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**UKRAINE:
VISION 2020**

November 29, 2016 | Hilton Kyiv Hotel

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Welcoming Remarks



MOHAMMAD ZAHOOR

Chairman of ISTIL Group and Kyiv Post publisher

How will Ukraine look in 2020?

Welcome to the 5th annual Tiger Conference. Our theme this year is “Ukraine: Vision 2020.” The nation has set many goals to achieve in the next three years – NATO membership, European Union integration, a fast-growing and innovative economy, reduced corruption, energy independence, visa-free travel and many others.

Are Ukraine's leaders – and its people – serious about achieving these aims? If so, what concrete steps must they take to achieve success? What obstacles are blocking the way?

One clear obstacle is Russia's ongoing war against Ukraine and how it transforms our society, the subject of our first panel. Another is asset recovery – how Ukraine can recover the \$40 billion stolen from the people during President Viktor Yanukovich's administration. It is the focus of the second panel today. A third panel explores how Ukraine intends to build a new economy that works for everyone. The final panel we call reality check, in which five knowledgeable experts will give us an honest picture of where the nation stands today.

The Tiger Conference gets better every year, thanks to our sponsors and all of you. We have more speakers than ever this year. We also have a special evening awards program to honor 30 Ukrainians under the age of 30 who are building a brighter future for all of us.

Please enjoy the day and the evening awards gala!

To buy Tiger Conference tickets and get latest agenda, go to:
<http://projects.kyivpost.com/tiger/>

5th TIGER CONFERENCE

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Contents

6 Security & Defense Panel

7 Panel moderator:
Mark Hertling

7 Panel speakers:
Pavlo Klimkin
Linás Antanas Linkevičius
Ihor Dolhov
Pavel E. Felgenhauer
Ivanna Klymush-Tsintsadze

12 Asset Recovery Panel

13 Panel moderator:
Natalie Jaresko

13 Panel speakers:
Myroslava Krasnoborova
Igor Budnik
Andriy Stelmashchuk
Daria Kaleniuk

16 New Economy Panel

17 Panel moderator:
Daniel Bilak

17 Panel speakers:
Dmytro Krepak
Evgeni Utkin
Irina Mirochnik
Tomas Fiala

20 Reality Check Panel

21 Panel moderator:
Diane Francis

21 Panel speakers:
Aivaras Abromavicius
Torben Majgaard
Sergii Leshchenko
Morgan Williams

24 Breakout sessions

24 Creating Ukraine's Strategic Communications Plan

25 Panel moderator:
Myron Wasyluk

25 Panel speakers:
Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta
Natalia Mykolska
Yevhen Hlibovytsky

28 Cashless Economy: Moving Towards a Cashless Future

29 Panel moderator:
Andy Hunder

29 Panel speakers:
Ruslan Kravets
Larisa Makarova
Jerome Vacher
John Lough
Maksym Saulyak
Yevgen Velikanov

34 TOP 30 UNDER 30

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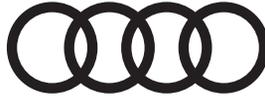
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Panel 1

Security & Defense

Russia has been waging war against Ukraine since the EuroMaidan Revolution ended with President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing power on Feb. 22, 2014. There is no end in sight to the conflict that has killed 10,000 people. The Russian annexation of Crimea and war in the Donbas have transformed Ukrainian society. In national defense, Ukraine has committed to spend 5 percent of its gross domestic product - which comes to \$5 billion this year -- on its military. Its leaders have also committed to being ready to join NATO by 2020. What must Ukraine do to secure its borders and live in peace? What should the nation expect from its allies and Russia? Are Ukraine's goals realistic? How much progress has been made?



**Mark
HERTLING**

former Commanding
General of the U.S.
Army Europe

Lieutenant General (retired) Mark Hertling served in the U.S. Army for almost four decades, rising over his career to Commanding General of the U.S. Army Europe in 2013.

In that position, he led over 50,000 soldiers on the European continent and engaged with the governments of 51 countries. Over the course of his military career, LTG Hertling spent over 36 months leading soldiers in combat, the most recent as the Commander of the 1st Armored Division and Multinational Division-North in Iraq in 2008. LTG Hertling has a Bachelor of Science from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, and he holds three Master's Degrees (in Exercise Physiology, History, and International Security Studies). He is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Business Administration from the Crummer School of Business. LTG Hertling serves as a military and national security analyst for CNN. He was also appointed by U.S. President Barack Obama to be one of 25 members of the President's Council on Fitness, Sport and Nutrition. In 2013, LTG Hertling joined Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida as a Senior Vice President, recruited to lead a global health partnering strategy, and develop a stable and enduring physician leadership culture. He and his wife Sue have two sons and four grandsons.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Pavlo
KLIMKIN**

Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Ukraine

Mr. Pavlo Klimkin was born on Dec. 25, 1967 in Kursk

1991 – graduated from Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology, Department of Aerophysics and Space Research, with a Master's degree in Physics and Mathematics

1991–1993 – research officer, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, Paton Welding Institute

1993–1997 – Attaché, Third, Second Secretary, Directorate-General for Arms Control and Disarmament, Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

1997–2000 – Third, Second Secretary, Embassy of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany (political, scientific and technical issues)

2000–2002 – First Secretary, Counselor, Department for Economic Cooperation, Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

2002–2004 – Head of division for economic and sectoral cooperation with the European Union, Department for European integration, Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

2004–2008 – Minister-Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

03.2008–04.2010 – Director of the EU Department, Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

04.2010–04.2011 – Deputy Minister of the Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

04.2011–06.2012 – Deputy Minister, Head of Staff, Foreign Ministry of Ukraine

06.2012–06.2014 – Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the Federal Republic of Germany

19.06.2014 – appointed Foreign Minister of Ukraine

As well as Ukrainian and Russian, Klimkin is fluent in English and German, and has basic knowledge of French and Spanish.



**Linas
Antanas
LINKEVIČIUS**

Minister of Foreign
Affairs in Lithuania

Date of birth– January 6th, 1961. Place of birth– Vilnius, Lithuania. Married.

Education

1978–1983 – Faculty of Automatics, Kaunas Polytechnic Institute

Work experience

Dec. 13, 2012 - appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

2012 - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Lithuania to the Republic of Belarus

2011–2012 - Ambassador-at-Large, Transatlantic Cooperation and Security Policy Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

2005–2011- Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the North Atlantic Council

2000–2004 - Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

1997–2000 - Ambassador, Head of the Lithuanian Mission to the WEU and NATO

1997 - Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

1993–1996 - Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Lithuania

1992–1993 - Deputy Chairman of the Seimas Committee on Foreign Affairs, Head of the Seimas (parliament) Delegation to the North Atlantic Assembly

1992–1996 - Member of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

1992 - Chairman of the Council of the Lithuanian Labour Youth Union

1990–1992 - Responsible employee of the Central Committee of the independent Lithuanian Communist Party,

1983–1989 - Employee in Communist youth organizations

Diplomatic rank

Feb. 12, 2003 - appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Languages

Lithuanian (native), English, Russian



**Ihor
DOLHOV**

Deputy Defense
Minister of Ukraine
for European
integration

Born on June 6, 1957, in Slavuta, Khmelnytska Oblast, Ukraine

Professional experience since 1994:

June 2015 – present: Deputy Minister of Defense of Ukraine for Euro Integration;

July 2010 – June 2015: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in Belgium, Luxembourg and NATO;

February 2009 – 2010 - Ambassador at Large of the Department for Information Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;

May 2008 – February 2009 - Head of the Main Directorate for Foreign Policy, Secretariat of President of Ukraine;

January 2006 – May 2008: Ambassador of Ukraine in the Federal Republic of Germany;

July 2004 – January 2006 - Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine;

April 2002 – July 2004 - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine in the Republic of Turkey;

October 2001 - April 2002: Director of Department for Policy and Security – Head of the Directorate for Political Analysis and Information, MFA;

December 2000 – October 2001: Deputy Head of the Main Directorate for Foreign Policy, the Presidential Administration of Ukraine;

1997 – December 2000: Deputy Head of the Department of Political Analysis and Planning, MFA;

October 1997 - November 1997: Acting Deputy Head of the Department of Political Analysis and Planning, MFA; November

September 1994 – October 1997: Counselor, Embassy of Ukraine in Finland.

Education: 1980 graduate of State Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv, philologist, lecturer, Ph.D. in linguistics;

Foreign languages: English, French

Diplomatic rank: Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



**Pavel E.
FELGENHAUER**

independent Russian
military analyst and non-
resident fellow at the
Jamestown Foundation in
Washington, D.C.

Dr. Pavel E. Felgenhauer is a Moscow-based defense analyst and columnist for Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta.

Felgenhauer was born Dec. 6, 1951 in Moscow, Russia, and graduated from Moscow State University in 1975. He served as researcher and senior research officer in the Soviet Academy of Sciences (Moscow) and received his Ph.D. from the Soviet Academy of Sciences in 1988.

Felgenhauer has published numerous articles on topics ranging from Russian foreign and defense policies, to military doctrine, arms trade, the military-industrial complex, and so on. From Jan. 1991 to Jan. 1993 he was associated with Nezavisimaya Gazeta (Independent Newspaper), Moscow, as Defense Analyst and Defense Correspondent. From February 1993 until September 1999, Felgenhauer was member of the editorial board and Chief Defense Correspondent of the Moscow daily Segodnya (Today). From May 1994 until October 2005, Felgenhauer published a regular column on defense in the Moscow-based English language daily The Moscow Times

In July 2006, after being an independent defense analyst for more than six years, Felgenhauer joined the staff of Novaya Gazeta Felgenhauer continues to provide regular comments on Russia's defense-related problems to many local and international media organizations. Since June 2006, Felgenhauer has been a weekly contributor to Jamestown Foundation Washington, D.c., publication Eurasia Daily Monitor (www.jamestown.org). Felgenhauer is a Jamestown Non-Resident Senior Fellow.



**Ivanna
KLYMPUSH-
TSINTSADZE**

Vice Prime Minister for
European and Euro-
Atlantic integration

Before being appointed in April 2016 to the post of Vice Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic integration, Ivanna Klympush-Tsintsadze had from 2014 been a Member of the Ukrainian Parliament, serving as a First Deputy Chairperson of Foreign Affairs Committee, and leading Ukraine's Parliamentary Delegation to NATO's Parliamentary Assembly.

From mid-2011, she headed the Yalta European Strategy, an independent international network promoting the development of a fair, democratic and prosperous Ukraine, and supporting reforms necessary for Ukraine's European integration.

Since October 2007, Klympush-Tsintsadze has worked as a Deputy Director of Programs and later as a Director of the Open Ukraine Foundation International Charity Organization. She worked on strategic planning and the operational implementation of foundation's programs, focusing on support for Ukraine's international cooperation, public diplomacy, promoting a positive image of the country, and fostering its international security dialogue.

For five years (2002-2007), Klympush-Tsintsadze was a Radio BBC Ukrainian Service correspondent in the United States (Washington D.C.) and in the Caucasus (Tbilisi).

From 1998 to 2002, she worked for the East-West Institute's Kyiv Center as a project manager, and for one year carried out the responsibilities of EWI KC's Acting Director.

Klympush-Tsintsadze began her career in 1993 year as a Project Manager at the Ukrainian Center for Independent Political Research in Kyiv, and later became the Head of the Department of International Relations in UCIPR.

