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Forbes Ukraine:
Firms with ties to
Yanukovich's son
get \$10 million in
coal plants at no
charge from state

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

An article by Forbes Ukraine posted online on Oct. 23 reports that companies with close ties to President Viktor Yanukovich's son, Oleksandr, this year at no cost took over majority stakes worth an estimated \$10 million in five coal enrichment plants from the state.

The alleged scheme that was used to shift the assets to companies close to Oleksandr Yanukovich, according to Forbes Ukraine, was enabled by an amendment to existing legislation that the president had proposed and subsequently passed by parliament on March 13.

The amendment removes the mandatory requirement of a 50 percent minimum state stake in public companies that are leased and undergo a change in ownership type – in this case from limited liability companies to public joint-stock companies. This change, Forbes Ukraine reported, allowed firms linked to Oleksandr Yanukovich to take control of the lucrative coal plants.

In an Oct. 26 e-mailed response to the Kyiv Post, Oleksandr Yanukovich strenuously denied that any of his companies took part in the scheme transferring the assets of the five coal preparation plants.

Oleksandr said companies that he owns "have not and do not conduct business activity in public procurement, privatization (of state-owned assets) and extraction of natural resources."

Oleksandr furthermore dismissed the Forbes article's allegations as baseless, and said the article's "main purpose is to perhaps discredit the president of Ukraine in the public's eyes." → 18

Europe Slams 'Oligarchization' Of Election



An elderly woman casts her ballot in a village near Kyiv on Oct. 28 during the national parliamentary election. Officials with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe called the election a "step backwards" for Ukrainian democracy. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

'Democratic progress appears to have reversed.'
– OSCE's Walburga Habsburg Douglas

'We are on the right track'
– Presidential aide
Hanna Herman

See full coverage of the Oct. 28 parliamentary election on pages 2, 4, 5, 16, 17, 18

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Europe: Ukrainians deserved better from Oct. 28 election

BY BRIAN BONNER
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Ukraine's streak of four relatively democratic national elections, from 2004 to 2012, came to an end with the Oct. 28 parliamentary vote.

The 56-nation Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, which fields the largest and most credible election observation missions, said in an Oct. 29 preliminary statement that the vote represented an apparent reversal in Ukraine's democratic progress.

The assessment is strengthened because it was supported by other international European institutions, including the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the European Parliament and the NATO Parliamentary Assembly.

They found that the election included several flaws:

- a tilted playing field;
- abuse of administrative (official) resources;
- lack of transparency in the campaign, the workings of the Central Election Commission, party financing and vote tabulation;
- lack of balanced media coverage;
- detrimental influence of powerful groups, leading to a lack of diversity in media ownership and pluralism, as well as a lack of transparency in campaign and party financing;
- lack of representation on election commissions from some political parties competing in the vote, while the ruling pro-presidential Party of Regions had strong representation; and
- lack of effective sanctions for serious violations of law.

"Considering the abuse of power, and the excessive role of money in this election, democratic progress appears to have reversed in Ukraine," said Walburga Habsburg Douglas, the special coordinator who led the OSCE short-term election observation mission and the head of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly delegation. "One should not have to visit a prison to hear from leading political figures in the country."

Douglas' prison reference was to imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and ex-Interior Minister Yuriy Lutsenko, who were barred from running because of criminal convictions seen in the West as politically motivated. Despite her imprisonment, Tymoshenko's Batkivshyna Party finished second in the election, with more than 25 percent of votes and another 42 seats in the single-mandate races, giving the party roughly 104 seats.

"Ukrainians deserved better from these elections. The 'oligarchization' of the whole process meant that citizens lost their ownership of the election, as well as their trust in it," said Andreas Gross, the head of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE) delegation.

Oligarchs and money were indeed key players in this election. Poland's Dziennik Gazeta Prawna said in a recent report that Ukraine spent more money on the election than Poland, Germany and Czech Republic combined – an estimated \$225 million. The next highest was Germany, spending \$80 million.

The list of new deputies shows that many of them can certainly afford it.

The new Verkhovna Rada boasts a few billionaires and a couple dozen multi-millionaires whose combined wealth is close to \$8 billion. The nation's richest man and long-time financier of the Party of Regions, Rinat Akhmetov, chose not to run for the Rada this time.

So the title of the richest man in the new parliament goes to the young billionaire Kostyantyn Zhevago, 38, whose wealth is \$2.2 billion, according to the 2012 Focus magazine rating. A former Tymoshenko backer, Zhevago owns Ferrexpo, the first ever Ukrainian London-listed company and Finance and Credit Bank.

Economy Minister Petro Poroshenko, the confectionery king of Ukraine with a wealth estimated at almost \$1 billion, also got into parliament through a district race in his home city of Vinnytsia.

The Party of Regions traditionally has a fair share of oligarchs and moguls. Government members Serhiy Tigipko, Borys Kolesnikov and Andriy Klyuyev are all multi-millionaires who → 16

The Organization for Security and Cooperation highlighted what observers called the "oligarchization" of Ukraine's elections in its Oct. 29 assessment, saying big money had an unhealthy influence on the campaign, from financing to media access. Here are some of the wealthier members of the newly elected parliament.

Name	Constituency	Political affiliation	Estimated fortune
Lev Myrmysky	Crimea	Union party, pro-government	\$180 million
Petro Poroshenko	Vinnytsia Oblast	Self-nominated, Pro-government	\$971 million
Stepan Ivakhiv	Volyn Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$275.3 million
Ihor Palytsia	Volyn Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$115 million
Ihor Yeremeyev	Volyn Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$275.3 million
Valentyn Landyk	Donetsk Oblast	Party of Regions	\$154 million
Yukhym Zvyahilsky	Donetsk Oblast	Party of Regions	\$504 million
Serhiy Klyuyev	Donetsk Oblast	Party of Regions	\$850.0 million (with brother Andriy)
Oleksiy Azarov	Donetsk Oblast	Party of Regions	N/A**
Vyacheslav Boyuslayev	Zaporizhya Oblast	Party of Regions	\$694 million
Vitaliy Chudnovsky	Kyiv Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$2.5 million (from income declaration)
Oleksandr Onyshchenko	Kyiv Oblast	Party of Regions	\$37.1 million
Andriy Tabalov	Kirovohrad Oblast	Batkivshchyna	\$42 million (with father Oleksandr)
Oleksandr Yedin	Odesa Oblast		\$74 million
Yaroslav Dubnevych	Lviv Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$38.2 million (with brother Bohdan)
Ivan Fursin	Odesa Oblast	Party of Regions	\$124 million
David Zhvaniya	Odesa Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$60.4 million
Konstantyn Zhevago	Poltava Oblast	Self-nominated, Independent	\$2.2 billion
Oleksandr Volkov	Sumy Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	Hr 3.5 million
Andriy Derkach	Sumy Oblast	Party of Regions	\$21.1 million
Dmytro Syatash	Kharkiv Oblast	Party of Regions	\$200 million
Volodymyr Mysyk	Kharkiv Oblast	Party of Regions	\$28.6 million
Anatoliy Hirshfeld	Kharkiv Oblast	Party of Regions	\$153 million
Oleksandr Feldman	Kharkiv Oblast	Party of Regions	\$380 million
Serhiy Buryak	Khmelnyska Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$134 million
Oleksandr Hereha	Khmelnyska Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$843 million (with wife Halyna)
Bogdan Hubsy *	Cherkasy Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$40 million
Mykola Rudkovsky	Chernihiv Oblast	Self-nominated, pro-government	\$235 million

Sources: Central Election Commission; wealth estimates by Focus and Korrespondent magazines and Forbes.ua; compiled by Yuriy Onyshkiv and Svitlana Tuchynska.

*no final result in this constituency; **this deputy is reportedly a multi-millionaire. His official declaration lists him as having Hr11.56 million in savings as well as properties in Ukraine and Austria as well as shares of companies.



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Editorials

Triumph of will

President Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions' claims of victory in a democratic election on Oct. 28 ring hollow on both counts. The results were neither an honest victory for the ruling party nor a victory for democratic elections.

The vote was a triumph for the Ukrainian people, including opposition leaders, businesspeople, civic activists, regular voters and others – even, possibly, some media-owning oligarchs – who decided to slow Yanukovich's monopolization of power and march toward authoritarianism. As if sensing the danger, Yanukovich and his Party of Regions cronies frantically changed the election law last year. In this they inexplicably had help from the opposition.

The country got dragged back to the mixed system, in which only half of the seats are selected by party list and the other half from single-mandate constituencies, where most of the violations, falsification and bribing took place.

In spite of all the obstacles, voters seized their last chance until 2015 to change the fate of the nation, which most think is headed in the wrong direction.

The hardships, however, were numerous. Yanukovich and people around him have done everything to entrench and enrich themselves since coming to power in 2010. They took control of the parliament, courts, prosecutors and judges. They throttled the news media by trying to intimidate remaining critical voices, including the besieged TV station. They imprisoned their most threatening rival, ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, knowing that if she ever returned to power, they are the ones who may be facing criminal charges – not her. They continued with non-transparent privatizations of state assets.

Their efforts were enough to keep the Party of Regions in power, joined by their Communist Party allies and independent lawmakers who will surely cash in by joining the ruling coalition.

However, Ukrainians voted for change and opposition forces would have won even more seats than they did if the vote had been honest. About 70 percent voted against the Party of Regions on the party list. Voters kicked out Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine and elected two new forces – opposition parties led by boxer Vitali Klitschko and nationalist Oleh Tiahnybok. Voters also rewarded Tymoshenko's party with a second-place finish.

The Central Election Commission did a patchy job. Nonetheless, the CEC caught some fraudsters attempting to change results on behalf of pro-government candidates. Chairpersons of election commissions told of attempts to bribe them to change results. Much of this fraud wouldn't have come to light without an energetic opposition, determined to gather as many copies of polling station results (protocols) as they could for evidence.

The CEC, meanwhile, could have blunted the most blatant fraud by being more open in deliberations and by tabulating votes in a more transparent way. The process was criticized by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's long-term election observation mission.

Yanukovich is not Vladimir Putin or Alexander Lukashenko, both of whom rig elections and smash opponents with gusto. But that doesn't make him a democrat either. Ukraine is not Russia, nor is it Belarus and. For that, we are all grateful when it comes to political pluralism and free speech. But the credit belongs to the strong will of the people.

Extremists

On Oct. 28, the nation witnessed the rise of the Svoboda Party from a western regional to national political force. And with it came alarm, at home and abroad, about how an extremist and "neo-fascist" party had just been vaulted to the nation's legislature.

However, Svoboda is not the only concern. The ruling pro-presidential Party of Regions finished in first place again and the Communist Party experienced a resurgence. Both embrace Soviet nostalgia. The countless crimes against humanity, including the murder of millions of Ukrainians in the Soviet era, have never been condemned in the same way that Nazi crimes have been. The Party of Regions downplays these atrocities while the Communist Party denies them and still celebrates Josef Stalin and his henchmen. Nowadays, both parties perpetuate crony capitalism.

Some lawmakers and top government officials deny Ukrainian heritage and language. The party in power has voted to prolong the stay of a foreign army and for laws that divide society, like the one elevating the status of the Russian language. Their actions have heightened divisions. Recall how, in 2004, Party of Regions leaders, including Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov, called on the southeast to secede from the rest of the nation.

Svoboda found voters among Ukrainians who think that the Regions Party and the Communists are intent on keeping Ukraine in Russia's orbit. Svoboda is today's bogeyman, and we've yet to find out whether this reputation is deserved. Svoboda's challenge now is to show that its members are not extremist, xenophobic or anti-Semitic. Such a program would deservedly bring their political demise. However, the Communists and the Party of Regions also carry plenty of threats to Ukraine's national security and sovereignty.

NEWS ITEM: In a recent interview with Time magazine, Ukraine's Minister of Infrastructure Borys Kolesnikov offered an unusual counter-argument to a question about the national spread of the Donetsk clan's influence all over Ukraine after Viktor Yanukovich's election to the presidency in 2010. It appears that Kolesnikov, a native of Mariupol in Donetsk Oblast, said that "it's no different from what happened after President Barack Obama took office. This is the law of life," said Kolesnikov, who expressed admiration for the American system. "Obama is from Chicago, so his whole team is from Chicago." Kolesnikov made a name for himself by overseeing the expensive, but successful Euro 2012 soccer games in Ukraine last summer. His most recent task was to ensure transparency of the Oct. 28 parliament election, a task that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe found that he largely failed to do.



NEWS ITEM: Giving voters food, blood pressure-checking tonometers and building playgrounds in his Kyiv district did not help Oles Dovhy get elected to parliament. The ex-speaker of the Kyiv City Council, Dovhy was a close ally of controversial former Mayor Leonid Chernovetskiy. After quitting the council, Dovhy focused on promoting himself aggressively in the Dnipro district in Kyiv, but lost the elections to Viktor Chumak from Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms Party. Dovhy denied bribing voters and said his gifts were a form of charity. "The distributed goods do not contain any mention of my name," his statement reads. However, pictures from people who live in the district show otherwise.

Yanukovich expresses gratitude to voters

Editor's Note: The following English-language translation of President Viktor Yanukovich's statement on the Oct. 28 parliamentary election was published on his official website at: <http://www.president.gov.ua/en/news/25950.html>

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich on Oct. 29 expressed gratitude to all voters for an active civil position and voting for the future of the state.

"I congratulate Ukrainian people with an important step in the development of free, independent and democratic state," the president said.

Viktor Yanukovich stressed that the election process and counting were conducted peacefully, demon-

strating the responsibility and wisdom of Ukrainians to the world.

"I am glad that according to the preliminary estimations of many Ukrainian and international observers, including the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], the elections were held decently. The voters had a wide choice among candidates. The election process was evaluated positively," Yanukovich noted.

Yanukovich emphasized that Ukraine would work with the international community in order to fix the problems noticed by the observers and ensure even greater democracy of the future elections.



