

+38044 239-1091
www.abccenter.kiev.ua

GROUP of companies
A.B.C.
LANGUAGE SCHOOL
TRANSLATION AGENCY

LAW FIRM

WE VALUE YOUR TIME

Experts on:

- Pharmaceuticals and Health Care
- Accounting consulting
- Corporate Law
- Public Private Partnership
- Criminal Law
- HR - consulting
- Customs regulations
- Due diligence
- Tax planning
- IT - technologies
- Sports
- Investments

NIKITIN, OVSYANNIKOV AND PARTNERS

Kyiv, 106 Saksaganskogo Str., (+38) 044 234 44 69, 234 62 89 www.legal-adviser.org

UKRAINIAN
LEGAL ADVICE

GERMAN
ACCURACY

BEITEN BURKHARDT

KyivPost

17th Anniversary



vol. 17, issue 47 **INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST** www.kyivpost.com **November 23, 2012**



New criminal code a step towards civilization

BY SVITLANA TUCHYNSKA
TUCHYNSKA@KYIVPOST.COM

It took more than 50 years, but Ukraine has finally changed its criminal law. Its backers hope the long-anticipated revisions, which came into effect on Nov. 20, will eliminate the worst abuses of the nation's barbaric judicial and law enforcement systems.

The previous code, a Soviet holdover from the days of Nikita Khrushchev, was described by lawyers and human rights activists as "unbearably vile" and "disastrous." But it's not enough to change the law, advocates warn. The police, prosecutors and judges who enforce the law will have to change, too, and that could be the hardest part.

"Criminal legislation will definitely become more humanistic. The code can be rightfully called revolutionary for Ukraine," said Mikhail Ilyashev, → 16

When Children Die

Okhmatdyt is a place that 'smells like death'



The chemotherapy unit at the Center for Children's Oncohaematology is on the second floor of the national Okhmatdyt Hospital in Kyiv. There is nothing modern here. The modest hall is decorated with art made by children who are no longer alive.

Children with lethal diseases from all over Ukraine come here → 17

Horrors of a children's hospital



Everywhere one looks, misery and pain are evident. There is a stretcher in the corridor, with a boy lying on it, about 12 years old. Even through the thick layer of bandages, the tibia and fibula on his right leg look like they will have → 17



Ukraine's top children's hospital is Okhmatdyt — short for Okhorona Materi I Dytyny (Protection of Mother and Child). While successfully treating thousands of children each year, critics say the hospital epitomizes the shortcomings of the nation's medical practices: poor treatment, equipment and attitudes. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

Recommended price for Kyiv Post: 10 UAH

Inside:

- Business → 6 – 10
- News → 2, 16
- Opinion → 4, 5, 16, 17, 22
- Lifestyle → 18 – 21
- Employment/Real Estate/Classifieds → 22, 23

CURRENCY WATCH

Hr 8.21 to \$1

Nov. 22 market rate





MEP Marek SIWIEC

Could you please describe the current outlook for Ukrainian-EU relations?

As far as I'm concerned, EU-Ukrainian relations are currently frozen, in a certain sense. One of the reasons for this state of affairs is the case of [former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia] Tymoshenko.

In my view, there's a possibility for further development in this particular matter, especially if we consider that the election process was relatively free and fair, despite the infringements in the election campaign and vote count, and at present this is the key issue that makes up the substance of the discussion taking place within the European Union.

How did you find Ukraine's pre-election and election climate? Do you see the results of the elections as being legitimate, transparent and lawful?

There are some people who are rejecting the election results, which accurately reflect the will of the voters. Nevertheless, we have to bear in mind that the opposition, despite having its leader incarcerated, decided to run in the election under the new election law, and they actually got quite a good result. I doubt we could ever say there was a fully transparent, free and fair election. But Ukrainians at least had a chance to choose from some different options.

Moreover, following the election, we can see two new phenomena in the [Ukrainian] attitude towards international relations: The first is more progressive and open to the EU, and the other more xenophobic and nationalistic, which is reflected in the programmes of two political parties, namely UDAR and Svoboda. This state of affairs says a lot in favour of the elections.

How do you think the consideration of the Association Agreement by the EU will turn out?

At present, we've got two treaties that are being discussed. The first is the Association Agreement,

which concerns political matters, and the second is the Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement. In my view, the European Parliament should bring this document back to the table and give it some more consideration.

Do you think EU officials will support the document?

The question of whether EU officials support it or not depends very much on the states.

I believe agreement to return to the dialogue with Ukraine will be reached, but of course what we'd like to see are the conclusions of the EU authorities on this election.

How do you think the future of the EU's enlargement policy towards Ukraine will develop?

At the current stage of internal European relations, the word "enlargement" isn't a very welcome one. We can talk about associations, [and] closer cooperation, but enlargement policy is at present limited only to the Balkans.

I don't think Ukraine will get any promises in this matter, but it doesn't mean that the future there won't be anything done to change this. And I believe a lot can be done for future enlargement - I personally support it, and my country supports this issue as well.

Do you see any possibilities for the visa facilitation regime being supported by the EP?

Visa facilitation is one part of the agreed action plan. We're in ongoing negotiations concerning this. A lot of improvements have already been introduced to the procedure of relations between the EU states and Ukraine, which isn't often mentioned. Visa facilitation offers great benefits to people. In relation to Poland and Ukraine, for instance, there will be the opportunity for more than four million Ukrainians to visit my country under local border traffic rules.



Marek Siwiec is a Polish Member of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament

What kind of benefits does this step bring, both to the EU and to Ukraine?

I think that the word "visa" shouldn't have to be used at all when we're talking about the EU-Ukraine relations. I remember how difficult it was for me to travel using visas for the sake of my personal development when I was young. The lack of any visa regime gives those who want to learn, travel or work in another country a lot of opportunities. Having more Ukrainian people in the West would be the best proof of how useful the change to using EU standards is.

"UKRAINE'S MEAT AND DAIRY EXPORTS TO THE EU: OPPORTUNITIES, REQUIREMENTS, AND PROSPECTS"

Industrial Mission to Brussels, November 12-14, 2012

Together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, the EBA co-organized a mission of Ukrainian exporters to Brussels on November 12-14.

The visit was mainly a fact-finding mission to discover the opportunities and regulatory requirements with regard to Ukrainian agricul-



tural exports (meat, eggs and dairy products) to the EU.

The prospective establishment of a deep and comprehensive EU-Ukraine Free Trade Area under the future Association Agreement (initiated but not yet signed by the EU and Ukraine) will open up a range of opportunities for the liberalization of Ukrainian exports to the EU. In particular, it is expected that the introduction of generous tariff quotas for Ukrainian agricultural exports, such as meat (e.g., poultry, beef, pork), eggs and dairy products, will provide wider and deeper EU market access to this traditionally strong sector of the Ukrainian economy.

Over two-and-a-half working days, the delegation conducted 13 working meetings with EU Commission representatives, Members of



the European Parliament, business associations of various levels, and consulting companies.

If you are interested in participating in future industrial missions to Brussels, please contact Tetiana Shulga (Tetiana.Shulga@eba.com.ua).

Check out our new Campaigning and Promotion Coordinator vacancy @eba.com.ua/about/career

Editorials

Get real

Ukraine's national bank and government are trying as hard as they can to protect the national currency from devaluation. But, as usual, they are employing heavy-handed tactics rather than a sensible strategy.

New rules force exporters to convert half their hard currency earnings into hryvnias. Starting next week, conversion to hryvnias is also mandatory for wire transfers from abroad of more than Hr 150,000 (\$18,000).

On Nov. 16, a pro-presidential Party of Regions member of parliament filed a law that intends to introduce a 15 percent tax on any cash conversions of foreign currency into hryvnias. It has since been shelved, but statements from the National Bank of Ukraine suggest it is only a question of time before this happens.

Like many of the currently considered or passed measures, the law's purported goal is to reduce the shadow economy and prevent profiteering on the currency's future devaluation.

Its likely effect is the opposite. In a country where for decades bending the rules was an essential survival skill, the publication of a new law is immediately followed by dozens of schemes to get around it. That's why letting the free market work makes all the more sense.

For months, bankers, businessmen and financial analysts have been saying that it's a matter of when and by how much – not if – the hryvnia will devalue. There are plenty of reasons for it, and a lot of them lie beyond Ukraine's control. Prices and demand for steel and chemicals, two major exports, have dropped this year, sending the current account deep into the red. Meanwhile, stubbornly defending the hryvnia to a firm dollar peg has hit currency reserves hard.

Releasing the peg would make the economy healthier, making Ukrainian exports more competitive. But it's disadvantageous for the government for many reasons. Besides being unpopular it would make the huge monthly bill for natural gas from Russia, paid in hard currency and rubles, more expensive.

It is understandable that the government wants to avoid a panic, which could lead the currency to fall further than needed and wreak havoc on the banking system. Perhaps the recent measures are meant to manage this slide. Or perhaps there is no plan and it's all just stopgap measures. The problem is, nobody knows. Statements by the authorities are rarely more than populist propaganda meant for their political base. Meanwhile, the rest of the country is kept in the dark. And guessing is only making people more nervous.

Memory remains

Getting depressed is the most obvious thing to do on Nov. 22, the eighth anniversary of Ukraine's Orange Revolution.

There's an endless list of what went wrong after 2004, when the nation's leadership won the support of hundreds of thousands of people who stood up against an authoritarian government that – with brazen impunity that still permeates official Kyiv – tampered with the presidential vote that year.

It's enough to say that Yulia Tymoshenko and Yuriy Lutsenko, among the revolution's key leaders who motivated the crowds then, are now in prison on charges the world considers to be politically motivated. Such a pathetic ending came after their dismal performance in power, Tymoshenko as prime minister and Lutsenko as interior minister, when the Orange government failed to change the way that the nation is governed, and instead shamelessly clashed with each other publicly.

Ex-President Viktor Yushchenko went from being a hero to arguably the most despicable of the Orange leaders. Fittingly, the Orange era came to an end in 2010 when Viktor Yanukovich, the biggest villain of the momentous event – who advocated using force against the peaceful protesters and who to this day denies that election fraud took place – was elected as president. The clearest conclusion would be to proclaim that the denouement included lost opportunities – economic, political and social.

When the revolution broke out even the most cynical commentators, who claimed the uprising was nothing more than new crooks overthrowing the old ones, couldn't help but see the beauty and sincerity of the people who came out on the street to safeguard their political choice. The Ukrainian people managed to avoid violence when supporters from opposing political camps faced each other. It was also a rare moment when being Ukrainian seemed to be the coolest thing in the world, as people in the far corners of the world sat glued to their TVs, watching images from Kyiv's Independence Square in awe.

It might be too optimistic to say that Ukrainians have proven that once their limit of patience is reached, they can miraculously unite and defend themselves against corrupt and debased scoundrels who have ruled this country for too much of its history. Or maybe not.



NEWS ITEM: Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov is set for a good 2013. His confectionary company KONTI received a deal to supply 4.32 million New Year's candy boxes for Hr 98.33 million of state budget money. The boxes are distributed free among children. This year is the third in a row that Konti has gotten the deal. The government says this time it was the only company who applied. Earlier in 2012, Kolesnikov was accused of tolerating corruption and kickbacks during the country's preparation for the summer Euro 2012 football championship, which Kolesnikov supervised. He has consistently denied all the accusations and defended the nation's preparations for the tournament.

Back Story: Coming attraction, The Tiger Conference in Kyiv



MICHAEL WILLARD
WILLARD@KYIVPOST.COM

Putting a major conference together is a work in progress. There are dozens of eureka moments and just as many heartbreak ones. In the end, it is like one of those 1,000-piece puzzles with the lovely pastoral scene on the box that only the very determined complete.

My betting, though, is that the multiple pieces that represent the Kyiv Post/East Europe Foundation's inaugural Tiger Conference puzzle will mesh fine. Friends note that I often flirt with lady optimism, and on occasion it is an unrequited affair.

But – though the proof will be in the pudding – this one had mojo from the start. You should book reservations today. The conference begins on Nov. 26 with a VIP reception and reconvenes early Nov. 27 for the full day. Both events are at the Fairmont Grand Hotel near the Dnipro River in Kyiv's Podil neighborhood.

You simply don't pull in some of the more interesting public figures in the region – Georgia's President Mikheil Saakashvili and a great lineup of panelists – without having a lot of luck combined with selfless help from dozens of people from Kyiv, Kuala Lumpur, Moscow, Chisinau, Tbilisi and Washington, D.C.

Does what some call Saakashvili's Georgia miracle fit Ukraine like a glove?

→ Reserve your seat today. The Kyiv Post has a blockbuster conference on Tuesday, Nov. 27

Of course not – Ukraine is 10 times larger in population – but it does represent a start if Ukraine can bottle up corruption as the republic in the Caucasus seems to have done. The claim is a 50 percent reduction in crime, according to the World Bank.

Or if it can initiate one-stop bureaucracy busters – such as the community centers set up across Georgia – aimed at doing away with myriad opportunities for graft by creating one-stop shopping for administrative functions where the public goes to meet civic obligations.

Saakashvili's party, the United National Movement, had a setback last month when it lost the parliamentary election to billionaire businessman Bizina Ivanishvili, whose Georgian Dream faction was swept into power. Ivanishvili was elevated to prime minister, the most powerful political job in the country under constitutional reform. Saakashvili has → 16

KyivPost

INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

Published by Public Media LLC

J. Michael Willard, Chief Executive Officer
Brian Bonner, Chief Editor

Editors: Katya Gorchinskaya, Jakub Parusinski, Mark Rachkevych
Staff Writers: Oksana Faryna, Anastasiya Forina, Oksana Grytsenko,
Vlad Lavrov, Yura Onyshkiv, Denis Rafalsky,
Olga Rudenko, Daryna Shevchenko, Svitlana Tuchynska
Photo Editor: Ganna Berynk. Photographer: Kostyantyn Chernichkin
Chief Designer: Vladyslav Zakharenko

Sales Director: Yevgeniya Baranska
Sales Managers: Elena Grysiuk,
Alyona Nevmerzhytska,
Anastasiya Sergienko,
Elena Symonenko, Nataliya Zavaloka
Internet Sales Manager: Iryna Cheban

Office Manager: Elena Pashkovskaya
Transport Manager: Mykola Andrusha
Designer: Yuriy Ternickiy
Chief Accountant: Galyna Rogachova
Accountant: Tatyana Shargorodskaya
IT Manager: Andriy Polyakov

To inquire about distribution of the Kyiv Post, please contact Andrey Beley at beley@kyivpost.com or by phone at 591-3409

Feel strongly about an issue? Agree or disagree with editorial positions in this newspaper?

The Kyiv Post welcomes letters to the editors and opinion pieces, usually 800 to 1,000 words in length. Please email all correspondence to Brian Bonner, chief editor, at bonner@kyivpost.com or letters@kyivpost.com. All correspondence must include an email address and contact phone number for verification.

West-Ukraine relations marked by indifference



ALEXANDER J. MOTYL

What, if anything, will U.S. President Barack Obama's policy toward Ukraine be?

His Oct. 22 foreign policy debate with Republican Mitt Romney may hold some clues. Naturally, you wouldn't expect either debater to focus on Ukraine, but it's still striking just how little attention was paid to Ukraine's neighborhood—Europe and Russia.

Neither Obama nor Romney mentioned Europe or the European Union, even once. Ditto for Germany, France, the United Kingdom, and Poland got one mention apiece, but only in passing, while Greece got two, but only as a metaphor for a fate that needs to be avoided. Russia was mentioned 10 times, mostly in the below exchange:

OBAMA: Governor Romney, I'm glad that you recognize that al-Qaeda is a threat, because a few months ago when you were asked what's the biggest geopolitical threat facing America, you said Russia, not al-Qaeda; you said Russia, and the 1980s are now calling to ask for their foreign policy back because, you know, the Cold War's been over for 20 years.

But Governor, when it comes to our foreign policy, you seem to want to import the foreign policies of the 1980s, just like the social policies of the 1950s and the economic policies of the 1920s.... You indicated that we shouldn't be passing nuclear treaties with Russia despite the fact that 71 senators, Democrats and Republicans, voted for it....