Klympush-Tsintsadze is the co-editor of the book: "Black Sea Region: Cooperation and Security Building."

Education:

Klympush-Tsintsadze has a master's degree in speech therapy from Mykhaylo Dragomanov State Pedagogical University (graduating in 1994), as well as a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree in International Relations from Taras Shevchenko National University, (graduating in 1998.)

In 1993 Mrs. Klympush-Tsintsadze studied International Relations at State University of Montana in the United States.

In 1992 she completed the course "History of Ukraine. Ukrainian Literature" at a summer school held by Harvard Ukrainian Research Institute of Harvard University (United States).

Klympush-Tsintsadze is fluent in Ukrainian, English and Russian, and she understands and speaks Polish, Hungarian and Georgian.

She is married and has two daughters.

She was born on July 5, 1972 in Kyiv.



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Asset Recovery

By official estimates alone, \$40 billion was stolen from Ukraine in the last decade, most of it during the 2010-2014 regime of fugitive ex-President Viktor Yanukovich. The amount includes at least \$11 billion in losses from the banking sector, much of it through fraud and insider lending. Yet no one has been convicted of financial crimes and almost nothing has been recovered. Why is there so little progress in this area, three years after the start of the EuroMaidan Revolution? Does Ukraine have any hope of getting any of this money returned? Are there international best practices that can help Ukraine or should the nation just write off the losses?



**Natalie
JARESKO**

former Minister of
Finance of Ukraine

Natalie Jaresko is a former Minister of Finance of Ukraine. Prior to that, she was one of the co-founders and chief executive officer of Horizon Capital.

From 1995 to 2001, Jaresko served as the president and chief executive officer of the Western NIS Enterprise Fund. Before joining WNISEF, she served as the chief of the Economic Section of the U.S. Embassy in Ukraine, and in various positions at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Jaresko is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Agenda Council of the Future of Financing and Capital. She served on boards of Ukrainian Catholic University, Kyiv School of Economics and the Open Ukraine Foundation. She also served as a member of the President's Foreign Investment Advisory Council, the Council of Competitiveness of Ukraine and the Kyiv City Strategy 2025 Public Council.

Jaresko holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University and a bachelor's degree in accounting from DePaul University. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Jaresko received the Order of Princess Olha award from the President of Ukraine in 2003 for her contribution to the Ukrainian economy, a medal of honor from the Prime Minister of Ukraine in 2009 for her contributions to U.S.-Ukraine bilateral economic relations, as well as the Order of St. Nicholas from the Ukrainian Orthodox Church Kyiv Patriarchate in 2011.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Myroslava
KRASNO-
BOROVA**

Deputy Head of
Department for
International Legal
Cooperation and
European Integration-
Head of Division
for International
Cooperation Prosecutor
General's Office of
Ukraine

Born on July 24, 1984.

Myroslava Krasnoborova started her career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine in 2006.

Krasnoborova has occupied a number of positions since 2008 at the International Legal Department of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine, including, Prosecutor, Senior Prosecutor, Head of Division for Mutual Legal Assistance, Head of Division for Protection of the Rights of Ukrainian Citizens Abroad, Head of Division for Asset Recovery.

In July 2016, Krasnoborova was appointed Deputy Head of Department for International Legal Cooperation and European Integration – Head of the Division for International Cooperation of the Prosecutor General's Office of Ukraine.

Krasnoborova is a representative of Ukraine in the Council of Europe's Committee of Experts on the Operation of European Conventions in the Penal Field (PC-OC).

She speaks Ukrainian, Russian, English, and German.



Igor BUDNIK

Director of the National Bank of Ukraine Risk Management Department

Igor Budnyk joined the National Bank of Ukraine as Chief Risk Officer in November 2014.

In his current role, Budnyk is responsible for managing financial and non-financial risks at the NBU, as well as for the recovery of loans made by the NBU to failed banks. He also played an active role in drafting the National Bank’s new regulation on credit risk.

Before joining the NBU, Budnyk worked as a consultant at McKinsey & Co. and held various positions at Raiffeisenbank and Alfa-Bank in Ukraine.

Budnyk earned a Master of Business Administration degree at Columbia Business School. He graduated from the Institute of International Relations of the National Taras Shevchenko University with a degree in international economics.

Budnyk is a Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA). He is a member of Global Association of Risk Professionals (GARP) Kyiv Chapter Committee.



Andriy STELMASHCHUK

Managing partner, Vasil Kisel and Partners

Andriy Stelmashchuk, managing partner of Vasil Kisel & Partners

2016 – elected as the Chairman of the Selection Board for the post of the Head of the National Agency for Investigation, Detection and Management of Assets Derived from Corruption and Other Crimes

Professional experience:

2015 - now Managing partner, Vasil Kisel and Partners

2011 - 2015 Partner, Dispute Resolution practice group, Vasil Kisel and Partners

2003 - 2012 Attorney, senior attorney and counsel, Vasil Kisel and Partners

Professional Associations and Memberships:

High Audit Commission of the Bar of Ukraine

International Bar Association (IBA)

International Fiscal Association (IFA)

Ukrainian Bar Association (Member of the Board)

Stelmashchuk is highly recommended by numerous international and Ukrainian legal rankings such as Chambers Global, Chambers Europe, Legal 500, Best Lawyers, Ukrainian Law Firms, Top 100 best lawyers of Ukraine as a leading practitioner for litigation and tax.



Daria KALENIUK

Executive director of the Anticorruption Action Centre

Since February 2013, Daria Kaleniuk has been executive director of the Anticorruption Action Center, an organization she co-founded. She also was an advocacy program officer for Pact, a non-profit international development organization. She was an intern with Transparency International USA. She also studied financial services law with Chicago-Kent College of Law.



GEO ALLIANCE

G R O U P

The Geo Alliance Group (Arawak Energy holds 50% interest in it) is one of the largest independent producers of natural gas and condensate in Ukraine. The Group engages in the exploration, development, production and sale of hydrocarbons and has a significant portfolio of sixteen oil and gas licenses, primarily located in the Dnipro-Donetsk basin, the principal hydrocarbon-producing area in Eastern Ukraine.

Panel 3

New Economy

Ukraine's economic potential has been curtailed for centuries because of repressive governments and reliance on commodities and heavy industry. What are the most promising ways of unleashing Ukraine's abundant human and natural resources to become a prosperous society?



**Daniel
BILAK**

Chief Investment
Advisor to the Prime
Minister of Ukraine
and Head of the
Ukraine Investment
Office under the
Cabinet of Ministers

With 25 years of experience working in the private and public sectors in Ukraine, Daniel Bilak has extensive knowledge of the local market and recognized expertise in managing legal risk on behalf of clients.

Bilak's practice focuses on major international and Ukrainian clients working in the energy, agri-business, infrastructure and IT sectors. Between 1995 to 2006, Bilak was a Senior United Nations Development Programme governance expert, providing advice and assistance on administrative and legal reform and anti-corruption issues to the Ukrainian government, including the president and prime minister of Ukraine, and the minister of justice of Ukraine. As part of Bulgaria's and Lithuania's process of accession to the European Union, Bilak directed a project leading to the adoption of a new Bulgarian Administrative Procedure Code and helped facilitate reforms to Lithuania's system of administrative justice.

Bilak is consistently highly recommended by Chambers Europe and Legal 500.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Dmytro
KREPAK**

Country Manager,
Ukraine, Georgia,
Armenia at Visa

Dmytro Krepak has been leading Visa's business in Ukraine, Georgia and Armenia as Country Manager since December 2015. In this role, Krepak is responsible for overall strategy setting and execution in the Ukrainian, Georgian and Armenian markets, accountable for business development targets, as well as building long-term partnerships with banks, regulators and other key stakeholders to drive the technology-payment industry and Visa's business agenda in respective countries.

Prior to joining Visa, Krepak served as Chairman of the Management Board of Kredobank, a subsidiary of PKO Bank Polski in Ukraine; Board Member, Head of Retail Business at First Ukrainian International Bank, SCM Group; and Head of Retail Network at Raiffeisen Bank Aval. Krepak has over five years of work experience in the United States and Canada with Duke Energy, a leading electric utility and gas transmission company, as well as Oliver Wyman strategy consulting firm.

Krepak graduated from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania with a Master's in Business Administration degree in Finance and Strategic Management. He also holds a Master's degree in International Business Development from the Moscow Institute for International Relations.

Krepak is a Ukrainian citizen. He has two daughters and two sons.



**Evgeni
UTKIN**

Founder and
President of
high-tech holding
company KM Core

Evgeni Utkin is a successful entrepreneur and one of the pioneers and leaders of the high-tech industry in the CIS and CEE. From 1982 until 1990, Utkin held the position of Head of the Laboratory and Chief Designer of Microprocessors at the Kyiv Science and Research Institute of Micro Instruments.

Having founded one of the first IT companies in post-Soviet Ukraine, he took his company through a number of growth phases, from founding the company in 1990, diversifying the business, entering new markets and geographies, creating an international company, to M&A and an IPO. Throughout this time, the company has maintained significant business partnerships with global technology companies, such as Intel, Oracle, Cisco and Microsoft.

Utkin’s approach to business is accelerating “knowledge based businesses” and enterprise value-creation. Having combined his knowledge of doing business in the CIS and CEE with a global perspective in growing innovative and leading companies, he is now acknowledged as a leader among the new, post -Soviet generation of entrepreneurs.

Today, “KMCORE” is focused on four key business areas: IT, datacenter and cloud services, software engineering, semiconductor design and nanotechnology.



**Irina
MIROCHNIK**

President of Ukrplastic

Irina Mirochnik is the president of the company Ukrplastic, an Honored Industrialist of Ukraine and a Member of the Board of the European Rotogravure Association (ERA). Mirochnik graduated from the Department of Cybernetics at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, and from the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. She is the author of numerous research papers on improving chemical production processes and the strategic planning of innovative developments in the high-tech industry. From 1992 to 1998, Mirochnik held the position of deputy chairman of the board of SPA Agrokompleks. Before that, Mirochnik served at the Ministry of Water Resources of Ukraine.

In 1998-2013, she served as the head of the supervisory board of Ukrplastic, and was responsible for organizing and supervising the financial and economic activities of the company. Ukrplastic is one of the top 15 European companies in its field, and in the top 25 globally. In 2015, Mirochnik won the title of “Industrialist of the Year” in the “Person of the Year” national contest.

Ukrplastic is continuing to develop technologies and implement international standards, providing the most demanding customers with high quality and safe products. Since 1999, the company has received awards from competitions run by professional printer associations such as the ERA, EFFIA, and GAA. In 2015, in addition to winning two awards, samples of packaging from Ukrplastic won two statuettes for “Best of the Best” from the Gravure Association of America (GAA). The company is a certified supplier for many transnational brands.

Mirochnik is engaged in public and charitable activity, and has two daughters.