President Viktor Yanukovich

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Now it's Yanukovich facing tough choices



ADRIAN KARATNYCKY

Ukrainian voters elected a new parliament on Oct. 28, but already the initial results point to a modest rebuke for President Viktor Yanukovich and his ruling Regions Party.

The independent watchdog Committee of Voters of Ukraine, which deployed thousands of monitors nationwide, indicated that the number and scale of election violations were not dissimilar to past elections under the presidency of Viktor Yushchenko, all of which were judged free and fair.

While international observers, through the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, drew a more critical conclusion, few can deny that despite significant problems with fairness, Ukraine's election results demonstrate that pluralism and political opposition remain powerful forces in the country's life and that elections in Ukraine are very different from those in Belarus, Russia or Kazakhstan.

The likely outcome (as indicated by an average of six different exit polls) reveals a highly competitive political environment. Around 31 percent of votes were cast for the Regions Party and 12 percent for its ally, the Communist Party—yielding a total of 43 percent for the ruling team. The exit poll average also showed around 24 percent for the United Opposition Fatherland Party of imprisoned former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko, 14 percent for boxing champion Vitali Klitschko's moderate Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms, and 12 percent for the xenophobic Freedom (Svoboda) Party led by Oleh Tiahnybok; giving anti-government forces around 50 percent of the vote.

But the party preference vote will not drive the Regions Party from power. This is because only half the Rada's 450 deputies are elected on the basis of party preference. The other half were selected in single-mandate districts. And here, the Regions Party is accumulating a large advantage, in some measure as a result of the use of administrative resources. Still, it is important to remember the electoral law was passed by common agreement between the opposition and the Party of Regions.

As a result, Yanukovich's party should end up with approximately 190-200 seats in the 450 seat parliament, together with the support of 30 Communists another 30 or so independents, mainly businessmen who need a good relationship with those in power. This eventually should yield a pro-government bloc of a majority of more than 250 lawmakers.

From all accounts, it appears the new pro-presidential majority will be narrower and more fissiparous than in the last legislature. This is not only because the electorate strongly backed opposition parties, but also because major oligarchs have ensured that their loyalists will be well represented in the legislature.



Members of a polling election commission empty a ballot box in Kyiv on Oct. 28 after the national parliamentary elections. Ukraine's pro-presidential ruling Party of Regions finished in first place, but faced a strong challenge from the opposition Fatherland Party of imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko and two other opposition parties led by Vitali Klitschko and Oleh Tiahnybok. (AFP)

Indeed, one informed estimate suggests that as many as 100 legislators will have direct associations with the country's 10 wealthiest businessmen.

Problems in the local vote count remain. These seem confined to a handful of closely contested districts, where candidates with a reputation for corruption are seeking to nullify the public's choices.

But several things are already clear:

a) Despite the use of administrative resources and a far from level playing field, political pluralism is alive and well in Ukraine;

b) New political forces (both constructive—Klitschko's UDAR – and worryingly – the Freedom Party) have emerged;

c) Ukraine enjoys a highly active civil society, an open campaigning environment, a freewheeling internet and relatively open political debate on television.

In the aftermath of the elections, Yanukovich's next steps are far from clear. But this is par for the course, as during the Yanukovich presidency, Ukraine has been something of a paradox.

The president has been effective in building a stronger infrastructure for his country, helping reduce the country's budget deficit while cutting taxes, preserving Ukraine's sovereignty by building new relationships with China and Asia, instituting concrete reforms that are required for closer integration with Europe, and withstanding Russia's pressure to integrate.

Moreover, despite caricatures of Yanukovich as another Vladimir Putin or Alexander Lukashenko,

under his watch rival political parties have been able to conduct vigorous campaigns with the benefit of generally open campaigning, vigorous debates on television, and through a wide-ranging Internet.

Still, his rule has often been tone deaf to the will of the Ukrainian people and to the friendly counsel of Europe and the U.S.

His government has been dominated by the interests of the country's extant and aspiring billionaires, and evidence of cronyism and corruption abounds. Moreover, conspicuous consumption by the ruling elite is rampant in a relatively poor country. Most importantly, under Yanukovich, the judiciary's independence and impartiality has been severely eroded, impeding foreign investment and resulting in tensions with the West over the Tymoshenko case.

In the end, Yanukovich will have to make some fateful choices in the coming weeks and months. These choices will determine whether Ukraine resumes its path toward integration with Europe, becomes increasingly isolated or succumbs to Russian hegemony. Most importantly, given the election results, Yanukovich will not be able to make these choices without taking into account the views of Ukraine's voters and Ukraine's powerful economic elites. And that gives reason for cautious optimism.

Adrian Karatnycky is the managing partner with the Myrmidon Group LLC, a New York-based consultancy with representation in Kyiv that works with investors and corporations seeking entry into the complex but lucrative emerging markets of Ukraine and Eastern Europe. The website is at www.myrmidongrpllc.com.

VOX populi

WITH ANASTASIA FORINA



Are you happy with the Oct. 28 elections? Who did you vote for and why?



Andriy Koval
student
"Honestly, I didn't expect the Communist Party to get 14 percent of the votes. I'm surprised

people trust their claims. I voted for the Svoboda Party. I decided to give them a chance to show their worth in the parliament."



Mykola Leonov
researcher
"I'm not satisfied because Svoboda and United Opposition didn't muster enough

votes. Moreover, plenty of violations were observed at the voting stations. I cast my vote for Svoboda and a candidate from United Opposition (in the single-mandate district) as these are the only [parties] that represent the interests of people rather than the swindlers."



Tamara Yarema
manager
"[The results] were predictable. I voted for UDAR [Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic

Alliance for Reforms]. It's a new power. Let's see what they can do."



Maria Bykova
photographer
"I don't care. The same people [are making it into the parliament]. I do not support

any of them. I've just crossed out the voting ballot as there was no option to vote for none of the above and I didn't want my vote to be used by someone else."



Yuri Auerbakh
manager
"Yes. I'm fine with that. I voted for Svoboda Party. The rest have already [been in the

parliament]. Let's check what the newcomers can do."

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.

Tymoshenko: Yanukovich stole election from Ukrainian people



YULIA TYMOSHENKO

Editor's Note: The following is an English-language translation of imprisoned ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's Oct. 29 letter alleging that the Oct. 28 parliamentary election was rigged and announcing that she is going on a hunger strike in protest. The Ukrainian original can be found here: http://byut.com.ua/direct_language/12938.html. She is in the second year of a seven-year prison sentence for abuse of office in concluding a natural gas deal with Russia in 2009, a conviction widely regarded as political persecution.

Dear Ukrainians,

From July 30 to Oct. 28, the most unfair elections in the history of the independent Ukraine were held.

To admit that they were fair or partly fair, or that they were elections at all, means to tell all the people who corrupted voters in single-member constituencies, suppressed TVi and other independent channels; all the people who organized "carousels" and forged certificates of non-existent illnesses to rig home voting; to tell everyone who in front of video cameras threw in piles of ballot papers filled in by the same hand – the hand of the [Viktor] Yanukovich regime; to tell all the people who took decisions in the Central Election Commission to register false parties and use their resources to form subordinated election commissions; to tell all the people who distributed food packages and paid money in districts; to tell all these clear lawbreakers, including criminals: "Guys, you

have done everything right, act like this in future, we're ready to say black is white, evil is good, and the people who rigged ballot are honest politicians, because we are all in favor of political opportunism and political expediency and not of the truth and European values."

It is impossible to say the elections were fair and legitimate at a time when every Ukrainian citizen knows that money and food packages were offered to him and many people took them; to say the elections were fair and legitimate when every Ukrainian citizen knows that power structures and administrative resource applied violence to them; when hundreds of thousands of election commissions members took money for forging protocols; when every citizen knows that all TV channels campaigned dirtily 24/7 in favor of the ruling regime; and when everyone read resolutions of the international commu- → 18

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Ukraine's IT sector matures, but tax cuts alone won't do

BY JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine's information technology industry is coming back to pre-crisis levels, with double-digit growth expected in coming years. Perhaps more important than growth, however, is the transformation under way - from being based on the outsourcing of menial functions to producing innovators.

In 2011, Ukraine's domestic IT market was estimated at Hr 14.5 billion (\$1.8 billion), the same nominal amount as in 2008 before the crisis hit, according to PMR, a market research company. Four years after the hryvnia's sharp devaluation in 2008, the sector remains below its zenith in dollar terms. But it is expanding rapidly, both in the direction of traditional business process outsourcing and more elaborate business solutions.

Driving the diversification is the appearance of new organizations, a maturing market and the need for more challenging, and rewarding work, felt by the programmers themselves.

Bored by the traditional IT jobs available, a small group of Lviv-based programmers decided to set up Vertaline, a boutique agency that grabbed headlines in the U.S. earlier this year by creating the first ever Twitter-profanity



Vertaline is a boutique agency set up by a small group of Lviv-based programmers. (Courtesy)

map. Showing the curse words used by Twitter users, it allowed Americans see which city was the most foul-mouthed.

"Here we can do not just outsourcing but something that can affect the world," Oleksandr Bondar, co-founder and CEO of Vertaline, said.

Their main business is prototyping and developing ideas, Bondar explained, in essence taking individuals and businesses ideas for programs and

applications and showing them what they would look like in reality. The added benefit, he said, is that it allows the programmers to work on interesting projects, not just the outsourcing that still accounts for almost 95 percent of the market.

Vertaline is by no means alone in their quest for innovation. Other recent Ukrainian success stories include a face recognition platform called Viewdle,

bought by Google for \$30 million, and gloves that translate sign language into speech and vice versa - the recipient of a prestigious Microsoft award.

But despite the promising state of Ukraine's IT industry, solving Ukraine's traditional headaches - investment climate, macroeconomic/political stability and property rights protection - remains a barrier to growth.

More than any other industry, IT has the potential to pack up and leave at the first whiff of trouble. While the investors in a steel mill have to deal with raiding or corrupt officials, an IT outsourcing firm can shift its contracts from Ukraine to Bangladesh in a matter of days.

This may be one of the reasons behind the recent government moves aimed at creating a special environment for IT sector firms, most noticeably reducing corporate taxes to five percent and introducing value-added tax exemptions. But with most programmers already working under the private entrepreneur scheme and paying low taxes, such methods can only go so far.

Ukraine's success depends on the ability to attract talent by providing good working conditions and quality of life. Competing for the traditional business process outsourcing destinations,

like Poland and the Czech Republic - both regular names on the global top 10 lists - will be difficult. Ukraine lacks the modern office space, transport infrastructure, and world level educational institutions. Quality of life is an even bigger problem.

Just how much this matters can be seen on the example of Estonia, from where the international communication platform Skype originated and which is home to NATO's top cyberwarfare center. One of the reasons it has been able to attract or keep the people necessary are the immense efforts to make it a pleasant place to live and work - liberalizing regulations, cutting red tape and making all functions of government accessible online.

So far in Ukraine, the only city with a chance to compete is Lviv, where a progressive local administration has sought to work with business and academia. Tax breaks are helpful, but the key is bringing the institutions and people together, says Bondar, who hopes to work on setting up an educational institution one day.

"I want a place where people come and see all the tools they need - and then create something," he said.

Kyiv Post editor Jakub Parusinski can be reached at parusinski@kyivpost.com

CASE STUDY: SUCCESSFUL ERP IMPLEMENTATION IN INTERNATIONAL COMPANY AHMAD TEA

Advertisement

Ahmad Tea is UK-based family business and a world-famous manufacturer of tea and tea blends. The company's packing and manufacturing plants can be found in the UK, India, Sri Lanka, Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan. In addition to headquarters in the UK, it has subsidiaries in Sri Lanka, Dubai, the US, Japan and France. The company prides itself on the quality of its tea and works to source the finest teas from around the world, which it then blends, packages, and ships to customers in 70 countries on six continents.

In supporting business operations, the company has relied on Microsoft Dynamics NAV as its enterprise resource planning system since 2001, with separate, tailored deployments of the solution at each of its operations. Ahmad Tea began using Microsoft Dynamics NAV for accounting and basic stock control and then expanded Sri Lankan deployment with the manufacturing capabilities and our U.K. deployment with the warehousing capabilities. It was important to implement two parallel projects to solve these tasks, and Ahmad Tea decided to involve its reliable partner - Innoware which has been providing services to Ahmad Tea offices since 2006. Innoware is highly experienced consulting company which specializes in implementation of enterprise resource planning systems (ERP), project management and portfolio management (PPM) and business analysis tools (BI). The company's mission is the development and implementation of new management techniques to enhance the effectiveness and competitiveness of its customers. Innoware carried out more than 100 projects on the implementation for leading Ukrainian and international companies

Innoware expanded functionality of Ahmad Tea's corporate enterprise resource planning (ERP) system by implementing the warehouse management system and business analytics module of Microsoft Dynamics NAV. This allowed the goods' inventory to harmonise and optimise with the acceptance, allocation and shipment processes. As a result of the business analytics implementation, Ahmad Tea got the opportunity to promptly generate corporate reporting from the Dubai and Sri Lanka offices in a convenient way and in any currency.

Business analytics also allows the company to build consolidated reporting on different functional fields as sales, inventory, payables and receivables. During implementation Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services, SQL Server Analysis Services and business analytics, as a part of Microsoft Dynamics NAV, were used. Innoware significantly improved the Ahmad Tea ERP system

business logic within the project, which concerned not only warehouse management and business analytics, but also manufacturing. Thus, basic manufacturing processes were automated to provide correct warehouse management system functionality, in particular users started working with production orders.

Implementation of additional functionality allows Ahmad Tea to work more successfully. The company gained an opportunity to increase the effectiveness and transparency of business processes. Now the sales department specialists have the ability to work with centralised contractors (clients and suppliers) and a goods database. The management and the financial department are able to quickly build managerial reporting by region, currency and other parameters.