ROMNEY: ...First of all, Russia I indicated is a geopolitical foe.... It's a geopolitical foe, and I said in the same—in the same paragraph I said, and Iran is the greatest national security threat we face. Russia does continue to battle us in the UN time and time again. I have clear eyes on this. I'm not going to wear rose-colored glasses when it comes to Russia, or Mr. Putin. And I'm certainly not going to say to him, I'll give you more flexibility after the election. After the election, he'll get more backbone.

Beats me what all this Russia talk amounts to. Perhaps the most we can conclude is that incoherently expressed sentiments may amount to an incoherent policy.

In any case, if the debate is anything like an approximate guide to the foreign policy priorities of the new president, then it's clear that those are overwhelmingly centered on the Middle East and China. The Middle East was mentioned 23 times, Iran 47, Israel 34, Syria 28, Iraq 22, Afghanistan 21, and Egypt 11. China got 32 mentions.



Cypriot president Dimitris Christofias (L) listens to his Ukrainian counterpart Viktor Yanukovich during a toast at the presidential palace in Nicosia. The West, including the European Union and the United States, have had a falling out with Yanukovich over his increasingly undemocratic rule since taking power in the 2010 presidential election. (AFP)

To be sure, the obsession with the Middle East makes all sorts of sense, both for domestic- and foreign-policy reasons. There is a terrorist threat. The possibility of Iran's getting the bomb is distressing. Wars are still being waged in Iraq and Afghanistan. Israel's security is under threat. The Arab Spring has turned out to be more of a winter. Still, you'd think that the possibility of the euro's collapse or the European Union's transformation into either a super-state or a super mess would be of some interest to the United States. And you'd also think that Russia, what with all its nukes and oil and gas and Putinist chest-beating, would deserve to be more than a pretext for an incoherent exchange.

Ukraine's absence is hardly surprising, of course, but it should serve as a reminder to Ukrainian policymakers of their country's complete and total irrelevance to American, and by extension Western, foreign policy. And the Ukrainians have no one to blame for this sad state but themselves.

Ukraine would matter to the world in general and to the West in particular if it lived up to its economic and political potential. A powerful Ukrainian economy would attract attention. A robust democracy

and a clear pro-Western foreign policy would also attract attention. But when thievery replaces economic reform, political repression replaces democracy, and foreign-policy obtuseness replaces foreign-policy astuteness, it is small wonder that no serious Western country cares about Ukraine. You've got to want to matter to the West in order to matter to the West. But the regime of Viktor Yanukovich is far more interested in self-enrichment and coupon-clipping than in statesmanship and good government.

Although the West began experiencing "Ukraine fatigue" in the last years of Orange rule—thanks in no small part to President Viktor Yushchenko's incomprehensible inability to distinguish between policymaking and hating Yulia Tymoshenko—fatigue was at least premised on a recognition of Ukraine as a country that wasn't living up to its potential. What we see at present is "Ukraine indifference." And that won't change as long as the Yanukovich regime suffers from "West indifference" and continues to believe that corruption and authoritarianism are a substitute for legitimacy and democracy.

Alexander J. Motyl is a professor of political science at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey.

VOX populi

WITH DENIS RAFALSKY



Do you think the 2004 Orange Revolution, in which Viktor Yushchenko triumphed over Viktor Yanukovich as president, is still a significant event?



Maria Shapiro,
freelance
photographer

"I consider the Orange Revolution good in the sense that Ukrainians

united for a moment. I would say people closed ranks and protested as a single whole. Though they supported the person who finally became president, he didn't absolutely justify people's confidence."



Makar Taran,
historian

"I see the Orange Revolution as the revival of ideals, an attempt for some rotation of the

political elite, some political romanticism that the nation should bear and without which the political process in the country is uninteresting, boring. That was not a revolution in the classical sense, because the political system in Ukraine wasn't changed. Though it was a surprise that must be kept in mind by both the authorities and the people who do not believe in it repeated."



Galyna Nesmykh,
pensioner

"Today I think those events were the confrontation between two competing political

camp. And it hasn't stopped yet. It's a pity I feel today my hopes were disappointed. But now people are not afraid of expressing their opinion, protesting anymore."



Volodymyr Solovar,
pensioner

"I felt cold those days but I feel disgusted today. I didn't support Victor Yushchenko personally

because he was a former banker. He had never been one of us. But I went to the protests in the name of justice and order in the country."



Anna Karashchuk,
unemployed

"I'm sure radical changes in the nation like the Orange Revolution lead to no

good."

West not yet ready to slap sanctions on Yanukovich



TARAS KUZIO

There is speculation that the West will respond to growing authoritarianism in Ukraine and election fraud in the Oct. 28 vote with sanctions and visa blacklists. The discussion is fueled by the adoption this month by the U.S. House of Representatives of the Sergei Magnitsky bill, now considered by the Senate.

The Magnitsky bill – named after the lawyer who died of mistreatment in prison in 2009 after exposing high-level corruption in Russia – introduces the possibility of freezing the financial assets and banning entry to the United States of persons responsible for Magnitsky's persecution.

German member of parliament Rebecca Harms says the European Parliament is discussing a similar

bill. The European People's Party, to which imprisoned Ukrainian ex-Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko's party is an associate member, is calling for sanctions. Party spokesperson Elmar Brok called for visa bans for "those who are responsible for selective justice in Ukraine."

But don't hold your breath with the European Union. Unlike the U.S., the EU speaks with many voices.

President Viktor Yanukovich's administration and Ukrainian elites are cynical towards the EU, but afraid of the U.S. reaction. U.S. political consultants and lobbyists are active on behalf of Ukraine in Washington, but the Yanukovich administration does not invest to a similar extent in lobbyists and consultants in Brussels.

However, the most important factor today is that U.S. President Barack Obama's administration and the EU have other priorities at home and abroad. Ukraine is not one of them. Ukrainian leaders have created Ukraine fatigue in Brussels and Washington. Many Western policymakers are pessimistic about change in Kyiv. The country will continue to go

nowhere politically until its divisions are bridged.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry overestimated the nation's geopolitical importance and believed the West would turn a blind eye to human rights violations. The EU largely ignored Ukraine's slide to authoritarianism in 2010 and only became critical when Tymoshenko's abuse-of-office trial began in 2011. Kyiv misjudged how Tymoshenko's imprisonment became a red line for the EU.

Former US Ambassador to Ukraine Steven Pifer, now at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C., wrote: "Part of Mr. Yanukovich's obstinacy may result from an inflated sense of Ukraine's geopolitical weight." (<http://www.brookings.edu/research/articles/2012/06/01-ukraine-russia-pifer>.) This month, a BBC HardTalk presenter quoted Pifer's observation to Yanukovich foreign policy adviser Leonid Kozhara. Instead of answering the question, Kozhara dismissed the former ambassador as a "supporter of the [2004] Orange Revolution" that favored Yushchenko and went against Yanukovich.

For a dwindling group of EU members, Poland among them, Ukraine's geopolitical importance → 15

Cash-starved state discourages people from selling hryvnias

JAKUB PARUSINSKI
PARUSINSKI@KYIVPOST.COM

Crowds outside of banks, being ushered in by police officers two at a time, are never a good sign. But that's what the Kyiv Post saw in front of state-owned Oschadbank on Nov. 20 – a sign that worries of the hryvnia's expected devaluation are not getting any better.

Fearing that tattered nerves could lead to 2009-style collapse, Ukraine's monetary authorities have turned on the capital controls – such as mandatory conversion of 50 percent of export earnings from hard currencies to hryvnia and full conversion of wire transfers from abroad of more than Hr 150,000 (\$18,000).

On Nov. 16, parliament registered a law that would take a whopping 15 percent commission on the sale of foreign currency with revenues going to Ukraine's pension fund. The law was retracted on Nov. 20 for further refinement.

The National Bank of Ukraine, how-

ever, announced it will push for an adjusted version of the law – the latest move by Ukraine's authorities to boost revenue and pull the economy out of the untaxed shadows.

The law's author, head of the parliamentary committee on finance, banking, tax and customs policy Vitaliy Khomutynik (of the pro-presidential Party of Regions), claimed the bill aims to fight speculation and stabilize the hryvnia. Experts, however, argue it would encourage black market exchanges. In a preemptive strike, the National Bank has announced that those who engage in this practice will face prosecution.

The law was to come into force two months after publication. In a note to investors, Kyiv-based investment bank Dragon Capital said the steps are meant to encourage citizens to sell dollars now (rather than buy them) by making future sales unprofitable unless the hryvnia drops, for example, to 9.65 per dollar, 15 percent above the current 8.2.

The investment bank currently

forecasts a smooth transition to 8.4 hryvnias per dollar by the end of the year, and 8.8 by the end of 2013, but noted a disorderly scenario could put the rate at 10 to 1.

"All these policies are definitely meant to assist the authorities to weather the shock of the economy, characterized by the high interest rates on the hryvnia assets," said Alexander Valchysen, head of research of investment bank ICU. "They are trying to soften the pressures on the currency."

Fears of a rapid currency slide have weighed heavy on the economy for months, putting a hold on investments and driving rates sky high. According to Philippe Joannier, chairman of the board at UkrSibbank, the situation has gone so far that a corporate short term depositor recently turned down an offer of a 90 percent annual rate on because a competitor offered higher.

The banker said he understood the central bank's rationale, which resembles actions taken by European monetary authorities in the 1980s, when currency controls were wide-

spread. The measures respond to current needs, Joannier said, in which "a 15-20 percent devaluation is more than enough for the economy, but the big danger is psychological."

"This is why the central bank is trying to slow down (the falling rate) by all means necessary," he said.

Indeed, the move comes as other protective measures are being implemented. The first is the mandatory sale of half of exporters' foreign currency earnings, which took effect on Nov. 19, with maximum term for the repatriation of profits reduced from 180 to 90 days. The second will make conversion into hryvnia mandatory for any sum above Hr 150,000 wired from abroad starting Nov. 27.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian mattresses continue to hold some \$50 billion, according to the NBU. One reason is Ukraine's giant shadow economy, a problem the authorities hope will be solved by making under-the-table payments in dollars more costly.

Dragon Capital analysts noted this figure is probably too high, but added

that with Ukrainians changing \$13-16 billion of cash annually, the revenues generated by a 15 percent tax on exchanges could account for 7.5-10 percent of the pension fund's expected 2012 income, and could protect \$5-8 billion of the central bank's reserves.

Meanwhile, the NBU's foreign currency reserves fell to \$26.8 billion in October, down 15 percent since the beginning of the year.

On a positive note, Ukraine placed a \$1.25 billion 10-year eurobond on Nov. 19 at 7.8 percent – the lowest rate this year. The country benefitted from falling yields for emerging markets and reduced political risk expectations.

Nonetheless, recent measures taken by the authorities reflect a gloomy outlook, one reason why the move towards a flexible rate has not yet come, Valchysen said. "It shows expectations are very dire," he said. "It means they expect recession, and quite a sizable one."

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

→ On the move

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT

Have a new employee or promoted someone recently? Let Kyiv Post readers know about all the changes in your business, government agency or non-profit organization through a paid announcement in the On The Move section. For information about how to place your On The Move item at the low rate of Hr 1,440, please call advertising at 591-77-88 or email advertising@kyivpost.com.



TATIANA KHANDAZHEVSKA has joined Kiev office of Noerr as Head of Corporate and M&A department. Noerr is a first-class European law firm - with 15 offices and over 470 attorneys, tax advisors and auditors, who advice in all areas of commercial law in Germany, Central and Eastern Europe and USA. In her new position, Ms. Khandazhevska coordinates and supervises firm's corporate and M&A practices in Ukraine. Prior to joining Noerr, Ms. Khandazhevska practiced in M&A, corporate and antitrust department of well known Ukrainian law firms. She has gained a substantial experience in representing

leading multinational and CIS-based companies in various industries on both cross-border transactional matters and local corporate and commercial law as well as regulatory matters.



Remember Holodomor

On Nov. 24, the nation marks the 79th anniversary of Holodomor, the Josef Stalin-ordered famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in 1932-33. The day is commemorated every year on the fourth Saturday in November. This year it will be dedicated to those who rescued others from starving. Events will start at 2 p.m. near Arsenalna metro station, where people will gather to form a procession to the National Memorial for Holodomor on 3 Lavrska Street. At 3 p.m., there will be a religious service held by representatives of all religious faiths in Ukraine. At 4 p.m., a minute of silence will be observed nationally. Traditionally, thousands candles will be lit to honor the victims of what many consider to be Soviet genocide against Ukrainians to kill their national spirit. Organizers expect up to 15,000 people to attend, including top-level politicians and representatives of all political parties apart from the Communist Party. President Viktor Yanukovich will take part at the Holodomor Memorial at 10 a.m. (Ganna Bernyk)



THINKING RELOCATION?

THINK INTERDEAN.

"We make it easy"

Relocation | Immigration | Moving | Real Estate

Contact Interdean:
T: +38 (044) 576 7370
E: kiev@interdean.com



www.interdean.com

Got a news tip?
Question?
Complaint?
Suggestion?



Call the **KyivPost** editorial hotline at 591 3344
or e-mail: news@kyivpost.com



NEED TO MOVE?

INTERNATIONAL & LOCAL
REMOVALS

Shipping and Storage
Tel: + 380 44 502 39 23
manager-kiev@agsmovers.com

www.agsmovers.com

Executive Moves & Office Relocation Service

We Forward The World

KIMET

UKRAINE'S FAVORITE MOVER

- Door-to-door moving worldwide
- Office & residential relocation
- Customs clearance service & storage
- Boryspil a/p City express delivers

For a free estimate call us now at

236-61-77 483-24-20

483-24-61

e-mail: kimet@merlin.net.ua

YOUR COST-SAVING ALTERNATIVE

License series AB No 544771 given by the Ministry of Transport of Ukraine on 20.07.10

MOVE ONE

ANYTHING
ANYWHERE
RELOCATION, MOVING
AND LOGISTICS SINCE 1992



+380 44 369 30 77

ukraine@moveoneinc.com

moveoneinc.com

The best way
TO REACH
the largest group
of English-speaking
Ukrainians

Advertise in the

KyivPost

For further information,
call +380(44) 591-7788

Deja vu: A shadowy Cyprus company, new TV monopoly

BY MARK RACHKEVYCH
RACHKEVYCH@KYIVPOST.COM

The nation's almighty TV and radio regulator says it doesn't know who is behind the monopoly responsible for the digital switchover from analog TV, upon which 45 million people and 28 national channels will depend.

In an Oct. 25 response to Kyiv Post, the National Television and Radio Broadcasting Council said Zeonbud, the digital TV monopoly for the next 10 years, is owned by Cyprus-registered Planbridge Limited. But Planbridge isn't the ultimate owner of Zeonbud, which is what the Kyiv Post had asked the council's chairman, Volodymyr Manzhosov. The TV and radio regulator had yet to respond to follow-up questions e-mailed on Nov. 2.

From 2005 to 2010, Manzhosov was vice president of Ukraina TRK, part of Rinat Akhmetov's media holding within System Capital Management. Manzhosov failed to mention that Zeonbud's ownership is further concealed behind two Belize companies with an identical address and a company registered in the British Virgin Islands.

Zeonbud general director Viktor Halych didn't answer Kyiv Post questions, but earlier told Forbes Ukraine that he knows of Planbridge but isn't aware of or interested in knowing the identities of the beneficiary owners of Zeonbud.

The opaque ownership structure has aroused suspicions of conflict of interest and what effect Zeonbud will have on Ukraine's already highly concentrated media landscape.

Mykola Kniazhytsky, general director of one of the last TV stations that offers journalism critical of the government, said he is pessimistic about his chances to get a digital license through the courts. If TVi loses a pending court battle, it will no longer be available to viewers once the digital switchover is completed.

On Jan. 12, TVi and TVi Kultura along with children's TV channel Maliatko, TVinfo and Era lost their court case challenging the government regulator's denial of digital licenses. TVi has since appealed the decision in higher courts.