**Tomas
FIALA**

CEO of Dragon Capital

Tomas Fiala, the Chief Executive Officer of Dragon Capital, has over twenty years' experience in the Central and Eastern European securities markets. He started his career at Bayerische Vereinsbank in Prague in 1994, continuing his studies at the Prague University of Economics. In 1995, Tomas joined Wood & Co., a leading regional investment bank, and was sent a year later to Ukraine to establish and run their office in the country. Under his leadership, Wood & Co. became the largest investment bank in Ukraine. Following the 1998 financial crisis, he moved to Wood's Warsaw office to launch their online brokerage. In 2000, Tomas initiated the founding of Dragon Capital. Since its foundation, Tomas has been the CEO of Dragon Capital, building the company into the leading investment bank in Ukraine and a trusted financial adviser for international investors. He sits on the boards of several companies, including AIM-listed Dragon-Ukrainian Properties & Development plc. In 2010-2015, Tomas has served as elected President of the European Business Association (EBA).

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Panel 4

Reality Check

Some know a lot about Ukraine but are afraid to speak the truth publicly. Others know little and speak in platitudes or through rose-colored glasses. This panel is made up of five knowledgeable experts on Ukraine who have a strong grip on reality and who are not afraid to speak the truth. What's the tough-love message they will be delivering to Ukraine and its partners about what needs to be done in the next three years?

PANEL MODERATOR



**Diane
FRANCIS**

Editor-at-Large,
National Post

Diane Francis is an award-winning American-Canadian journalist, a corporate director, futurist, author and entrepreneur. She is the Editor-at-Large at the National Post, a blogger with the Huffington Post, a Distinguished Professor at Ryerson University, Faculty with Singularity University in Mountain View California, Executive with the Canada-U.S. Law Institute, a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council in Washington DC. and an Advisor with the Hudson Institute's Kleptocracy Initiative.

Francis has covered major news event around the world, attended the Davos World Economic Forum for more than 20 years, she has interviewed major business and political leaders and written ten books on white-collar crime, politics, immigration and economics. She is currently working on a major software project in Silicon Valley, a major export initiative in Ukraine, and has written a science fiction screenplay with veteran Hollywood producers.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Aivaras
ABROMAVICIUS**

former Minister of Economy
and Trade of Ukraine

Prior to his appointment as minister, Aivaras Abromavicius was a partner at the Swedish East Capital group from 2002, focusing his work on investments in Eastern Europe.

He started his career at the largest Baltic bank, Hansabank, where he served as Head of Equities. He also headed the Trading Department at Brunswick Emerging Markets out of Stockholm.

Abromavicius holds a Bachelor's degree in International Business from Concordia International University (Estonia) and Concordia University (Wisconsin, United States).

Abromavicius has lived in Ukraine for nearly eight years and has witnessed the changes within its society firsthand. This motivated him to contribute to reforming Ukraine and join the government. He assembled the most reform-minded group of people in Ukrainian government and led reforms in the areas of deregulation, public procurement, state owned enterprises and many others. He is a strong proponent of anti-corruption measures, privatization, deregulation and overall smaller role of state in the economy.



**Torben
MAJGAARD**

CEO of Ciklum

Torben Majgaard is the Founder & CEO of tech company Ciklum, as well as an Investor. He brings 20 years of experience working in Eastern Europe and 30 years of IT expertise worldwide.

Majgaard has founded and invested in a number of technology companies, mainly in Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Majgaard is the Founder and Supervisory Board Member of the “Brain Basket Foundation”, a joint initiative with the Ukrainian government to help the development of the IT sector in Ukraine.



**Sergii
LESHCHENKO**

Member of Parliament

Sergii Leshchenko is a Kyiv-based journalist, blogger, and press freedom activist elected as a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine in 2014. He is a member of the parliamentary faction of the party “Petro Poroshenko Bloc”. Leshchenko is a member of Committee on Corruption Prevention and Counteraction in Ukraine’s parliament. From 2000 until 2014, he worked for top internet news website in Ukraine “Ukrains’ka Pravda” (The Ukrainian Truth), where he specialized in anti-corruption investigations and other political reporting. He helped to launch the “Stop Censorship!” movement in 2010 and the “Chesno” campaign that calls for transparency in parliament.

In 2011, Poland’s Foundation of Reporters recognized Leshchenko as the best journalist within the countries of the Eastern Partnership. In 2013, Leshchenko was awarded a Press Prize by the Norwegian Fritt Ord Foundation and the German ZEIT Foundation. In 2012, he was awarded a John Smith Fellowship, and in 2013 he was awarded a Draper-Hills Fellowship in Stanford University.

Leshchenko was Reagan-Fascell Fellow at the Washington-based National Endowment for Democracy in 2013-2014. He was also selected as one of Reporters Without Borders’ “Information Heroes-2014.” In 2014, he was honoured with the NDI’s Democracy Award. In 2015, Leshchenko started a lecture course on journalism at the Lviv-based Ukrainian Catholic University.



**Morgan
WILLIAMS**

President of U.S.-
Ukraine Business
Council

Morgan Williams has served as President of the U.S.-Ukraine Business Council, Washington, D.C., since 2007. Since that time the membership of the USUBC has increased from 22 to over 200 companies/organizations. The USUBC is now the largest Ukraine-specific business trade association in the world that is not headquartered inside Ukraine. Williams started working on economic development in Ukraine in 1992, including working with the SigmaBleyzer private equity firm in Washington.

In 1981 Williams started his international work and implemented food system development projects in countries such as India, Haiti, Indonesia, and Egypt. Previously, he served as a Professional Staff Member of the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee for the ranking Republican on the Committee, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) and Midwest Director of the Dole For President Committee in 1979-1980. From 1969 to 1977 Williams was Kansas State Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) large rural economic development program.

Williams has been awarded three state medals from the Government of Ukraine for his contribution to the economic development of Ukraine. He was awarded the “Order of Honor” III class by the President of Ukraine in 2007, and later received a Ukraine Government State Service Medal from the Minister of Economy.

Williams holds a B.A. degree in Business Administration and Economics from Ottawa University, Ottawa, Kansas and a M.A. Degree in Economics from the University of Kansas.



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PANEL MODERATOR



**Myron
WASYLYK**

CEO of PBN
Hill+Knowlton
Strategies

Myron Wasylyk leads PBN Hill+Knowlton Strategies network of Client Managers serving multinationals and industry champions in Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and other CIS countries. He has more than twenty-five years of professional experience advising clients on government, media and investor relations issues, and campaigns in several key industry sectors, including energy, mining and metallurgy, agriculture and food products, investment, banking and financial services, and FMCG, among others.

He launched PBN Hill+Knowlton Strategies' office in Ukraine in 1997 and helped grow the firm's business in various CIS markets. His work in the corporate and marketing communications industry has been recognized through numerous industry awards and rankings.

Prior to joining PBN Hill+Knowlton Strategies in 1997, Wasylyk worked for the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Republican National Committee, Burson-Marsteller and Gavin Anderson & Company. Wasylyk is a Member of the U.S.-Ukraine and U.S.-Russian Business Councils, and served for a decade on the American Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, including two years as its Chairman. He graduated from Kent State University in Ohio in 1984 and attended graduate studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, DC. He is a public relations lecturer at the Chartered Institute of Public Relations program at the Kyiv Institute of International Business (IIB).

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Olesia
OSTROVSKA-
LIUTA**

General Director,
Mystetskyi Arsenal

Olesia Ostrovska-Liuta is the Head of analytics at pro.mova consulting company and a founding member of the Culture 2025 independent platform for the development of a national strategy for culture, as well as a member of the Council for National Unity for the President of Ukraine.

From March until December 2014, Ostrovska-Liuta served as the First Deputy Minister of Culture of Ukraine. As the deputy minister, she initiated participative development of the national strategy for culture and development of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, and she also advocated autonomy for the institutions of culture and equal rights for state owned institutions and civil society institutions of culture.

During her career she was the First Deputy to the Head of the National Committee for UNESCO and a member of Ukraine-Poland Presidential Advisory Committee. She was also a member of several professional bodies. Among them: the board of the Center for Contemporary Art Foundation, the jury of the Kazimir Malevich Art Prize, founded by the Polish Institute in Ukraine, the jury of the Molodist International Film Festival, and the boards of the I3 grant program and the Dynamic Museum project at the Foundation for Development of Ukraine.

Ostrovska-Liuta served as the Program Director for culture of the Foundation for Development of Ukraine between 2008 and 2014, and has also been a freelance curator for contemporary art and a writer on issues of culture and cultural policy.

Ostrovska-Liuta holds a MA in cultural studies (National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy). She speaks fluent English, Polish and Russian, and Ukrainian as her native language.



**Natalia
MYKOLSKA**

Deputy Minister of
Economic Development
& Trade Representative
of Ukraine

Nataliya Mykolska has extensive experience of over 14 years of working as a legal counsel on all aspects of international trade, including the WTO and free trade agreements, trade remedy proceedings, trade financing, cross-border trade transactions and contracts, agency and distribution, franchising and other matters.

In addition to catering to clients' needs throughout her legal practice within Ukraine's top law firms, Mykolska has also worked with governmental institutions to assist in bringing Ukrainian legislation into line with Ukraine's international obligations, including the development of the EU-Ukraine DCFTA provisions on market access for goods, trade remedies, SPS measures, customs facilitation and dispute settlement.

Her professional experience also includes also advising on the potential impact on clients' businesses of "new" free trade agreements, developing business positions and representing clients' interests in relations with governments, etc. For a number of years, Mykolska advised the World Bank and International Finance Corporation on customs law and regulatory issues, taking part in the Doing Business project.

Mykolska obtained her education at the Europa-Kolleg Hamburg (Germany) and Ivan Franko Lviv National University Law School (Ukraine) and is a member of Ukrainian and International Bar Associations. Mykolska was named the No. 1 International Trade lawyer according to Ukrainian Law Firms 2014, as well as being recommended by The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2014 and The International Who's Who of Trade & Customs Lawyers 2014.

For the past two years prior to her appointment to government, Mykolska headed the International TradePractice Group at one of Ukraine's top law firms.

As Deputy Minister of Economic Development and Trade – Trade Representative of Ukraine, Mykolska is focusing on export promotion, multilateral and bilateral preferential agreements, consistent and predictable trade policy as well as on safeguarding the interests of Ukraine in the WTO.

Mykolska is a published author of over 75 articles and commentaries in Ukraine and abroad.



**Yevhen
HLIBOVYTSKY**

Managing Partner of pro.
mova expert company,
member of Nestor Group

Yevhen Hlibovytsky is focused on long term development issues for Ukraine and the post-Soviet area. He is a member of the Nestor Group - a group of 17 Ukrainian intellectuals debating a vision for Ukraine. He is also a founder of pro.mova, a strategic consultancy with an in-house think tank. Hlibovytsky is also a supervisory board member for the Ukrainian Public Service Broadcaster (due to replace state TV and radio in 2017). In 2014-2015 Hlibovytsky served on the board of the International Renaissance Foundation.

Between 2006 and 2014 Hlibovytsky was often engaged as an expert for the OSCE in the former USSR, mostly in Central Asia and the Caucasus. He was one of the founders of the Univska Group, which between 2007 and 2011 developed a strategic vision for Lviv, which now forms the basis for current official strategy. The social transformation of Ukrainian Donbas is one professional priorities for Hlibovytsky, and he frequently travels to the region.

Prior to starting his own business, Hlibovytsky worked as a political affairs correspondent for major Ukrainian media. From 2000 he was active in the Ukrainian journalists' movement against censorship. In 2002 he co-authored the idea of Channel 5, and later he also became one of the founders of independent television channel Hromadske.