Entering 20 new markets over the past decade, Ahmad Tea can continue to rely on Microsoft Dynamics NAV to support the company's growth. At the same time, the company has been able to tailor the solution to its needs, driving the ongoing improvements it needs to control costs while expanding. "As we have expanded the business to sell to 20 more countries over the last 10 years and introduced a wider range of tea products, Microsoft Dynamics NAV has played a significant part in supporting that expansion cost-effectively," says Peter Jacob, Ahmad Tea corporate IT manager.

"We are proud to collaborate with such a well-known company as Ahmad Tea and glad to provide top managers and shareholders with the effective instrument of centralised company management from the UK office. We consider that this instrument will allow Ahmad Tea to increase its market share, expand the business and manage production costs more effectively, providing the best production quality," says Dmytro Popinako, Innoware managing partner. Successfully fulfilled projects will allow Ahmad Tea to develop corporate ERP systems together with Innoware and implement, in particular, a barcode system in the future.

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How will Microsoft Windows 8 go over?

BY MARYNA IRKLIYENKO
IRKLIYENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

The release of Windows 8, Microsoft's latest operating system, has been hailed by some as a breakthrough in computer use. But others warn about system's limitations and predict that the software giant could lose out to competitors with the new system.

Oct. 26 marked the world premiere of one of the most anticipated upgrades since the iPhone 5 release. It took some of the world's best developers three years to create Windows 8. Following the popular trend of touch-screen gadgets, Microsoft bet on improving user experience of devices with sensor screens. Yet this time, the new operating system can be used on desktops, laptops, tablets and even home theater PCs.

"The user experience (has) no compromise - (Windows 8 can be used with a) mouse, keyboard and touch," says Don Grantham, president of Microsoft Central & Eastern Europe. "And obviously that differentiates our product against competitors' products."

Other upgrades include shell and user interface, which replaces the traditional desktop with a new start screen showing a network of constantly updated names of applications. It also introduces the Windows store, where applications can be bought or updated.

To make the new software safer and increase the options available, multiple technologies have been added, such as USB 3.0, cloud computing, low-power ARM architecture, as well as additional security features, like malware filtering, built-in antivirus software, etc.

However, when it comes to usability, the added options can be confusing. Oleksiy Tanchyk, head of i.ua internet portal, purchased Windows 8 on its release date. "I'm using Windows since 3.1 version and have to say that version 8 is the most ambiguous," Tanchyk says.

Viktor Teslenko, an independent IT consultant, agrees. "There are improvements in the Windows 8 as well → 10

EastLabs accelerator helps entrepreneurs

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
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Helping young information technology companies get from the "eureka" moment on stumbling across a good idea to actually making money off it, startup accelerators like Eastlabs provide office space, mentoring and business training in exchange for a share in future revenues.

How successful they will be could determine whether Ukraine remains just a place for cheap IT labor or a real source of innovative companies and business solutions.

The EastLabs business accelerator opened in Kyiv in January and is owned by EastOne, an investment advisory set up by billionaire Victor Pinchuk in 2007. The main purpose is to draw on the American experience in developing startups, explain the U.S. citizens, Eveline Buchatsky and Hrish Lotlikar, who manage the enterprise. Along with their third partner, Olga Belkova, a former coordinator for international projects at Victor Pinchuk's fund, they say they're ready to capitalize on what they see as one of Eastern Europe's most promising IT markets.

"We understood that here we'll have better return," Lotlikar said. "Also we want to (get rid of) the stereotype that Ukrainians are not competitive on the global market."

Ukraine's IT sector remains a bright spot amid a drab economic picture. With double-digit growth, particularly in the outsourcing segment, employers complain about labor shortages despite some 16,000 new IT specialists graduating each year.

The rising significance of innovation has also driven the rise of business accelerators that often help young companies start out in return for a share of the business. The first came in 2008 with the GrowthUp accelerator, which has since helped to kick-start some 120 companies. In 2012, Happy Farm opened its doors in Kyiv's suburbs, as did the Odesa-based WannaBiz startup accelerator.



Eveline Buchatsky



Hrish Lotlikar



Olga Belkova

EastLabs's operations focus on the entrepreneurship angle. Those skilled enough to pass the rigorous selection process receive office space in the center of Kyiv, a large mentor pool, advice from human resource specialists and some cash for each team.

According to Buchatskiy, one of the sector's main catalysts is the ease of moving projects from paper to practice that the Internet offers – even without wads of cash. Everything starts with an idea, she said, adding that registration is open to anyone at the EastLabs website <http://eastlabs.co>. They have looked through more than 260 applications since January and call on the best teams for interviews.

"Now we have eight teams, so the team acceptance range is supposed to be less than 5 percent. That's because we are targeting the global market and cannot work with niche ideas. Our incubator is focused on those companies that will grow very fast: with the 5-7 percent income (growth) per week," Buchatskiy said.

Since January, four teams have completed their training: video platform RunFaces, multiplayer game developer My Team Voice, online gift service Active (Gift Service) and FindGuru, an online educational program.

Several months back, the FindGuru team changed their name to Preply and found investors in Boston for their platform matching tutors with students preparing SAT exams, which test readiness for college.

Each program lasts four months and takes places at the incubator's office in

Kyiv. Each team receives \$20,000 for project development, while EastLabs gets 15 percent share of the future company.

The actual program starts from crystallizing ideas, learning how to pitch them and focus on their practical aspects, said Belkova, followed by a "building stage" of working with one of the 50 international or Ukrainian mentors.

EastLabs partners include Jed Sunden (former KP Media owner), Vasile Tofan (investment director at Horizon Capital), John Fanning (founding chairman and CEO, Napster), Viktoriya Tigipko (Director at TA Venture) and other specialists.

Teams are free to pick their mentors, with whom they then focus on the marketability of any idea. Results are measured mid-program, allowing to change the model. Finally teams are expected to be

ready to sell their products and face investors – venture companies and business angels. Help also comes in the form of contacts and arranging meetings.

"After leaving EastLabs (the programmers) need to be able to attract some business angel investor, (but) we'll still be their partners" said Lotlikar. "Such bridge investors are ready to take the project off the ground if they see some potential. And they provide some \$200,000-\$400,000 in working capital."

The key then is for the companies to get through the "death valley" phase, the Eastlabs experts say, when there is no revenue in sight but costs are already rising fast. But for that there's no magic recipe – just hard work, persistence and luck.

Kyiv Post staff writer Elena Goncharova can be reached at goncharova@kyivpost.com.

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Big plans in project management sector for small apartment startup in capital

BY JESPER LARSEN
LARSEN@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukraine has shown itself to be an attractive location for outsourced information technology services. Slowly, however, the country's most talented programmers are taking the reins and going international, bringing with them innovative business solutions that are gaining popularity.

Talent alone is not enough to compete with big established players on the global market. It takes planning, hard work and a good deal of strategic thinking to turn a great idea into a successful business. And a little bit of luck.

Operating out of a small, but welcoming apartment in the Podil district of Kyiv, 32-year-old Chyngys Barynov and his two partners have turned their startup idea, worksection.com, into a profitable business.

While Barynov is educated in computer science, his colleagues have backgrounds in physics and robotics. They have all always shared a passion for working with computers and programming. One day three years ago, they decided to try and turn their ideas into a common venture.

The group's first startup was the site quickribbon.com. This was an online tool helping bloggers to design their blogs, and it quickly proved popular.

"We were spotted quite fast and in the first five days we had 2,000-3,000 visits per day. Since it was a free service we created, we did not really generate any money on the project, but it gave us the courage to create others."

The team was spread out among three cities in Ukraine, and used online project management programs to communicate and work together. But they couldn't find any program that suited their needs, so in late 2009 they decided to build their own platform, whose features were broader and better suited to joint working than those of existing ones.

"We built worksection.com in around two months and when it was ready, I

wrote on a IT community blog that we used to work with Basecamp (a leading project management site), but we now switched to worksection.com. That quickly led to 200-300 users registered and around 150 of these (were) paying for the service," Barynov says.

At that point, however, the team had no experience or knowledge on the strategy and skills required to nurture a startup. Everything was an experiment back then, they said: Even simple things like finding a bank that could assist e-commerce proved difficult.

When the first money came in, however, the group lost focus. Barynov chased an old dream of playing professional poker, while the others relocated to Kyiv. But customers kept coming in and after a year they decided to dedicate themselves fully to the project.

"I started to read books on strategy, while the two others programmed and developed the site. I began an active dialogue with our customers, something that proved to be very successful. It gave us a lot of feedback on our work, and it has doubled our conversion rate to 14 percent," Barynov says.

Today the site has more than 1,000 paying clients and claims 7 percent of the project management market in ex-Soviet republics, according to research done by Tagline Analytics Agency in 2011.

The success means that they need to hire four more persons and they are having informal discussions with possible investors to actively advertising their service. But looking into the future, they are not sure if they can stay in Ukraine. The need to be closer to emerging markets and the bad business climate in Ukraine may force the team to go elsewhere.

"The authorities here often have a misplaced way of helping small businesses and because we want to move into other markets than Russian-speaking in the future, we might have to relocate the business to Hong Kong or Israel, Barynov says.

Kyiv Post staff writer Jesper Larsen can be reached at Larsen@kyivpost.com.

Microsoft Windows 8 gets mixed reviews

→ 8 as some controversial changes," Teslenko says.

The international reception has been mixed. The biggest resentment was caused by confusion over Windows 8's "duality." The new software presents two types of interfaces, with one designed the new way for touch screen devices and a second running older version features. This means that there are two sets of one program, located on two different interfaces.

"There are two versions of Internet Explorer browser. One that works the old way and another one for touch interface. This confuses," says Teslenko.

"I had come across the new Skype that you have to download from the applications store, which is primarily made for tablets and navigation by touch. But for those who want to use the old Skype interface, as it turns out, a separate version exists. But it can only be downloaded from the official website, since there is none in the applications store," agrees Tanchyk.

In an attempt to focus on sensor touch features, regular PCs inevitably felt the lack of the developer's attention. After all, many computers do not have touch screens. "For tablet computers this is great software, but not for regular computers, which are still in the majority," notes Teslenko.

Tanchyk from i.ua had a similar experience. "It feels very strongly that the interface was designed for tablets and using gestures. So that when you work on the desktop computer, without a sensor screen or at least touchpad, it gets uncomfortable," Tanchyk says.



Don Grantham, president of Microsoft Central & Eastern Europe, demonstrates the recently released Windows 8 operating system on a tablet. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Meanwhile, Microsoft's Grantham uses Windows 8 on his laptop. "There were some observations about some things that could be different and improved, I would argue that that's the same of any of our competitors as well, frankly," Grantham said.

Yet with around 90 percent of personal computers running on Windows in Ukraine, many have updated their operation system together with the roughly four million people who bought Windows 8 during just three days after international release.

Windows 8 sales were assisted by a discounted price of \$40 for an update from previous versions, and just \$15 for computers bought in June or later.

While intellectual property rights problem in Ukraine hits some records with a piracy rate of more than 80 percent, Microsoft slowly but surely is

making some progress, with sales surging 25 percent last year.

Consumers will decide whether Windows 8 becomes another successful operating system, or falls flat when faced with rivals Android and Apple's iOS, trendsetters of the emerging touch-screen market. But the success of older Windows versions is likely to sustain Microsoft's near future.

"Judging from previous year's experience - the release of Vista and Millennium Edition operating systems, which were unsuccessful - it didn't really affect those 90 percent, because people would stay at the previous version, as it used to be with Windows XP," says Teslenko. "So far Windows remains the most successful office and game platform."

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

→ On the move PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



PAVLO KAZYMIROV, an experienced lawyer, joined Citi Ukraine as a Country Legal Counsel. Pavlo has broad experience in the financial sector, in particular in capital markets, securities sales & trading, structured financing and banking generally. Before joining Citi Ukraine, Pavlo has worked for 4 years at Renaissance Capital as a Head of Legal and

Compliance, Ukraine & CEE. Pavlo holds MA in International Private Law from Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University and LL.M. in Banking and Finance received at Queen Mary University of London, U.K. Citi, the leading global financial services company, has approximately 200 million customer accounts and does business in more than 160 countries and jurisdictions. Citi celebrates its 200th anniversary in 2012. Citi established a Representative Office in Ukraine in 1997 and was incorporated as a wholly-owned subsidiary in 1998, making it the 100th country in Citi's global network. Citi Ukraine provides a full range of services to corporate and commercial banking clients, leads important financing transactions for the Government of Ukraine, as well as key multinational companies and top tier Ukrainian companies.



IVAN TROFIMENKO joined AstapovLawyers as Head of Real Estate Department, which will advise on a full range of land, property and construction related issues. Prior to joining AstapovLawyers Ivan Trofimenko was a Junior Partner with the Law Offices of OMP and a lead attorney for real estate and international trade practices with Magisters

(currently EPAM). Mr Trofimenko has more than 10 years of valuable professional experience providing services to global leaders in the real estate, steel, energy, food, FMCG, finance and chemical sectors. Mr Trofimenko holds a masters degree in International Law from Kyiv Institute of International Relations (Ukraine), and a degree in EU Business Law from Pantheon-Assas University (Paris II) (France). AstapovLawyers International Law Group is an international full-service law firm with offices in Kyiv, Odessa, Moscow, Almaty and London. The firm is among TOP-5 best law firms in Ukraine, TOP-25 best law firms in Russia and fast growing firms in Kazakhstan.

