropolitan for advice on how to get out of his marriage.

Penning a letter from Buchach, he wrote: "In my unfortunate situation, I want to be let go from the responsibilities of a husband, of which I am completely incapable. I have decided to go into a spiritual state, moving to the Pochaiv monastery."

The metropolitan apparently suggested the nobleman enter the Order of Malta, a religious order since 1113, since Potocki wrote back to him that he would accept it "with pleasure," noted Voznytsky.

Potocki's disarming conduct at times may be attributed to the fact that he did not know if he was indeed

his parents' biological son. Speculation remains that because the couple, which had been married 17 years before he appeared, had their son when they were in their fifties, Potocki was adopted.

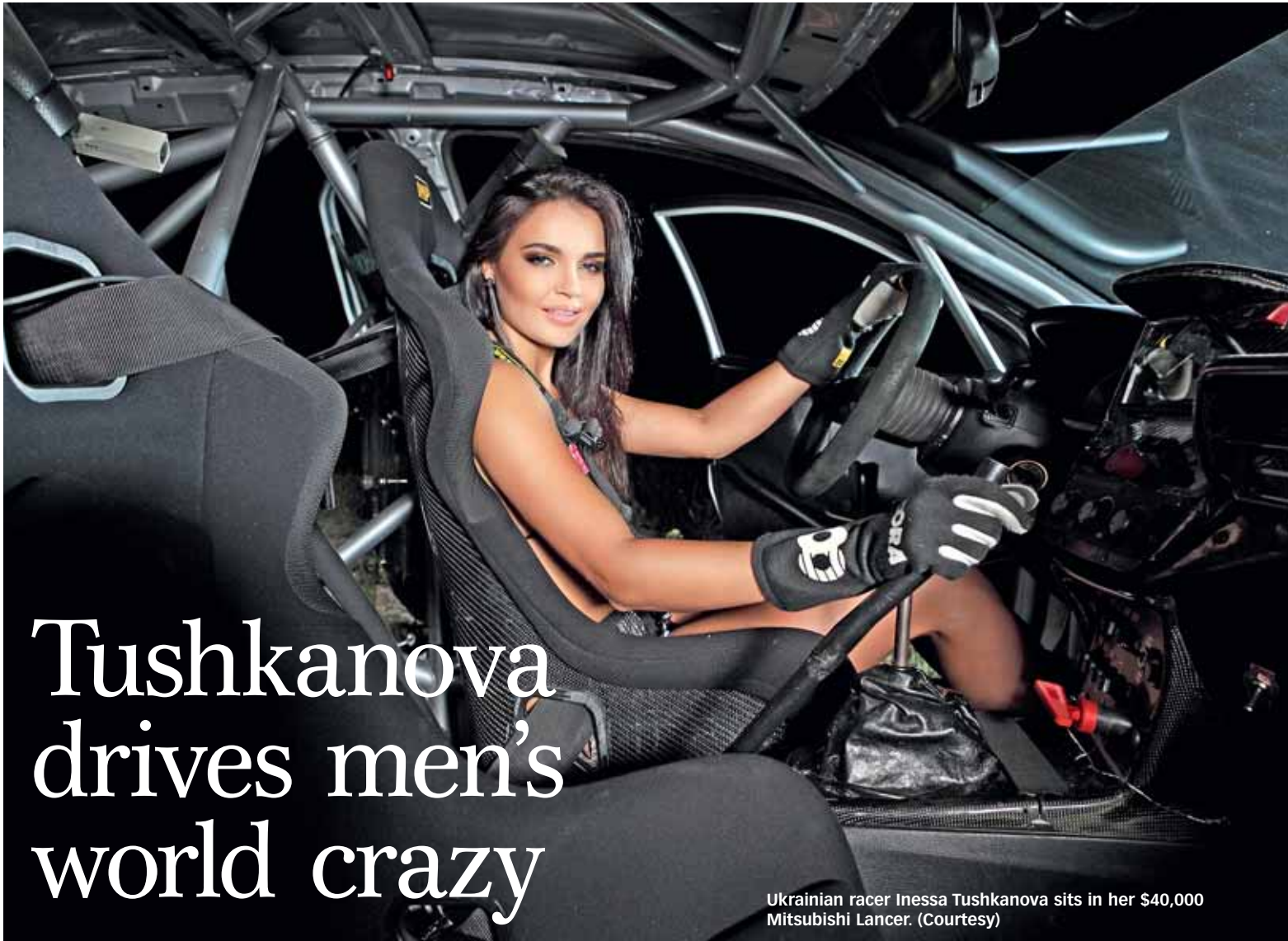
"This fact could not have reflected in the future on [Potocki's] character," Voznytsky wrote.

It is unknown if Potocki had any siblings, although some scholars believe he had between one and three sisters.

In 1774, the prince did move to the Pochaiv monastery, where he remained until his death on April 12, 1782. Living in the monastery changed him; he is said not to have had any other contact with women.