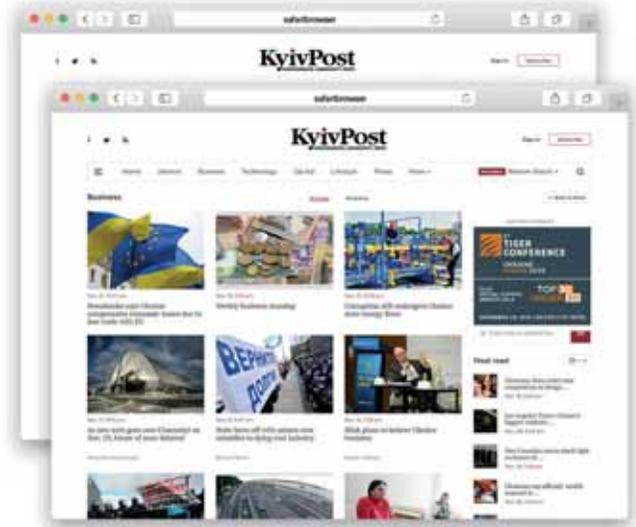
Hlibovytsky is a frequent guest lecturer at the Ukrainian Catholic University and at Kyiv-Mohyla Academy. He is a graduate of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy in political science. He also studied law at Lviv State University, and philosophy and humanities at Bluffton University in the United States.

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Cashless Economy: Moving Towards a Cashless Future

The recent e-declarations of Ukraine's public officials reminded everyone that not even the nation's top leaders trust banks and they keep their savings in hard cash. This is a common feature in nations with large shadow economies such as Ukraine. How can Ukraine move to a cashless society? And what benefits will such a society reap in transparency, convenience and fighting corruption?



**Andy
HUNDER**

President, American
Chamber of
Commerce in Ukraine

Andy Hunder is a native Londoner, who over the past two decades has become a recognised leading specialist in Public Affairs, Communications and Government Relations in Ukraine. On April 15, 2015 Hunder was appointed President of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine.

In 1997 Andy was a TV presenter on a leading Ukrainian television channel. Then, for seven years he headed the Public Relations department at Ukrainian Mobile Communications (now Vodafone Ukraine) and in 2004 was appointed External Affairs and Communications manager at GlaxoSmith-Kline with responsibility for Ukraine, Central Asia and the Caucasus. He later launched the London office of Ukrainian law firm Magisters and later Sayenko Kharenko, where he also headed the Government Relations practice. The Ukrainian law firms in London served as conduits to service multinational clients investing in Ukraine.

In 2010 Hunder was appointed the director of the Ukrainian Institute in London and was a regular commentator on Ukrainian current affairs in the global media. During 2014 he was interviewed live more than 100 times on top international TV and Radio stations, including the BBC, CNN, Sky News, Bloomberg TV, ITV, Al Jazeera and others. He has spoken on Ukrainian current affairs issues at the Houses of Parliament, House of Lords, Oxford University, London School of Economics and University College London.

Hunder studied Philosophy and Theology in Rome, Italy. He speaks fluent English, Ukrainian, Russian and Italian. He is married and has two sons.

PANEL SPEAKERS



**Ruslan
KRAVETS**

National Bank of
Ukraine deputy
department director
of strategy and
reforming

Ruslan Kravets joined the National Bank of Ukraine in 2016 first as deputy head of the strategy and reforming department, and starting from July – as deputy director of the strategy and reforming department.

For over 10 years before that he worked in the banking business in Ukraine, Hungary, Montenegro, Russia and Kazakhstan.

In 2013-2016 Kravets was a consultant on strategy and the operational development of financial institutions at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). Before entering the consulting business, he worked for the OTP group in Ukraine, Montenegro and Hungary at various positions.

In 2012 he graduated from the Lviv Polytechnic National University specializing in information security, later studying there for a Master's degree in finance and credit as nonresident student. As well as Ukrainian, Kravets speaks English and Serbian.



**Larisa
MAKAROVA**

Director Risk Services,
CIS and South East
Europe, VISA

Larisa Makarova is the Senior Director of Risk Services in the CIS and South East Europe. Her responsibilities include developing and implementing Region Risk Plans, establishing and managing relations with clients, government, regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders within the respective markets, as well as providing guidance to Visa clients experiencing high levels of fraud. She also conducts forums on combatting fraud, and risk education sessions for clients and law enforcement.

Preceding her present position at Visa, Makarova worked as a Data Security and Fraud Control Manager. Prior to joining Visa, Makarova served as Vice-Head of Risk Management in Ukrainian Inter-bank Payment Systems Member Association “EMA”. In 2002-2004 Makarova worked at JSCB “Nadra” and held the positions of Counselor in Acquiring network development, Head of the Risk Monitoring Department, and Chief Economist in the Risk Monitoring Division. Before that, she served at the First Ukrainian International Bank (FUIB) from 1998 to 2002 as a Leading Specialist, Senior Specialist and Referent-interpreter in Processing Centre, Payment Cards Clearing & Settlement Department.

Makarova graduated from the Banking and Finances Department at the Institute of Business and Finances as an economist-financier. She also has a university degree in Romance-Germanic Philology as an interpreter at the State University. Since 2004, Makarova has participated as a speaker at different international conferences and forums, covering the topics of risk management and payment security.



**Jerome
VACHER**

International Monetary
Fund Resident
Representative in
Ukraine

Jerome Vacher, a French national, has been an International Monetary Fund economist since 2002. He has considerable experience in macro-economic and financial sector issues and extensive experience with country work in Europe.

His most recent assignment was to Spain, as Senior Desk Economist (2010-2013).

Vacher’s previous country experience in the European Department includes assignments to Lithuania (2009-10) and Belarus (2003-04). He has also worked in the Monetary and Capital Markets Department for five years, covering financial sector issues, notably in South Africa and the UAE.

Before joining the IMF, Vacher was a Public Finance Economist in charge of emerging markets at Dexia Credit Local in France (1998-2001), and a Financial Attaché at the French Embassy in Poland (1997-1998).

He graduated from the Kiel Institute for World Economics in Germany, Université Paris Panthéon Sorbonne, and the Institut d’Etudes Politiques de Paris.

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John LOUGH

Associate Fellow with the Russia & Eurasia Programme at Chatham House and Managing Director of JBKL Advisory Ltd

John Lough is an Associate Fellow with the Russia & Eurasia Programme at Chatham House and Managing Director of JBKL Advisory Ltd. From 2008 to 2016, he ran the Russia & CIS practice at BGR Gabara (later Gabara Strategies), a London-based public affairs and strategy consulting firm.

He is a regular commentator on Russian and Ukrainian affairs and co-authored the Chatham House paper published in April 2016 “Can Ukraine Achieve a Reform Breakthrough?”

From 2003 to 2008, he was as an international affairs adviser at TNK-BP, Russia’s third largest oil company. From 2001 to 2003, he was Managing Director of the PBN Company’s London office.

He spent six years with NATO (1995-2001), including a posting to Moscow where he set up NATO’s Information Office.

From 1989 to 1995, he was a senior lecturer at the Soviet Studies (later Conflict Studies) Research Centre.

He graduated from Cambridge University with a degree in Russian and German and obtained a diploma in international relations from the Johns Hopkins University Bologna Center.



Maksym SAULYAK

Treasury and Trade Solutions Head for Ukraine at PJSC Citi Bank

Maksym Saulyak will be joining PJSC Citibank in the role of Treasury and Trade Solutions Head for Ukraine. In his new position, Saulyak will be responsible for the management of Cash and Trade businesses, with a focus on development, sale and execution of innovative solutions to continue positioning the franchise as the premier provider of superior transaction products in the market.

Prior to this appointment, Saulyak was responsible for Citi’s Issuer Services business in the CIS region, based in Moscow, where he helped business gaining the largest market share and developed new products to support securitisations, buybacks and M&A transactions.

Saulyak joined Citi in 2007 as Associate, spending a few years in its London office in various Product and Sales roles within the Securities and Funds Services division.

Saulyak earned BA degree in Business Management — Financial Services from the University of Westminster (UK) and a degree in Economics from Chernivtsi National University.



Yevgen VELIKANOV

Director, iPay

Yevgen Velikanov has been a director of the company representing the service of payment services known today under the «iPay.ua» trademark, since 2011. iPay.ua is all-Ukrainian service of online payments, thanks which everybody may pay for goods and services in website iPay.ua or partner website iPay.ua with the bank card Visa or MasterCard Worldwide.

The company is a member of TCGroup, having 18 years of experience in the field of production of plastic cards, ATMs, sim-cards and software. Before starting work for iPay, Yevgen was an employee of other companies of the consortium: from 2004 to 2009 – a commercial director of RONTEC EPC (the national producer of banking equipment (automated teller machines, self-service terminals)). In 2010-2011, he was the business head of non-financial cards of Plastic Card enterprise engaged with the production of plastic cards, discount cards, cards for mobile operators.

Yevgen Velikanov has obtained the Master Diploma of the National Aviation University and the Master Diploma of the International Management Institute. He is also a master of NIMA GENERIEKE MARKETING-B.

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TOP **30** UNDER **30**

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A STRONG LEGACY FOR ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

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Editors' Note

Future of Ukraine is bright with these leaders

When the Kyiv Post decided to select the top 30 Ukrainians under the age of 30, we had no idea that we'd be able to identify 300 or 3,000 or 30,000 or even 300,000. This nation has a lot of young talent.

We ended up choosing (subjectively, of course) representatives from all walks of life who fit the bill. So the top 30 winners are divided among several sectors: government, business, civil society, journalism, sports and military. We ended up with 22 women and eight men.

The military options gave us the hardest time, considering the nation has been at war since 2014. At least 10,000 people, many of them civilians, have been killed in Russia's war against Ukraine. All of them deserve our highest respect and honor. In fact, we are thinking of creating a separate public awards ceremony for Ukraine's hero soldiers alone. The military winners we chose should be looked upon as representative of all who have sacrificed their lives or who risk their lives to defend the nation.

We had other requirements besides being no older than 29. We favored those who live in Ukraine or who spend a lot of time here or whose professional interests are centered in Ukraine. These conditions excluded many deserving winners who started in Ukraine, achieved great success and then moved out of the nation. Those include Olga Kudinenko of Tabletochki, entrepreneur Vlad Teslenko, ballet star Katja Khaniukova and Petcube founder Yaroslav Azhniuk.

How did we end up with these 30 winners? We advertised for nominations and reached out to people we know who work with young leaders. And then the Kyiv Post staff – which consists primarily of Ukrainians under 30 years of age – made the final choices. (We excluded from eligibility anyone associated with the Kyiv Post through past or current employment.)

In the end, we realize that everyone can create their own valid and defensible lists of winners from all corners of Ukraine, in cities large and small. Finding and recognizing the inspiring talent among us creates tremendous optimism about the future of Ukraine.

Special Honors: Stuart McKenzie wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Stuart McKenzie has been the straw who stirs the drink for Ukraine's expatriate community for more than 22 years. He is a founder and the only two-time president of the Kyiv Lions Club, a volunteer organization that has raised more than \$3 million for charities in Ukraine, mainly for the benefit of orphans and hospitals. In his leadership role, he has been instrumental in the club's annual Burns Night, one of the biggest social and fundraising events of the year in Kyiv. In February this year, he hosted his 21st Annual Kyiv Burns Night. McKenzie is also a past secretary and three-year board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine and a board member for Special Olympics Ukraine.