"We're not going to win this case," said Kniazhytsky, recently elected to parliament on the opposition Batkivshchyna Party ticket. "It's obvious the National TV and Radio Broadcasting Council isn't interested in diversity."

Social and educational programs were supposed to be given preference when the regulator selected 28 channels from 59 applicants to receive national digital licenses in August 2011. However, most awards went to Ukraine's largest financial industrial groups.

Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky's U.A. Inter Media Group received eight licenses for his existing terrestrial and satellite channels; Rinat Akhmetov's Media Group Ukraine received three; Viktor Pinchuk's StarLight Media won four; Ihor Kolomoisky's 1+1 media won two (he then bought Real Estate TV which had won a license for his 2+2 channel); Economy and Trade Minister Petro Poroshenko's Channel 5 won a spot, as did Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov's Hockey Channel.

The state got its central bank's BTB channel, First National Channel, as well as local licenses for each of its regional channels in every oblast.

According to media watchdog Telekrytyka's Mariana Zakusylo, the regulator is failing to take advantage of the new platform's possibilities to add diversity and pluralism. "Results of the digital license tender don't provide grounds to believe that society's interests were taken into account, that pluralism of business interests was ensured," said Zakusylo.

Viktoria Siumar, executive director of media watchdog Institute of Mass Information, agreed.

"Education, debate, and culture were mostly ignored," said Siumar, including the failure to make room for a public broadcasting channel, which the nation lacks.

Siumar also said the regulator has excessive powers, including the ability to shut off a TV channel after two warnings. The body is also not independent, she said, since the president appoints four council members and parliament appoints the other four representatives.

In December 2010, the mysterious offshore Zeonbud won a bid to develop a digital TV network from scratch after its only competitor didn't bother to attend. Prospective bidders had to show a \$125 million bank guarantee, which Zeonbud secured from state-owned Ukreximbank.

The circumstances fuel suspicions that Zeonbud has high-level connections in government.

"This is a scheme of shifting money offshore, which is fully legal, but it's someone taking money from one pocket and placing it in another pocket of the same jacket," said Valentyn Koval, general director of M1, part of billionaire Pinchuk's media holding.

When asked to explain why a state bank gave such a big guarantee to a little-known company, an Ukreximbank spokesperson said in an emailed message: "Due to a number of internal banking nuances, we are unable to provide you with a response."

Zeonbud stands to make close to \$2 billion as a provider to national TV broadcasters over the next decade, the duration of its four licenses, according to Oleksandr Pivnyuk, a technical consultant in the TV business and former vice president of the state-owned Broadcasting, Radio Communications and Television Concern.

At present, 20 TV channels belonging to three media groups rake in 90 percent of Ukraine's annual \$350 million terrestrial TV advertising market. Meanwhile, Zeonbud has set non-negotiable rates to TV broadcasters. The company has eschewed face-to-face contact with TV companies, opting instead to communicate via electronic and postal mail when concluding agreements or contracts.

"This is the first time in Ukraine that contract conditions and tariffs were dictated to TV companies on non-negotiable terms," said Koval of M1.

Ukraine's anti-trust body in August 2011 said that it was investigating whether Zeonbud's tariffs are economically justified, but has been silent since then. "If we determine that tariffs for telecommunication services are economically unjustified, this operator will be brought to responsibility," said Rafael Kuzmin, first deputy head of the Anti-Monopoly Committee, said last year.

The TV and radio regulator also forced digital TV bidders to sign legally binding agreements with Zeonbud before applying for digital broadcasting licenses. "This is strange that a state agency forces TV companies to sign a contract with a private company as a prerequisite to receive a broadcasting license," said TVi's Kniazhytsky.

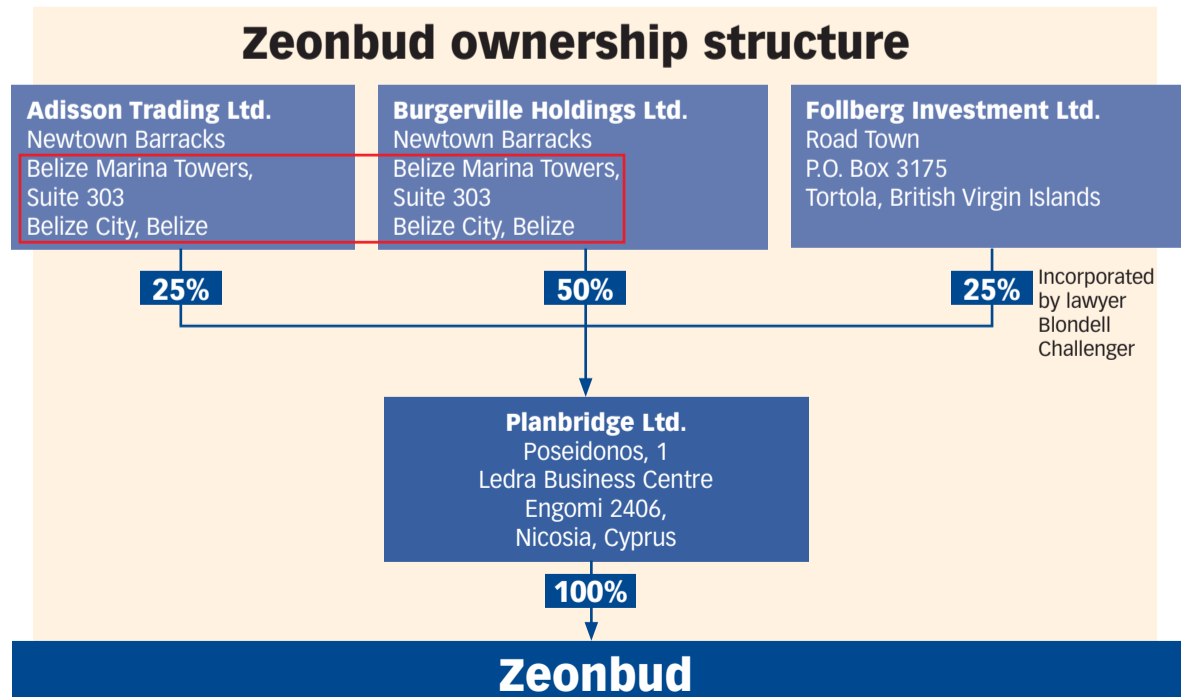
Kyiv Post staff writer Mark Rachkevych can be reached at rachkevych@kyivpost.com.

Wealthy dominate national digital TV landscape

Channel affiliation	National digital TV channel
 First Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Khoroshkovsky	 Inter  K1  K2  Enter Film  Mega  NTN  Pixel  MTV-Ukraine
 Victor Pinchuk	 ICTV  STB  Noviy Kanal  M1
 Rinat Akhmetov	 Ukraine  NLO-TB  Kinotochka
 Ihor Kolomoisky	 TET  1+1  2+2
 Ukrainian state	 UT-1  BTB License to have regional channel in every oblast
 Economy and Trade Minister Petro Poroshenko	 Channel 5 [КАНАЛ ЧЕСНИХ НОВИН]
 Deputy Prime Minister Borys Kolesnikov	 Hockey
 Presidential Administration Andriy Portnov*	 Star-TV  Pohoda
 Oleksandr Yanukovych*	 Esculap-TV  Vintazh-TV  TONIS  GoldBerry

Source: Telekritika
*Unconfirmed information but not refuted.

The national TV regulator's selection of digital TV channels, media watchdogs say, will retain control of the airwaves by a small group of wealthy businessmen, including some with important government posts.



MEDICAL SERVICES

To advertise, email: advertising@kyivpost.com, or call 591-7788

Special news coverage ahead on the following topics in Business Focus:

Nov. 30
Food Services

Dec. 7
Auditing & Accounting

Where English speakers in Kyiv can get medical care

BY OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Getting medical attention can be tough in Kyiv for those who don't speak Ukrainian or Russian. Thankfully, some clinics make sure they hire English-speaking doctors or provide translation services at a cost.

American Medical Centers

Established in 1996
1 Berdichyvska St.
490-7600
www.amcenters.com



American Medical Centers is the only private hospital where the focus has been put to provide medical services to foreigners. According to Alex Sokol, AMC's managing director, 30-35 percent of the clinic's patients are foreigners. All 22 doctors are English-speaking, Sokol said. Some have had internships abroad and at least one, a family doc-

tor, is a native English speaker. Some doctors also speak Spanish, German, Arabic and Italian. The clinic's main focus is on family practice, pediatrics and gynecology. A price list of services is available on demand.



Boris

Established in 1993
55A Velyka Vasylkivska St.
12A Bazhana Av.
238-0000
www.boris.kiev.ua (no English version)

Boris has two clinics in Kyiv and provides services in English but doesn't have native English speakers among the medical staff. According to Olesya Holovko, spokeswoman for Boris, each shift of the hospital's call center has at least two English speakers on staff ready to assist foreigners. "If there is an emergency, we will provide a translator immediately," Holovko says. If a patient wants to communicate directly

with the doctor, they can ask for an appointment with an English-speaking one. Only 10-15 percent of Boris' staff speak fluent English, enough so that each specialization has at least one English-speaking doctor. Some doctors also speak German or French. According to Anastasia Polishchuk, an insurance manager of Boris, foreigners and expats most often come to Boris with the flu or for treatment of abdominal pain. Prices are available online at: www.boris.kiev.ua/ru/price (in Ukrainian only).



Medicom

Established in 1992
6D Heroyev Stalingrada Av.
8 Kondratiuka St.
503-0000
www.medikom.ua/en/

According to Oleksander Skuridin, director of Medicom, an average of five foreigners seek care everyday at one of the two Medicom clinics. English-speaking operators are available at the call center. Also all senior administrators and some

of the doctors are English speaking. If a patient needs to see a specific doctor who doesn't speak English, one of the administrators will assist. "I think it is important to understand that good medical services are a higher priority than the language issue. It is better to consult a good doctor using a translator than to give preference to an English-speaking doctor who would not be skilled enough." Medicom offers most medical services, including surgery, fulltime in-patient treatment and emergency medical care. Prices are available online at www.medikom.ua/price/ (in Russian only).

Ilaya

Established in 2010
9 Ivana Kramskoho
284-0000
www.ilaya.ua

Receptionists and call center operators speak English, so getting an appoint-

ment won't be a problem. However, at the clinic, English-speaking patients are accompanied by one of the managers, a person majoring in medical English, who serves as a translator. The manager accompanies the patient at all times.

Some of the doctors, according to Ilaya's director Alexey Shershnev, are also English speaking, but the clinic doesn't insist that they speak English to patients. The clinic wants to the doctors to focus on medicine and leave the translation to a manager. Ilaya's main focus is on reproductive medicine. Most foreigners who come to the clinics, Shershnev said, are those who came to Ukraine specifically to get reproductive services, which can be much cheaper in Ukraine than in their home countries. Prices are available online at www.ilaya.ua/servis/price/ (Russian only).




'I want a doctor that is accessible to me at anytime, that truly understands and appreciates my unique health needs.

For genuine care-providers, I go to American Medical Centers.'

Call us at
(044) 490 7600
or visit our website
www.amcenters.com
to learn more

**AMERICAN
MEDICAL CENTERS**

→ On the move

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT

Have a new employee or promoted someone recently? Let Kyiv Post readers know about all the changes in your business, government agency or non-profit organization through a paid announcement in the On The Move section. For information about how to place your On The Move item at the low rate of Hr 1,440, please call advertising at 591-77-88 or email advertising@kyivpost.com.



ANTONINA YAHOLNYK joined AstapovLawyers as a Partner and Head of Competition and Compliance Practices. Prior to joining AstapovLawyers Antonina Yaholnyk held a position of Baker & McKenzie's Partner heading Competition & Compliance Law Practice Groups.

Antonina Yaholnyk has over 10 years of experience handling antitrust, trade and compliance matters. She assisted numerous multinational and national companies in connection with their cross-border acquisitions, mergers and reorganizations, as well as cases on diverse competition law matters, distribution, unfair competition, pre-IPO group clearance and other competition and compliance issues.

Mrs Yaholnyk holds a LL.M degree from the University of Cambridge (UK), Master's degree International Law and Economics from the World Trade Institute (Switzerland). 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.

Online medical consultations gaining popularity in Ukraine

BY OLENA GONCHAROVA
GONCHAROVA@KYIVPOST.COM

Ukrainians, like the rest of the world, have grown accustomed to asking Google for answers about everything, including complicated and personal questions about health.

Kyiv's development strategy calls for all medical services to be digitized and equipped with computers by 2025. Ukrainian medical specialists are just now experimenting with online diagnosis and Skype consultations as well. In another step, general practitioners are expected to convert to electronic medical records as well to work with patients via online chat rooms.

But for most state Ukrainian hospitals and outpatient clinics, modern information technologies are still uncommon.

However, a newly launched website "My Doctor" <http://103.com.ua> is the latest initiative by the Health Ministry to move into the 21st century. It provides a special offer for all Kyivans to choose a general practitioner online.

They claim to have created the most complete database of all physicians in Kyiv. Everybody is free to register and look through the biographies of physicians to pick the one who is best for them. Online consultation is also possible for registered users.

"It was a good project of the Health Ministry to make such database where all general practitioners are assigned to the districts of Kyiv. Kyivans may then choose and then change the doc-



A doctor looks through electronic health records at Ukrzaliznytsia's hospital in Kharkiv hospital. (UNIAN)

tor online," said Viktoriya Tkachenko, deputy head of the Family Medicine Institute at the Platon Shupyk National Medical Academy of Post-Graduate Education.

The online process also helps hospitals assign cases, Tkachenko said. "The general practitioner is some kind of the gatekeeper and he should be able to find treatment for at least 90 percent of the patients' requests. When it comes to some difficult issues, the doctor may use Skype or some chat to communicate with the colleagues in other cities

or countries to get the best advice. It's great when talking about some dermatological problems and other specialists may see the patient and discuss the diagnosis online," Tkachenko said.

Another medical website with the same name "My Doctor" <http://miylikar.com.ua/> was launched in 2009 as a private initiative. There's a list of Kyiv-based clinics and doctors who have profiles. Evheniy Shkredov, the website owner, said that online consultation will not replace personal visits to the doctor.

→ Some health issues can be solved without visit to doctor

"Sometimes people just don't want to announce their question, so Internet communication is the most suitable for them. But I strongly believe that real-time consultation is the most important to get the right diagnosis," Shkredov said. "We have about 1,000 active users per day. And most of the questions they address are to gynecologists, traumatologists and cancer specialists."

About 83,200 registered users on the private "My Doctor" website ask questions to Dr. Evgeniy Komarovskiy, Ukraine's version of Dr. Benjamin Spock. The "mom's forum" on Komarovskiy's website is one of the most popular.

Several private medical hospitals, such as Spizhenko Cancer Clinic, Lisod Oncological Center and Nadia Clinic also use Skype calls or ICQ chat forums.

Native Kyivan Maria Brodskaya tried getting help online once, but found it couldn't be substituted for a personal visit, and rather seemed a way of luring in new patients.

"I used a Q&A form on the website of one Kyiv's private hospitals. I sent a question to the doctor about my diagnosis and in some five days received the answer. It was rather general – as my question was," Brodskaya said. "The doctor added that I need to go for a regular check-up to get the full information about my health conditions."

People who had access to their electronic health records need to make fewer trips to the doctor. They can just send the result of an analysis directly to the general practitioner. Several medical laboratories, such as Ukrainian Diagnostic Center and Synevo, provide such a special page for test results.

Telephone medical services are also popular. The state emergency number 1583 was launched for health issues. It replaced private service 366 (similar to normal temperature 36.6) which, at Hr 4 per minute, was rather expensive.

"Once I needed to contact a doctor because of bleeding after my tooth was removed. It was rather painful and I couldn't contact my dentist immediately, so the advice they gave me was rather useful," said Galyna Chumak, a 52-year-old Kyivan. "When it comes to a serious problem, of course I would rather call 103 [the ambulance]."