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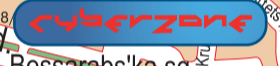
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Going Out Guide

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'Goodbye, Ukraine' coming on screens

Through Nov. 21



Courtesy

Would you like to know more about modern Ukrainian cinematography? Then do not miss an opportunity to watch a fresh series of short movies by a new generation of Ukrainian directors. Initially the project with the provocative title "Goodbye, Ukraine" was planned to cover the painful topic of emigration. But at the end, it turned into a tragicomic survey about why Ukrainians feel alienated with their country and what is happening with them right now. "Our goal was just to tell Ukrainians: People, look at yourself," said director Volodymyr Tykhiy, who produced the series together with the agency Arthouse Traffic. Two years ago, Tykhiy took part in another short movies project, Mudaky Arabesky, which had success. A team of 500 people involved in "Goodbye, Ukraine" made 25 short movies. For the screening, producers have chosen the six best films, including "Nuclear Waste" by Myroslav Slaboshpytsky, which was awarded the Silver Leopard at the Locarno film festival in Switzerland. A movie tells about life in Chernobyl zone. All movies are demonstrated with English subtitles. **Kyiv, 19 Velyka Vasylkivska St. (former Chervonoarmiyka), 234-7381, kievkin.com.ua. Oct. 29-Nov. 3.** **Zhovten, 26 Kostyantynivksa St., 205-5951, zhovten-kino.kiev.ua. Nov. 1-21.**

Friday, November 2

Classical music

Classics on Fridays. Baroque Ensemble 'Offertorium' and 'Collegium Kyiv' Orchestra Playing Brahms, Mozart. Master Klass. Hr 50 ●

Georgian Chamber Music Concert. National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Sibelius, Kancheli, Paliashvili (violin). National Philharmonic. Hr 45-90 ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 7:50 p.m. Hr 35-40 ●

The Loneliest Planet (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Steve Jobs The Lost Interview (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m., 11 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Mandry & Crazy Train. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Chillobombers & Red Rocks (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Clubs

Glam Punk Party. Ajour. 9 p.m. Free for females, Hr 150 ●

Horny Friday. Bionica. 11 p.m. Hr

30-50 for females, Hr 60-80 for males ●

Angels & Demons Night. Egoist. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 50 for males ●

Theaters

The Threepenny Opera (musical, starring Konstantin Khabensky). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 490-5,990 ●

Pavlik Morozov (performance by Les' Poderev'yans'ky). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400 ●

Love Letters To Stalin (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

Sorochinsky Fair (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-120 ●

Shows

Volodymyr Kuzmin. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 250-1500 ●

Les Poderev'yanskyi. Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

Kimono. Three Centuries of Japanese Fashion. Atmosfera 360. 10 a.m. Hr 30-90 ●

Grand Natural (photoexhibition). Ya Greter Art-center. 11 a.m. Free ●

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 20 ●

Cannes Lions (ad festival). Freedom Hall. 7 p.m. Hr 250-500 ●

Crazy Halloween Fest. Alta-expo. 9 p.m. Hr 250 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012. (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Saturday, November 03

Classical music

Works of Vivaldi, Rameau, Muthel, Dubois, Bossi (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. ●

Femi Mustafayev (baryton) Accompanied by National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments of Ukraine Playing Ukrainian Folk Songs and Works of European Composers. National Philharmonic. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 11:10 a.m., 12:45 p.m., 6 p.m. Hr 22-45 ●

Tabu (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

The Loneliest Planet (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Goodbye, Ukraine. Kyiv. 6:40 p.m., 11:30 p.m. Hr 40 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Ot Vinta & Tex-Mex Company. Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Bangladesh Orchestra & Beefeaters. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75 ●

Clubs

Open The Door, This Is Police (striptease party). Seven Music Club. 11 p.m. Free for females, Hr 70 for males ●

Halloween Party. Disco Radio Hall. 10 p.m. Hr 60 for females, Hr 80 for males ●

Halloween Maskerade. Egoist. 11 p.m. Hr 25 for females, Hr 50 for males ●

Theaters

Valentin And Valentina (drama). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 50-120 ●

Four Reasons To Get Married (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120 ●

Athens Nights (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90 ●

The Gypsy Baron (premiere). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150 ●

Shows

Les Poderev'yanskyi. Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 150-400 ●

Garou. Palats Ukraina. 7 p.m. Hr 200-1500 ●

Miscellaneous

School of Scientific Wonders. Artist's House. 11 a.m., 1 p.m. Hr 60-150 ●

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 20 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012. (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Sunday, November 4

Classical music

Works of Arnold Schoenberg (Austria). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80 ●

Movies

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 1:05 p.m., 2:40 p.m., 7:50 p.m. Hr 25-40 ●

The Loneliest Planet (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Tabu (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Paul Di'anno, Blaze Bayley (Iron Maiden). Docker Pub. 8:30 p.m. Fee to be announced ●

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Clubs

Back To USSR. Ajour. 9 p.m. Free for females, Hr 100 for males ●

Salsatimbateca. Fiesta. 7 p.m. Hr 20 ●

Gangster's Paradise (r'n'b party). Forsage. 11 p.m. Hr 10-30 ●

Theaters

Dangerous Liaisons (drama). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

Chasing Two Hares (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-150 ●

Natalka Poltavka (Ukrainian rococo, based on Ivan Kotlyarevsky play). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-150 ●

Pickled Aristocrat (Ukrainian-British fantasy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90 ●

Shows

Seether. Bingo. 7 p.m. Hr 250 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

The Mystery of Old Boards. Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko. Hr 20 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012. (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Monday, November 5

Classical music

In Memory of Glen Gould. Works of Gould, Bach, Gibbons (piano, organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. Chamber Orchestra of the National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free ●

Movies

Autumn Future Shorts (shorts festival). Kyiv. 4:40 p.m., 6:30 p.m. Hr 30-40 ●

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:50 p.m., 7:20 p.m. Hr 22-40 ●

Tabu (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

The Loneliest Planet (Another Movie festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Whistlin' Dixie (country rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

Tex-Mex Company. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free ●

Vanilla Sky (indie). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Fee to be announced ●

The Black Rifles & Maks Tovstiy (acoustic). Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

The Quartet (drama). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 10-75 ●

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Tuesday, November 6

Classical music

Works of Bach, Vivaldi, Handel, Purcell (organ, trumpet). House of Organ Music. 7:30 pm. Hr 30-90 ●

Movies

11-25 Jiketsu No Hi Mishima Yukio To Wakamono-Tachi (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Anton Is Here (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Best Autumn Shorts (shorts festival). Zhovten. 12:50 p.m., 7:20 p.m. Hr 22-40 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Tres Deseos (latino party). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

More Huana (cover band). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 20 ●

Revenko Band. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Alexei Herman (jazz). Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Kings Of The Dance. The Best (dancing show). Opera Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-2,000 ●

Empty Trash (comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-60 ●

The Imaginary Invalid (premiere, comedy). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200 ●

Song About Snail (comedy). Palats Ukraina, small stage. 7 p.m. Hr 100-200 ●

TEA CLUB

invites jazz fans & tea lovers for live music every Monday 7:30 p.m., 7 Druzhby Narodiv avenue, Hr 40-180, +380 50 929-49-23

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Wednesday, November 7

Classical music

Works of Bach, Rheinberger (organ, flute). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Movies

Anton Is Here. (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 2:45 p.m. Hr 30 ●

11-25 Jiketsu No Hi Mishima Yukio To Wakamono-Tachi (Another Movie Festival). Kyiv. 9:30 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60 ●

Live music

Rockin' Wolves (rock). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free ●

The Magma (pop rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30 ●

Cadillac Records Jam Session. Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free ●

Jazz Wednesday with Igor Sidash Trio. Divan. 8 p.m. Free ●

Theaters

Mr. X (operetta). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 80-100 ●

Kean IV (tragicomedy). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200 ●

Playing Chonkin (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80 ●

The Seagull (comedy, based on Anton Chekhov play). House Of Actor's. 7 p.m. Hr 50-70 ●

Shows

Chizh & Co. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 250-1000 ●

Miscellaneous

Wine Fest 2012. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 12:01 p.m. Fee to be announced ●

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskyi. Hr 110- 350 ●

Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetskyi Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50 ●

Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free ●

Thursday, November 8

Classical music

Works of Caccini, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninoff (organ, violin, violoncello). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 20-80 ●

Subscription No. 7. The Art of Piano Performance. Borys Bloch (Germany). Works of Haydn, Liszt, Debussy, Chopin. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-105 ●

KOREA-UKRAINE FRIENDSHIP CONCERT

09.11.2012 – Kiev



The Third Korea – Ukraine Friendship Concert dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of Korea and Ukraine will be held on Friday, November 9, 2012 at 19:00 in the Lysenko Hall of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine (2 Volodymyrskyi uzviz, Kyiv).

The most famous South Korean soprano Jo Sumi will share the stage with the Ukrainian prominent tenor Borko Igor. The Academic Symphony Orchestra of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine together with the Korean classic musician such as IL Hwan Bae (cello), Won Kim (piano), Yoon Hee Kim (violin) under the Maestro Igor Palkin will perform during the concert.

The Korea – Ukraine Friendship Concert is organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Ukraine with the support of the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.



BORKO Igor, Tenor

JO Sumi, Sopran

KIM Won, Piano

BAE Ilhwan, Cello

KIM Yoonhee, Violin

Through Nov.18



Art Kyiv Contemporary

Ukraine's biggest contemporary art exhibition has opened its doors on Oct.31 in Mystetsky Arsenal in Kyiv. It features 20 projects of the leading art galleries operating in Ukraine, Austria, Russia, Italy, Germany and France.

Art Kyiv Contemporary. Through Nov. 18. Mystetsky Arsenal. Hr 50, Free for kids under 12

Ruki Vverh. Stereo Plaza. 8 p.m. Hr 250-800

Miscellaneous

Wine Fest 2012. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 12:01 p.m. Fee to be announced
Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50

Friday, November 9

Classical music

Works of Liszt, Knecht, Reger (organ). House of Organ Music. 7:30 p.m. Hr 30-100
Classics on Fridays. Works of Casella, Widor, Rachmaninoff (piano, flute). Master Klass. 8 p.m. Hr 50
It's Majesty Piano. Tchaikovsky Tribute Concert. Works of Beethoven. National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music. 7 p.m. Free

Movies

Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60

Live music

Motor'rola Chumaki & Red Rocks (rock). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75
Ot Vinta & Mama Mia (italiano disco, rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75
No Comments (pop cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

The Gamblers (based on Nikolay Gogol play). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-800
Thruth Game (drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 200-1,750
The Dove (tragic comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90
The Monologues Of Vagina (epit-age performance). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 60-280

Shows

Valeriy Miladze. Palats Ukrainian. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1250

Leningrad. Stereo Plaza. 7 p.m. Hr 250-1500

Miscellaneous

Wine Fest 2012. Kyiv Expo Plaza. 12:01 p.m. Fee to be announced
The Day of Ukrainian Writing and Language. Mamyeva Sloboda. Hr 40, Hr 100 (for foreigners or none-ukrainian speaking visitors)
Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Saturday, November 10

Classical music

Lyatoshynsky Classical Music Ensemble Playing Bruckner. House of Organ Music. 7:30 pm. Hr 30-100
National Academic Symphonic Orchestra of Ukraine Playing Rost, Vlak, Shvarts, Sparke, Williams, Mellilo, Reyneke. National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 40-80

Live music

Renaissance & More Huana (covers). Docker Pub. 10 p.m. Hr 75
Motor'rola & Red Rocks (rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 75
Wake Up (sexy cover band). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Hr 50

Theaters

Marienbad (based on Sholem Aleichem play). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-800
The Queue (comedy). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 50-80
Two Indigo Colored Flowers (choreographic drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 15-120
The Monologues Of Vagina (epit-age performance). Kinopanorama. 7 p.m. Hr 60-280

Shows

Viktor Koroliov. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 140-580
Picnic. Zhovtnevy Palats. 7 p.m. Hr 190-790

IAMX. Crystal Hall. 7 p.m. Hr 500-1000

Miscellaneous

Celldweller. Xlib Club. 7 p.m. Hr 120
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free

Sunday, November 11

Classical music

Sefarda's Songs. Cinco Singlos Ancient Music Ensemble Playing Ancient Folk Jewish Songs (flute, viola, lute). National Philharmonic. 7 p.m. Hr 45-90

Live music

Rock Four (cover band). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free
Dyadya Vasya. Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Free
Soyuz 44 (jazz jam session). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free

Theaters

Marienbad (based on Sholem Aleichem play). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-800
Keon IV (tragicomedy). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 20-200
Woyzeck. Carnival Of Flesh (premiere). Drama & Comedy Theater on the left bank of Dnipro. 7 p.m. Hr 70-120
Quartet For Two (premiere). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 50-90

Shows

Arefieva & Kovcheg. House of Officers. 7 p.m. Hr 90-320
Lumen. Stereo Plaza. 6 p.m. Hr 170-250
7rasa. Bochka. 8 p.m. Hr 110-160
Blaze Bayley & Paul Di'Anno. Docker Pub. 8:30 p.m. Hr 200-3000

Miscellaneous

Human Body Exhibition. NSC Olimpiyskiy. Hr 110-350
Art Kyiv Contemporary 2012 (art forum). Mystetsky Arsenal. 11 a.m. Hr 50
Damien Hirst. Pinchuk Art Center. 12:01 p.m. Free



French Connection playing jazz

Ukrainian jazz band French Connection will give a concert in Kyiv's pub Babuin on Nov.11. Four participants of the band playing violin, bass, keyboard and drums will perform their best compositions.