Among his other businesses ventures, McKenzie is best-known for his roll as managing director of Pulse, a Kyiv-based sales and marketing agency and a co-owner of Shooter's Night Club in Kyiv. While still running his businesses in Ukraine, McKenzie has relocated to Tampa, Florida, where he has shifted his focus to hempology.

He misses living continuously in Ukraine "so much you wouldn't believe." But he said that he is excited to be involved "in a product that will change the world." His aim is to grow more hemp in

Ukraine and to sell it worldwide. Hemp is a fast-growing plant in the northern hemisphere. It is the fibre of the cannabis plant and is refined for use in a variety of commercial items, including medicines, paper, textiles, clothing, biodegradable plastics, paint, insulation, biofuel, food and animal feed. "Ukraine, 100 years ago, produced 80 percent of the world's hemp," he said.

Born in Edinburgh, Scotland, McKenzie moved in 1994 to Ukraine. He and his Ukrainian-Georgian wife Elena have three children.



Contents

Bogdan Globa	37
Kateryna Istomina	38
Daria Kaleniuk	39
Olga Kharlan	40
Yulia Kirillova	41
Yulia Klymyshyn	42
Sviat Sviatnenko	43
Yulia Marushevskia	44
Sevgil Musayeva-Borovyk	45
Mykhailo Obolonskyi	46
Yana Panfilova	47
Ivan Pasichnyk	48
Ivan Prymachenko	49
Ganna Rizatdinova	50
Yulia Sanina	51
Natalie Sedletska	52
Daria Shapovalova	53
Alyona Shkrum	54
Oleksiy Skvordiyakov	55
Iryna Slavinska	56
Anastasia Sleptsova	57
Iryna Suslova	58
Alina Sviderska	59
Yulia Sychikova	60
Anastasia Topolskaia	61
Yulia Tychivska	62
Oleksander Usyk	63
Lesiya Vasylenko	64
Yana Zinkevych	65
Valeriy Chybinyeyv	66

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Sergey Velichanskiy

Journalist, Entertainer; TV Host of UA Tea Time; Host Speaker of Euro 2012; Founder of IMPROV Club, IMPROVersity and TEAMproviz





Bogdan Globa

Gay activist lobbies for LGBT rights law, fights for acceptance of person's sexuality

By **Olga Rudenko**
rudenko@kyivpost.com

Bogdan Globa would never refer to his 16th year as being “sweet.” That’s when, in 2004, Globa’s parents found out that he was gay. They were conservative college professors living in Poltava, a city of 300,000 people some 300 kilometers east of Kyiv. They didn’t accept it and tried to put him in a mental hospital for “conversion therapy.” The hospital refused, saying homosexuality isn’t a mental illness.

But he could no longer stay at home. Globa moved out and got a construction job to support himself. But he left when other workers started teasing him for his “unmanly” behavior. Years later, Globa recalled his painful adolescence when speaking at the Verkhovna Rada as the first openly gay person to speak in the Ukrainian parliament.

Back then, in November 2013, the Rada was considering a law that prohibited discrimination in the workplace. “Having been openly gay since the age of 16, I, personally, was discriminated against. I was bullied, and I was beaten,” he said, his voice trembling, but his tone resolute. The law was passed two years later, in November 2015. The ban on discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation was included - the biggest victory of Ukraine’s gay community in many years.

Globa has come a long way since his parents tried to lock him up in an asylum. At 18, he left Poltava and moved to Kyiv, where he didn’t have to hide his sexual orientation. “In Poltava, the gay community lives in fear, in hiding,” he says. “I didn’t want.”

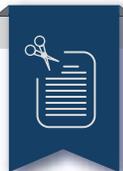
In Kyiv, he worked as a financial director at a clothing retailer before starting Tochka Opyry in 2009 with Zoryan Kis, another prominent member of the gay community in Kyiv. Today, Tochka Opyry is Ukraine’s biggest LGBT organization, having partnered with legendary singer Elton John, among others.

Under Globa’s leadership, Tochka Opyry carries out a number of projects such as Friendly Doctor - a chain of gay-friendly medical offices - and Corporate Equality Index - a yearly evaluation that encourages businesses to fight discrimination in the workplace.

Globa has also won a personal victory: He made peace with his divorced mother, who has accepted his sexuality. Today she is head of Tergo, an organization that supports parents of homosexual children.

Globa is now working towards his next big goal, lobbying to introduce civil unions in Ukraine, for same-sex couples to have a legal form of partnership. He is not expecting quick passage in parliament.

Ukraine would take a huge leap if it recognized LGBT civil unions. As recently as 1991, sexual relations between men was a criminal offense. If equal rights come, Globa will be among those activists who deserve the most credit.



✓ **Name:** Bogdan Globa

✓ **Age:** 28

✓ **Education:** Master’s degree in finance, Poltava Economy and Trade University

✓ **Profession:** LGBT activist, head of Tochka Opyry, Kyiv-based LGBT foundation

✓ **Did you know?** Globa’s hobby is selective breeding of tulips.

In partnership with



Kateryna Istomina

Gold medal whets swimmer's appetite for success at 2020 Tokyo Olympics

By **Olena Goncharova**
goncharova@kyivpost.com

Kateryna Istomina thought there had been a mistake when she checked the results board after the women's S8 100-meter relay butterfly swimming final at the Rio de Janeiro Paralympics. The 22-year-old swimmer couldn't believe she had achieved her dream.

Istomina had just won her first gold, one of the 41 gold medals the Ukrainian Paralympic team earned in Rio. She burst into tears after the relay race.

Istomina's coach and boyfriend – another Paralympic swimmer, Yaroslav Denysenko – were the first to congratulate her, while her best friends cheered for her from the stands.

Istomina started swimming when she was a little girl, as she had lesions in her musculoskeletal system: her left arm does not function well. The butterfly was her favorite stroke. She made good progress and qualified for the national team when she was nearly 18.

She went to her first Paralympics in London in 2012. Istomina recalls it as a “memorable one,” because it was her debut and she earned a silver medal. However, her experiences in Rio de Janeiro topped that event.

“My dream came true, because I became a champion and could sing Ukraine's anthem when (they) raised our flag,” Istomina says, adding that there were many such touching moments during and after the Paralympics. She was moved to tears when she saw that dozens of her relatives and friends showed up at the airport to greet the returning Paralympics team.

Despite the tough economic conditions in Ukraine and Russia's war, the team achieved its best result. It placed third in overall medal rankings after China and the United Kingdom, with a total of 117 medals.

Ukraine's Paralympians used to train in the Crimean city of Yevpatoria, before the peninsula was taken over by Russia in March 2014. Now Istomina mostly trains in the western Ukrainian city of Lviv.

What motivates the young swimmer most is curiosity about her own potential and what she could achieve next. “I always look up to my competitors and my boyfriend,” she says. Coordination and understanding of her coach helps her to find balance between high results and health conditions.

“My coach always helps me to prepare before a race,” Istomina explains. “She knows when to joke or comfort me. But most of all I think about the result I want to achieve.”

Istomina has at least two training sessions per day, early in the morning and in the afternoon. She only has time to grab a snack between them, she says. She treasures time with her family and spends every free moment with them. She's already dreaming about the next Paralympics in Tokyo in 2020, but is right now enjoying a break before she returns to her daily training routine.



✓ **Name:** Kateryna Istomina

✓ **Age:** 22

✓ **Education:** College of Economics and Law at the Interregional Academy of Personnel Management

✓ **Profession:** Paralympic swimmer

✓ **Did you know?** Kateryna Istomina has earned more than 80 medals, in both Ukrainian championships and international competitions.

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Daria Kaleniuk

She leads campaign to stop corruption in Ukraine, no matter who tries to block her

By **Alyona Zhuk**
zhuk@kyivpost.com

Daria Kaleniuk believes that corruption always has a name. A real person stands behind every corrupt deal, and this person has to be made responsible for it.

The team of the Anti-Corruption Action Center, a non-government organization co-founded by Kaleniuk early in 2013, is not afraid to name such people.

During her student years, Kaleniuk took part in different volunteer and civic initiatives, such as organizing educational projects for youth, entertainment for children in orphanages and saving Kharkiv's Bommer, the oldest cinema in Europe, from being sold.

"Whatever I was doing, I saw that the cause for all Ukraine's problems was corruption," she told the Kyiv Post.

While studying on the Fulbright Program in the U.S., Kaleniuk researched the international legislative tools to fight corruption. When she was back home, she decided to implement those tools in Ukraine.

She wanted to make the best use of her lawyer's specialty, but realized that there were no opportunities in Ukraine that she would want to take - it was either big international law company, or a state job, which would make her part of the corrupt system.

So Kaleniuk, together with Vitaliy Shabunin, whom she knew from the old civic activism times, established their own organization aimed to track and fight corruption.

Their first big project was Yanukovich Info in December 2013, a website with information on all foreign assets of Ukraine's then-President Viktor Yanukovich, who ruled from 2010 until he fled in 2014, and his allies. The data was presented in English, so that European Union countries could freeze all the assets.

After Yanukovich was forced out by the EuroMaidan Revolution, the Anti-Corruption Action Center helped Ukraine's newly elected parliament to design strong anti-corruption legislation, including the laws on the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, special anti-corruption prosecutor's office, open property registers and electronic assets declarations.

Kaleniuk said they wanted "the responsibility for corruption to be unavoidable."

"We want the corrupt officials who use state jobs for embezzlement worth hundreds of millions to end up in jail with their assets confiscated," she told the Kyiv Post. "Lots has been done already. Now our task is to protect these newly created institutions to give them an opportunity to work at full power."



✓ **Name:** Daria Kaleniuk

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Law, The Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University in Kharkiv

✓ **Profession:** Executive director of the Anti-Corruption Action Center

✓ **Did you know?** Her dream is that she has to close her anti-corruption organization, because Ukraine is free of graft and doesn't need it anymore.

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Olga Kharlan

This sabre-wielding champion powers herself and her team to Olympic glory

By **Veronika Melkozerova**
melkozerova@kyivpost.com

Olga Kharlan, 26, was born in Mykolaiv, a city of 500,000 people some 400 kilometers south of Kyiv.

She started sports at age 9 and, by 15, became a member of the Ukrainian national fencing team in 2005.

In 2007 she won the junior World Cup in fencing.

In 2008, she went to the Olympic Games in Beijing as part of the national fencing team. In the final fight, Ukrainian fencers had to compete against the Chinese team. The 17-year-old Kharlan beat Chinese fencer Tan Ksyu and brought victory to her team, as well as the first Olympic gold ever to the Ukrainian female fencers.

In 2009, Kharlan won the title of the Champion of Europe.

In 2010, Kharlan won three Grand Prix of international sabre fencing tournaments and managed to get to second place among the top five strongest female fencers of the world.

Kharlan's explanation for her success: hard work.

"It is like you are fighting and fencing against yourself. Improve your fencing technique and push yourself to training in any weather and life circumstances. It is all about telling yourself that you "must!" Kharlan told the Kyiv Post.

The Ukrainian sabre fencing female team won silver in the Olympics 2016 in Rio, while its leader, Kharlan, brought home bronze to Ukraine.