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

Advertisement

New Danone Dairy Brand Delivers An Old Fashioned Milk Experience



Until the early 1970s, many homes in the United States and elsewhere had milk delivered by a milkman who served a specific route. He'd leave bottles of fresh milk in an insulated box on the customer's doorstep and retrieve the empty glass milk bottles, which would return to the dairy to be washed and refilled.

An increase in the number of convenience stores – and in the price of gasoline – eventually forced the neighborhood milkman to find other work, but ask anyone who grew up in a home that benefitted from the milkman's visits and you'll hear fond reminiscences. In the days before homogenization was widely available, a highlight of old-fashioned doorstep-delivered milk was that the cream in the milk would naturally separate and rise to the top of the bottle. Opening a new bottle and drinking the cream is for many a fond childhood memory.

Unlike many relics of yesterday, that old-fashioned milk – complete with the frosty cold glass bottle – is making an appearance in Ukraine's supermarkets.

In September, Danone revived the creamy taste of non-homogenized milk with Prostokvashino Select, a new brand that embraces milk, kefir, and ryazhenka. Now, expats and Ukrainians alike are enjoying the aroma and taste of creamy 'home-style' milk, but without the health concerns that go with drinking raw milk.

Prostokvashino Select is a premium brand. In addition to being non-homogenized and packaged in iconic glass bottles, Prostokvashino Select products are carefully created from the best milk available and produced to ensure that the flavor and wholesome goodness of fresh milk is delivered to your table.

Danone's research showed that consumers like the premium look and feel of milk in glass bottles – a milk packaging tradition that over the years has yielded to more durable and less costly plastic and aseptic packaging. Feeling that premium packaging deserved a premium product, the Prostokvashino Select brand was born.

"To give the milk that wonderful creaminess, it isn't homogenized," said Dario Marchetti, general manager of Danone Ukraine, which produces Prostokvashino-brand products. "Select milk is pasteurized, which reduces the risk of spoilage due to microbial growth while retaining milk's nutritional value, but not homog-

enized. Homogenization destroys the milk fat globules that prevent cream from separating."

Danone invested in a new, technologically advanced line to produce Prostokvashino Select dairy products in glass bottles at its Kremez (Kremenchug city creamery) plant.

Milk used for Prostokvashino Select products is given special treatment from the time it arrives at the dairy. The best milk is placed in a separate tank and travels through a dedicated, environmentally contained supply line through the bottling process.

The bottles get special treatment as well. A conveyor-mounted x-ray machine is used to control production, and bottles are cleaned and disinfected automatically from a central station, ensuring a product that is as safe to drink as it is tasty.

The Prostokvashino brand (easily identified by Matroskin, the iconic cartoon cat on the label), is one of the best-known and successful of Danone Ukraine's brands, bow even stronger with the addition of the premium Select line.

"Prostokvashino Select was created by Unimilk in Russia and launched in the Russian market in 2000. It has become a market leader in Russia, and Danone Ukraine believes that Ukrainian consumers will embrace this brand as well," Marchetti said.

"We produced Select milk, kefir and ryazhenka for real milk lovers who remember and enjoy the natural and traditional taste of milk from childhood," he said. "Nothing says 'traditional' like a glass bottle, but a glass bottle is just a glass bottle. Milk – not packaging – makes the difference for Prostokvashino Select dairy products. Prostokvashino Select products are created by a patented technology that preserves the natural creamy flavor.

"We decided that our product, which is unique in the Ukrainian market, deserved select packaging. That's why Select comes in glass bottles with sizes and shapes that are different from those used by other Ukrainian producers. Our distinctive bottle design is based upon a French milk bottle to further stress the traditional character of the Prostokvashino Select brand. Selected dairy products utilize labels that communicate the unique character of the Prostokvashino brand: family traditions, optimism and trust," he said.

As world makes progress on HIV, Ukraine struggles

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Embracing a white teddy bear, eight-year old Amina smiles nicely inside a playroom at the Kyiv Center for HIV-infected children. What's left out of the picture is the untold suffering her tender life has faced. She has fought bouts of hepatitis, pneumonia and she still can't walk because cerebral palsy, diseases that strike weakened immune systems. Amina was born with HIV, which in most cases is preventable.

Amina is one of about 230,000 Ukrainians who live with HIV. Since the disease was first registered in 1987, some 27,800 people have died from AIDS-related illnesses. Almost 3,000 AIDS-related deaths were recorded in Ukraine in 2012 alone, official data shows. The number of new infections is still growing.

Ukraine's situation looks particularly grim on the global background. A recent UNAIDS report said that the number of people newly infected with HIV is falling, and that an eventual end to the AIDS epidemic "is more than merely visionary. It is entirely feasible."

But Amina lives in a different reality.

"When she was only nine months old the virus started hitting all her internal organs, she was like a vegetable," said Oksana, Amina's mother, a former drug addict, adding that antiretroviral therapy gave her daughter "a new life."

This so-called cocktail drug treatment that supports the immune system has given prolonged life to some 36,000 HIV-positive people in Ukraine.

By Nov. 1, there were 5,374 Ukrainians who have officially applied for, but are



Amina, an HIV-infected child, exercises in a playroom at a center for HIV-infected kids in Kyiv. The nation has an estimated 230,000 HIV-positive citizens. (Kostyantyn Chernichkin)

not yet receiving, the antiretroviral therapy. And the estimated number of people in need of antiretroviral pills is 170,000, according to the World Health Organization. Ukrainian officials explain this huge disproportion by the difference in national and WHO criteria applied to prescribe this therapy.

Despite the number of people globally infected with HIV stabilizing, the deadly virus is still spreading with immense speed in Ukraine, with about 50 new cases registered every day. Together, Russia and Ukraine account for 90 percent of newly reported HIV cases in the region of Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Experts say that around half of HIV-positive Ukrainians are not aware of their status.

Andriy Mandrykin, 35, said he found out about his disease in jail, where he was sent for attempted robbery and was given seven years. He believes he was infected by injected drug use, and says there are about 10 more HIV-

positive prisoners out of 60 in his cell. "I think I would die without ART [antiretroviral] therapy," Mandrykin said sullenly looking at the floor of a prison hospital in Bucha, Kyiv Oblast.

Prisoners, along with drug addicts, sex workers and men having sex with men, are the groups most vulnerable to getting infected by HIV and contracting related diseases like tuberculosis or hepatitis. "Those who get into pre-trial detention centers have a 90 percent chance of being infected with tuberculosis," said Andriy Klepikov, head of International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine. He added that imprisoned drug addicts neither have access to clean syringes nor to substitution methadone therapy.

Foreign donors still fund 50 percent of HIV/AIDS programs, the largest being The Global Fund, an international foundation that targets three modern pandemics - AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Ukraine has become the larg-

est recipient of Global Fund's financing in the region, having received \$300 million to date, including \$275 million for anti-AIDS and \$25 million for anti-tuberculosis programs.

But the country has constantly been at the brink of losing grants over government inaction, discriminatory legislation and new corruption allegations.

In 2004, Global Fund halted cooperation with Ukraine's Ministry of Health after a scandal revealing that the government was purchasing antiretroviral medications at inflated prices that sometimes exceeded real costs by 27 times.

HIV advocacy groups claim that the medical procurement problem persists. "In [the public] procurement system corruption unfortunately still exists," said Hanna Koshykova of All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV. "For some drugs their [government] prices are 1.5 or two times higher than ours."

However, government officials deny the allegations. "Corruption has become a popular buzzword, and all troubles with medical procurement are explained by corruption," said Alla Scherbynska, deputy head of Center for AIDS protection.

But her boss, Natalia Nizova, said many people are deprived of antiretroviral treatment not because of the lack of money, but because many of those infected with HIV don't address their medical needs.

Klepikov of the AIDS Alliance said his organization is currently suing the health ministry for criminalizing syringe exchange, a crucial initiative that prevents the use of used syringes, and an important precaution for stopping the transmission of HIV among injection drug users. "Basically social

workers who carry used needles and syringes risk getting three years in prison," he said.

Social work with drug addicts has already brought considerable success in the fight against AIDS. The number of newly registered HIV positive people who were infected by injection drug use since 2008 has decreased in comparison with the number of those infected through sexual contact.

Meanwhile, epidemiologists fear that the number of HIV cases among men having sex with men will increase in the coming years, as this group has become more visible and open to HIV testing.

Advocacy groups point to a scandalous draft law that prevents the "promotion of homosexuality" that could lead to the spread of the disease among this group. Activists say the law makes it difficult to reach out to gays whose lifestyle will inevitably become more discreet.

"With the passage of such legislation the HIV epidemic in Ukraine will be only fueled," said Kent Klindera, head of the US-based GMT initiative, the foundation supporting gay men around the globe, including Ukraine.

Jean-Elie Malkin, director of the UNAIDS Regional Support Team for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said that Ukraine's anti-AIDS policy surprises him. "I see a paradox in Ukraine between the fact that we know where the problem is. The paradox [is] between this knowledge and the fact that we are not going to scale when it comes to these interventions," he told the Kyiv Post.

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

Drug users experience life at bottom

BY OKSANA GRYTSENKO
GRYTSENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

While a recent United Nations report says the number of people globally infected with HIV is stabilizing and the death toll is dropping, in Ukraine the trend is going the other way.

In 2011 there were 21,177 officially registered new HIV cases in Ukraine, 688 more than the previous year. A UN progress report on Ukraine says: "Ukraine is experiencing the most severe HIV epidemic in Eastern Europe and the CIS countries."

The AIDS mortality rate has increased every year since 2005. Last year, 3,736 patients died of AIDS-related diseases, including 22 children, the UN report said.

"Death from AIDS related diseases has become a real threat for thousands of HIV-infected people in Ukraine," read the UN report on Ukraine.

Current and former drug addicts compose almost a half of all HIV positive people in Ukraine, according to the Ukrainian AIDS Center. Of the 300,000 estimated injecting drug users in Ukraine, only one third are officially registered at state drug clinics. These people often acquire and transmit HIV, hepatitis C and other infectious diseases.

"One, two, three," counts Vania as he places used syringes into a paper bag. He sits on the floor of a two-room

flat in Kyiv, surrounded by other drug addicts, some of whom live, prepare and inject drugs here.

Just like an average family, they sit on a sofa, and engage in friendly chatter while sipping tea. They don't reveal their surnames. And they look sickly tired as they speak about drugs and AIDS.

"It's scary to go downstairs, where the children go and look at the used syringes with blood inside," said Andriy, the drug addict owner of the flat and social volunteer. The work he does involves inviting local drug users to exchange their used needles and take regular HIV tests.

One dose of opium on the black market costs about Hr 80 (\$10). But it's too expensive for Vania, who injects mainly homemade drugs, which he buys or "cooks" himself from codeine-based headache pills.

"When I feel too bad I have to inject eye drops," he said, referring to Tropikamid, the eyedrops sold in every drugstore for some Hr 16 (\$2). With these cheap drugs he has to repeat the injection every one or two hours.

The drug users bring used syringes to social workers and receive the new ones at a drug house in Kyiv.

This kind of life for the last 15 years limits Vania's chances for both a job and medical care. "Doctors often fear treating drug addicts," said Sergiy Parkhomenko, a social worker at Club



A drug addict gets tested for HIV in a mobile clinic in Kyiv. (Global Fund/Efrem Lukatsky)

Eney, a non-governmental organization, who brought clean syringes and antibacterial wipes to the drug house.

Social workers often accompany drug users to hospitals to pressure the medical staff to give them treatment.

Drug users still risk HIV infection even if they use disposable syringes since the virus may remain in the drug dose if a contaminated needle was used during the drug-making process. So Vania and his friend regularly get tested for HIV at a mobile clinic. He does this every three months.

"I'm clean!" said Ira, a short-haired blond emerging from the mobile clinic established in a yellow minivan parked by the drug house. She said she started doing drugs at 18, but looks twice that age. Ira said she plans to quit, "by gradually reducing the dose." Soon after, Vania discovered he also is HIV-negative.

Established with funds from the Global Fund, this clinic regularly comes to drug houses to conduct HIV tests and occasionally offers consultations by infectious disease doctors.

Volodymyr Moiseyev of Eney Center, who manages the clinic, blames the state for turning a blind eye to drug addicts.

"State social services have money only to pay salaries for their staff," he said. So social workers offer consultation and provide medical care to drug-users at their homes or near drugstores.

In parliament's current version of next year's budget, it is uncertain whether money will be earmarked for the treatment of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis.

While the number of newly infected HIV people who got the deadly virus from injecting drugs is decreasing, experts say that the spread of HIV is still increasing. "When it goes from blood to blood through a syringe or contaminated drug it (HIV) spreads very fast," said Alla Scherbynska, deputy head of Center for AIDS protection.

Andriy Klepikov, head of International HIV/AIDS Alliance in Ukraine, said that only 7.7 percent of people receiving antiretroviral therapy are drug addicts, which is hugely disproportionate to the number of people who require anti-HIV pills. "It's a medical and human rights problem, which is provoking the number of deaths over AIDS," he added.

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

European and Ukrainian cuisine
Karaoke



20 Parkova doroha, Kyiv
+380 44 270-71-71
+380 67 505-59-58
www.leo.ua

CYBERZONE
powered by SAMSUNG

INTERNET CAFE

Kyiv, Bessarabska square, Metrograd mall
Lower Basement
tel.: (+38044) 247-56-47

AMERICAN MEDICAL CENTERS

Kyiv's Premier International Health Clinic
+38 (044) 490 7600
1 Berdychivska Str., 04116 Kyiv, Ukraine
www.amcenters.com

КОСМО АПТЕКА

KOSMO - national chain of health & beauty shops

CALL CENTRE:
Tel: 0 800 308 808 www.kosmo.ua
(landline calls within Ukraine are free of charge)

License series AS No. 579414 issued by the State Service for Medications of Ukraine on 01.11.2011



LEO RESTAURANT KARAOKE

CYBERZONE

КОСМО АПТЕКА

КОСМО АПТЕКА

КОСМО АПТЕКА

КОСМО АПТЕКА

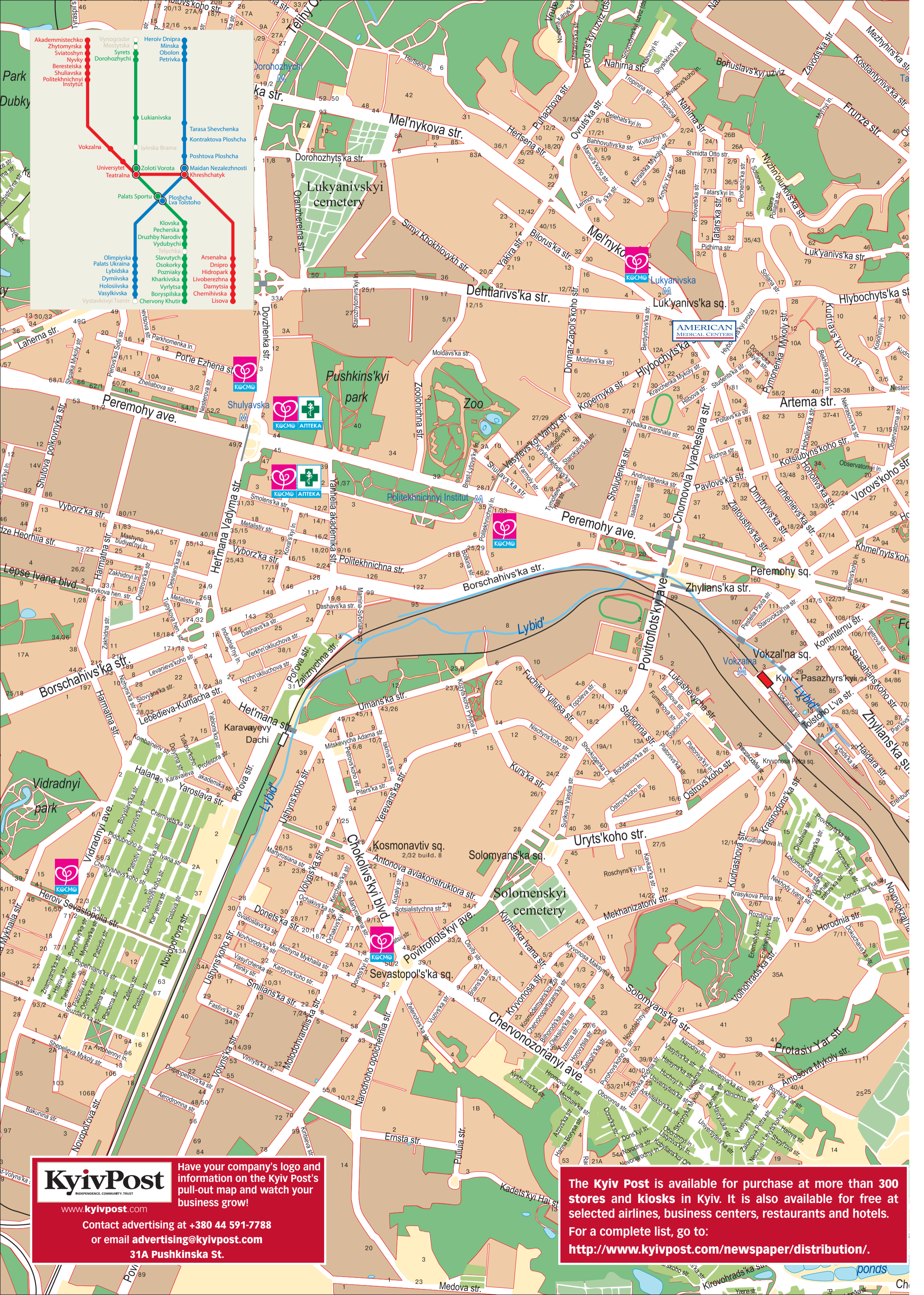
Free Kyiv Navigator
goo.gl/KAo14



KIDEV
8th km Boryspilska road

Botanical gardens of Academy of Sciences

VISIUM



Map Legend:

- Red Line:** Akademmistechko, Zhytomirskaya, Sviatoshyr, Nyvky, Beresteiska, Shulivska, Politekhnychny Institut, Vokzalna, Universytet, Teatralna, Palats Sportu, Ploshcha Lva Tolstoho, Arsenalna, Dnipro, Hidropark, Livoberezhna, Chernivska, Lisova.
- Green Line:** Vynogradar, Mostytska, Syrets, Dorohozhychi, Lukyanivska, Lvivska Brama, Klovska, Pecherska, Druzhby Narodiv, Vydubychi, Slavutych, Osokorky, Pozniaky, Kharkivska, Vyrlytsa, Boryspilska, Chervonyi Khutir.
- Blue Line:** Heroiv Dnipro, Oblona, Petrivka, Tarasa Shevchenka, Kontraktova Ploshcha, Poshtova Ploshcha, Maidan Nezalezhnosti, Khreshchatyk, Olimpiyska, Palats Ukraina, Lybid'ska, Dymyivska, Holosiivska, Vasylivska, Vystavkovyi Tsentr.

KyivPost
INDEPENDENCE. COMMUNITY. TRUST

www.kyivpost.com

Contact advertising at +380 44 591-7788
 or email advertising@kyivpost.com

31A Pushkinska St.

The Kyiv Post is available for purchase at more than 300 stores and kiosks in Kyiv. It is also available for free at selected airlines, business centers, restaurants and hotels. For a complete list, go to: <http://www.kyivpost.com/newspaper/distribution/>.

THE TIGER CONFERENCE BE PART OF UKRAINE'S FUTURE

November 26-27, Fairmont Grand Hotel in Kyiv

Kyiv Post Conferences in Partnership with East Europe Foundation



Republic of Georgia President
Mikheil Saakashvili

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? 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.

LAST OPPORTUNITY

RESERVE YOUR SEAT: www.kyivpost.com/conference
+38 050 311 3804

Keynote Speaker :

President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili

Special remarks:

Ukraine First Vice Prime Minister, Valeriy Khoroshkovsky

Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Moldova, Mihai Moldovanu

Ending the Slumber

Ukraine: Finding its Place in the World

Moderator: Daniel Bilak, CMS Cameron McKenna

Steven Pifer, Brookings Institution
Walery Marcinowicz, Hay Group
Sulaiman Mahbob, Prime Minister's
Economic Planning Unit, Malaysia
Valerii Muntian, Government Plenipotentiary
for cooperation with the Russian Federation

Leaning East or West: Does it Matter to Business?

Moderator: Armen Khachaturyan, Asters

Pavlo Sheremeta, Kyiv School of Economics
Adam Jędrzejewski, Polish Institute for PPP
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, Credit Agricole Bank
John Shmorhun, Harmelia Holdings
Leonid Kozachenko,
Ukrainian Agrarian Confederation

Energy and Energy Efficiency

Moderator: Daniel Bilak,
CMS Cameron McKenna

Graham Tiley, Shell Ukraine
Cornelius Granig, Siemens
Volodymyr Ignaschenko, Ministry of
Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine
Peter Justin O'Brien, EuroCape New Energy

Ukraine's IT Outsourcing Boom

Moderator: Victor Valeyev, IT Ukraine Association

Torben Majgaard, Ciklum
Yegor Anchishkin, Zakaz.ua, Viewdle
Karl Robb, EPAM

Finance and Corporate Governance

Moderator: Jakub Parusinski, Kyiv Post

Tomas Fiala, Dragon Capital
Natalie Jaresko, Horizon Capital
John Campbell, PwC Ukraine
Pavel Cetkovsky, Erste Bank Ukraine

Partner of the Main Panel



Strategic Partner



Cocktail Reception Sponsor



Official Innovative Partner



Partner of the Agriculture and Food Security Panel



Partner of the Finance and Corporate Governance Panel



Partner of the Energy and Energy Efficiency Panel



Legal Partner



Drinks Sponsor



Evening Reception Partner



Official Airline Partner



Media partners:



Kuzio: West unlikely to adopt sanctions against Ukraine

→ 16 remains more important than human rights. Kyiv is, in turn, seeking to increase Ukraine's geopolitical importance in Washington through choosing U.S. energy companies to explore Ukraine's untapped oil and gas potential.

The West has no appetite for sanctions. Ukraine would have to look a lot more like Belarus and Russia before sanctions would become a reality. Western descriptions of the Oct. 28 parliamentary election as "free but not fair" means they believe they were worse than elections held in Eastern Europe but better than in Eurasia.

The authorities attempted to walk a tightrope. They used state administrative resources to ensure that the president's Party of Regions controlled a parliamentary majority ahead of the

2015 presidential elections. At the same time, they hoped to not be forced to undertake massive overt election fraud of the kind that led to the Orange Revolution. They feared that such fraud could lead to Western sanctions.

The only potential Western reaction to Ukraine's elections will be to expand the current visa blacklist from the Ukrainian president to other senior officials such as those in the General Prosecutor's Office.

Yanukovich is no longer invited by Western governments. In 2010 and 2011, Yanukovich made 49 overseas trips combined. This year, he's made 10, only one of which was to a Western country (Cyprus). A visa blacklist will require the U.S. to put pressure on the EU. The EU will never take the initiative.

U.S. Secretary of State Hilary Clinton and German Chancellor Angela Merkel refused to shake Yanukovich's hand or be photographed with him at the May Chicago NATO summit. Former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice did the same at the September Yalta European Strategy summit. Yanukovich only travels to the West for conferences.

Ukrainian oligarchs will not be visa blacklisted because of two reasons. Firstly, there is no evidence linking them to election fraud and being behind the trials of former government officials such as Tymoshenko.

Secondly, Ukrainian and Eurasian oligarchs are welcomed in Western Europe while discouraged from traveling to the U.S. As a recent front cover of *Korrespondent* magazine shows,

London could be renamed Kyiv-on-the-Thames or Donetsk-on-the-Thames.

In the last 12 years, Ukraine's political leadership has been twice blacklisted by the West. The first time came after the 2000-2002 scandals involving ex-President Leonid Kuchma allegedly caught on tape committing lots of crimes that he denies. Today, Ukraine's European integration is being held hostage by a president's desire for personal revenge.

Dr. Taras Kuzio is a non-resident fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations in Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. He also recently was a visiting fellow at the Slavic Research Center of Hokkaido University in Japan, where he completed a forthcoming contemporary history of Ukraine.

Willard: Saakashvili tops all-star speakers

→ 4 one more year as president.

In my admittedly prejudiced view, this conference has more potential than any other such public forum held in Ukraine in 2012.

It has a little something for most everyone, starting with two umbrella panels called "Ending the Slumber". The first will examine the overarching geopolitical picture, while the second delves into the nitty-gritty of microeconomics.

Then the Kyiv Post/EEF conference swings into a series of discussions focusing on financial and corporate governance, the promise of agriculture in Ukraine, the hope for the energy sector and the booming internet technology outsourcing business.

There are a lot of people to thank for organizing a conference like this, not the least of which is the Kyiv Post's partner in this first Tiger Conference, the East Europe Foundation, a worthy nongovernmental organization that, like this newspaper, needs additional funding to carry out its mandate.

You know all those lawyer jokes that go around? Well, toss them in the trash bin. Thank God for lawyers when it comes to supporting the world's window on Ukraine, the Kyiv Post. Three firms: Asters, CMS McKenna and B.C. Toms stepped up to the plate.

I am not sure how much yogurt Danone will sell or how much candy, coffee and salty snacks that Kraft will move, but I do know they are good corporate citizens that support a free press. Banks, by nature, are conservative, but both Raiffeisen Bank Aval and Credit Agricole were front and center when called upon.

Another professional firm, PwC, was ready immediately after my meeting with managing partner Bryan Disher, who orchestrated his firm's sponsorship even while he was out of the country. Two other companies came forward with extremely useful barter arrangements: Russian Standard and Turkish Airlines.

The sponsorship ball was put in motion when Ciklum's Torben Majgaard agreed to host the VIP reception. Philip Morris, our quiet sponsor, was tied with the largest contributor, but asked nothing in return - not even a logo placement.

Finally, a couple of days before the conference, Samsung called. They not only wanted to be a corporate sponsor with cash but they also put forth their technical expertise to facilitate a more smooth-running program and registration.

We couldn't have gotten the word out as effectively as we did without media partners like the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, the British-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce, Invest Gazeta, Frydays, IWCK, ACC, EBA, and, I hasten to mention, Willard, the ad/PR firm of which I am also chairman.

Oh, I have to mention my assistant and conference coordinator Katya Kalendruz. I made the comment on Facebook that if she were negotiating the Russian gas deal the Russians would end up paying Ukraine to take the gas. She's a Willard discovery and a keeper.

On behalf of the Kyiv Post and the East Europe Foundation, our heartfelt thanks to all.

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

Revised criminal code may curb worst human rights violations

→ 1 managing partner at Ilyashev & Partners Law Firm. "The most important is that it expands the rights and influence of attorneys and limits pretrial detention to exceptional cases."

The code introduces bail, jury trials, the concept of house arrest, use of video conferences during investigation, settlements between suspects and victims approved by judges and other practices that are standard in the West, but novel for Ukraine.

More importantly, the code recognizes testimony only when it is given in the courtroom, eliminating the widespread practice of police forcing testimony out of suspects.

"According to our analysis, 80 percent of police abuse happens because police officers want to force people to confess. When they have the confession, they can base the whole case on it. This is not possible under the new code, which does not consider confessions as evidence in the pre-trial [stage of the] investigation," said

Volodymyr Oliynyk, a member of the pro-presidential Party of Regions, an author of the code.

The government is also set to hold law enforcement officials accountable for wrongdoing, which they rarely do in Ukraine. Out of 5,000 complaints about police abuse that Ukraine's ombudsman received in 2011, few were investigated and only 10 police officers were prosecuted.

According to the code, a new body, the State Bureau of Investigation, is to be created to probe allegations of crimes by officials, law enforcement and judges.

Lawyers said they hope that the new code will increase the incredibly low 0.2 percent of acquittals in courts. The code stripped courts of their right to send back cases for re-investigation which was often done instead of issuing an acquittal.

Out of jail

The code is also expected to reduce the large prison population of 151,000

inmates in Ukraine, as it decriminalizes many economic crimes, changing the punishment from imprisonment to fines.

It also limits the term of pre-trial detention to 12 months for felonies and 6 months for petty crimes. More than 20 percent of all prisoners - 33,000 in all - are languishing in pre-trial detention, many with no trial date set. It's not uncommon for prisoners to spend up to three years before court's ruling.

Mykola Golodnyak, a Kyiv-based lawyer, said his three clients can be the first to be set free under the new code. "They have already spent 12 months in pre-trial. The prosecutor asked the court to prolong the detention, but was turned down because of the new criminal code coming into force," Golodnyak said.

His clients are scheduled for release on Nov. 30.

Another person who the code might help is lawyer Oleg Nikolysyn, who has spent almost two years in pre-trial confinement in a bizarre case. Nikolysyn was defending a client who was accused of car theft. In turn, police opened a criminal case against Nikolysyn, unlawfully, it turns out, since only high-ranking prosecutors can open a case against attorneys.

"I have been in pre-trial detention ever since. In jail I was diagnosed with leukemia that spreads fast," Nikolysyn said, as he sat on his bed in a prison hospital in Bucha, where he was transferred after his diagnosis. However, the prison hospital is unable to treat such a serious illness. Nikolysyn's case is in European Court of Human Rights. The next hearing on his case in Ukraine will take place on Nov. 30.

This case is one of the more than 20,000 cases that went to courts before the new criminal code took effect, and thus will be heard according to the old rules. But Nikolysyn's lawyer hopes he will be let go from pre-trial confinement because of the 12 month-limit set by the new code.

It is unclear how many prisoners will be affected by the new rules, said Ihor Andrushko, a spokesperson for State Penitentiary Service. "This is not an automatic process. We are executing decisions made by the courts and investigators in each case. They have to rule on the change from pre-trial detention to home arrest, for example," Andrushko said.



Global Anti-Corruption Legislation – Minimizing Your Company's Investment Risk in Ukraine

Salans webcast

12 December 2012

4:00 – 5:30 PM (EET)

Language - English

To register, go to
www.salans.com/Ukraine

Experts:

Howard Cohen, Partner

Randy Bregman, Partner

Markian Silecky, Partner

London, New York, Kyiv



Piskunova: Children deserve better care

→1 for treatment. The telephone numbers of various volunteer, donor and religious organizations are pasted on the walls.

On April 16, my little niece Sonia Sitkina arrived here. She had been a healthy toddler until a lymph node suddenly appeared on her neck. She ended up in intensive chemotherapy in Okhmatdyt, diagnosed with a rare form of acute myeloid leukemia. By Sept. 18, just a few days before her fourth birthday, she was dead.

The five months in between were an unending nightmare for Sonia and her family. Her parents, Vladimir and Natalya, took her out of Okhmatdyt on May 16, against the advice of doctors. But the Sitkins weren't confident in the diagnosis or satisfied with the treatment. They were alarmed by the staff's attitude and mistakes, and disgusted by what they regard as corruption.

"We saw the chemotherapy was killing our child," Sonia's father said. "At Okhmatdyt, one of the parents had to stay there 24/7, with no sleep and constant stress. The expenses would escalate almost every day, the doctors would simply ignore parents' concerns and cover up the nurses' faults. Nurses mistreated her in two blood transfusions. Sonia went into shock and luckily Natasha called for help. Natasha said that Okhmatdyt smells like death. I feel sorry for those who trusted in doctors who indeed can provide little help.

"We don't want to sue Okhmatdyt," father Vladimir Sitkin continues. "We



Sonia Sitkina, the daughter of Vladimir and Natalya Sitkin of Kyiv, died on Sept. 18 of acute myeloid leukemia. She was nearly four years old. The picture at left was taken about one year before she died, while the snapshot at right was taken six days before her death. (Courtesy)



just want to draw attention to the issue of when the state leaves parents alone to fight a deadly disease. The parents have to pay for everything, look for donors, pay for blood tests, drugs, syringes, drip systems, blood transfusion filters, buy unregistered chemotherapy medications abroad, etc."