Movies

Crocodile Dundee (action). 7 p.m. Master Klass
Skyfall (action). Ukraine. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 3:50 p.m., 6:40 p.m., 9:30 p.m. Hr 20-60

Live music

Ruki V Briuki (rockabilly). Docker Pub. 9:30 p.m. Free
Whistlin' Dixie (country rock). Docker's ABC. 10 p.m. Hr 30
Checkpoint (blues rock). Art Club 44. 10 p.m. Free
Muse Cover Party (rock). Divan. 8 p.m. Hr 40

Theaters

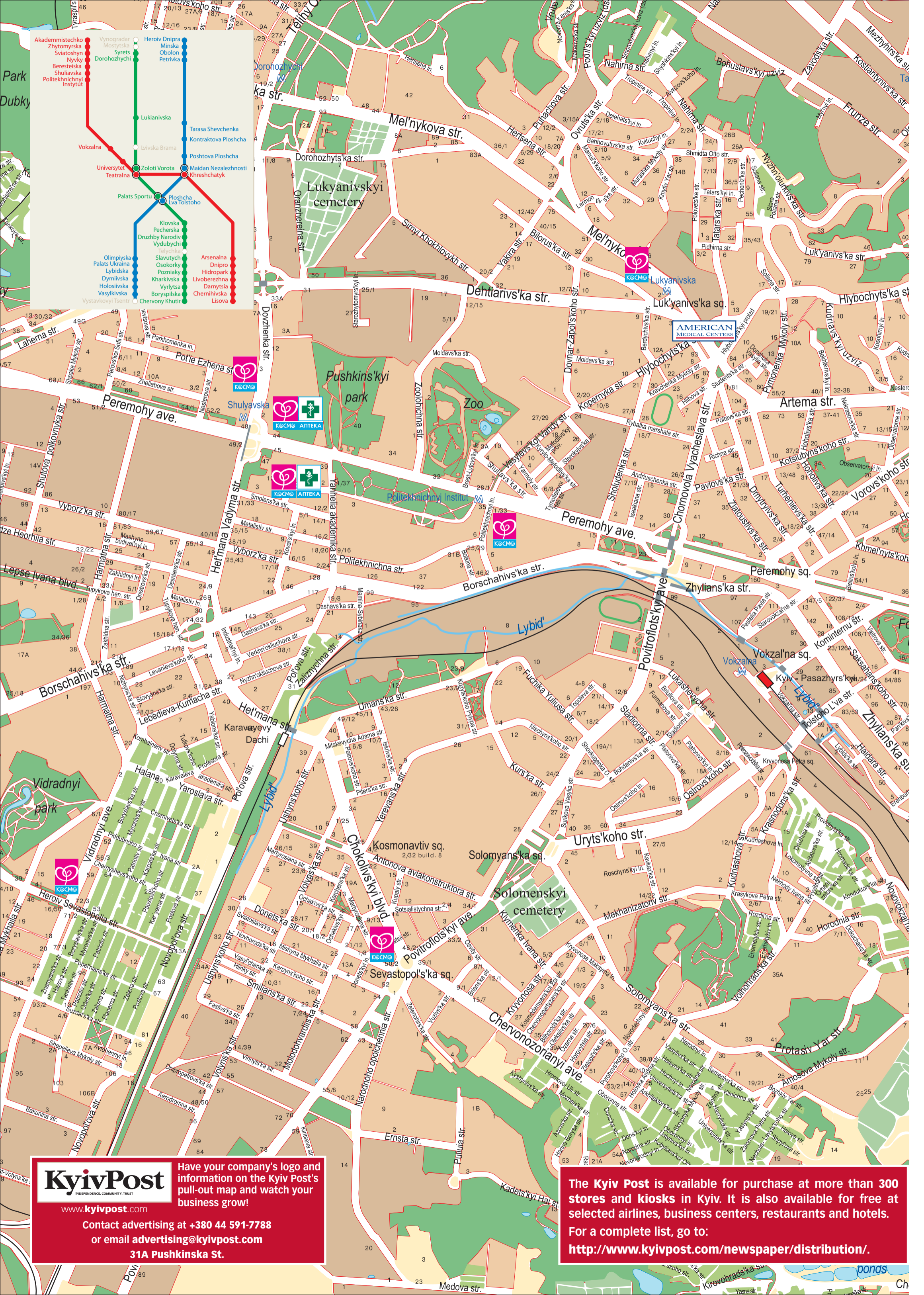
The Merry Widow (comedy). Operetta Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 60-90
The Gamblers (based on Nikolay Gogol play). Lesya Ukrainka Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 100-800
My Dear Pamela (criminal comedy). Molody Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 40-60
Thruth Game (drama). Ivan Franko Theater. 7 p.m. Hr 200-1,750

Shows

Valeriy Miladze. Palats Ukrainian. 7 p.m. Hr 150-1250
Anastasia Pryhodko. Crystal Hall. 8 p.m. Hr 100-500

Addresses of venues

- Classical Music
National Philharmonic of Ukraine
House of Organ Music
School of Jazz and Pop Art
National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music
Movies
Zhovten
Kostyantynivska St.
Kyiv
Kinopanorama
Outdoor cinema
Live Music
Docker Pub
Green Theatre
Docker's ABC
Prime Club
Crystal Hall
Arena Entertainment
Divan
Mantra
Egoist
Golden Gate pub
Fiesta
Allegro Hall
Saxon Club
Dorothy Pub
Sullivan Room
Ajour
Xlib Club
Vodka Bar
TransForce
Disco Radio Hall
Theaters
Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater
Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater
Koleso Theater
Drama & Comedy Theatre
Kiev Academic Drama Theater
National Opera Theater of Ukraine
House of Actors
7 Yaroslaviv Val St.
actorhall.com.ua
Molody Theater
Kyiv National Academic Theater of Operetta
Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Globus mall, 2nd line, 371-1102 vodka-bar.com.ua
28B Moskovskiy Ave. 221-8981
Sharpei
26 Moskovskiy Ave. 390-1712 sharpei.ua
Disco Radio Hall 3 Moskovsky Av. 428-7388
Theaters
Ivan Franko Ukrainian Drama Theater
Lesya Ukrainka Russian Drama Theater
Koleso Theater
Drama & Comedy Theatre
Kiev Academic Drama Theater
National Opera Theater of Ukraine
House of Actors
iec-expo.com.ua
Lavra Gallery
Underground Music Hall
Museum of Books and Publishing of Ukraine
Zhovtnevy Palats
New Theater on Pechersk
NAU Center of Culture and Arts
ExpoCenter of Ukraine
House of Officers
Kult Ra
Bingo
Sky Mall
Henerala Vatutina Av.
parkyivrus.com
KPI Art Center
Peremogy Avenue
Museum of Ukraine
Kyiv Children and Youth palace
Art support fund
Frouliska St.
Kuit Ra
Bingo
Sky Mall
Henerala Vatutina Av.
artarsenal.in.ua
National Writers Unity of Ukraine
Kyiv Children Academy of Art
Triptych Gallery
Gryshko national botanic garden
National Museum of Russian art
Tereshchenkivska St.
Wunjo-Art gallery
Pinchuk Art Center
Camera photo gallery
greter-art.com
Atmosfera 360
Greter art-center
Atmosfera 360
Soviart
Ivan Honchar Museum
Ukrainian House
Mytets Gallery
Chaika airfield
Petropavlivska Borschahivka village
dropzone.kiev.ua
Kyiv Children Academy of Art
National University of Physical Training and Sports
NSC Olimpiyskiy
National Museum of Taras Shevchenko
Anti-Art Center
Camera photo gallery
Olmace Plage
Hydropark metro stop
AKKO International
Outdoor cinema
Natural History Museum
Kyiv Photography School
Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko
Ivan Honchar Museum
Akvarium wellness club
Fazenda Bar
Golfstream club
Gavronshchyna village
Alta-expo
X-Park Entertainment complex
Druzhby Narodiv Park
www.xpark.kiev.ua
Babuini
Petturiu St.
Dark Side
NSC Olimpiyskiy
Atribut Gallery
National Taras Shevchenko Museum
AVS-ART gallery
Kyivan Fortress
AKKO International
Outdoor cinema
Natural History Museum
Kyiv Photography School
Museum of Bogdan and Varvara Khanenko
Ivan Honchar Museum
Akvarium wellness club
Fazenda Bar
Golfstream club
Gavronshchyna village
Alta-expo



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THE TIGER CONFERENCE

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November 26-27, Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kyiv

Kyiv Post Conferences in Partnership with East Europe Foundation



Will Ukraine move to the east, the west, or will it maintain a balance between the two? What will it take for Ukraine to fulfill the promise of independence? Simply put, does Ukraine have the potential to be a 'Leaping Tiger' economy, or will it remain a sleeping tiger?

Hear Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili discuss what some call the Georgian Miracle and how it can relate to Ukraine's future, as well as the steps he is taking to ensure an orderly transition in his own country after recent elections.

Participate with invited guests from as far away as Malaysia to local business leaders in the know as they address Ukraine's financial situation, agriculture promise, energy hopes and IT outsourcing potential.

Whether you're an international or Ukrainian executive, a business owner, a local, regional or national government official, or merely an interested observer, we urge you to make reservations today for the Tiger Conference.

Ukraine needs you. The purchase of a ticket will go to help ensure independent journalism in Ukraine, as well as help fund worthy projects across Ukraine sponsored by the East Europe Foundation.



Ending the Slumber

Moderator: Armen Khachaturyan, Asters

Anna Derevyanko, EBA
 Steven Pifer, Brookings Institution
 Gennady Verbylenko, Comfy Chain
 Pavlo Sheremeta, Inspira Strategy Institute
 Adam Jędrzejewski, Polish Institute for PPP

Sulaiman Mahbob, Prime Minister's Economic Planning Unit, Malaysia
 Vitali Klitschko, Ukrainian politician
 Walery Marcinowicz, Hay Group
 Max Alier, International Monetary Fund

Agriculture and Food Security

Moderator: Morgan Williams, US-Ukraine Business Council

Sergii Mazin, KSG Agro S.A.
 Volodymyr Lavrenchuk, Raiffeisen Bank Aval
 Jean-Jacques Hervé, Board in Agricultural Matters, Credit Agricole

Energy and Energy Efficiency

Moderator: Daniel Bilak, CMS Cameron McKenna

Graham Tiley, Shell Ukraine
 Eduard Stavitsky, Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
 Chevron Regional Representative

Ukraine's IT Outsourcing Boom

Moderator: Brian Bonner, Kyiv Post

Torben Majgaard, Ciklum
 Victoria Tigipko, TA Venture
 Karl Robb, EPAM

Finance and Corporate Governance

Moderator: Jakub Parusinski, Kyiv Post

Tomas Fiala, Dragon Capital
 Natalie Jaresko, Horizon Capital
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Long cold spell ahead in Ukraine-West relations?

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
GORCHINSKAYA@KYIVPOST.COM

Despite plenty of warnings from friends in the West to conduct a clean election, Ukraine has failed. This means that the hope of soon repairing its relations with Europe and the U.S. has faded, and the prospects of signing a political-trade association agreement or receiving loans from the International Monetary Fund has moved even further away from the agenda.

Worse still, Ukraine's officials show no signs that they are going to act on criticism of the West.

On Oct. 29, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's election watchdog ODIHR released a preliminary report on Ukraine's election, sharply criticizing the campaign and vote tabulation. The report said harassment of opposition candidates, use of administrative resources, the jailing of opposition leaders and lack of media freedom have profoundly affected the election.

"Considering the abuse of power, and the excessive role of money in this election, democratic progress appears to have reversed in Ukraine," said Walburga Habsburg Douglas, head of the OSCE mission.

The U.S. State Department chimed in, saying in a statement that Ukraine's election was "a step backwards" for the nation.

European Union High Representative

for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission Catherine Ashton and EU Commissioner for Enlargement and European Neighborhood Policy Stefan Fuele warned Ukraine to straighten the suspicious vote tabulation, which stretched for several days after the vote and produced a result that gave the ruling Party of Regions and Communist allies more lead than numerous exit polls had predicted.

President Viktor Yanukovich said Ukraine, of course, will work with the international community to fix the problems they discovered, but indicated that the official Kyiv did not think much of them.

"I am happy that according to preliminary evaluation of many Ukrainian and domestic observers, including OSCE, the election, from the technical point of view, proceeded well. The voters had a wide choice of candidates. The process of voting was positively assessed by the observers," Yanukovich said in a statement on Oct. 29.

His aide Hanna Herman went even further and said that OSCE's assessment of the election indicates that Ukraine "is on the right track."

This is not the reaction the West had hoped for.

Habsburg-Douglas, head of the OSCE observers' mission, told the Kyiv Post she felt it was "quite good" that the election report was critical because the international observers "have really



A woman protects her head against rain as she walks past an advertising placard in Kyiv on Oct. 29. Not only Ukraine's weather is headed for a deep freeze, so might Ukraine's relationship with the European Union and United States after holding Oct. 28 parliamentary elections judged by Western observers to have fallen short of democratic standards. (AFP)

taken it to our hearts" and acted as friends, pointing out the flaws and hoping Ukraine will act on criticism.

"We write a report, and we discuss with the government what can be done," she said, adding that Audrey Glover, who led the OSCE/ODIHR election observation mission, started

her meetings with government officials on Oct. 29, the day the report was issued.

But Marietta de Pourbaix-Lundin, co-rapporteur on Ukraine for the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, said she was worried that things will go in a very different direction. "I really wonder if they are going to talk to us again," she said after hearing the OSCE report.

"Sometimes it's very hard to understand the way they [leadership] think in Ukraine. Sometimes I think they act counter-productive to themselves," she said. "They could turn to the East, instead."

The East, meaning Russia, may be happy with the turn. At odds with official Europe and the US itself, Russian leaders have been trying to lure Ukraine into a customs union for years, promising cheaper gas and

other benefits in exchange for loyalty. As expected, the Commonwealth of Independent States election monitoring mission approved of Ukraine's election, dismissing violations as minor.

A Western diplomat based in Kyiv, who spoke to Kyiv Post on the condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to comment publicly, said that Ukraine's election would give a lot of ammunition to the "pro-values" lobby in Europe, which is pushing for a freeze in a relationship with Ukraine and negotiations on signing an association agreement until it gets back on the path of democracy.

The official European policy on Ukraine is expected to be on the agenda of the meeting of European foreign ministers on Nov. 12. So far, no date has been set for an annual EU-Ukraine summit this year, with less than two months to go in 2012.