One of Potocki's major undertakings was the construction in Pochaiv of the Dormition Cathedral. The monastery's centerpiece, it was built between 1771 and 1783. Merging the baroque and neoclassical styles, Potocki did not live to see the church fully constructed. He is, however, buried inside of it, along with two great Pochaiv shrines, which include the Holy Icon of the Theotokos of Pochaiv. Set in golden diadem, it was presented to the monastery by Pope Clement XIV.

Kyiv Post staff writer Natalia A. Feduschak can be reached at [feduschak@kyivpost.com](mailto:feduschak@kyivpost.com)



→ Inessa Tushkanova, who likes to race cars, is the latest Ukrainian beauty to pose for glossy pages of Playboy

# Tushkanova drives men's world crazy

Ukrainian racer Inessa Tushkanova sits in her \$40,000 Mitsubishi Lancer. (Courtesy)

BY ALYONA ZHUK AND KOSTYA DOVGAN

Leaning seductively against the race car, a model in the October issue of Playboy knows what's under its hood better than most men out there. Inessa Tushkanova, featured in the Russian edition of the international men's magazine, is a professional racer.

One would expect an air of arrogance and self-indulgence from a sports woman who lends her body to the erotic press, but Tushkanova begs to differ. She said that trading her looks helps her succeed in sports.

"Nobody likes women in sport racing, which is traditionally dominated by men, because it's easier for us to attract sponsors," said the 24-year-old racer. "This magazine is prestigious enough and helps with PR."

Tushkanova was 18 when she first developed an appetite for racing in her Daewoo Sense, which was far from

a suitable vehicle. Men, including her father, reacted skeptically to her hobby. Studying to become a psychologist, she followed the usual path envisioned by parents apart from mad driving.

The cars eventually took over her life. In 2008, she participated in Prime Yalta Rally, Ukraine's most prestigious racing competition held annually in the Crimea, and became Best Female Racer of Eastern Europe.

And then she moved to Moscow, because "sport is better developed abroad than in Ukraine." Hectic and often politicized preparations for Euro 2012 spray even more salt on the race-tracks. All the money goes into football, she says, echoing complaints of many other athletes.

"We have real pros like [Yuriy] Protasov, [Yuriy] Shapovalov and [Oleksandr] Salyuk junior, but [Oleksiy] Mochanov [racer and show-man] is the one, who became a real star. In our country clowns are valued and loved



Inessa Tushkanova races in Estonia earlier this year. (Courtesy)

more than those, who really make a difference," she said, smiling bitterly.

Unprofessionalism made her leave

Ukraine, but life didn't become easier in Russia, where the male-dominated sport was just as tough to enter. To

equip her race car, Tushkanova said she needs 27,000 euro and to participate in all the important races adds up to another 70,000. As no prize money is awarded in sport, she has to earn a living on her own, which means advertising sportswear or looking for sponsors through Playboy.

In a way, posing for Playboy has turned into a sport for her. She has already stripped down for Ukrainian, Russian and Lithuanian issues and will do it for its American naughty parent if she is invited to.

Her dark hair and features serve as a comparison point with Ukrainian pop singer Dasha Astafyeva. One of Hugh Hefner's favorites, Astafyeva has a history with American Playboy.

"Playboy photographer [Alexandr] Morderer, who took pictures of both of us, told me that Astafyeva and I are like sisters," recalled Tushkanova. "But I can't imagine myself prancing around the scene and shaking my thighs."

Volodymyr Nekrasov, chief editor of the popular sports website Rally.in.ua thinks that Tushkanova has a great professional future if she doesn't waste her talent on the entertainment industry.

"She is already a star in the Baltics, where the level of championships is high," said Nekrasov. "This girl is incredibly hardworking and purposeful. She lives a full life and doesn't let herself relax."

In October, Tushkanova won the Polish race Kotlina Mocy, an important rally by international standards. In the race, she represented Russia though.

"We [Ukrainians] don't have an auto sport culture. I could wait until something changes or I could change something by myself, but one man can't win a war. I need to gain some respect first and then I will help the Ukrainian sport."

Kyiv Post staff writers Alyona Zhuk and Kostya Dovgan can be reached at zhuk@kyivpost.com and dovgan@kyivpost.com

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The charming and ancient, but rundown, St. Andrew's Descent connects upper Kyiv with the Podil neighborhood near the Dnipro River. Reconstruction is under way on the road and buildings. (Ganna Bernyk)

# Andriyivsky Uzviz undergoes major reconstruction

BY OLGA RUDENKO  
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

A winding street without pavement, full of ruts and construction machinery slices through the heart of Kyiv. In the dust-saturated air, a rare tourist dares to venture more than a few meters down its steep incline.

This is how one of Kyiv's most vis-

ited landmarks Andriyivsky Uzviz, or St. Andrew's Descent, looks today.

Reconstruction touted for years finally began at the end of September. Surrounded by scandal and rumor, a restoration plan includes renovating facades, upgrading utility connections and laying new cobblestones.