Sonia relapsed at home on July 18, prompting her parents to take her to Kyiv Oblast Children's Hospital and begin a campaign to raise \$320,000 for a bone-marrow transplant abroad. Sonia's father went on a TV news

program to talk about his daughter's hardships. He shared the stage with Batkivshyna Party member of parliament Valeriy Suchkevich, who talked about how a government program meant to help sick kids had to be suspended because of abuse and kickbacks.

In Okhmatdyt, the head of the intensive chemotherapy department is a well-groomed, middle-aged man of the kind you see in glossy magazines talking about making their first million. He talks in short, chopped phrases like "sit," "stand" and "I owe you nothing."

The longest phrase I heard from him was "I don't have to answer your question" after I inquired how they diagnosed the child and why they had not taken a probe from her lymph node. The correct diagnosis is vital as it helps to determine the right treatment and increases the chances of recovery.

But there are no explanations in Okhmatdyt. They say: needles are required (or filters, or adapters, or whatever) to treat the patient. Go ahead and buy them. Get the money somewhere and get everything we need.

They will tell you "the right" drugstore to go to, or "the right" dealer or the commercial laboratory that performs a particular test. They won't explain why this exact one is needed.

They will say: "You need platelet mass. Go to the city of Bila Tserkva, about 80 kilometers from Kyiv, to a blood transfusion station, and buy it for Hr 3,000. That will last you for three days. It's your problem, but in two days your child will die without it."

They will say: "You need an anti-fungal drug. It's not registered in Ukraine, but here is the phone number of Oleg — talk to him about it."

The guy turns out to have the unregistered drug for Hr 1,400, or 10 times more expensive than it would be in the drugstore. And besides, this is an Indian generic knockoff. It needs special conditions for transportation, but nobody can guarantee its authenticity or that it was transported properly.

Money is made on lethally sick children. It seems that the semi-legal drug networks on the Internet are a money-making tool for traders, doctors and maybe all the way up to the Health Ministry. Our hospitals say they use international protocols for treatment, but the drugs are not available — at least not officially and not at affordable prices.

A couple from a village outside Rivne in western Ukraine is sitting in the hall. Their child is being treated for cancer. The doctors prescribe treatment costing \$12,000. The mother is sobbing. The father is stunned. "Even if we sell the house, we won't have enough — the maximum offer will be \$5,000," they say.

After the chief doctor realizes the couple has no money, it suddenly turns out that the needed anti-viral drugs are available for free at the hospital.

Before any treatment starts, all parents sign a so-called "information agreement," which boils down to informing you that the odds of your child dying are in the 60 percent range. In other words, the child is more likely to die than remain alive. The agreement is basically designed to remove any responsibility from the doctors, including responsibility for mistreatment and misdiagnosis.

When I came face-to-face with Okhmatdyt, I called a hematologist friend, asking about the clinic run in a Nazi-style where it seems all the children die. She said: "Nobody kills them on purpose. Every child is a Klondike for the department. Nobody really treats them. Parents are just being used to pump out money. Then children are kicked out to die at home or to foreign hospitals."

This raises a lot of questions about the society where we are forced to live and its morality. The organizers of this medical business make money off the parents of the children who die in their care.

I will never believe that Health Minister Raisa Bohatyrivna and the president's Party of Regions can change anything. There is too much money involved.

Okhmatdyt defends its treatment record

Maryna Kozelkova, head of the organization and methodology department for Okhmatdyt state children's hospital, responded to the allegations described in these two front-page opinion pieces. Kozelkova called the accusations "shocking." She also said the hospital has successfully treated thousands of children, including those who suffer from some of the worst and most difficult to cure diseases. "We're a clinic of the fourth level, meaning that we get the most complicated cases from the whole country," Kozelkova said. Here are the statistics Kozelkova provided:

- 18,303 patients were admitted to the hospital last year on an inpatient basis;
- 55 percent of patients were released after full recovery; and
- 38 percent of patients were released with improvement to their health condition

When there was still hope, 1+1 TV channel showed Sonia Sitkina in the news, telling the nation about my niece and her parents' quest to raise money for an operation. Shortly before her death, her father had to sneak into Belarus like a criminal to buy chemotherapy drugs and, like a drug dealer, smuggle them out of the country because he feared getting caught by customs officials.

In the end, "out of 10 kids that were with us at Okhmatdyt, only two kids survived," Vladimir Sitkin said. The parents of one of the two surviving children raised \$200,000 for a bone-marrow transplant in Israel. "At least we gave Sonia two months of quality time at home," he said.

Sonia died before her Vladimir and Natalya raised the money needed for an operation abroad. The girl's last words to her parents were to remind them to take care of her favorite cat.

Why does a country that declares it provides free health care allow such horrendous conditions and treatment? Why is entering this hospital like a death sentence?

Issuing this girl's death certificate to her grieving parents turns out to be the only thing that this country did for free.

Svitlana Piskunova of Kyiv is the aunt of Sonia Sitkina, who died of acute myeloid leukemia on Sept. 18 just days before her fourth birthday.

Okhmatdyt defends treatment of Sonia Sitkina

Olena Meshkova, the deputy head of Okhmatdyt, responded to allegations of poor treatment involving the case of Sonia Sitkina, who entered the hospital on April 16 with a diagnosis and whose parents removed her from the hospital on May 16. The 3-year-old girl died of acute myeloid leukemia at a different hospital on Sept. 18.

"I remember this case very well. On multiple occasions, I took part in consultation on this case," Meshkova said. She said the mortality rate of this particular type of cancer is extremely high, up to 80 percent.

Meshkova said that the hospital uses a German protocol for treatment of such cases, but the mother considered the protocol to be outdated. The mother also challenged the diagnosis and insisted on multiple consultations with other hospitals, even though she did not see the results of the tests, Meshkova said. Doctors decided to interact mostly with the father, Meshkova said.

"Everything here is voluntary, so parents can leave whenever they need to," Meshkova said. "As a rule, the parents of deceased children have a lot of complaints. But the parents are guilty because they left for nowhere [taking the girl home on May 16]. We have no reason to be trying to justify ourselves."

Meshkova said that Sonia Sitkina's parents came to the hospital too late and the child did not respond well to treatment. "Our statistics [involving successful treatment] are within the European range," she said.

The administrator also said that the hospital has enough drugs, so that parents often don't have to buy any medications. She said the hospital has a board of guardians that provides medication in cases of shortage.

Gorchinskaya: One depressing hospital

→1 to be reconstructed. The rest of the tissues are swollen, and the bandage is soaked with blood that keeps oozing out, saturating the gray sheet underneath. He's awake and moaning, and it's clear that there is no anesthetic involved.

The doctors are giving him an intravenous saline solution to compensate for blood loss. The tiny, insignificant-looking mother by his side is torn

between soothing her child by gently assuring him that he will be playing football again, and answering a long list of questions from the doctor.

The blood-curdling scene looks like it's taken out of a war movie, recorded in a set with crumbling walls and chipped tiled floors, the kind that awaken early memories in a Soviet child. But this is no war zone. This is Okhmatdyt, the top children's hospital

not only in Kyiv, but in Ukraine. The most complicated cases get sent here.

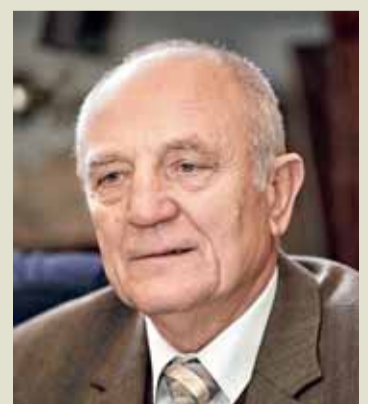
We're in the emergency room. We have passed the purgatory of the first corridor, where a half-dozen patients and their desperate parents are clutching black-and-grey x-rays and thick coats of the same colors, staring hopelessly at the door that leads to the inner corridor, waiting to be called in.

We have passed through the →22

Mykola Polishchuk,

former health minister, on what is wrong with Ukraine's medical practices:

"The government is not financing the expendables [prescription drugs and other items needed for treatment]. Instead, they start new construction [projects]. Until the government realizes that you have to finance the expendables, the situation will not improve. Government officials have said publicly that we have twice as many medical institutions in the country as they do [per capita] in Europe, but they keep building. What needs to be done, instead, is reduce the building and increase the spending on the expendables. But someone is interested in construction and spending money on it, on buying new equipment with a lot of kickbacks. The parents will end up financing it all."



KyivPost

Lifestyle

Play | Food | Entertainment | Sports | Culture | Music | Movies | Art | Community Events

November 23, 2012

www.kyivpost.com

The special Lifestyle Focus on women has been rescheduled. To be an advertising sponsor, please email advertising@kyivpost.com or call 591-7788



Basketball on the rebound in Ukraine

Kyiv guard Justin Robinson, right, and Donetsk center D'or Fischer (C), struggle for the ball during the Super League match on Nov. 2. Kyiv won 79-71. (UNIAN)

BY DENIS RAFALSKY
RAFALSKY@KYIVPOST.COM

Basketball may be one of America's favorite spectator sports, but in Ukraine its popularity pales in comparison to football. However, 2015 might bring a

shift. That year Ukraine will host the biennial 24-team European basketball championship known as EuroBasket.

Although oligarchs and big business groups own most major basketball clubs, the sport survives in the nation in almost complete obscurity. In Soviet

days, basketball teams were sponsored by various government agencies and state industrial giants.

All of the Ukrainian Super League's 14 teams – the counterpart of America's 30-team National Basketball Association – have good financial

backing and are part of the Ukrainian Association of Basketball. But not all of them have been equally lucky in competition.

Kyiv's Budivelnik team is a legendary club whose history dates back to the Soviet days. It has won → 19

Advertising: +380 44 591-7788 advertising@kyivpost.com

Editorial staff: +380 44 591-3344 news@kyivpost.com

Subscriptions: +380 44 591-3408 subscribe@kyivpost.com

"King David" - to touch eternity!

The only kosher restaurant in Kiev where you feel the tradition of Israeli cuisine. Kosher food is the oldest food preparation which carefully preserves the wisdom of the Israeli people.

Here the soul is warm, cozy and comfortable. Competent, pleasant and helpful staff.

Enter the world of the Middle East! We welcome you dear guests!

KING DAVID
ISRAEL KOSHER RESTAURANT

15b Shota Rustaveli St., Kiev,
+38 (093) 2812828 (He)
+38(044)2357418
+38(063)2002002
kingdavid.kiev.ua

Uplok
узбекская чайхана

- Gorgeous eastern show
- The best Uzbek food
- From 9A.M. till the last guest

www.uruk.com.ua
11, Yaroslaviv Val Str., Kyiv • Phones: 235-14-29, 235-15-96, 093-687-14-14

Night Owl
WITH OLGA RUDENKO
RUDENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

Little Red Riding Hood is the place for grown-up girls

A hunky guy draped in silky red cloth and little else can be found on many advertising light boxes in Kyiv. His job is to lure ladies to a new venue in Kyiv. The place will have strict gender control: no men allowed.

But men can still read on to find out what the fairer sex will be up to in this place. The club, scheduled to open on Nov. 27, is Krasnaya Shapochka, literally Red Cap, but also Little Red Riding Hood of fairytale fame. Why this would be a popular name for a strip club is a mystery but, indeed, Kyiv is getting its own Krasnaya Shapochka.

Located on 41 Artyoma Street, the club aims for well-to-do clientele. One manager said the business plan targets customers with "at least \$2,000 monthly income, and willing to spend a fair sum of money on having a fun night in a club."

The four-story building that houses the nightclub will have a 24-hour restaurant. There are also plans to eventually open a spa, a gym and a summer terrace, according to club spokesman Yuri Gulevich.

Pictures of the interior were not available because the club remained under construction and delayed its planned opening at least once.

The entrance fee will range from Hr 100-Hr 400, depending on the party that night. All staff will be male and, managers promise, all will be hot. The main attraction will be male strippers, of course, and the dancers are already rehearsing. Private lap dances will be available, too.

For those who don't want to be spotted in such a place, an "incognito" service is available. A client can sneak in through the back door and, for a small fee, get a mask to wear.

There might also be a way to get around the females-only rule for Krasnaya Shapochka's guests. Managers say they may eventually take a leaf out of the book of similar clubs in Moscow, where men are allowed for a premium price. The entry fee for men may reach Hr 10,000. The hefty sum, however, won't even buy men entrance to the common hall, only to a separate VIP lodge. From there, they can watch women through glass walls.

The grand opening party will have an erotic male dance show with performers from Ukraine, Russia and Spain. The owners, whose identities spokesman Gulevich would not disclose, want to open similar venues in Odesa and Dnipropetrovsk.

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

Krasnaya Shapochka club
(ladies only)
Opening on Nov. 27.
37 Artyoma St.
096-027-1111
www.clubredcap.com

Hosting EuroBasket in 2015 to boost nation's basketball

→ **18** the league championship seven times since 1992. Azovmash, a team based in the eastern Ukrainian city of Mariupol since 1990, also has scored seven titles since the league's inception. Last season's top club, Donetsk, was formed only in 2006.

Ukraine's Basketball Super League standings (as of Nov. 21)

Team Name	Won-Lost
Budivelnik Kyiv	10-3
Khimik Yuzhne	10-3
Ferro-ZNTU Zaporizhia	10-4
Galychyna Lviv	9-4
Azovmash Mariupol	8-4
Goverla Ivano-Frankivsk	8-5
Donetsk	6-7
Kryvbasket Kryvyi Rih	6-7
Mykolayiv	5-8
Cherkaski Mavpy Cherkasy	5-8
Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk	4-9
Dnipro-Azot	4-9
Dniprodzerzhynsk	4-9
Odesa	3-10
Kyiv	3-10

Nov. 28 game in Kyiv between Budivelnik and Hapoel Jerusalem at Palats Sportu at 7 p.m.

Ticket Prices: between Hr 20-50. Tickets can be purchased at the stadium, Sportyvna Ploshcha 1 (044-360-7755), or through online ticket offices, such as: <http://ua.kassir.com/kiev/203560695/218421129/> (Russian language only)

You can find a schedule of the Budivelnik team's games on the English language version of its website at: <http://budivelnik.ua/en/> The schedule of the Kyiv club's matches is available at <http://www.bckiev.com.ua/>

A Ukrainian-language schedule of all Super League's games with locations can be found on this site: <http://www.superleague.ua/content/3664.htm>

The three clubs now regularly compete in the Europe Cup, a second-tier international basketball tournament in Europe.

A Ukrainian national basketball team has never played in either the Olympics or a world championship. And it has never placed higher than 13th in five appearances at the EuroBasket. But the national team qualified for the 2013 EuroBasket, and will have home-court advantage when it hosts the tournament in 2015.

Most professional Ukrainian teams lack pedigrees having only appeared after Ukraine gained independence. Usually someone rich, who most often is partial to the sport, founds the team. A case in point is the team Kyiv. It was formed in 1999 by Olympic champion and former NBA player Oleksander Volkov. He is the current president of Ukraine's basketball federation.

Having a patron like that can be a double-edged sword for the team, though. If someone decides to drop the team for one reason or another, the team might become extinct. This almost happened to club Donetsk 2010 because its president, Serhiy Dyadechko, quit his post and stopped financing the team. Luckily, the team found other sponsors.

A basketball club typically has at least 15 players and a support staff of 12. Predictably it's an expensive toy to have and sustain. Dmitry Bazelevsky, president of the non-profit Open Basketball says annual salary budgets start at \$700,000.

"Staff expenses of top teams are much higher," says Bazelevsky, a former player and coach of club Khimik Yuzhne.

In today's globalized world, clubs hire coaches and players from the U.S., the Balkans and the Baltics, but the attitude to such policies remain controversial at home. There is some fear that Ukrainian basketball faces a stranglehold by foreigners. In 2011, the Super League increased the "legionnaire" quota to allow five foreign players on the court for a team, meaning



Ukraine's forward Oleksiy Pechevov (right) and team manager Mike Fratello talk after a press conference before the basketball players departed Kyiv for the European basketball championship in Lithuania last year. (UNIAN)

a Ukrainian could be missing on the starting lineup.