Kharlan has more than 15 international sabre fencing awards and five state awards.

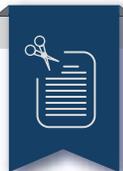
Ukrainian national fencing team coach Valeriy Shturbabin has described Kharlan as a "wolf cub" because of her aggressive style of fencing and attacks. After she gained fame, Russian fencer Sofia Velikaya: "Who is this new little beast that growls on the track and wrests out every victory with her teeth?"

In 2010, Kharlan became a Party of Regions lawmaker in Mykolaiv City Council. In 2013 she told Svitske Zhytta TV Show that she made such decision because that was the only way to promote fencing and build a training base for fencers in her city.

She was shocked by the police violence against EuroMaidan Revolution demonstrators and decided to leave the Party of Regions and politics in January 2014.

In 2015, Kharlan married sabre fencer champion Dmytro Boyko. She is quite well aware of the sacrifices she made for success.

"I had not seen my family for months, suffered from pain because in professional sports you can't go without traumas. I spent so much personal time for training. But you forget about all you had to overcome when you're holding the World Champion or the Olympic medal in your hands. This is an award for everything," Kharlan said.



✓ **Name:** Olga Kharlan

✓ **Age:** 26

✓ **Education:** Mykolaiv Physical Culture College

✓ **Profession:** Sabre fencer

✓ **Did you know?** In 2010-2014 Kharlan was a Party of Regions lawmaker of Mykolaiv City Council. She has left the Party of Regions in 2014.

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Yulia Kirilova

She marries in 2014, loses her husband in war, but keeps on fighting for Ukraine

By **Daryna Shevchenko**
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Yulia Kirilova, 23, lost her husband in Russia's war against Ukraine just a few months after their wedding in 2014. She was 20. Her life has been all about war ever since. For a year after her husband's death, Kirilova raised money to help the army. In July 2015, she joined the army as a soldier.

The couple's activism and love of country started even earlier. During the EuroMaidan Revolution that sent ex-President Viktor Yanukovich fleeing to Russia, Kirilova and her late husband, Danylo, joined the car protests. The newlyweds brought supplies to demonstrators and invited them to their home for showers and rest.

Her husband joined the army right after Russia's invasion.

Army soldiers lacked even bedding. So Kirilova and her girlfriends sewed pillows for her husband's platoon. "Oh, that wasn't a big deal - some cloth, polyester and there is your pillow," she laughs.

Kirilova's husband was killed in Donetsk Oblast in August 2014, a day before his birthday. She was devastated, but kept volunteering. She joined the Volunteer Hundred charity organization and started hosting events, including a festival that raised more than Hr 300,000.

She made weekly trips to the war front and helped a dozen brigades and battalions. "It was never ending," she recalls.

The aid they provided included everything from coffee and cigarettes to night-vision devices, scopes, medicine and clothes. Her group also delivered 400 first-aid kits and arranged donations from Kyiv supermarkets.

Yet another dispiriting setback took place in the spring of 2015 when here cousin was also killed in the accident "I was helping so many people, but I didn't help my husband and I didn't help my cousin," she says tearfully.

Her brother then asked her to visit him in the Kyivan Rus Battalion, which wasn't in active combat at the time. She did and soon joined the battalion as a soldier.

Her comrades were at first skeptical about having a woman as a soldier, but she proved them wrong and became a grenade thrower in a scouting squad.

But soon the Defense Ministry ordered women out of combat and to "appropriate positions." She was reassigned to a medical unit and put in charge of maintenance. When the ambulance driver got sick, she took his place and started evacuating people from battlefields. She saved dozens of lives. "One had to drive very fast and very carefully, but it was impossible - the roads were all bombed, and we were constantly shot at," she says.

Kirilova was discharged in October.

She's seen so much blood and pain that she now has health problems and trouble sleeping. "This damn war haunts me in my dreams," she smirks sadly. She wants to become a lawyer someday. But for now, another big fundraiser for the troops is being planned.



✓ **Name:** Yulia Kirilova

✓ **Age:** 23

✓ **Education:** Corporate Law, University of Modern Knowledge

✓ **Profession:** Lawyer, soldier, volunteer

✓ **Did you know?** When the war is over, Kirilova plans to buy a small house in the woods and plant roses.

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Yulia Klymyshyn

Inspired by a book about famous doctor, she dedicates her life to saving children

By **Nataliya Trach**
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Yulia Klymyshyn is only 29 but thousands of children owe their lives to her. As a doctor, Klymyshyn cures children at the Department of Reconstructive Surgery and Infraction Pathology of Kyiv's Center of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery.

Patients are sometimes frightened by her youth. "Sometimes when parents learn that I will treat their children they ask for an older doctor, but when I start working they begin to trust me," she says, smiling.

Her schedule is busy. Klymyshyn works 12 hours a day, sometimes even on weekends, but it does not disappoint her. "I like the fact my profession brings good to people. The grateful eyes of children and their parents inspire me to move forward," she says.

Klymyshyn's professional choice was more likely a happy coincidence.

She was born in the Ternopil Oblast city of Monastyrsk to a family of economists. None of her relatives had anything to do with medicine.

"When I was studying at high school I accidentally got into my hands the book of (Mykola) Amosov. It was extremely interesting and inspired me to become a doctor," Klymyshyn said.

Amosov (1913-2002) was a World War II veteran and famous heart surgeon during Soviet times who worked in Kyiv starting in 1952. He is credited for his inventions of several surgical procedures for treating heart defects. The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine established the Mykola Amosov Prize, awarded for significant scientific works in the field of the cardio-vascular surgery and transplantology.

Klymyshyn graduated from Bogomolets National Medical University in 2010; four years later she started her Ph.D. studies. "I am very happy with my job. It stimulates me to constantly learn something new," she says.

Her regular day starts at 8 a.m. Klymyshyn makes ultrasound diagnoses. In the past four years, she's checked more than 10,000 patients. Some cases stand out. "I will never forget an 8-year-old girl who came for a regular examination after a surgery. When I saw in the ultrasound that the infection perforated a hole in her heart I was shocked," she says. But the story has a happy ending: The girl is cured.

In the afternoons, Klymyshyn treats children with different heart diseases. Sometimes the treatment and post-operational supervision may last several years. "When you start curing patients after some time you get used to them and they become close people for you," Klymyshyn says.

She dreams of becoming a serious scientist and a professional cardiologist to help as many people as she can - just like her idol Amosov.



✓ **Name:** Yulia Klymyshyn

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Bogomolets National Medical University.

✓ **Profession:** Pediatrician.

✓ **Did you know?** She likes salsa and ballroom dancing.

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Sviatoslav Sviatnenko

Thinking ‘Europe outside Union,’ he helps build high-tech in Ukraine

By **Denys Krasnikov**
krasnikov@kyivpost.com

The information technologies industry in Ukraine is developing at a rapid pace, barely affected by economic turbulence after the EuroMaidan Revolution.

Investors haven’t stopped putting money into Ukrainian tech companies and Sviatoslav Sviatnenko, 22, may be among the reasons. Despite having an opportunity to live and work in the European Union, he decided to come back to Ukraine, for one simple reason: “I am a Ukrainian.”

“I would probably never forgive myself if I hadn’t tried to contribute to Ukraine’s development during this critical period,” Sviatnenko told the Kyiv Post. “In spite of war, Ukraine is a country of opportunities.”

During the EuroMaidan Revolution that brought President Viktor Yanukovich’s kleptocratic regime to an end, Sviatnenko took an active part in telling the world about the motivation and values shared by the activists.

He was editor of a small online blog beyondthe.eu, whose slogan remains “Thinking Europe outside the Union.” He wrote an opinion piece called “Ten Western Myths about the Ukrainian Crisis,” which was widely shared among Ukraine’s embassies in about 100 countries.

Sviatnenko said that during his master’s studies in the Netherlands, one lecturer was keeping up with news about Ukraine by watching the Kremlin PR outlet Russia Today. “In the West, there used to be misunderstanding of what was going on in Ukraine,” he said. He wanted to set the record straight.

In 2014, he was working as an analyst in a Canadian mission observing the elections in Ukraine. He coordinated the work of roughly 200 observers in the field and helped to develop an innovative mobile election observation application.

Now Sviatnenko is the director of business development at Borsch Ventures, an investment arm of high-tech company KM Core, which invests in eFarmer, UaRpa, Polyteda and works closely with at least seven other IT companies in Ukraine and beyond.

In addition, Sviatoslav sits on the working group of nonprofit SME Digital Agenda of SME Europe (Small and Medium Entrepreneurs of Europe), representing the voice of Ukrainian innovative business in Brussels.

Currently, he’s obtaining a Ph.D. in Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, where he studies the role of technology entrepreneurs in Ukraine, their values and social origins to continue developing Ukraine.



✓ **Name:** Sviatoslav Sviatnenko

✓ **Age:** 22

✓ **Education:** sociologist; Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Maastricht University

✓ **Profession:** Borsch Ventures director of business development

✓ **Did you know?** Mahatma Gandhi’s quote “Be the change that you wish to see” is Sviatnenko’s favorite one.

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Yulia Marushevka

Revolutionary leader embodies hope of Ukrainians for bright corruption-free future

By **Denys Krasnikov**
krasnikov@kyivpost.com

Yulia Marushevka, 27, was a figurehead of Ukraine's EuroMaidan Revolution before she became a leading light in the country's fight against corruption as head of Odesa customs.

Marushevka shot to fame when she starred in the "I am a Ukrainian" YouTube video, which has been viewed nearly nine million times. In it, standing in the center of Kyiv in the light of protesters' campfires, she explains the goals of the EuroMaidan Revolution, drawing the attention of people from around the world to Ukrainians' struggle for freedom.

"I know we did everything properly," she told the Kyiv Post, describing her feelings about the video shot on Hrushevskogo Street three years ago. "That wasn't my personal achievement. That was a historic moment. It showed the pain of those who were protesting at that time."

Soon after the video was posted, Marushevka was interviewed by several international news media, including The Daily Beast, CNN and Voice of America, adding to her fame.

One of her admirers is the United Kingdom business magnate and philanthropist, Sir Richard Branson.

"She is passionate, bright and very articulate about the need for the West to maintain and increase its support for the country," Branson says of Marushevka.

In the wake of the revolution, as the interim government was formed, Russia annexed Crimea and started its covert war in the east, and Ukraine prepared to hold presidential elections, Marushevka returned to studying political science at Harvard and Stanford universities, and completed her completing postgraduate studies at her alma mater, Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv.

"I was learning about the processes for reforming a country," she said. "Obviously, I reckoned on participating in at least some of that. I logically wanted to continue what we started with the EuroMaidan."

In September 2015, Marushevka became a member of the team of Odesa Governor Mikheil Saakashvili, and after a month, she was appointed head of the notoriously corrupt Odesa customs.

"I wasn't a politician, but a public servant," she said, describing her job as the head of Odesa customs.

In November 2016, she resigned, but high hopes remain in Ukraine and abroad that she will be able to continue to battle shady schemes in Ukraine, and go on to reform the country. But she is realistic.

"Public servants have limited possibilities. Now we need to understand what we can change, and what we can't," she said. "It's essential that everyone takes one change and carries it out from the beginning to the end."