City authorities in charge of the reconstruction assured homeowners

that they would not be affected and that no high-rise buildings would muck up this historical sliver of Kyiv. But given the recent history of St. Sophia's Cathedral, which saw more than one hotel and office center invade environs that are supposed to be protected heritage sites, St. Andrew's residents and art dealers remain skeptical and fear defacement.

The Baroque majesty of St. Andrew's Cathedral is in need of shoring up. It is a major attraction on the pedestrian walkway known as Andriyivsky Uzviz, or St. Andrew's Descent, where artists sell their creations. (Ganna Bernyk)



The street's history goes back to Kyivan Rus times, when the descent connected the central part of Kyiv with Podil, its trading district. It got its name from disciple Andrew who is believed to have erected a cross on top of the hill and ordered a church (now St. Andrew's Church, which is under seemingly perpetual restoration) to be built in its place. Famous writers,

actors and artists used to live on this steep street, lending it a bohemian feel that is still present today.

Drenched in legends as much as in potholes and crumbling facades, St. Andrew's needs a surgical facelift.

Kyiv-based Ukrainian Restoration Institute is doctoring the current plan, which takes care of 29 properties that belong to the city. The →28

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**UIA**

# Rialto Business Center opens



Pavlo Shylko, better known as DJ Pasha, (L) and ISTIL Group owner Mohammad Zahoor, whose assets include the Rialto Business Center and the Kyiv Post.



Waiters get food and drink ready for more than 100 people who attended the Rialto Business Center grand opening



Guests from the Fairmont Grand Hotel Kyiv enjoy the grand opening festivities

→ The sparkling new \$27 million Rialto Business Center in Kyiv's historic Podil neighborhood celebrated its grand opening on Nov. 3. The seven-floor center on 18 Novokonstantinovskaya St. has 15,200 square meters and is currently 50 percent leased. Tenants include Swedbank, Xtra TV and the Kyiv Post. The building is being developed by ISTIL Group owner and Kyiv Post publisher Mohammad Zahoor. The center is located between the Petrivka and Shevchenko metro stations. (Photos by Anya Korbut)



Employees of Swedbank, Kyiv Post and Xtra TV attend the Rialto Business Center grand opening



A band entertains at the Nov. 3 Rialto Business Center grand opening

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Volodymyr Kuznetsov's "Small Red Fiat" is a reminder of European borderland trade in the 1960s (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

# Mystetsky Arsenal hosts contemporary international art fair through Nov. 13

BY MARIYA MANZHOS  
MANZHOS@KYIVPOST.COM

Mystetsky Arsenal, a former weapon factory of czarist Russia and now Kyiv's leading art space, is relentlessly striving to make Ukraine a progressive art hub in the world. The current exhibition is an emphatic step in the right direction. A collection of international projects from Japan, France, Germany and Poland, among other countries, share the spacious pavilion with Ukrainian art from nearly 30 galleries. Entitled "Art-Kyiv Contemporary 2011," the art fair opened on Nov. 1 and was pitched as the "broadest platform" of Ukrainian art.

However, the most progressive artists of the show are undoubtedly the Japanese. As you make your way into the "special projects" galleries (turn right at the entrance) you are overwhelmed and slightly disoriented by a flurry of sounds. Thus begins a multi-sensory exploration. The whole section is occupied by "The Group: 1965" – a project created by six artists born on the same year sharing the vision and spirit of their time.

At first, your immediate attention goes to a gigantic anime teen girl with an empty cartoonish glance. Then you are confronted with a barrage of unpleasant images: vomit, obese people eating noodles, anime faces in

pain and ecstasy and other nebulous objects. The sound coming from the wall adds to the chaos. The work, named "Monument to Nothing" by Makoto Aida was meant to be displayed abroad, since it reveals what the artist believes to be the real Japan – a pathetic place utterly unknown to and misunderstood by foreigners.

The concoction of sounds around you comes from mixed media installations: a dark black room blasting electroacoustic music, screens with Georgian polyphonic quartet, a performance class and a recreated Japanese public housing Negoya.

Peeking into the Negoya area you see several "rooms," each with a life of their own, although that life merely occurs on large flat screens set in each room. In one, an artist imitates an electronica performance on a Mac computer; in another, a samurai is dripping with blood and frantically wiping it; another "resident" leaves his room plastered with photos after tsunami with shattered roads and cloudy skies. The walk-through is a snapshot of random people's lives, which when taken out of context appear bewildering and strange.

Passing into arsenal's main area, Ilya Chichkan's familiar monkeys will haunt you from a large horizontal painting created in collaboration with young graffiti artist PSYFOX. They turned a

white wall of the gallery into a street wall decorated with kaleidoscopic graffiti in the form of monkey faces in headphones shooting guns.

Of course, what contemporary art exhibit would not be complete without is a "found" object, in this case an entire car. Volodymyr Kuznetsov presents his "Small Red Fiat" as a reminder of European borderland trade in the 1960s. The car is full of junk with an old TV on top playing nostalgic Polish songs. Another "ready-made" is Marie Reinert's engine extracted from a boat, which is "a piece of praise for the motor." The French artist travelled to Marseille to capture the life of Ukrainian sailors at work.