Jan Tombinski, head of the EU delegation in Ukraine, said the ODIHR/OSCE report will certainly affect the relationship between the EU and Ukraine. "[But] it's too early to say how big the impact is going to be." Others are less cautious, predicting a potential deep, long freeze.

"These elections could have changed the direction of relations with the West. They would not have been enough by themselves to have normalized relations, that would require an end to selective prosecutions and the freeing of Ms. [Yulia] Tymoshenko and Mr. [Yuriy] Lutsenko, but they could have improved the climate," said another Kyiv-based diplomat.

"Instead, however, the conduct as criticized by the OSCE, has reinforced the sense that the Yanukovich government is continuing to backslide on democracy."

The consequences, the diplomat said, could include problems getting back on track with the IMF, increased investment risk and further isolation.

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OSCE, Europe's leading election watchdog, faults conduct of Oct. 28 vote

→2 have made it into parliament. Member of the European Parliament Rebecca Harms recently said that Ukraine has so many rich people in parliament that it's "difficult to find ordinary citizens here." She recommended change.

This is not the only recommendation international observers made for Ukraine in the election, and more will be coming in the final report by OSCE, which will come later this year.

Many observers noted that major improvements are needed in the election legislation. We have systemic problems," said Gross, head of the PACE delegation. "To make a new election with the same rules, you get the same result."

Audrey Glover, the head of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights long-term election observation mission, said government authorities failed to respond to campaign violations properly.

"The lack of appropriate responses by the authorities to the various electoral violations has led to a climate of

impunity," Glover said. "This has cast a shadow over the election and the democratic progress that, until recently, Ukraine had been making."

The news media environment, in particular, came under sharp scrutiny, according to the OSCE/ODIHR preliminary findings.

"The media environment is characterized by a virtual absence of editorial autonomy on television," according to OSCE/ODIHR. "The politicization of TV by businesspeople and the dependence of state-owned broadcasters on the state budget significantly limit political pluralism, in favor of the ruling powers. The direct access of media owners and political actors to news content, the latter through 'envelope payments' to journalists, hinders investigative journalism and ultimately undermines the media's crucial role as the watchdog for political power."

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Media monitoring shows possible rift between oligarchs, administration

BY KATYA GORCHINSKAYA
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A much-rumored rift between the nation's top media owners and President Viktor Yanukovich appears to be real and growing.

Anecdotal evidence can be found in independent media monitoring of the election campaign by a number of organizations under the umbrella of the International Renaissance Foundation.

A comprehensive study of news coverage of nine major national channels in Ukraine showed a surprising drift towards more balance in the news and more air time for the opposition in the final stages of the election campaign. This stands as a sharp contrast with Ukraine's previous election campaigns, when pressure on the news media increased, and so did imbalance in news coverage in favor of incumbents. If the new trend holds, it's good news for the public, which has been turned off by one-sided and partisan news coverage.

Experts speculate that the handful of oligarchs who own most of the nation's media outlets are disenchanted with the pro-presidential Party of Regions. If that's true, their media outlets have awakened suddenly to the dangers of the consolidation of economic and political power in one party.

"Preserving the political pluralism is essential for preserving the economic pluralism," said Viktoriya Siumar, head of the International Media Institute, a non-government organization, and one of the coordinators of the monitoring effort.

Nowhere is the contrast in coverage more visible than on Inter TV channel, owned by Valeriy Khoroshkovskiy, deputy prime minister and multi-millionaire.

When the monitoring started in early September, his channel was giving 15 percent of its news coverage to

the United Opposition-Batkivshchyna Party. But by the end of the campaign, the figure more than doubled, to 38 percent. Svoboda started featuring in the news, too, which was not the case early in the campaign.

Larisa Gorska, a member of Inter's management board, said the shift occurred partly due to the "good will of the owners, the willpower of managers and professionalism of journalists."

A similar move to more balanced coverage occurred at most channels owned by billionaire Viktor Pinchuk. Of the channels monitored, he owns Novy Kanal, ICTV and STB.

At the early stages of monitoring, which started at the beginning of September, all channels signed a memorandum of understanding that they will strive to a fair and ethical coverage, a precedent in Ukraine, according to Yevhen Bystrytskiy, executive director of the Renaissance Foundation, a non-government organization of American philanthropist George Soros.

But a source familiar with the inner workings of the program said it came at the initiative of Pinchuk and Khoroshkovskiy, who essentially needed a good excuse to change their media holdings' editorial policies. The monitoring, backed by international donors, as well as the Party of Region's need to have the result of the election and their own victory recognized by the international community, created enough momentum for the media to become fairer.

Other oligarchs, Economy Minister and Channel 5 owner Petro Poroshenko and the Russian owner of TVi, Konstatin Kagalovsky, came on board also, according to a Kyiv Post source who spoke on condition of anonymity out of fear of harming his relationship with media owners.

Ukraina TV channel, owned by the nation's richest man Rinat Akhmetov and 1+1, controlled by Ihor Kolomoisky,

also signed up, although somewhat less willingly. This would put Akhmetov in the odd position of championing journalistic fairness as he serves as an elected member of parliament from the Party of Regions.

At least four media oligarchs have been at odds with some core representatives of the Party of Regions, including Prime Minister Mykola Azarov and "the family," a loose grouping of people close to the president and his elder son, Oleksandr Yanukovich.

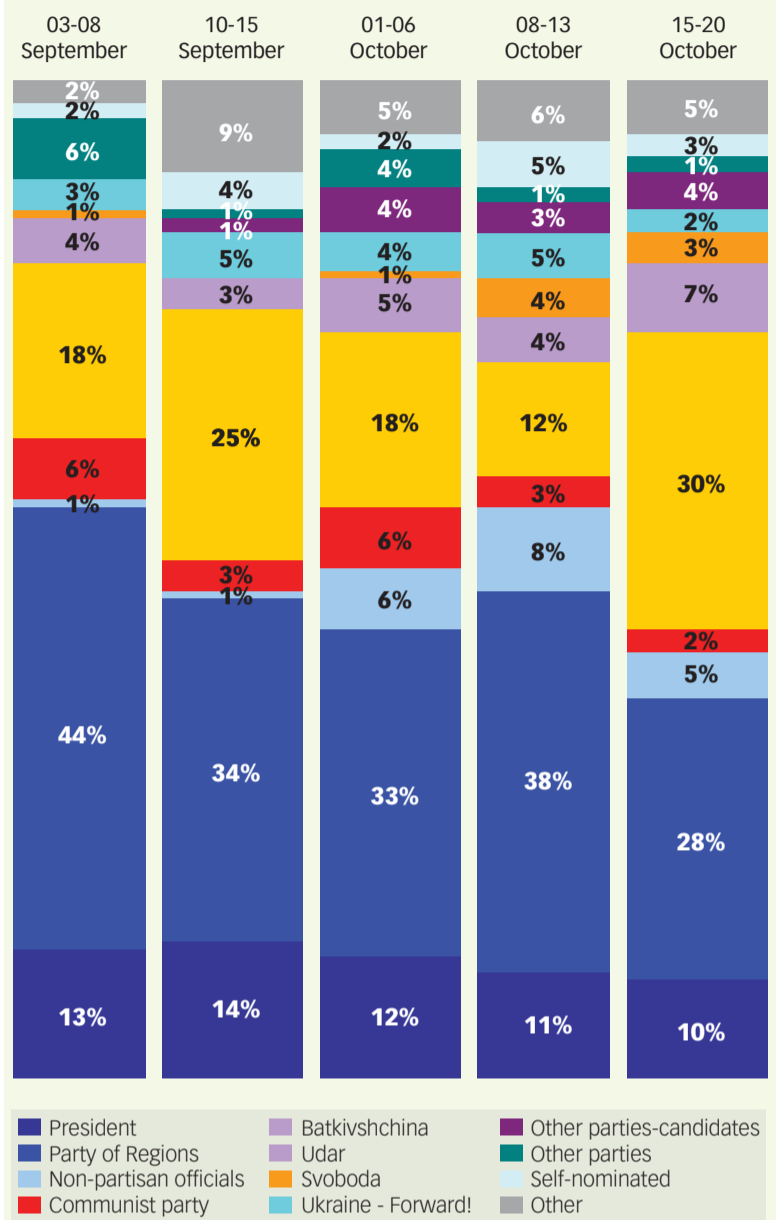
Pinchuk openly challenged the Party of Regions in his native city of Dnipropetrovsk by nominating his flagship pipe plant's top manager to run for parliament in district 24 against a Party of Regions nominee. Yakiv Bezbakh, the manager, won that constituency, which had twice sent Pinchuk to parliament in the past.

Poroshenko, meanwhile, had a public row with the president in early September, when Yanukovich said he would "tear the heads off" Poroshenko and others.

Poroshenko was also running for parliament in his home town Vinnytsia, and won easily. Commentators speculated that the president is worried about Poroshenko becoming an independent force in parliament. According to the news monitoring, his Channel 5 gave 53 percent of its news coverage to the United Opposition, and only 18 percent to the Party of Regions.

Khoroshkovskiy, a member of the so-called "gas lobby" along with billionaire Dmytro Firtash and Presidential Administration head Serhiy Lyovochkin, is a deputy prime minister with little power. Appointed in February, he hoped to eventually become prime minister, but is now marginalized in the the Cabinet, a source in the Cabinet told the Kyiv Post on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak publicly.

Distribution of attention between political actors as a % of total information flow (prime-time, all channels combined)



Source: International Renaissance Foundation

While Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich and his Party of Regions commanded the attention of TV newscasts in September, journalists started giving more balanced coverage by October, according to media monitors.

The "gas lobby" had few representatives on the Party of Regions list for parliament. Their business associates, relatives and other proxies ended up running in majority races.

For example, Yulia Lyovochkina, the sister of Serhiy Lyovochkin, ran and won in Crimea, while Ivan Fursin, a business partner of Firtash, ran and won in Odesa.

Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms, which won 40 seats in the new parliament, also sheltered a number of this

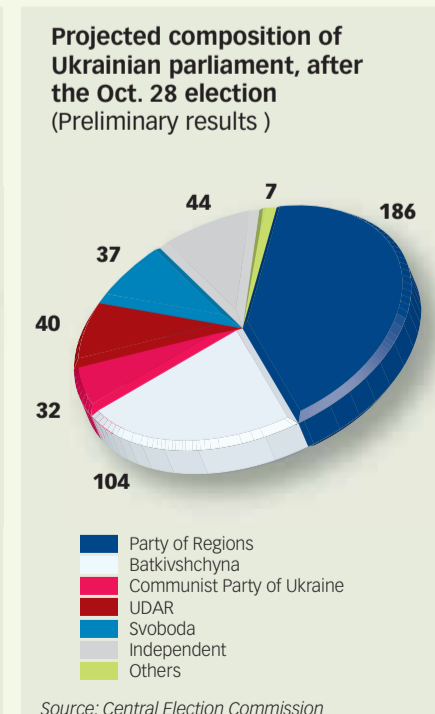
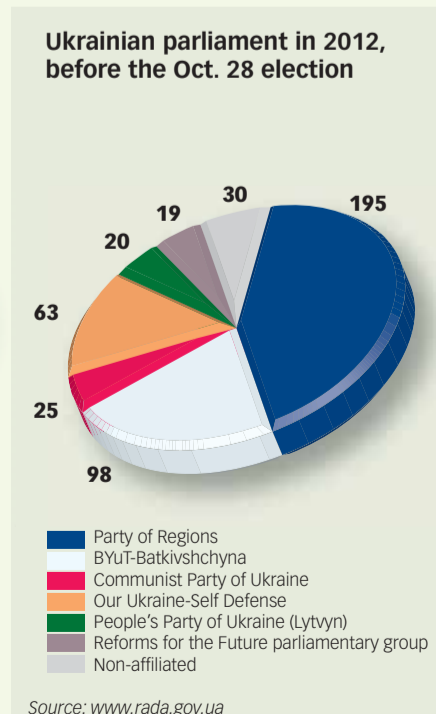
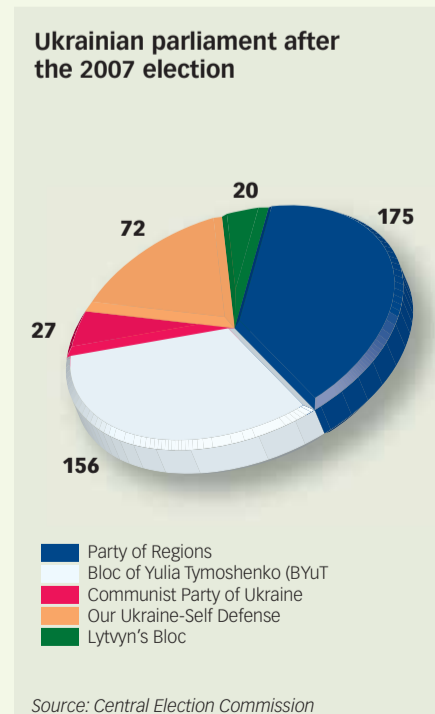
business group's representatives on the list, analysts said.

Oleksandr Sushko, head of the media monitoring initiative board and a prominent political analyst, said a combination of factors led to obvious changes in the media sector, which may spill out into the political sector.

"Possibly, this is the beginning of some processes in the political sphere," Sushko said.