✓ **Name:** Yulia Marushevka

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** historian, linguist; Taras Shevchenko National University, Stanford University

✓ **Profession:** Ex-head of Odesa Customs Service

✓ **Did you know?** Her motto is "Never ever give up."

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Sevgil Musaieva-Borovyk

Ukrainska Pravda editor-in-chief takes leadership role in Ukrainian journalism

By **Anna Yakutenko**
yakutenko@kyivpost.Com

At age 29, Sevgil Musaieva-Borovyk is chief editor of one of the Ukraine's most-read sources of news, Ukrainska Pravda (Ukrainian Truth), which gets more than 600,000 views a day.

Musaieva-Borovyk was born in Uzbekistan in a Crimean Tatar family that fled the peninsula in the wake of Josef Stalin-era deportations. When Musaieva-Borovyk was 2, her family returned to Kerch, a city of 147,000 people in eastern Crimea.

Her passion for journalism started when she was 13. By the time she finished high school, she had written around 90 articles. In 2004, she moved to Kyiv to study journalism at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

Her career as a business journalist started in Ekonomichni Novyny news agency, followed by Delo, Vlast Deneg and Forbes. She rose to prominence with investigations of politicians Sergey Kurchenko, Nestor Shufrich, Nikolai Rudkovsky and Yuriy Ivanushchenko

In 2013, Musaieva-Borovyk quit Forbes after its owner, UMH media holding, was sold to Kurchenko, the fugitive businessman believed to be a front for ex-President Viktor Yanukovich's interests.

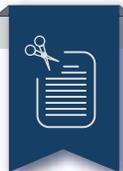
After Russia's invasion of Crimea, she became a co-founder of the Crimea SOS nongovernmental organization, which helps people who fled the peninsula. Then she got the offer she couldn't refuse when Olena Prytula, a co-founder and owner of Ukrainska Pravda, offered her the chief editor's job in the wake of the election to parliament of Sergiy Leshchenko and Mustafa Nayyem.

"It was a complete shock," she said. "But it also was extremely interesting."

She wanted to inject the passion of the departing Leshchenko and Nayyem into Ukrainska Pravda and she also wanted to lead better coverage of Russia's annexation of Crimea. She hasn't been home to the peninsula in more than two years and her parents had to sell their Crimean house and move to Kyiv.

Musaieva-Borovyk restructured the management to an editorial board style of governance and created such new projects as lifestyle BZ and a journalism school.

"There always has to be a challenge. I am interested in things that are complicated. When something becomes easy, I realize that I have outgrown it and that I need to move forward," she says.



✓ **Name:** Sevgil Musaieva-Borovyk

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Journalism School of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

✓ **Profession:** Chief Editor of Ukrainska Pravda

✓ **Did you know?** She was a commentator on Sport First channel.

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Mykhailo Obolonskyi

Mountain-climbing economist wants Ukraine to reach its peak in all spheres

By **Bermet Talant**
bermet.talant@gmail.com

Vinnitsia native Mykhailo Obolonskyi has already built an impressive career in economics at age 27. He began working in his sophomore year as a part-time business analyst at IT&T Consulting, a Swiss-based firm with offices in Luxembourg, Ukraine, and China, and by the time he graduated he had already had a job offer from another European consulting company, Roland Berger.

“Working for international companies gave me deeper understanding of macroeconomic processes and the interconnection of business and politics,” says Obolonskyi.

However, it wasn’t his foreign clients who inspired him to dive into the problems of doing business in Ukraine, but his family’s small wood-working enterprise.

“For my parents, as for all small business owners, every inspection from government services was problematic. It took so much time and caused hassles,” recalls Obolonskyi. “The larger businesses that I worked with as a consultant had different issues, for example, with the judiciary system or certification according to Western standards.”

After the EuroMaidan Revolution in 2014, Obolonskyi joined the team of newly appointed Minister of Economics Pavlo Sheremeta as an adviser on deregulation.

“When I first came to work with the government, I got culture shock. The way of thinking of the public officials was chaotic and unstructured. They had not practiced having consultations with the business sector before.”

In an attempt to be more independent and continue efforts to advance deregulation reform in Ukraine, Obolonskyi and two of his colleagues, Dan Pasko and Mykola Gaidai, founded a non-governmental organization, EasyBusiness. The team of 20 experts examines regulatory constraints that hinder business operations such as inspections, all types of permits and licenses, and excessive paperwork. They also develop legal initiatives and create a framework for their implementation.

“I thought it would be a great accomplishment if at least one of our bills passed and impacted the lives of thousands of people. So far 10 of our initiatives have been adopted by the government,” says Obolonskyi. “We want EasyBusiness to grow into an analytical center, a think tank, in compliance with international standards.”

He wants Ukrainians to be driven to make this the best country for everything, from doing business to living standards. “It’s time to act and think in terms of the processes of integrating with the world community.” Obolonskyi is also passionate about mountain climbing. So far he has reached the peaks of Mount Elbrus in Russia and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.



✓ **Name:** Mykhailo Obolonskyi

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy

✓ **Profession:** Economist, founder of EasyBusiness

✓ **Did you know?** He has climbed Mount Elbrus and Mount Kilimanjaro

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Yana Panfilova

Born HIV positive, she embraces life, seeks to educate, eradicate prejudice

By **Olga Rudenko**
rudenko@kyivpost.com

When Yana Panfilova was 10, her mother told her: “You have HIV.”

Panfilova’s mother, a former drug addict, was infected with HIV. She gave birth to her daughter before she knew she had the virus and passed it to her child. Panfilova’s mother wasn’t capable of taking care of her due to drug use, so she was taken to an orphanage.

When Panfilova was 3, her mother quit drugs and took her home. Today, mother and daughter are HIV activists. Panfilova has become a voice for young people living with HIV. Three years ago she founded Teenergizer, a UNICEF-funded organization.

One of Panfilova’s biggest achievements was to speak at the United Nations General Assembly in June. “It feels strange even calling it an achievement, because I was having so much fun while doing it,” she says.

Panfilova, 19, is energetic. She giggles, twitches and twirls her fingers in her curly hair when talking. She is also ambitious. “I wish I had achieved more by my age,” she says. Her millennial, “nothing-is-impossible” attitude is reflected in Teenergizer. The organization’s online platform boasts that it was “created by teenagers, for teenagers.” It offers opportunities to network, write blogs, discover educational opportunities and, in general, live better with HIV.

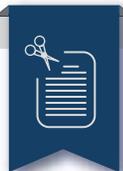
According to Panfilova, the problem with HIV positive teenagers is that they get bored taking pills every day at a certain time. To make it fun to stick to the therapy regime, Teenergizer is developing a smartphone app that mixes discipline with play. When the tasks on the schedule are completed, the app awards users points and prizes.

Panfilova takes six pills a day to keep the virus suppressed and to support her immune system. The therapy reduces the chances she will transmit the virus. “Even if my blood gets in someone else’s right now, there is little chance that person would get HIV,” Panfilova says.

She knows it, but many people, still mired in myths, don’t. When her mother revealed the secret to Panfilova, it came with an order: don’t tell anyone. But she rushed to tell her best friend. “She didn’t take it well,” Panfilova recalls. “She was crying, saying ‘How could you, we’ve been eating together!’ She was sure she had got HIV from me.”

To draw attention to myths about how HIV spreads, Panfilova in 2015 stood in Taras Shevchenko Park in Kyiv with a banner that read, “I’ve got HIV. Give me a hug for support.” The result was surprising: She barely stood there for a minute without getting a hug.

“You can talk about HIV a lot,” Panfilova says of her activism, “but a personal example is what can really change people’s attitude.”



✓ **Name:** Yana Panfilova

✓ **Age:** 19

✓ **Education:** Student of Academy of Labor, Social Work and Tourism in Kyiv

✓ **Profession:** HIV activist, founder of Teenergizer, a youth movement

✓ **Did you know?** Panfilova spent the first three years of her life in an orphanage.

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Ivan Pasichnyk

Green energy backer sees opportunities, believes ‘everything’s achievable’ for nation

By **Denys Krasnikov**
krasnikov@kyivpost.com

Ivan Pasichnyk believes anyone has the chance to emulate his success.

“I’d like people in Ukraine to comprehend that everything’s achievable,” tech startup wizard Pasichnyk, 29, told the Kyiv Post after Forbes placed him on its list of 30 of the most successful people in Europe up to 30 years old.

Three years before, Pasichnyk and two brothers, Alexander and Anton Diatlov, had cofounded Ecoisme, a startup that designs energy monitoring systems. In the era of green energy and ecological awareness, these products were destined for success.

The Ecoisme team was created in Kyiv in 2013 during a hackathon – an event in which computer programmers and others involved in software and hardware development thrash out and implement tech ideas.

Headed by Pasichnyk, they built a smart energy monitoring system for residential buildings that can detect all major devices in use in a home with a single sensor connected to an apartment fuse box.

After that hackathon, the young company – now with 13 people – started to rake in prizes and recognition.

Ecoisme has won multiple awards, including the Best of Innovation 2016 at the International Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, local rounds of the 1776 Challenge Cup global startup tournament, the Seedstars World tech tournament, first prize at the RWE Utility Day, and the EDF Pulse contest, organized by the largest energy supplier in the world.

They managed to attract \$100,000 in funding from T-Venture, the early-stage venture arm of Deutsche Telekom, and to win a place in a U.K. based tech-acceleration program run by Richard Branson’s Virgin Media and U.S. Techstars. The company has had eight backers in total.

“Everyone does the job equally important for the company,” Alexander Diatlov, an Ecoisme co-founder, told the Kyiv Post. “But Pasichnyk is the CEO and engaged in a company’s development strategy and general management. Accordingly, it is his job to be the face of the company,”

Pasichnyk agrees, saying that everyone in the team deserves recognition. “We’ve done a lot of work,” he said. “And more still lies ahead.”

Pasichnyk is also a firm believer in the new direction his country has taken. He supported Ukraine’s EuroMaidan Revolution and camped out on Maidan Nezalezhnosti with other activists during the protests. He was also in the team that developed the first Ukrainian 3D printer.

As for social initiatives, Pasichnyk with his friends opened a hacker space – a community-operated programming workspace – in 2012 in Kyiv.

“I always try to do something for Ukraine,” he said. “There are a lot of good initiatives here.”



✓ **Name:** Ivan Pasichnyk

✓ **Age:** 29



✓ **Education:** mechanical engineer; Kyiv Polytechnic University



✓ **Company:** Ecoisme



✓ **Did you know?** In January 2016, Forbes Europe included Ivan Pasichnyk into its list of 30 of the most successful people in Europe up to 30 years old in the industry sector.

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Ivan Prymachenko

Online education will make Ukrainians smarter, ready for globalized future

By **Denys Krasnikov**
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In 2014, Ivan Prymachenko, a fan of internet courses, decided to help Ukrainians jump on the bandwagon of online education. With a partner, Oleksii Molchanovskiy, Prymachenko founded a nonprofit called Prometheus to open up to Ukrainians the possibility of obtaining a free education from country's best professors – completely for free.

Prymachenko believes this is the first step towards rebuilding Ukraine's education system, which will transform the nation.

"Our final goal is to change Ukrainian education," Prymachenko told the Kyiv Post. "Everything that's done in the economy, politics, and society at the end is multiplied by the quality of education of those who have it."