Often the medium of the artwork signifies more of its meaning than what it appears to be at the first glance. For example, in the spotlight of arsenal's main area is American David Danuta's "Ukrainian Flag," glistening with light on its glassy surface. Zooming in, you puzzle out a collage of newspaper cut outs from events in Ukrainian history and a surface made of hundreds of eye glass lenses. Datuna's layered work implies the multiplicity of perceptions and outlooks on our history and politics.

In a commentary on the reality of "virtual relationships," Anatoliy Belov hand draws the facebook profiles of his friends with short descriptions of their bio and interests.



Russian artist Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe impersonates former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko in his series "Transformations" (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)



Vinny Reunov's "Louvre Ukraine" is a gigantic magazine cover which immortalizes such world known personas as Obama, Putin, Palin, Yanukovich, Elvis Presley, and others in a chaotic order (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Vinny Reunov continues the Ukrainian theme in "Louvre Ukraine" as part of the project "Made in Ukraine." The painting represents a gigantic Time magazine cover with Obama, Tymoshenko, Palin, Elvis, and other public personas disjointedly immortalized in a chaotic commentary on mass culture.

Pertinent former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko is the subject of Russian artist Vladislav Mamyshev-Monroe's five studio portraits. There is only one intriguing detail – in black dress, pearls and with her emblematic braid she is portrayed as a muscular man, who is, in fact, the artist himself. In his series "Transformations" Mamyshev appears as Putin, Hitler, Dostoevsky, Marilyn Monroe among other celebrities.

Roman Zhuk's series "Plea" stands out rid of any irony. Large images of adult hands folded and clasped as if in a prayer speak of people's lives and souls through such decorations as tatoos, jewelry, and wrinkles. Seemingly distorted portraits of legendary Picasso, Frida Kahlo and Chuck Clos by Tayana

Gershuna become colorful as you put on 3D glasses that you get from the staff. And, you will also encounter Michael Jackson adorned with "diamonds" in his anti-gravity forward lean.

Since arsenal's art fair format lessens the pressure on the visitor to see every painting, you're free to meander into any corner that catches your eye, or simply jaunt through the middle of the museum soaking as much in at once. Since the 30 Ukrainian galleries passed a strict selection by a council of art experts, you can feel confident all the works in the main areas are worth your while. The works are even on sale.

Kyiv Post staff writer Mariya Manzhos can be reached at manzhos@kyivpost.com. Photos by Kostyantyn Chernichkin

#### Mystetsky Arsenal,

12 Lavrska St.,  
Until Sun, Nov. 13  
open daily from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., 288-52-26, for event schedule go to www.art-kyiv.com, tickets: Hr 20-40.

## St. Andrew's Descent, tourist hub, gets remake

→ 26 remaining 17 houses in private ownership have to be restored by their proprietors at their own expense. All this trouble will cost Hr 270 million of budget money, according to one of the plan's authors Olga Rutkivska.

The works have already begun around the middle part of the street, slowly spreading down to Podil. The upper stretch will be renovated last so one can still buy a souvenir or two to remember Kyiv. The upgrade has to be finished by May next year, just

in time for the Euro 2012 football championship.

"We could use some more time," said Yuriy Novik, deputy head of the Capital Construction Department in charge of a couple of bulldozers and a dozen of workers on the site. "Our main difficulty now is rainy weather."

For souvenir vendors and other people of art who work at St. Andrew's, however, restoration threatened jobs. Iryna Klischenko, the artistic director of theater Koleso, claims that city

authorities plan to close them down until utility connections get replaced. No alternative premise has been offered so far.

"Nobody wants to be responsible for this decision," she complained as the theater walls vibrated from the works outside.

In Bulgakov, museum life is not easy either. Museum workers started to panic after learning of the builders' intention to dig a trench right next to their property.

"We already have fractures on the walls because of all the machinery work, and now we think that the building can actually crash!" museum worker Anatoly Konchakovsky said.

In addition to saving the old, four new buildings are planned in the area, one of them being a business center of Esta Holding, a real estate company controlled by Rinat Akhmetov's Systems Capital Management group. The center "will match the surroundings," it says on Esta's website, but it's

not clear how tall it will be.

Rutkivska from the restoration institute assured there will be no high rises at St. Andrew's because of its unique geographical location prone to landslides, old utilities and the lack of parking spaces.

"Reconstruction is meant to save the historical look of St. Andrew's," she added.

Kyiv Post staff writer Olga Rudenko can be reached at rudenko@kyivpost.com



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The editor's mission is to keep readers on top of Ukraine's entertainment scene, from nightlife to culture and sporting events. We are seeking someone fluent in English and Ukrainian or Russian with extensive editing and reporting experience. The successful candidate will find the pulse of Kyiv. We need someone who knows old Kyiv and who enjoys discovering the new. The most important quality, however, is leadership in directing a talented staff to bring the liveliest stories to Kyiv Post's local and international readers.