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Party composition of the Ukrainian parliament from 2007 to 2012



These charts show that jailed Yulia Tymoshenko's Batkivshchyna party lost 58 lawmakers since the 2007 election, most of whom switched side and joined the pro-presidential majority. In the preliminary Oct. 28 election results the party doesn't seem to have recovered its previous high number of its seats despite merging with other opposition parties. President Viktor Yanukovich's Party of Regions roughly maintained the same number of lawmakers in the parliament since the 2007 election and through the preliminary results of the Oct. 28 vote. Those on the rise during the recent election include the Communist Party, which is expected to boost its presence in parliament by a few seats. The most dramatic changes, however, include the disappearance of ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine-Self Defense from parliament. The grouping won 72 seats in the 2007 election, but has no representation in the next parliament. Two new parties have gained seats in power for the first time - Oleh Tiahnybok's Svoboda Party and Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms Party. Both are proclaimed opposition forces with a projected combined strength of 77 seats. The post-electoral composition of the parliament is likely to see the pro-presidential Party of Regions able to form a majority, with help from their Communist Party allies and by recruiting several independent lawmakers elected in single-mandate districts to their cause.

Tymoshenko: I am starting hunger strike to protest rigged vote

→5 nity about political repressions in Ukraine.

To admit these elections were fair and legitimate is to fully demoralize the Ukrainian nation and the part of our people who still believes in justice and European choice despite the extraordinary efforts of the ruling regime to rig the ballot.

The national exit-poll showed that 73 percent of Ukrainian citizens voted against Yanukovich, against his corrupted, bankrupt policy and that the legitimacy of his regime was completely lost. The elections outcome is a verdict for the oligarchy, its godfather and their clans.

And if - thanks to corruption in single-mandate constituencies - they implement the result, if they manage to "correct" it by means of false protocols from bribed precinct and district commissions and to distort the national exit poll; if thanks to the unfair means they form their majority in the Verkhovna Rada that will be recognized by Ukraine and the world, then this will be a signal for all post-communist regimes that fair elections can be killed and that everything can be "doctored to death."

Political expediency and willingness to compromise can legalize everything, but where to hide the real choice made by people? Where to put 225 files with clear proof that massive voter bribing was carried out in all election constituencies by all - I stress ALL candidates from the ruling party in single member constituencies?

How to legalize corruption, Yanukovich's sons, fellows, friends, henchmen and his entourage?

I will not act in the name of political expediency and I will not call clear lies the truth. These elections were rigged from the first to the last day; and to hide this fact means to destroy Ukraine's future.

I express my solidarity with the Ukrainian World Congress, with conclusions of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as with the position of Andreas Gross, Head of the PACE Monitoring Group, expressed some weeks ago; and I state clearly that 73 percent of Ukrainian citizens want to remove the Yanukovich authoritarian regime, and gave the mandate for this to all oppositional forces. Everything that is different from the result in the elections is rigged and forged.

I don't consider the parliament, where a majority rigged in such a way will rule despite the will of people, to be legitimate. If I were with you now and could act freely, without any doubts I would call you for continuous protest actions. And we together would put those who rigged the elections to their place as we have done many times before.

But now, being behind bars, I cannot call you to go out into the streets because I cannot guarantee that these protests will be peaceful and organized in the best way. That is why I do what I can in these conditions. I go on hunger strike to protest against the vote rigging and illegitimacy of the parliament. I know and I believe that most Ukrainians will understand and support me,

Your
Yulia Tymoshenko

Election losers confront end to political careers

BY OKSANA FARYNA
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Perhaps never has so much money been spent for so few votes as Natalia Korolevska's campaign for parliament, which - despite her lavish advertising campaign - flamed out with voters, who only gave her Ukraine-Forward party 1.6 percent of the ballots.

Also in the distinguished loser category is ex-President Viktor Yushchenko, whose humiliating fall from grace continues with voters who once considered him as a hero. Yushchenko's Our Ukraine got 1.4 percent in the last parliament election in 2007. This year, he's likely to get a little bit more than 1 percent, almost the same as Oleh Liashko's Radical Party.

Korolevska and Yushchenko are among the notable losers in the Oct. 28 vote. Among 21 parties competing, only five made the 5 percent threshold. They are the ruling Party of Regions, United Opposition-Batkivshchyna, the Communist Party, Vitali Klitschko's Ukrainian Democratic Alliance for Reforms and the nationalist Svoboda Party.

Korolevska's mistakes appear obvious to many people.

Oleksiy Haran, a professor of political science at Kyiv Mohyla Academy, said that the superficiality of Korolevska's advertising campaign did her more harm than good. Adding football star Andriy Shevchenko and noted actor Ostap Stupka to her party top list appeared not to have helped.

"For those who follows politics and are interested in it at least a little bit, it was absolutely clear that (those celebrities) cannot and is not ready to do politics professionally at the moment. Therefore it was clear that this was done for the sake of a beautiful cover only," Haran said. Korolevska has never said how much she spent or who contributed all the money, but her advertising blanketed the nation's airwaves, light boxes and billboards.



Ex-President Viktor Yushchenko's Our Ukraine Party got 1 percent of the Oct. 28 vote.



Natalia Korolevska's Ukraine-Forward Party got 1.6 percent of the Oct. 28 vote.

Critics said Korolevska was a decoy candidate financed by pro-presidential forces to siphon away votes from those who were disappointed by the Party of Regions. Korolevska has consistently denied such speculation and insisted she's her own person.

During the 2007 parliament election, Korolevska got elected with the Bloc of Yulia Tymoshenko. Earlier this year was expelled from the BYUT-Batkivshchyna faction for violating party discipline, ethical principles and cooperation with the presidential administration. After that, she created her own political party. In the polls, Korolevska's party peaked at 3 percent in the summer.

Yushchenko's story is quite a different one.

In 2002, Yushchenko's Our Ukraine was a young and promising political force that won nearly a quarter of the vote. Then he went on to the presidency in 2004, riding the wave of the peaceful Orange Revolution. He quickly turned into a disappointment as president for not keeping his promises or ridding the nation of its culture of corruption and high-level

impunity. Still, in the 2006 and 2007 parliamentary elections, his party was popular enough to win 14 percent of the vote.

He's been sinking ever since. In his 2010 presidential election bid, he got only 5 percent of the vote - failing to make the runoff between President Viktor Yanukovich and Tymoshenko. In defeat, Yushchenko remained in his state-owned presidential residence in an elite Kyiv suburb, earning him further enmity.

Now he's sunk even lower and questions are raised about how much further he's willing to humiliate himself with futile attempts at a political comeback.

Some even consider Our Ukraine's 2012 bid to be a decoy force designed to siphon votes from the true political opposition, considering that many blame Yushchenko for his unrelenting campaign against Tymoshenko, aiding Yanukovich's election as president in 2010.

"Yushchenko has discredited himself," Haran said. "I think it was absolutely clear for all that the role for Our Ukraine was to pick up 1 percent of votes from one of the opposition

parties."

Whatever the case, Ukraine has a history of throwing politicians to the dustbin electorally and never letting them rise return if the people judge that they have betrayed the public trust.

Oleksandr Moroz, the head of the Socialist Party, a leader of the Orange Revolution and a one-time Tymoshenko and Yushchenko ally, failed to lead his party to the parliament in 2007. His denouement came after he signed a coalition agreement with Yanukovich's Party of Regions.

Valeriy Khoroskovskiy and Inna Bohoslovska also flopped with their 2002 Winter Crop team. Natalia Vitrenko's Progressive Socialist Party went nowhere. And Viktor Medvedchuk's Social-Democratic Party of Ukraine (united) got dismissed by voters as creatures of oligarchs.

"In general this election confirmed once again that people understand who is who when it comes to [politics]," Haran said. "It was clear long ago that Our Ukraine has no future. Korolevska apparently also understands now that hardly something comes next after that."

The results also might be a sign that money can't always buy votes, at least when it comes to party lists.

Yushchenko, the leader of Our Ukraine, could not be reached for comment. The official website of the party wasn't working this week.

Korolevska does not agree with pessimistic forecasts.

"We lost the battle but not the war," Korolevska said this week. "Our main goal is to form a new opposition in the society. We will unite all sane forces in the society, which are not represented in politics, but want real changes in the country."

Korolevska is not quitting. She says she will take part in the upcoming local elections and become a candidate in the 2015 presidential election.

Kyiv Post staff writer Oksana Faryna can be reached at faryna@kyivpost.com.

President's son denies involvement in acquiring coal firms from state

→1 Based on information obtained from state and government bodies, and using company incorporation documents provided by a Kyiv Post partner, the Washington, D.C.-based Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, Forbes investigative journalist Kateryna Kapliuk found that an umbrella company closely linked to Oleksandr Yanukovich now controls the coal plants that the official privatization gazette valued at more than \$13 million.

The magazine found that the five enrichment plants were shifted under a limited liability umbrella company - Donbas Transaction and Financial Center, or DTFC - in June when their ownership type, addresses and names changed, but not their management. Forbes wrote that Donetsk businessman Vitaliy Beliakov heads this limited liability company and also headed the DTFC association which had previously leased - and in practice controlled - the coal plants from the state. He is also a minority shareholder in DTFC LLC.

According to Forbes, DTFC association had leased the coal enrichment

plants from the state, but in 2009 the eponymous limited liability company was formed because the association wasn't allowed to hold corporate rights or conduct business activity.

In June, DTFC LLC and the state jointly formed public joint-stock companies that became the legal successors of the coal plants that underwent ownership type changes: Beliakov also became the head of each of their respective supervisory boards. And DTFC LLC, according to Forbes, became the majority stakeholder in each coal plant.

The official reason for this was, according to Forbes, citing the State Property Fund, to privatize the plants.

The magazine found no evidence that the government received money in exchange for the stakes in the coal plants. Forbes Ukraine furthermore cited the State Property Fund's announcement that the coal plant employees would be given priority to buy the government's shares, but found no evidence they had bought shares in the plants.

DTFC now controls between 70 and 75 percent of the following coal enrichment plants in eastern Ukraine:

Komsomolskaya, Ukraina, Rossiya, Krasnaya Zvezda and Uzlovskaya. DTFC LLC essentially took over at least \$10 million worth of assets from a net worth of \$13 million if the state property fund's valuation is accurate.

Forbes reported that the same directors remained at the coal plants even though the companies had changed names and ownership types.

In one case, Komsomolskaya became a public joint-stock company, like the rest of the enrichment plants. Komsomolskaya legally succeeded DTFC association. And the plant's address changed from Dmytrov in Donetsk Oblast where it's located to the address of DTFC LLC in the city of Donetsk. Forbes wrote, citing the Justice Ministry, that Komsomolskaya's phone number belongs to Andriy Fedoruk, the current head of the Donetsk Oblast Council and former head of Oleksandr Yanukovich's MACO property development and construction company. Fedoruk, in addition, headed Uzlovskaya LLC in the first half of the 2000s that at that time was leased by DTFC association.

Forbes furthermore found that the newly formed Komsomolskaya public joint-stock company was established on March 12 - the day before the crucial amendment to legislation passed in parliament that enabled the shifting of the company's assets.

Coal enrichment or preparation is a lucrative segment of the coal mining industry. Enrichment plants wash coal of soil and rock and prepare the raw material for transport to market, making it more valuable and reducing transport costs. According to Forbes Ukraine, there are some 60 such enrichment plants in Ukraine, every one of which on average can enrich 2-2.5 million tons of coal yearly.

Enrichment plants in Ukraine typically service state-owned mines. For example, in 2011 when Beliakov became its head, DTFC association made more than \$125 million on government orders that year.

Sarone Holdings Limited in the British Virgin Islands actually holds the corporate rights of DTFC LLC. Sarone, according to Forbes and →22



Fantasy world of costume players

Fashion Critic

WITH OLGA RUDENKO
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No Jackie in Ukraine's politics

Ukraine doesn't know the pleasure of having an actual first lady, let alone ones as glamorous as Jacqueline Kennedy was or Michelle Obama is.

President's Viktor Yanukovich's spouse, Lyudmila, rarely makes public appearances. She lives in Donetsk and doesn't participate in the country's official life, depriving Ukrainians of the joy of watching and discussing the first lady's priorities, outfits, manners and tastes.

Most of Ukraine's big-shot politicians follow the president's path of keeping wives in the background. This makes Election Day about the only time when people get to see many politicians accompanied by their wives.

The leaders of almost every party that got elected to parliament this time went to the polling station with their spouses, so did at least one former president, Leonid Kuchma. No matter how the political programs of their husbands differed, all the wives had something in common: an unfortunate choice of outfits.

Black dominated wives' Election Day apparels completely as if all of them had something to mourn.

It is quite unlikely that opposition leader Arseniy Yatseniuk's wife, Terezia, 42, and Kuchma's wife, Lyudmila, 72, agreed on what to wear. But both chose similar black trench coats with light-patterned scarves underneath. Lyudmila Kuchma, just like her retired husband, had no political function that day, other than to exercise her right to vote as a citizen.

Unlike her, Terezia Yatseniuk's came to vote and support her husband's ambitions with a proper look. Her gloomily appearance is even more surprising, since she was previously seen wearing white, blue and purple outfits.

Anna Turchynova, 42, wife of former deputy prime minister and current opposition leader Oleksandr Turchynov, wore a black coat and a sad look, both unflattering. She has been photographed before in white, beige and pink outfits. One even shows Turchynova in a T-shirt with her husband's picture on it. Wouldn't that have been nice to wear on Election Day?

Turchynova tried to improve this bleak appearance with a purse. But honestly, Christian Dior's Lady Dior wasn't the best choice. Wearing a recognizable \$2,000 handbag while helping your husband earn public sympathy in a struggling country - well, not a good strategy. →21

Pugoffka, a costume player photographer (L): "I love costume play as a hobby, but it's quite an expensive hobby that takes a lot of time." (Taruki)



BY DARIA ZADOROZHNYAYA
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With the precision of a ballerina preparing for the stage, a woman ties her corset, pulls on petticoats and starts applying elaborate makeup. Her friend wraps herself in elastic bandages and dons a short, fluorescent wig. They are costume players, or cosplayers – die-hard fans of anime and Japanese culture, readying themselves for Ukraine's largest anime festival, the Otobe in Kyiv.