Tymofiy Bezruk, a former basketball player turned businessman, thinks this is way too much. He says this will give Ukrainian players less playing time, and won't promote their improvement.

"So deplorable is the decline of basketball in Ukraine," says Bezruk. "The eloquent fact is the bad results the national team has had."

The Super League has an explanation for why it allowed more foreigners to play: it wanted to moderate the huge appetite for money among the Ukrainian players, who are now

facing a lot of competition from the foreigners.

"(The) Ukrainians wanted excessive super-salaries," explains Volodymyr Poplavsky, the Super League's sports director. He says that coaches also have more freedom now to manage the players. As a result, Ukrainian players get more playing time than in previous seasons.

"The main task of (the) Super League for EuroBasket 2015 is to train Ukrainian players as well as possible by giving them as much playing time as possible," says Poplavsky.

But it's not just the quality of play-

ers that's a problem. Basketball hasn't gained much in popularity to fill stadiums, which are near-empty. The bigger clubs attract between several hundreds to one thousand spectators a game. It doesn't help that Ukraine's main television channels refuse to broadcast basketball games, including the more competitive Euro League matches.

"Spectators are needed to be competed for," says Bezruk, the former player. He thinks the best way to draw them is to improve the quality of play and make the game more exciting.

Bazelevsky, the former coach of Khimik Yuzhne, says Ukrainian basketball also needs advertising like in the West. "I get [emails with] information about what team Los Angeles Lakers is going to play and when, but I don't see posters of upcoming matches of Budivelnik in Kyiv," Bazelevsky complains. "How will the city know about them?"

The Super League's Poplavsky says the organization doesn't have the resources to advertise and recommends the clubs do instead. "But advertising costs so much that it sends club expenses through the roof, so they simply refuse to do it," he says.

So will the 2015 European championship bring any changes?

The proposed EuroBasket 2015 venues will be in the cities of Kharkiv, Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv for the first round with Odesa, Lviv and again Kyiv hosting the second round and the Finals.

Poplavsky thinks that the Ukrainian team has great potential. "Our players are growing by gaining experience in international and domestic matches. By EuroBasket 2015 we will have an entirely new team," says Poplavsky.

"Probably, (the) EuroBasket in Ukraine won't be equal to the 2012 European football championship in scale, though it will be a big event," he continues. "And it no doubt will be a new impulse, a powerful spur to our basketball — both for the clubs, and the national team."

Kyiv Post staff writer Denis Rafalsky can be reached at rafalsky@kyivpost.com

Gifting season has begun!

Сезон подарунків розпочався!



Christmas ornaments
Ялинкові прикраси

From ~~50~~ **25** грн



Shawls & pashminas
Шалі та пашміни

From ~~200~~ **150** грн



Silk scarves
Шовкові хустини

From ~~100~~ **60** грн



Golf-style bar set
Набір для бару «Гольф»

From ~~800~~ **720** грн



Leather piggy banks
Шкіряні скарбоньки

From ~~100~~ **65** грн



Leather wallets
Шкіряні гаманці

From ~~200~~ **195** грн



Wine bottle holders «RICKSHAW»
Тримач для пляшки «РІКША»

From ~~500~~ **490** грн

1. Навіть пошукуйте!
2. Зберіть собі подарунок! Найкращий подарунок!
3. «Шовковий шовк» завжди за собою тримає подарунок на уся подарунок! Ціна подарунок м'якше на уся подарунок! Ціна подарунок!

SILK ROUTE

Metrograd, Gifts section • Metrograd, Furniture section
Метроград, Квартал подарунків • Метроград, Квартал меблів

Tel. 2270819, 2270833; www.silkroute.kiev.ua
For corporate purchases / Для корпоративних замовлень info@silkroute.kiev.ua

New beacon spurs revival of Jewish life in Dnipropetrovsk

BY ANNABELLE CHAPMAN
CHAPMAN@KYIVPOST.COM

DNIPROPETROVSK – The eastern industrial city of Dnipropetrovsk, home to an array of political stars and once the leader in making Soviet missiles, is distinguishing itself again.

Today, the city of 1 million people is getting attention as the place for revival of the Jewish community, led by billionaires Hennadiy Boholiubov and Igor Kolomoisky.

Last month, the multimillion-dollar Menorah, touted as the world's largest Jewish community center, opened its doors. The massive, 22-story complex dwarfs the city center. It has a total area of 50,000 square meters and seven towers, corresponding to the seven-branch Jewish lampstand and an emblem of Israel.

The project aims to serve the "spiritual, cultural and business" needs of the local and wider Jewish community while welcoming people from other backgrounds and beliefs. The center wants to be a social hub. It has vast space for hosting conferences. It is also home to a museum of Jewish heritage and the Holocaust.

The official opening came on Oct.

21 in the presence of dignitaries from Ukraine and Israel.

But the inside of the center is still eerily empty. Cleaning ladies mop the floor as security guards look on. Everything is elegant and austere. Creamy walls blend marble and so-called Jerusalem stone, similar to that on the Wailing Wall in Israel. Imaginatively, they incorporate the facades of 12 local buildings that were significant for the Jewish community.

In the future, the ground floor arcade will host small stores, banks, and even a branch of the Coffee Time chain. The building rises up from the city's main synagogue, the Golden Rose, which dates to the 19th century, when Dnipropetrovsk was called Yekaterinoslav.

Today, the synagogue houses an unusual ATM. Rather than withdrawing money, visitors can use it to donate money to charitable Jewish causes, either by inserting cash or via an electronic transfer from their bank account.

An ominous black staircase leads up to the museum, in symbolic contrast to the center's light interior. It starts by illustrating Jewish life using objects and colorful collages. It then moves on to the Holocaust, looking at concentra-

tion camps and mass shootings, with a reconstructed ravine like the one in Kyiv's Babyn Yar, where the Nazis shot almost 34,000 Jews and others.

Each object tells a story. The guide points out a doll, blonde-haired and blue-eyed, which belonged to a little Jewish girl. "Look after her until I come back," she told neighbors as she left the apartment with her mother. She never returned and the neighbors kept the doll for several decades. In a lack of foresight, the exhibits are only labeled in Ukrainian, although a tour in English is available on request.

There is also a hotel offering full Shabbat services. Rooms start at around Hr 1,000. A youth hostel also offers beds for Hr 100. At the top of the scale (and building), a single luxury suite offers a panoramic view. "Maybe the president of Israel will visit one day," a chambermaid giggles.

The center's kosher restaurant is yet to open. But the synagogue's cafe offers an Israeli-style lunch of pita, homemade humus and salads. A waitress, asked what she thinks about the center, replied: "The Jews here, they're good people. They seem to stick up for one another."

Today, Dnipropetrovsk is home to an estimated 50,000-70,000 Jews, although the official count is much lower – at 12,000 people. Up to 80,000 Jews left the city for Israel. But many came back. Some members of the Jewish community in Dnipropetrovsk have Israeli passports.

Anti-Semitism, apart from rare acts of vandalism on Jewish cemeteries or monuments, is not a big problem, some local members say.

The Menorah is a dramatic step in the gradual Jewish revival in Dnipropetrovsk.

Today, the local Jewish community sees itself as a beacon in Ukraine and beyond, boasting a range of organizations, both religious and secular – from the synagogue (which draws around 500 people for Saturday service and 2,000 on holidays) to the Jewish school, and from newspapers to charitable institutions.

"It is a magnificent container, but it's what's inside that matters," Oleg



The seven towers of the Menorah community center in Dnipropetrovsk, Ukraine, resemble the seven-branched lampstand, a symbol of Judaism since ancient times and an emblem of Israel. (UNIAN)

Rostovtsev, a spokesman for the Dnipropetrovsk Jewish community, said of the center.

Money for the construction came from Boholiubov and Kolomoisky, who control the Privat Group and have combined net worth of \$5.8 billion, according to recent rankings. Both are international Jewish community leaders. Their project may end up bringing more fame to a region that produced such Soviet and Ukrainian political leaders as the late Leonid Brezhnev and, more recently Leonid Kuchma, the former Ukrainian president who once ran the Yuzhmash missile factory in Dnipropetrovsk, and former prime ministers Pavlo Lazarenko and Yulia Tymoshenko.

Menorah's press service shies away from discussing the massive cost of the project, while Israeli media have estimated the cost at \$60 million.

A tragic and sinister event marred Menorah's inaugural year. The man credited with the idea for building the center, local Jewish businessman Hennadiy Axelrod, was shot dead in a bicycle drive-by in April. His murder remains unsolved. Inside the center's entrance, a discreet plaque commemorates him.

People keen to learn more about Ukraine's Jewish heritage, past and present will find the Menorah center is worth the overnight train journey from Kyiv to Dnipropetrovsk. It is also drawing international praise. The Jerusalem Post has already called it "one of the seven wonders of the Jewish world," even though Menorah won't be completely finished until spring.

Kyiv Post staff writer Annabelle Chapman can be reached at chapman@kyivpost.com



The Museum of Jewish Memory and Holocaust in Ukraine shows the dark aspects of history, but also the richness of the Jewish heritage. (Ukrinform)

INDULGE IN YOUR SELECTION FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE.

What defines your perfect New Year's Eve? A feasting family, jubilant friends or candlelight and fine wine? Experience excellence, whichever your preference.

OLIVEBA | CROWN | HUSH

To reserve a table, please call: +38 050 355 25 68 (Mon-Fri, 10:00-18:00)
Rooms available at the special price of €150 per room per night to all New Year Eve guests.

INTERCONTINENTAL KYIV

In over 170 locations across the globe including KYIV • LONDON • NEW YORK • PARIS

HIMALAYA
THE INDIAN RESTAURANT • BUSINESS LUNCH HR 65
ONLY AUTHENTIC INDIAN CUISINE IN CITY CENTER

WiFi | VISA | MasterCard

23 Khreschatyk Str., Tel: 270-54-37
www.himalaya.com.ua
reservation@himalaya.com.ua

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



The Kyiv Post welcomes tips and contributions.

Please e-mail your ideas to news@kyivpost.com

Please include e-mail address and contact phone number for verification.

a Free drink

Dolls
men's club

57/3
Chervonoarmiyska St.
M.Olimpiyska
tel.: (099) 380-77-44
www.dolls-club.com
every day
from 8 pm. till 6 am



Guests pose with the doggy newlyweds, Barbie the bride (L) and Alt the groom. (Courtesy)



(Top) The maid of honor is dressed up to watch her friends get married. (Above) The marriage certificate was as real as the ceremony, with information about the canine couple and even their paw signatures. (Courtesy)

Cool wedding, doggy-style

BY DARYNA SHEVCHENKO
SHEVCHENKO@KYIVPOST.COM

All wedding preparations are over: the floral arch is decorated, the balloons are up and the red carpet is rolled out. The bride has donned her perfect wedding gown, and the groom is looking snug in his dressy coat, running down the aisle towards the registrar before the first chords of the Mendelssohn march begin.

That may be because he's very eager to tie the knot. But Iryna Ostapchuk, organizer of the wedding, thinks this is because the groom is a Yorkshire terrier and those dogs are so active that they can't stand still, even for their own wedding.

Yes, this is a dog wedding, and it's

the proper, traditional kind. Except, perhaps, for the registrar, whose duties Ostapchuk is performing herself.

"I traveled to China with my husband once and there I first saw a dog wedding. It was a lot of fun," recalls Kateryna Atamanchuk, the owner of the bride called Barbie, also a Yorkshire terrier. Atamanchuk also owns Rico, the salon for dogs where the wedding took place.

She was the one who came up with the idea to throw a dog wedding in Ukraine. "Our dog Barbie just reached that time when she needs a man. We found one for her and then I thought, 'why wouldn't they get married?'" she says. "She is a virgin, he is her first man, everything seems to be just right."

Barbie is just 1.5 years old, but a very spoiled girl. She is used to manicures, haircuts and makeup, and looked quite happy in her beautiful tiny wedding outfit. Her specially ordered two-tier bridal veil was decorated with beads and tiny flowers attached to her curled hair with pins. With 17 human guests

around, there was also a canine maid of honor and best man, both looking their best.

The four-kilo chocolate wedding cake with nuts was also real and decorated with dog figures and nameplates of the newlyweds. But the new couple wasn't supposed to get any of the sweets, just a marriage certificate.

"The bridesmaid and the best man got some cake, though, (they) just stole a piece from the plate," Ostapchuk laughed. "Of course, this is a celebration for people, not for dogs. But it's lots of fun — a ceremony, cake, nice pictures with your little friends."

The doggy wedding was a lot cheaper than a regular human affair, though. "We spent around Hr 2,000," said Atamanchuk. The wedding gown for her Barbie cost Hr 600 and the manicure Hr 70, but the bride's family also dished out Hr 500 on the groom's outfit.

"I don't think dogs need this," said Yulia Savchenko, the owner of Alt, the groom. "And I don't think we would

do that if we had to pay at least something," she said. Savchenko explained that they were just looking for a female of the same breed "to meet some (of their) dog's natural needs."

"When they offered us a wedding, we didn't mind, at least our kids had fun," Savchenko said. "Though I should confess I find the idea pretty crazy."

After the two-hour ceremony ended, the newlyweds faced some tough issues, just like any other couple. "Of course they can't live together, but they meet once a week to play and just to have a good time," Ostapchuk said.

The other problem is marital fidelity. Although the wedding organizers claim both dogs are easy-tempered and love each other from the heart, canine specialists

do not agree. "Of course dogs can love. But adultery is not a problem for a dog couple. They can and most likely will have other partners," said cynologist Evgeniy Bardulenko. "Animals don't think of sex as a part of their devotion to each other, it is only the right scent that matters for them."

Ostapchuk said there are no plans for divorce at the moment, but "we can organize it if the couple runs into some unsolvable problems," she laughed.

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



The wedding cake was also decorated with doggy figurines. (Courtesy)



Nov.25

Dmytro Sukhovienko to play for charity

World famous Ukrainian piano master Dmytro Sukhovienko will give a charity concert on Nov. 25 in Kyiv's Fairmont Grand Hotel. He will be playing the best compositions of Austrian Joseph Haydn that he performed at European Parliament concert in Brussels in October. The concert is meant to raise money for the charity fund Children's Friends to help graduates of boarding schools continue their studies. Minimum donation is Hr 500.

Dmytro Sukhovienko Concert. Nov.25. 7 p.m. Fairmont Grand Hotel (The Atrium Lounge & Pâtisserie Hall)

Czech photo days

Two weeks of photo exhibitions, movie screenings, lectures and meetings with Czech photographers await visitors to the A-House gallery between Nov. 30 and Dec. 16.

The photos of Czech fashion photo guru Robert Vano will go on display on Nov. 30. It will be followed by three exhibitions featuring documentary, landscape and urban photos of young Czech photographers Martin Tuma, Jakub Skokan and Milan Buresh. A series of lectures and meetings with Czech artists will be also held at Pecherska Gallery (9 Lavrska St.). For detailed information visit <http://photocult.com.ua/ru/events/days-of-czech-photography-in-kyiv>

Czech Photo Days. Nov.30 – Dec.16. A-House Gallery, Pecherska Gallery. Free (registration needed).



Nov.30 – Dec. 16

www.nbp-kiev.com

new bombay palace

Special Offer:
Buy One dish & get One Free!

Monday - Friday 12:00 till 17:00

Indian cuisine
33-a, Druzhby Narodiv blvd, 01014, Kyiv, tel.: 285-9999, 285-87-08, (093) 576-6069
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Gorchinskaya: Humanity absent

→ 17 coveted door, and have been registered in the thick records book by an ancient nurse who told us how lucky we were not to have to queue. She says there have been more patients that night than they care to remember. Until then, I didn't feel lucky to have to take a child in for an emergency stitching in the dead of the night.

Okhmatdyt was open in 1894. It seems to me that the system of handling patients has not changed since then. Once registered, you're sent to a room to wait, where busy-looking doctors walk in and out, without bothering to acknowledge your presence. Then, one of the people in white assigns the case. We have to leave one room and wait in the corridor in front of the next one.