Send CV, three writing/editing samples and a motivation letter about why you want this job to chief editor Brian Bonner at [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com)

The **KyivPost** is hiring **top-notch journalists**

The newspaper, with its English and Ukrainian/Russian language websites, is one of Ukraine's most trusted and leading sources of news. The successful candidate must be fluent in English, have outstanding reporting experience and be able to tell a great story on deadline.

To be considered, send CV, three writing samples, three story ideas and an explanation of why you want to work for the Kyiv Post to: Brian Bonner, chief editor, at [bonner@kyivpost.com](mailto:bonner@kyivpost.com)

**KyivPost** is looking for a **SALES/ACCOUNT MANAGER** (media, advertising)

**Functions:**

- Sales: contact with clients (advertising in the newspaper), business contacts establishment;
- Research: customer needs and possibilities investigation, market analysis

**Responsibilities:**

- precontractual documentation management, cooperation with accounting, reporting.

**Requirements:**

- Good communications skills
- Understanding how to sell in print and web media

**Job type**

- Full-time job
- Salary + Commissions

visit <http://www.kyivpost.com/newspaper/>

Business Center "Rialto", 18 Novokostyantynivska Street, Kyiv, Ukraine, +380(44) 5917788

Please send your CV and cover letter including salary requirements and the subject "Sales manager" to [hr@kyivpost.com](mailto:hr@kyivpost.com), [baranska@kyivpost.com](mailto:baranska@kyivpost.com)



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# Thanksgiving Dinner

Enjoy all-you-can-eat turkey and trimmings of a traditional Thanksgiving Day feast at Kyiv's 5-star hotel.

Celebrate with family & friends: Adults will be wined & dined. Children will be entertained. Raffle prizes will be won.

**Thanksgiving Day**  
Thursday, November 24, 2011 at 19:00  
Olivera Restaurant, InterContinental Kyiv

Proceeds to benefit CCRDF's Telemedicine Project  
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Table reservations from 2-20 individuals welcomed.

This advertisement brought to you by media partner **KyivPost**



**VITERRA™**

Viterra provides premium quality ingredients to leading global food manufacturers. Headquartered in Canada, the global agri business operates in three distinct businesses: agriproducts, grain handling and marketing, and value-added processing across Canada, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

Viterra is an exciting, growing, global company that provides premium quality food ingredients to the world's most discerning food manufacturers. Together, we seek to fulfill the nutritional needs of people everywhere.

Our European HQ is based in Geneva.

**We are expanding our office in Kiev and recruiting for the following positions:**

- **Accountant**
- **Receptionist (Fluent in English)**

Interested in applying or getting a full job description?  
Please apply to: Viterra Ukraine, Kiev - jobs.ukraine@viterra.com

Visit [viterra.com](http://viterra.com)



**Finance and Credit Bank is a direct agent of all largest mints of the world with an exclusive right to sell bullion coins in the territory of Ukraine.**  
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**Business Development Director in Kiev**

**Main responsibilities:**

- Defining a business development strategy for distribution of both bullion coins of the world mints and the NBU coins;
- Analysing the market and determining market segments and sales channels;
- Preparing and managing the budget for the respective business line;
- Developing relations with key clients of major sales channels;
- Constant expanding the trade network and increasing the business profitability;

**Requirements:**

- Higher education, 28-45 years old;
- Sound knowledge of the bank coins market, luxury and collection goods;
- Successful experience in managing business development projects;
- Knowledge in economics, marketing, logistics; another business education is an advantage.
- Advanced negotiation skills, systematic approach, strategic thinking, managerial skills (leadership skills, ability to impact and convince), openness to innovations, fast decision-making.

Please, e-mail your CV and Cover Letter explaining your interest in the vacancy to: [ludmila.tsushko@fcbank.com.ua](mailto:ludmila.tsushko@fcbank.com.ua)



**European Business Association (www.eba.com.ua)**  
is seeking candidates for

**Tax & Customs Committee Coordinator and Committee Assistant positions:**

**General requirements:**

- Academic background (legal/economic would be a preference);
- Ability to plan, service, and supervise a variety of meetings and events;
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and Ukrainian;
- Computer proficiency;
- Excellent communication, negotiation and presentation skills;
- Accuracy and ability to deliver high quality outputs within challenging deadlines;
- Being a team-player along able to work independently and take initiative.

**Special requirements for the EBA Committee Coordinator:**

- Strong analytical, research, business documentation and problem solving skills;
- Knowledge of regulatory environment in tax and customs;
- Knowledge of government structure and operation.

**Special requirements for the EBA Committee Assistant:**

- Strong administrative, business documentation and problem solving and multitasking skills.