Japanese culture came to Ukraine in the 1990s when such animated cartoons as "Sailormoon" or "Pokemon" hit the television screens. Children would act out the series during classroom breaks and exchange tapes and disks. Movies came along by famous

Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki, author of such masterpieces as the 1997 "Princess Mononoke" and 2001 "Spirited Away."

Slowly, anime fans began to gather to talk about their passion, in online forums and real life, and set up small festivals, dressing up as their favorite characters.

The beginnings were quite rudimentary. "We were happy with any small crumb of anime that we could get. The first fan meeting was certainly not so big as it is now. We were kids. I loved the reaction of people, when they recognized characters that I portrayed and wanted to take a picture with me," said one of Otobe's organizers, Alexiel, who, like most costume players, seeks to remain behind the mask and refuge of a pseudonym. It precisely this

feeling of holiday, of escaping a gray reality, that drives them, the costume players say.

The number of anime fans in Ukraine can no longer be counted. One can find numerous websites, stores, meetings and festivals dedicated to Japanese animation. The Otobe festival brings together fans not just from all over Ukraine, but from Russia and Belarus as well. Organized at the House of Culture of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, the festival was attended by some 400 people, from little children to 30-year-olds, said Alexiel.

The years of learning to sew, cut and put on makeup – in addition to practicing other relevant skills, from acrobatics and martial arts to photography and filming – produce a fantastic effect. In fact, it's hard to believe the costumes

are made by dedicated individuals, sometimes at the cost of huge amounts of money and time, not professional companies.

Prices depend on the complexity of the work and cost of the material. Sometimes it's just a Japanese school uniform, but other costumes include huge wings or armor, and a variety of wands, swords, bows or animal horns. All of these are either handmade from plastic, plaster, wood or metal, or ordered online. All in all, costs can go from several hundred hryvnias to thousands of dollars.

A dominance of female costume players is one reason why male anime characters are often played by women. But Japanese culture, which sees femininity as an attractive feature in →20

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Costume playing is form of entertainment for more Ukrainians

→ **19** men, and the pleasure of impersonation also play a role. Some girls even become so obsessed they start speaking about themselves in the male gender in real life.

"It's like stage play. Working through some internal entity, because anime is rich with vivid images of men, women, children and fantasy creatures of Japanese folklore," said a costume player who goes by the name of Rin.

During the existence of the movement in Ukraine, some practitioners have become quite well known. One of them is Bellatrix Aiden, who has an impressive collection of photos online, has featured in several Asian magazines and has fan sites devoted to her.

"All I did is upload photos online on social networks or websites dedicated to costume play. Later some journalists contacted me and asked for photos for magazines, or my friends threw me a link to ads which were looking for beautiful photos," said Aiden. A programmer by profession, she said sewing and other similar activities were quite foreign to her, but she persisted nonetheless.

"This so-called popularity is a product of will," she said.

Kyiv Post staff writer Daria Zadorozhnaya can be reached at zadorozhnaya@kyivpost.com

To find out more about anime:

The Otober Festival of Japanese Culture and Animation was held on Oct. 12-14 in Zhovten movie theatre and the House of Culture of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. For details, visit the event's site <http://anime-festival.com.ua/2012/>

Costume player and co-organizer of the Otober Festival can be reached at: ag25_25@mail.ru or 093-302-9242.

If you want to learn more about costume players, go to these websites: <http://cosplay.in.ua/>; <http://www.shkaff.net/stati/1009-kosplejv-kieve.html>; and <http://vk.com/club6041968>.

Costume player Bellatrix Aiden can be reached at bellatrix.aiden@gmail.com or <http://bellatrixaiden.deviantart.com/?rnr=16625>.

Photo sites of Pugoffka, costume player photographer: <http://photo-site.ua/Pugoffka>; <http://pugoffka.kiev.ua/#http://pugoffka.kiev.ua/>

Anime online magazine <http://www.anime-line.kiev.ua/>

Upcoming anime-related events: Halloween party on Nov. 10 in the Bingo club <http://bingo.ua/index.php>

ComArt FEST: The Kyiv International Festival is Nov. 10-25 in ArtPrichal <http://comart.com.ua/>



Anime is becoming so popular in Ukraine that the number of fans can no longer be counted. One can find numerous websites, stores, meetings and festivals dedicated to Japanese animation. (Oleksandr Zakleckiy)



The Experimentanium is popular with schoolchildren. Several groups from Kyiv schools were there when the Kyiv Post visited the museum. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Ukraine's first interactive museum of popular science and technology opens in Kyiv

BY ANASTASIA FORINA
FORINA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ever wonder how tornados form or what forces make Maxwell's wheel spin? The answers to these and other questions can be found in a new museum that recently opened its doors in Kyiv's Podil district.

Called Experimentanium, the popular science and technology museum is situated in a six-story building not far from Kontraktova square metro stop. It has exhibition items illustrating the natural sciences and occupies more than 2,000 square meters of space. It's filled with interactive exhibits and experiences – that is, everything can be touched.

"In Ukraine it's the first museum of its kind. Similar ones can be found all around the world," says Olga Honchar, Experimentanium's guide.

Several rooms are dedicated to the main branches of physics while the basics of anatomy can be studied in the biology room. In separate rooms, visitors can make huge soap bubbles, see how clouds and tornados form, and walk through a glass labyrinth.

"The main aim is to take children's attention (away) from computers and to create a family-friendly place that is interesting to visit both for adults and kids," says Oksana Hlavatska, business development director at Experimentanium.

The exhibition starts with items that demonstrate the rules of mechanics. One of them is a huge model of Maxwell's wheel, a disc mounted on a horizontal axle, suspended on two



Each exhibition item can be touched in Experimentanium. However, children under 18 should be accompanied by adults. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

threads from above. Museum goers can interact with it and view the process of energy conservation.

The next room is the acoustics room, perhaps the most popular. It's filled with a piano, drums, a model of an organ, as well as other musical instruments that show the basic rules of sound quality.

Optical illusions are in the next room where you can walk through a glass labyrinth. Models of human brains and fetuses at different development stages are on display in the museum's biology room.

Each room is rather spacious. And there are explanatory notes in Ukrainian, Russian and English next to each exhibited item. Visitors can also hire a guided tour in any of three languages.

The museum's gift shop sells a huge variety of puzzles and development toys. The café inside for now only hosts birthday parties. Its staff organizes themed parties such as, stories by Lewis Carroll and by other fairy-tale gurus. Prices start at Hr 1,700.

A real chemical laboratory also is housed in the museum.

Museum goers can witness live experiments in a real chemical laboratory housed in the Experimentanium. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Experimentanium's research scientist conducts live experiments there every weekend, which costs Hr 50 to witness.

Opened in mid-September, Experimentanium has already become very popular among Kyivans. On the weekend it hosts up to daily 1,000 visitors, according to its guides. Schoolchildren are the most frequent visitors so far.

"It's very hard to explain physics to kids. But here they can try, touch and feel all those scientific theories described in books," says Olga Pshenycha, who teaches math at Kyiv Boarding School No.2 for mentally challenged kids. She came to the museum with a group of children on the day Kyiv Post visited. "Honestly, I don't like physics but this place I find to be very exciting," she adds.

KyivPost staff writer Anastasia Forina can be reached at forina@kyivpost.com

Experimentanium
2a Verhnyi Val St.
9:30 a.m. – 7 p.m., 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. (weekend and holidays)
Admission fee – Hr 75 (85 at the weekend), Hr 55 for kids under 16, free for kids under 3, Hr 230 (family ticket), Hr 30 for disabled people
Guided tour – Hr 100 (up to 15 people), Hr 60 (for schoolchildren)
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Rudenko: No fashion plates in crowd of political wives

→19 Quite ironically, wives of nationalist Svoboda leader Oleg Tiahnybok, Party of Regions' head and Prime Mnister Mykola Azarov and fresh political star Vitali Klitschko wore black and red.

Klitschko's wife Natalia, 38, a former model, was the most lively-looking one, but did not avoid the curse of black. Formal trousers, turtle-neck and a coat with red-collar decoration were this brunette's choice. Her mismatch with Klitschko, wearing a light grey jacket and white shirt, was striking.

Olga Tiahnybok, 43, added a black-and-red shawl to her... yes, black coat. And Lyudmyla Azarova, 66, combined her coat with black-and-red hat and a non-matching red bag.

The devilish look of Azarova, Turchynova's luxury accessories and Klitschko's choice of colors are their own business, but not in political performances like the one on Oct. 28, when their styles can potentially help or hurt their husbands' images.

It may be sexism, but female politicians (former U.S. first lady Hillary Clinton, among them) and the wives of male politicians are scrutinized heavily in the West – including their choice of clothes.

Now it seems that, no matter who succeeds in the 2015 presidential election, there is little likelihood that Ukraine will get its own Jackie Kennedy, unless a miracle occurs in the next three years.

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



Lyudmyla Azarova stands next to her husband, Prime Minister Mykola Azarov, at a polling station in Kyiv on Oct. 28. (Ukrinform)



Anna Turchynova, wife of Oleksandr Turchynov. (Ukrafoto)



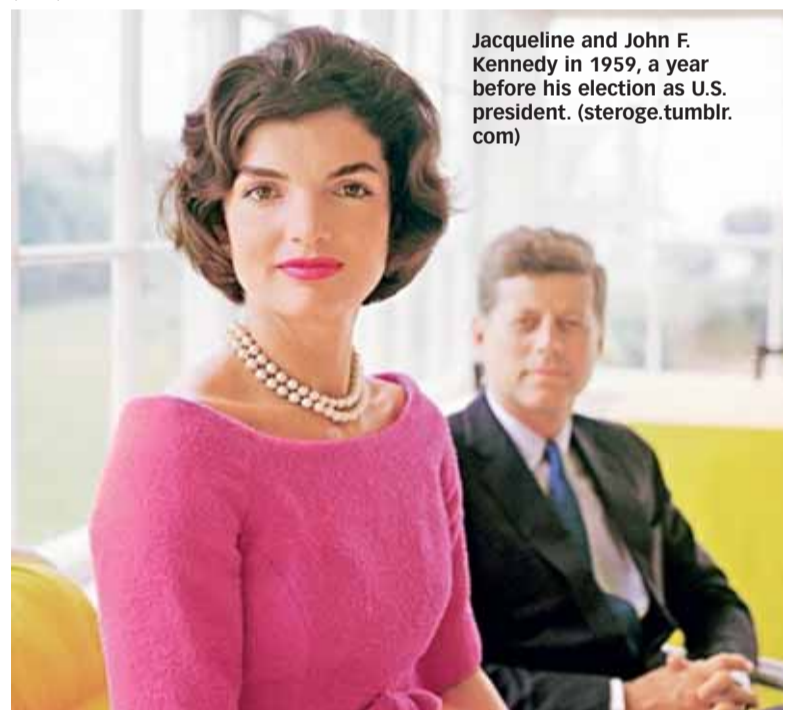
Olga Tiahnybok, wife of Oleg Tiahnybok. (Ukrafoto)



Terezia Yatseniuk, wife of United Opposition leader Arseniy Yatseniuk. (AFP)



Natalia Klitschko, wife of opposition leader Vitali Klitschko. (AP)



Jacqueline and John F. Kennedy in 1959, a year before his election as U.S. president. (steroge.tumblr.com)

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Surveys highlight growing wealth of Oleksandr Yanukovich since 2010



Oleksandr Yanukovich

→ **18** OCCRP, was incorporated by lawyer Blondell Challenger of Aleman, Cordero, Galindo & Lee Trust in the British Virgin Islands.

Challenger also incorporated Follberg Investment Limited, a 25 percent beneficiary owner of Zeonbud in Ukraine, which will soon become the nation's digital TV monopoly. Chilean courts in 2006 had summoned Challenger for questioning and suspected that he had helped launder money for the former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet and his family.

Oleksandr Yanukovich's net worth in June, according to Korrespondent magazine, was more than \$100 million. Forbes Ukraine says companies linked to Oleksandr, a trained dentist,

won government tenders worth more than \$1 billion in 2012. In August, Oleksandr was named Ukraine's fourth most influential person by Korrespondent.

Oleksandr's reported wealth has skyrocketed since his father became president in 2010, according to news reports.

Respected online news portal Ekonomichna Pravda reported that Oleksandr's Ukrainian Development Bank has grown 13 times in two and a half years. According to the central bank, UDB had \$325 million in funds as of July 1, making it the 65th largest bank in Ukraine. Central bank chief Serhiy Arbuzov's mother, Velentyna Arbuzova, heads UDB.

Oleksandr Yanukovich also, according to Ukrainska Pravda, has shares in Ukrainian Business Bank which Arbuzov headed in 2003-2010 before being appointed central bank chairman.

Oleksandr is also president of MACO, whose core business is property development and construction. His company has commissioned huge projects. In Donetsk it commissioned a hotel and entertainment complex, as well as a yacht club in Balaklava on the Crimean peninsula. Oleksandr also has a stake in the famous Artemivsk Winery in Donetsk Oblast, according to Ukrainska Pravda.

In 2011, Oleksandr paid more than \$1 million in income tax,

according to the state tax service. He reportedly has a charity fund named after him but the Kyiv Post couldn't find it on the Justice Ministry's register of charity foundations.

News reports have linked two firms that lease 140 hectares of land north of Kyiv where the president lives to companies linked to Oleksandr Yanukovich, including to firms that built his father's palatial compound complete with mansions and sports clubs.

The president has refused to say who is behind the two firms.

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

Employment



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British Embassy
Kyiv

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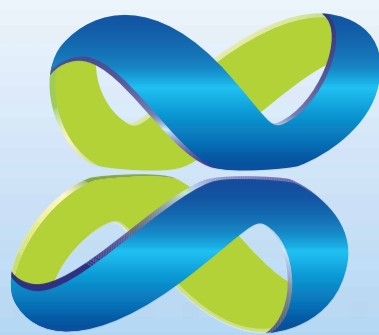
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