There is only one chair in this inner corridor, and it is right next to the stretcher with the boy with a broken

leg. He was hit by a car hours ago and is still waiting for an operation. The hospital conducts about 7,000 of them per year, the Health Ministry's website says.

My son, whose problem is minor in comparison, is forced to stare at the bulky brace supporting the other boy's broken leg, his grotesque toes sticking out of the pink-and-brown leaky bandage, and to listen to his urgent whispers and his rapid, hissing breath through his gritted teeth.

Another patient, a teenage girl with a broken hand, is perched on a small bench, in the same corridor. Eventually, the head doctor discovers that everyone else forgot about the girl, sitting here quietly and waiting for her plaster cast.

My little son gets taken to one of the rooms by a doctor and a nurse,

who made it quite clear that I am not allowed to enter. The two start chirping to my boy as I am forced out of the interior corridor and back into purgatory.

Five minutes later, there is a child's howl and another one. Someone is clearly in great pain, and I rush in to see if it was my son. The howls are actually coming from a different door. Open for everyone to see in, here is a small boy, about 6, having something done to him. I can't see what it is as I am pushed out once again by the medical staff members who are clearly annoyed with my behavior. Later, it turns out that my son also lost his voice. "I have never squealed so much in my life," he says, teary-eyed.

This is not the first time I am in this hospital, but it continues for me to be the snapshot of everything that

is wrong with the medical sector in Ukraine. It seems here you lose the right to be a human once you get sick. You're at the mercy of grouchy, underpaid staff members who treat you like a nuisance. They deal with your problem matter-of-factly, the way they would cut a slice of toast in the morning. Humanity seems switched off, even if when confronted with a child in great pain. This may be due to habit, poor training or an essential defense mechanism required to do their jobs with few resources.

The procedures (anything from patient registration to treatment) seem like they were established on the 19th century day when someone cut the ribbon to open this hospital. The whole experience fills a person with blind rage at the sleek Health Minister Raisa Bohatyriova who

doesn't shy from spending ridiculous amounts of tax money on comfortable foreign trips with her large entourage, including guards, assistants and press secretaries. A list of how to better spend all this money on the children who go to Okhmatdyt for treatment starts to run through your head.

Roiling hatred is also directed at the Lexus-driving state officials, whose suits cost more than the monthly supply of blood to this struggling hospital and whose arrogance is too great to believe that they might end up being treated in one of these dilapidated emergency rooms.

Those parents from the hospital's purgatory certainly wish they do. I know for a fact that I am one of them.

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

Employment


IT COMPANY IS ON THE LOOKOUT FOR
1 sales person, 2 programmers and 2 project managers
 to join their office in Oslo, Norway.

The preferred programming languages are: *PowerBuilder, VB or .net*. The role is open to male and female applicants. No or little previous job experience required: you will receive extensive training.

You must be fluent in English.

We will take care of visa requirements, as well as travel costs for successful applicants. This is a long term assignment.

If you think you have strong competence and knowledge (which will be tested), please look at the 'Employment' section on our web site www.spectec.net, and apply within.



We are a management support company to Canadian investors in Ukraine in the Natural Resource sector with business operations based in the Ukraine, Canada and United States and are looking for an **administrator/accountant** with strong business management and problem solving skills.

Preference will be given to the applicant with a minimum of 3-5 years of related work experience, project management experience, understanding of the 1C accounting package, strong communication management skills and a desire to work with an emerging industry with growth opportunities.

The individual would need to be initially centred out of Canada with Travel between Canada and Ukraine with the objective to return post training. Language skills in Ukrainian, Russian and English required. All interested applicants should submit their resume to the following email contact:

MNP
 Wally Rudensky
 PH. 416.613.3100
 FAX 416.613.3101
 Cell 416-904-4334
 75 Courtneypark Drive West
 Unit 1
 Mississauga, ON
 L5W 0E3
wally.rudensky@mnp.ca

Place your vacancy
 in the paper's
Employment section
 and get your vacancy
 duplicated at www.kyivpost.com
For 500 UAH for a week



BBC MONITORING KIEV **BBC**
is seeking services of
qualified self-employed translators from Ukrainian and Russian into English

Candidates should be able to translate into clear idiomatic English. Registration, or willingness to register, with the Ukrainian authorities as SPD FO entrepreneurs is a must and should be mentioned in the cover letter.

Please send your CV and request for a translation test to bbcmon.kiev@gmail.com

Alltech **COUNTRY MARKETING COORDINATOR**
required for Global Bio-Technology Company in Kiev, Ukraine

Alltech is a global animal health and nutrition company with offices in over 128 countries throughout the world. The company is headquartered in Kentucky, USA and the European Bioscience Centre, which includes the company's European marketing headquarters, is located in Ireland. Alltech has strategic offices throughout the world, including one in Kiev, Ukraine.

The Role:
 We are looking for Marketing Coordinator for our office in Kiev, Ukraine. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and implementing a localized marketing campaign that supports the sales team while maintaining the corporate image of the company. The candidate will also be responsible for tradeshow coordination, event planning, public relations support, and assistance with social media and web campaigns. This requires strong multi-tasking abilities and clear communications skills. A strong background in marketing is essential.

Responsibilities:

- Create and implement the marketing strategy for the Ukraine based on our corporate communication strategy.
- Plan, coordinate and execute regional and national Alltech events and tradeshows.
- Develop the communication strategy, including advertisement, public relations and maintenance of the local website.
- Develop specific marketing projects to target customers.
- Work closely with the sales team to build relationships with key customers and potential customers.
- Develop, produce and distribute marketing materials.
- Maintain the marketing budget.
- Occasional international travel will be required.

Requirements:

- Degree in business, marketing or related field.
- Minimum two (2) years marketing experience, preferably within the animal feed or agri-business industry.
- Exceptional organizational skills and ability to multi task.
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written.
- Good computer skills, preferably with knowledge and experience of graphic design packages.
- Fluent English essential. French or other European language is an advantage.
- The ideal candidate will be confident and have experience working under pressure and to deadlines.

Applications with a cover letter and curriculum vitae (in English) should be sent to the following email address: lzmeyeva@alltech.com
 The deadline for the Applications is 30th November 2012.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY
SALES MANAGER
Business Executive

Join our young and fast growing company, based in Kyiv, selling consumer product to the Retail, Supermarket, and Multiple Retail trades. Excellent learning experience working directly with our international managing director. We offer big potential, and exciting challenges. Energy, initiative and commitment will be well rewarded. Full training provided. We require good English and a desire to build yourself a great future business career.

Apply for full details to mail box brian.berzack@bercor.co.uk

How to place an Employment Ad in the **Kyiv Post**

Prices for ads (UAH)					
Size (mm)	B&W	Color	Size (mm)	B&W	Color
15 boxes 260x179,5	13 125	17 500	3 boxes 49,2x179,5	2 750	3 666
8 boxes 207,3x118	7 000	9 333	2 boxes 102x56,5	1 833	2 444
4 boxes 102x118	3 666	4 888	1 boxes 49,2x56,5	916	1 222

By Phone or E-mail (from 9 a.m. to 6p.m. Ask for Elena Grysiuk)
 Tel. +380 44 353 9024, e-mail: grysiuk@kyivpost.com
 All prices are given without VAT.

Place for your **MINI RESUME**
1 box
 Price **100 UAH**

Energy Management

MINI RESUME

30 years experienced English speaking professional operation and project manager seeking permanent job in Kiev with specialty in Energy Management and commercial automation systems. Certified in numerous automation systems. Excellent programmer contact my wife in Kiev. Please Call 095 280 0507 Elena Morgan

Chief cook

MINI RESUME

Eu citizen, experienced chief cook ,diploma of Italy, over 10 y.exp (Italy,UK). Search any job (personal cook, restaurant, embassy). Profound knowledge of Italian cuisine and others. Fluent Russian,English,Italian,Hungarian.Contacts: Tomafoma08@meta.ua or +38(050)8851621 Thomas



SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

Copies weekly	12 months/ 1 issue	6 months/ 1 issue
1	676 / 13.00	416 / 16.00
25	4,056 / 3.12	2,495 / 3.84
50	4,498 / 1.73	2,769 / 2.13
100	5,200 / 1.00	3,120 / 1.20

Stand rent (12 months) - Hr 440

* - all prices are in hryvnias including VAT

SUBSCRIBE TO THE KYIV POST:

Feel free to contact us:
 (+380 44) 353-9024,
 mail to subscribe@kyivpost.com or order at kyivpost.com

The easiest way to enjoy the latest news from Ukraine's leading source of information is to subscribe. It's easy and inexpensive to get fresh copies of the Kyiv Post print edition delivered every Friday to your business.

THEY CHOSE THE KYIV POST!

Logos of partner companies: WINNER, Pechersk-School International, DANONE, Coca-Cola, CIKLUM, citi 200 YEARS, RAMADA encore, Arzinger, Regus, Horizon Capital, NIKO, Tetra Pak, TNK-BP, ERNST & YOUNG, SIEMENS, SCA c/o Life, MINISTERIUM DOGMA CLUB, LONDONSKAYA HOTEL, Bristol Hotel, Opera Hotel, LEADING HOTELS, and FORTICIANO.

Classifieds

REAL ESTATE / SERVICE

<p>Office lease, 130 m2, PECHERSKY DISTRICT 14/24 Klovsky Uzviz, 1st floor of a (10 storey) apartment building. Office repair, air-conditioning, security film protected windows, office furniture, equipped kitchen, Internet, telephone, cable TV, Wi-Fi, state of the art security and surveillance system (armored door, fire and intruder alarms). Front windows and entrance, free parking space, 2 minutes from Klovska Metro station. Lease rate: CU 39 per m2. Tel.: + 380 67 504 3213</p>	<p>FOR RENT Cozy two-story mansion with 430m2 area, with designer renovation in the cottage town "Aval" (village Pogreby). Ground floor - hall (ceiling height 7.5 m2), living room, dining room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms, sauna with swimming pool, laundry room, boiler room. 2nd floor - 4 sleeping rooms, cabinet, billiard hall, kitchen, 2 baths. Territory - 2100m2, landscape design, bbq zone, open swimming pool, guest home, 2 cars garage. Elite cottage town of a closed type for 50 houses with its own infrastructure and security. There is a park zone on the territory, 2 lakes, gym, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, children playground. Without mediators! 800 thousand US. Bargain! (050)311-14-14 Vitally</p>	<p>Highest standard 121 sq.m., near MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ST. MICHEL CATHEDRAL, quite parking/garden yard, fireplace, jacuzzi, internet, cable/sat. TV, security. Long-term rent - \$4000, Sale - \$550 000 +38 067 464 9104</p>	<p>DON'T BE LATE GET MARRIED SOON (WE CAN HELP YOU TO GET YOUR BRIDE) WWW.UKRAINE4DATE.COM (044) 526-75-76</p>	<p>Company formation, Accountancy +380 44 578 27 10 www.yesbusiness.com.ua</p>	<p>Elite marriage agency EVE Serious and genuine ladies are looking for love. 700 ladies profiles, each who we know individually. All photos are made in our studio. Office in center. Apartments for rent interpreting, guides. Up to 50 photos of each lady. Individual approach. www.visioners.org Lesi Ukrainki 15 (appointments made by phone) + 38 067 865 77 57, 599 07 09 (direct land line office)</p>	
<p>FOR SALE&RENT FROM OWNER Sale/rent of a spacious country house in Koncha-Zaspa with an area of 698m2. With a total of eight rooms of which five are bedrooms, this 4 floor house is situated on a 5,400 square meter landplot located in a picturesque garden and well-tended orchard. The house includes a spacious dining room and kitchen, five bathrooms, three balconies, a sauna, a fireplace, and a summer kitchen equipped with a Russian stove. A heated garage with space for 2 vehicles, a gym and billiard room and other recreational facilities are located on site as is an autonomous heating and sanitation system with state of the art technology. The house is fully furnished and ready for occupancy. Rent rate: \$2,400. Tel: +380 67 504 6691</p>	<p>FOR RENT Apartment for rent at Pavlovskayastreet 10, centre of Kyiv. 2d floor, 150 m2, 5-rooms, furniture in the apartment, balconies, quite parking, Internet, cable/sat, Tv. USD-1950\$ Tel:+380939882607 http://blagovist.ua/realtyshow/showinfo.lisp?id=420524840</p>	<p>FOR RENT Apartment for long-term rent - 2500\$ per month. 3 rooms, 100 m2. Furniture, equipment, parking. Bargaining. 050-331-01-98 050-311-64-12 Sergey</p>	<p>SUNDAY'S KIEV Cosy Lounge Party Every Sunday 17.00 www.sundayskyiv.com</p>	<p>ACCOUNTANCY Taxation Company formation +380-44-237-72-76 www.accountants.com.ua</p>	<p>Spain-Ibiza/ Santa Eulalia Sale Yacht mooring 16m x 4,8m for 275000 Euro and 8m x 3m for 48000 Euro Tel.: 00491724410139</p>	
<p>FOR RENT B. Khmel'nitskogo / Puskinskaya St., 80 m2, 2nd floor, elevator, 3 rooms, VIP repair and furniture, quite closed yard and parking. Satellite, Internet, housemaid included! From owner. 2 200 USD. +38(044) 237 66 69, +38 (063) 237 66 69, kyiv.tld@gmail.com</p>	<p>FOR RENT Apartment for rent near Golden Gate. 3d floor with elevator in the Historical building, 120 m2, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big family room, kitchen-dining room, 2 balconies, air conditioner, Fridge, Stove, Dishwasher, Washer/Dryer, partly furnished. Embassy officials are preferred. 2000 plus utilities. Phone, internet 066-061-34-10 Nick</p>	<p>FOR RENT Spacious 61 sq.m apartment on 16th floor Chernovozovyyanys Prosy 4, near Sevastopilska Sq. 30 sq.m room, 13.5 sq.m. kitchen. Business-class building built in 2008. Renovated in 2011, fully loaded with furniture, air cond., washer, fridge, dishwasher, etc. From owner, English-speaking. \$149000. +38(095) 135 0 678.</p>	<p>FOR RENT 1-room apt. for rent (from the owner) metro "Lva Tolstogo" 45 sq.m. cozy fully equipped and furnished quiet view guarded building \$ 750/month (067) 702-43-33 or (095) 452-86-49 Anna</p>	<p>English language CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE Sunday evening, December 9, 2012 Service is at 6:00 pm. at St Catherine's Lutheran Church, 22 Luteranska Presented by Christ Church Kyiv, the Anglican Church in Kyiv</p>	<p>Native Frenchman, 40 years, in Kiev, not speaking Russian, good educational experience, gives French course, for children, students and adults, all levels. www.asgard-frenchlessons.com Email: asgardfrenchlessons@gmail.com</p>	<p>VISA SUPPORT, DOCUMENTATION, assistance with residence permit in Ukraine Tel 093 3886833, 098 2919889 kyiv.biz@ukr.net</p>

Place your **TEXT** for **92 UAH**

BEST BARGAIN!
 Advertising in the Classifieds section
+380 44 353 90 24 e-mail: grysiuk@kyivpost.com

ENHANCE YOUR SATELLITE



Packages
start at

29

UAH/month
VAT incl.



24 CHANNELS IN ENGLISH

759 from cellphone* or
(044) 591-18-11

Calls to this land-line number will be charged according to the tariffs of your cellular carrier.

www.xtra.tv



XTRA TV
DIGITAL SATELLITE TV

*The following information only applies to 759 short number in compliance with the rules of Ukrainian GSM operators: Calls to 759 number from mobile numbers of Ukrainian operators are charged as follows: UAH 0,00 per-minute, UAH 2,00 connection fee. Prices quoted VAT – included, additional surcharge of 7,5% Pension Fund applies. The service is available to all adult subscribers of Ukrainian GSM operators. Information support at the short number is provided by Istil Telecom LLC, 01023 Kyiv, Shota Rustaveli Str. 19. For inquiries concerning the use of 759 number, please call: (044) 591 -19 -13, Mon - Fri from 9:00 till 18:00.