Please send your CV and a cover letter at: [office@eba.com.ua](mailto:office@eba.com.ua) by **29.11.2011**



**International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine**

The International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine (Alliance-Ukraine) is an international charity established and registered in Ukraine in order to support community action on HIV/AIDS. The Alliance-Ukraine is the biggest non-governmental organization working in the field of HIV/AIDS in Ukraine and one of the largest in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia. We are looking for candidate to fill the following post at Kiev office:

**SENIOR PROGRAM OFFICER: FIELD PROGRAMS**

**Job Purpose:** to provide effective functioning of the national programs and programs implemented in the Kyiv region by overseeing and supporting technical and organizational capacity of local non – governmental organizations (NGOs) and other partner organizations working in the field of HIV/STI; contribute to developing strategy to response to the epidemic on national and regional level.

**Core Requirements:**

- 3+ years of experience in HIV prevention, care and support including overseeing the development and implementation of HIV/AIDS programs in Ukraine.
- Working experience with/in HIV-service organizations, local NGOs, governmental, and/or international institutions is required.
- Knowledge of HIV/AIDS programs in the region is desirable.
- Relevant University degree (Public Health, Social Science, Medicine etc.) is a plus.
- Good command of written and spoken Ukrainian and Russian. At ease with public speaking and presentations. Ability to read and understand English texts is essential. Knowledge of English at intermediate level is an advantage.
- High level of computer literacy, especially in Excel, PowerPoint.
- Readiness to go to business trips.

**Duties and responsibilities:**

- Organize, coordinate and control national programs fulfillment by partner NGO and programs implemented in Kyiv region.
- Conclude grant agreements with partner NGOs according to the results of competitions.
- Conduct monitoring visits to NGOs to provide technical support and control the quality and efficiency of project activities in Kyiv region and programs implemented at national level.
- Analyze and approve partner's reports to the Alliance Ukraine on a regular basis.
- Contribute to developing regional and national policies about HIV/ STI-prevention among target groups during site-visits to the grantees.
- Facilitate and contribute to strategic planning development of activities in response to the epidemic on the regional and national levels

**Deadline for applications:** 6 p.m., November 20, 2011.

**We offer:** work in a dynamic organization with encouraging working environment, attractive remuneration and benefits package, opportunities for professional and career development and growth.

**How to apply:** Please send your CV and covering letter in English and Ukrainian/Russian to [vacancy@aidalliance.org.ua](mailto:vacancy@aidalliance.org.ua) stating "ref: SPO: Field Programs" in a subject line.

Detailed information can be found at [www.aidalliance.org.ua](http://www.aidalliance.org.ua) (About us / Employment).

*Alliance-Ukraine is committed to equal opportunities and welcomes applications from appropriately qualified people from all sections of the community. Qualified people living with HIV/AIDS are particularly encouraged to apply.*



**MONITORING JOURNALIST, BBC MONITORING**

BBC Monitoring is part of the British Broadcasting Corporation. It monitors open-source foreign media from over 150 countries throughout the world in more than 70 languages. We provide news and information to the BBC, government and commercial customers. BBC Monitoring has a central office in the UK and international offices all over the world, including Kiev, from which we monitor media in the region.

You will work in a centrally-located office in Kiev on a full-time basis and will monitor, select and edit news and information from local source material - from TV, press, internet and social media. You will translate, edit and write copy accurately and quickly using clear idiomatic English and in line with customer requirements. Shift work - including late evenings and weekends - is an essential feature of the job. As a BBC Monitoring staff member, you will also be expected to work in other BBCM offices all over the world from time to time.

You will have an excellent knowledge of international affairs, especially in relation to Ukraine, Russia, Belarus, Europe and Latin America. You will have excellent English and Russian or Ukrainian. Ability to understand and translate to/from Spanish or another European language would be an advantage. Journalistic experience and knowledge of social media would be an advantage. Good typing and IT skills are also required.

We offer competitive pay and extensive training opportunities. You will be hired on an initial one-year contract, subject to further extension if both parties agree.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit a test. For an application form or further information please email: [bbcmon.kiev@gmail.com](mailto:bbcmon.kiev@gmail.com).

Applications must be received by **4 December**.




This project is funded by the European Union. A project implemented by the EBRD.

**The Business Advisory Services (BAS) Programme of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in Ukraine invites applications from the residents of Ukraine for the following positions:**

- **National Programme Manager**
- **Project Specialist**

The closing date for the submission of the application is **November 18, 2011**. For the detailed information about the roles and instructions how to apply please visit the EBRD website: [www.ebrdjobs.com](http://www.ebrdjobs.com)



**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Regional Representation in Kyiv**  
is seeking energetic, resourceful persons for the position of:


**position 10002842 with a lien, NOB, Associate Regional PI Officer**

**General functions:**

1. Under direct supervision of the Regional Representative develop a regional public information strategy for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, in line with regional strategic goals and objectives.
2. Coordinate implementation of this strategy within the region, maintenance of the regional and Ukrainian web-sites.
3. Provide support and advice in the area of public information, public awareness, and advocacy and media relations to the country offices in Belarus and Moldova as well as Regional Representation in Kyiv.
4. Conduct monitoring of political and socio-economic situation and keeps Regional Representative and the offices informed on vital developments, which can affect UNHCR operations in the region.
5. Prepare various documents, press releases for different target audience, formulate the office position and disseminate it in a timely and targeted manner.
6. Respond to queries from national/international media, donors, diplomatic community.
7. Contribute to strategic planning and reporting documents. Prepare public domain reports on the regional developments including regional updates.
8. Supervise PI UNV.

**Qualification requirements:**  
Social / political science, communications, journalism, international relations, 4 years of progressive experience. Excellent spoken and drafting skills in English, Russian and Ukrainian are required for this position. Advanced computer skills, experience in working with international organization and additional languages would be an asset. Candidates should send their application letters and curriculum vitae in English by 30 November to the address below. Successful incumbent will be entitled to a competitive salary and medical insurance.

**UNHCR**  
Attn: Volodymyr Lysenko14, Lavrska St. Kyiv 01015 Ukraine  
or by e-mail: [lysenko@unhcr.org](mailto:lysenko@unhcr.org), or fax: 288-9850



**Ukraine Community Connections In-Country Field Operations Subcontractor - Request for Proposals**

On behalf of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Alliances for Quality Education (AQE) is managing & supporting Ukraine's 2012 Community Connections Program. The program focuses on the public diplomacy goal of exposing participants to U.S. society & promoting reform in Ukraine. **Proposals are being sought from Ukraine-based individuals or organizations interested in becoming the In-Country Field Operations Subcontractor for the Ukraine Community Connections Management Support contract.** The subcontract period is from December 1, 2011- September 30, 2012. Proposals are due by Friday, **November 18, 2011**.

For more information and to view the Request for Proposals (RFP), please visit <http://www.aqe-inc.com/services/usaidd/>

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites applications from highly qualified, energetic, proactive and experienced professionals for the posts of

**PROCUREMENT ASSOCIATE**  
(GS-6, FTA, UNDP COUNTRY OFFICE)

who will ensure execution of transparent and efficient procurement services and processes in Country Office as well as promote a client-focused, quality and results - oriented approach in the Unit.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION IS 17/11/2011**

For detailed job description, information on deadline and application for this and other vacancies please visit <http://undp.org.ua/en/vacancies> complete the UN PERSONAL HISTORY FORM\* (P-11) and attach it to the on-line application.

**UNDP Office in Ukraine**  
1, Klovskiy uzviz, Kiev 01021



**ASCENT**  
Resources for Emerging Europe

Our client, an international defense company is seeking an  
**International Liaison Officer**

**Requirements:**

- Former Naval Officer with an engineering degree (mechanical or electrical/electronic)
- Excellent communication skills
- Strong interpersonal skills
- Ability to bridge the gap between foreign partners, the local Ukrainian company and also Ukrainian and international naval customers
- Ukrainian mother tongue and good English language skills in both spoken and written
- Confidence in written translation and interpreting ability is a must

**Interested candidates should send their CV with photo to [o.lyashenko@ascent-ag.ch](mailto:o.lyashenko@ascent-ag.ch)**  
**Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

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**European Business Association ([www.eba.com.ua](http://www.eba.com.ua)) is seeking a candidate for the Biotechnology Committee Coordinator position**

**General requirements:**

- Academic background (Masters (Specialist) degree or higher in Agricultural sciences or Marketing / PR / communication / Political / Legal / Economic)
- Fluency in both written and spoken English and Ukrainian
- Strong analytical, research, business documentation and problem solving skills
- Experience and skills in dealing with the government and the media
- Knowledge of scientific aspects of plant biotechnology will advantage
- Relevant experience in biotech advancement with the private or public sectors will advantage
- Ability to analyse regulatory environment
- Knowledge of government structure and operation
- Ability to plan, service, and supervise a variety of meetings and events
- Accuracy and ability to deliver high quality outputs within challenging deadlines
- Being a team-player along able to work independently and take initiative
- Computer proficiency, MS Office
- Project management skills
- Excellent communication, negotiation and presentation skills

Please send your CV and a cover letter at: [office@eba.com.ua](mailto:office@eba.com.ua) by **29.11.2011**



An International Organization has an opening for a  
**Trade Promotion Specialist**

for a full-time position located in Kyiv.

**Key responsibilities:**

- Promoting Taiwanese trade shows/exhibitions in Ukraine
- Assisting Taiwanese companies to promote their products in Ukraine
- Providing information about business opportunities
- Compilations of sector and market research in a wide range of industrial sectors
- Arrangement of trade delegation (B to B meetings)
- Promotion & arrangement of seminar and catalogue shows
- Other duties assigned by head office

**Job Requirements:**

- University Degree
- 3-7 years experience
- Excellent communication skills in Russian and English/Chinese
- Ability to work in a team and under pressure
- Excellent computer skills

If you are interested in this position, please send your C.V. to our e-mail: [kyiv@taiwantrade.org.tw](mailto:kyiv@taiwantrade.org.tw) by **November 30, 2011**

For additional information please refer to our website:  
<http://kyiv.taiwantrade.com.tw>  
<http://www.taiwantrade.com.tw>

We thank all applicants; however only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted.

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**POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Chemonics International Inc. seeks a highly-qualified Ukrainian professional for the following position on the USAID Fair, Accountable, Independent, and Responsible (FAIR) Judiciary Program in Ukraine:

**Legal/Judicial Accountability Specialist**

**Duties and Responsibilities:**

- Prepares policy papers and commentaries on draft laws and existing legislation.
- Liaises with Ukrainian partners, including the High Qualifications Commission of Judges of Ukraine, in developing implementing regulations related to the judiciary.
- Assists in designing and implementing training programs and workshops for the judiciary.
- Contributes to public outreach materials, progress reports and work plans.
- Manages Judicial Accountability Coordinator.

**Job Qualifications:**

- Law degree from a university in Ukraine.
- Five years of legal practice and/or experience with the Ukrainian judiciary or legislature.
- Previous USAID or other international donor experience preferred.
- Ability to speak and write clearly and effectively in English and Ukrainian required.
- Knowledge of the Ukrainian legal and judicial system preferred.

Please submit resume and cover letter to [office@fair.org.ua](mailto:office@fair.org.ua) by **November 18, 2011**, with the position in the subject line. No telephone inquiries, please. Short-listed candidates will be contacted.



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**СУДОВИЙ НАКАЗ КОМУ: ХОЛОДНОМУ ОЛЕКСАНДРУ МИХАЙЛОВИЧУ**

Розглянувши позов про примусове позбавлення батьківських прав Холодного Олександра Михайловича, стосовно його сина Холодного Артема Олександровича, неповнолітнього, Суд постановив в інтересах дитини з сьогоднішнього дня, тобто 20 жовтня 2011 року, відповідно до §2511 абзацу 23 зводу законодавства штату Пенсільванія, позбавити біологічного батька батьківських прав, оскільки його вітчм Крістофер С. Ширк має намір розпочати процедуру усиновлення цієї неповнолітньої дитини.  
Відповідно до §2901 абзацу 23 зводу законодавства штату Пенсільванія, Олександр Михайлович Холодний має право представити Суду та Департаменту соціального забезпечення оновлену особисту інформацію та інформацію про стан свого здоров'я, незалежно від наявності захворювання в даний момент.  
Артем Олександрович Холодний залишається під опіку своєї матері Алли О. Ширк та вітчима Крістофера С. Ширк, який очікує на процедуру усиновлення.

Суд  
Суддя Самуель А. Клайн.

Олександр Михайлович Холодний має також право заключити договір добровільного спілкування після усиновлення. У випадку, якщо Олександр Михайлович Холодний виявить намір оскаржити цей наказ, він повинен зробити це протягом 30 (тридцяти) днів з моменту винесення цього наказу.

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Akhmed Esmurziyev (front L) from Brooklyn club and Yuri Kucherenko from ABC Group congratulate winners.



Akhmed Esmurziyev (front L) from Brooklyn club and Yuri Kucherenko from ABC Group congratulate winners.



Bowling is a popular winter sport.

An annual corporate tournament in Kyiv's Brooklyn Bowling Club gathered 23 teams on Nov. 4 and 5 in the Obolon neighborhood. Apart from professional bowlers, some 60 sports aficionados from the U.S. Embassy, Ericsson, SportLife, ABC Group and Sezon travel agency, among others, donned bowling shoes for two days of fun. Ericsson won the tournament, blowing down 699 pins during one game. As fall turns to winter, bowling picks up in popularity.

Photos by Kostyantyn Chernichkin

**Cheap international calls**

Дешеві міжнародні дзвінки: Міжнародний life:)  
 \*Дзвінки в Росію: 0,39 грн/хв., Європа - 1,39 грн/хв., Ізраїль, США, Канада, Китай - 0,89 грн/хв. - на спеціальні номери: 0,89 грн/хв. - на мобільні.  
 Плата за з'єднання - 0,39 грн. Тариф на дзвінки в Албанію, Азербайджан, Вієтнам, Йорданія, Кувейт, Перу, Таджикистан, Туркменія, Узбекистан, Румунія, Сербія, Македонія, Молдова, Сербія - 1,99 грн/хв. Тарифи вказані в гривнях з урахуванням ПДВ. Додаткові умови тарифування в мережі Південно-Східного фонду у розмірі 7,5% з вартості послуги без урахування ПДВ. Деталі про тарифікацію: стор. 40 та інші умови тарифування на сайті: www.life.com.ua  
 0 800 20 5433 (безкоштовно зі стаціонарних телефонів у межах України). 5433 (безкоштовно у мережі life:) або в розмовних мережах при покупці life:).

**International life:)**

Russia	<b>0,39</b>	UAH/min*
Europe	<b>1,39</b>	UAH/min*
Israel USA Canada China	<b>0,89</b>	UAH/min

**life:)**