Since 2014, from being a platform with just four courses, Prometheus has developed into a nationwide online university with 45 subjects now available. On completing courses, students obtain certificates signed by the best lecturers from the most prominent Ukrainian universities, including Kyiv Polytechnic University, Taras Shevchenko National University, the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, and the Ukrainian Catholic University.

A typical online course consists of video lectures, interactive tasks, an online forum in which teachers or other classmates can answer questions, and final exams. Prometheus is similar in form to internet platforms such as Coursera, edX, Udacity or Khan Academy, but in Ukrainian.

Prymachenko and his colleagues have also launched four chains of courses in related subjects. The approach is a revolutionary one in education, according to Prymachenko.

"In order to modernize the country, we need to modernize education," he said. "Our final goal is to reform Ukrainian education with blended learning. Hence we aim to integrate the Prometheus online courses into universities' and schools' curricula."

The cofounders invested \$5,000. The main sources of funding are grants, donations and the sale of certificates. A verified certificate as a tester of software, for example, costs Hr 500.

Prometheus has about 300,000 active users.

Prymachenko's opinions are regularly published in major news organizations. "It's important to not just do your job in some narrow niches, but constantly think about the way this work is related to the country as a whole, and how it correlates with the vision of the country in which we want to live."



✓ **Name:** Ivan Prymachenko

✓ **Age:** 26

✓ **Education:** historian, Taras Shevchenko National University

✓ **Company:** Prometheus

✓ **Did you know?** His motto is "Don't talk about the future – try to shape it."

In partnership with





Anna Rizatdinova

She is Ukraine's grace and pride, an Olympic medalist who shines in life

By **Anna Yakutenko**
yakutenko@kyivpost.com

Anna Rizatdinova, at 23, is one of the world's top rhythmic gymnasts. This year, one of her dreams came true when she won a bronze medal at the 2016 Summer Olympic Games in Rio-de-Janeiro.

Like many athletes, Rizatdinova started training early, when she was 5. In 2008, she made her debut at the European Championships in Turin, where she won a team bronze in the juniors' competition. Since then, Rizatdinova has represented Ukraine at international championships in individual and group competitions.

Rizatdinova comes from an athletic family. Her mother is a gymnastics coach based in Simferopol in Russian-occupied Crimea. After the junior championships in Italy, she caught the eye of trainers from Kyiv's Deriugina gymnastics school. She moved to the capital to study.

Her parents stayed on the Crimean peninsula after the Russian annexation. Rizatdinova said that her parents and many of her friends in Crimea still support Ukrainian gymnasts. She is coached by a legendary family team: Albina Deriugina, her daughter Iryna Deriugina and Iryna Blokhina, the daughter of Iryna Deriugina and Oleh Blokhin, a former player in Ukraine's national soccer team.

This year, apart from her Olympic medal, Rizatdinova won bronze at the European Rhythmic Gymnastics Championship 2016 in Israel.

Rizatdinova spends up to 10 hours in the gym, six days a week, practicing her routines with hoop and ball, and clubs and ribbon. However, after the bronze Olympic medal, Rizatdinova said her life changed significantly: she now has free time to go to the movies, meet with friends and so on. She is looking forward to doing more traveling as she has already been to lots of countries, "but didn't see anything besides hotel rooms."

She also plans to write a motivational book for children. "My story is quite unusual," she said. "Nobody expected that I could succeed in gymnastics."

With her charisma, Rizatdinova has won the hearts of people who don't following rhythmic gymnastics closely. She is often referred to as "Ukrainian Grace."

She says that she wants to inspire children to pursue gymnastics and sports in general. "I want being a gymnast in Ukraine to be considered a really cool thing," she said.



✓ **Name:** Anna Rizatdinova

✓ **Age:** 23

✓ **Education:** Deriugina School of Gymnastics

✓ **Profession:** Gymnast

✓ **Did you know?** Her first trainers didn't think she would become a successful gymnast.

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Yulia Sanina

Strong, authentic voice of The Hardkiss wins fans, shakes up music scene

By **Veronika Melkozerova**
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Yulia Sanina, 26, has taken the Ukrainian music stage by storm. With her husband, producer and guitarist Valeriy Bebko, she founded the English-language electronic rock band The Hardkiss in 2011, rebranding their Russian-language musical duo Val & Sanina that had existed for one year.

The couple co-writes their songs. Sanina authors the lyrics and Bebko takes care of the music.

Sanina's training in a children's school of jazz and pop vocal came handy in her career: Her powerful voice is the key component in the sound of The Hardkiss.

And thanks to her original costumes and style, created by Ukrainian stylists Slava Chaika and Vitaliy Datsyuk, Sanina has become a fashion icon in Ukraine and a muse of Ukrainian designers like Ivan Frolov and Masha Reva.

Her husband describes her as "the only girl in the world who has it all: gorgeous looks, strong intellect and talent."

The couple first met more than six years ago, when Sanina, a young journalist, interviewed Bebko, then a producer of the MTV Ukraine.

After several hours of chatting they realized they belong together.

"We even had a recording of our first conversation, as it was an interview," Sanina said in an interview to Viva magazine.

The Hardkiss quickly gained popularity. In the band's first year, The Hardkiss opened the Kyiv show of British synthpop duo Hurts.

Today, the band's schedule is packed with shows, and their music videos have millions of views on YouTube.

The band took a short break in 2015 as Sanina and Bebko had their first child, a son they named Danylo. Soon after the birth, Sanina returned to the stage and joined the Ukrainian version of the "X-Factor" show as one of the judges.

Earlier in 2016 The Hardkiss took part in Ukraine's national selection for Eurovision Song Contest and took the second place, losing to Jamala, who ended up winning the Eurovision.

Sanina has a personal channel on YouTube, where she publishes videos about the band's daily life and shows. Her fans in the comment section compare The Hardkiss to iconic rock bands such as Within Temptation or Evanescence.

In her lyrics, Sanina often addresses social problems. For instance, The Hardkiss song "Tell Me Brother" focuses on violence against women.

In her interview with Viva, Sanina said it is easy for her to write lyrics in English because for her, every song sounds "as if it is in bird language," which she says sounds similar to English for her.



✓ **Name:** Yulia Sanina

✓ **Age:** 26

✓ **Education:** Taras Shevchenko National University, specialist in folklore

✓ **Profession:** lead singer in The Hardkiss

✓ **Did you know?** The Hardkiss began as a musical duo called "Val & Sanina."

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Natalie Sedletska

It's one investigative scoop after another for hard-driving TV host of 'Schemes'

By **Bermet Talant**
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Natalie Sedletska is one of Ukraine's most prominent investigative journalists. She started her career on TVi channel, where she hosted her own show, which covered corruption in public procurement. In 2013, Sedletska joined Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty in Prague on a Vaclav Havel journalism fellowship.

She frequently traveled back to Kyiv during the EuroMaidan Revolution. After ex-President Viktor Yanukovich fled power on Feb. 22, 2014, she teamed up with other journalists who retrieved documents from the Kyiv Sea near the luxurious Mezhyhirya estate of Yanukovich. The papers were published as part of Yanukovich Leaks and revealed extensive financial corruption by the ex-president and his close circle.

She works for the U.S.-funded RFE/RL's Ukrainian service as a producer and host of the weekly TV program "Schemes," aired on Ukraine's First National Channel since July 2014 and focused on corruption. She is also a member of Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project, which leads international investigations.

At the moment, she has six investigative journalists and 15 people overall working on the program. In the latest episode, Sedletska and her team found a multimillion-dollar villa of President Petro Poroshenko in Malaga, Spain, which hadn't been included in his e-declaration.

But she expects the climate of impunity to prevail. "Today top officials don't care about all the disclosure. As a journalist you can show how a minister abuses his power for his family's wealth, but the media buzz will calm down, and the person will keep governing the country," she says.

This doesn't make the work of an investigative journalist any less important in today's Ukraine. "Our society is not stagnant any more. It's moving and it's ready to fight. Stakes are high, and in 'Schemes,' we feel a lot of responsibility for every story, word, and action."

In 2015, Sedletska took part in British Channel 4's documentary "From Russia with Cash," which investigated how money laundering of foreigners fueled London's property boom. She and Russian anti-corruption campaigner Roman Borisovich went undercover, posing as a corrupt Russian minister called "Boris" and his mistress "Nastya."

"I suppose we played our roles well because all five real estate agents who we talked to agreed to make a deal, although we directly informed them about our fraudulent gains from the health budget," says Sedletska.

The documentary drew attention to money laundering on the British property market and led to prosecutions supported by then-United Kingdom Prime Minister David Cameron. When she's not working, which is rare, she travels and attends electronic music festivals.



✓ **Name:** Natalie Sedletska

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv

✓ **Profession:** Author, editor and host of "Schemes: Corruption in Details" program on First National TV channel

✓ **Did you know?** She posed as a corrupt Russian official's mistress during an investigation.

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Daria Shapovalova

Businesswoman behind Mercedes-Benz Fashion Days has global ambitions

By **Nataliya Trach**
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When Ukrainian designers hold a fashion show abroad – in New York, Paris, Milan or London – or present their latest collections at international designers’ exhibitions, the chances are that they’ve had help from Daria Shapovalova, a Ukrainian fashion blogger and a PR agency owner.

In recent years, Shapovalova, 29, has managed to get Ukrainian designers’ names on lips and their clothes in foreign stores.

“At the beginning of the Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days we wanted to put Ukraine on the world’s fashion map, and I’m happy to say that we achieved our goal,” Shapovalova says. “Now you can find designers like Anna K, Anna October, Flow the Label, Mariana Senchina and others in top international stores worldwide – like Matches fashion, Harvey Nichols, Selfridges and many others. All that was unimaginable even six years ago.”

Shapovalova is a founder and creative director of Mercedes-Benz Kiev Fashion Days. She also owns a sales and public relations agency called More Dash, which represents Ukrainian designers. Shapovalova also works as a video director at NowFashion.com, a French website, and runs a Russian-language website about fashion – www.fw-daily.com. She also frequently updates her fashion blog, www.dariasdiaries.com.

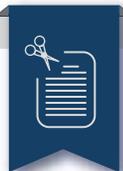
Shapovalova’s photos regularly appear in blogs and fashion magazines. In 2014, she was one of the 500 most influential people in the industry, according to The Business of Fashion.

Her schedule is busy, yet she finds time for family -- 4-year-old son David and political consultant/media manager husband Kazbek Bektursunov. The couple frequently travels together on business trips. Shapovalova says her husband has always been interested in fashion, but got into the industry because of her.

Her favorite Ukrainian designers are Anna K., Ksenia Schnaider, Anton Belinskiy and Anna October – all promoted by Shapovalova’s PR agency. “The most important thing for a designer is to be creative, professional and passionate,” she says.

Ukraine’s Euromaidan Revolution in 2013-2014 and Russia’s war against Ukraine have not scared off foreign buyers, Shapovalova says, adding she could not remember any problems her agency encountered while promoting Ukrainian designers abroad since the onset of the war.

“There are no boundaries with passion; everything is possible,” she adds. Shapovalova also has ambitious plans: “I want to do more socially important projects, charity work and continue building my company, which is becoming global. I don’t only dream – I set goals.”



✓ **Name:** Daria Shapovalova

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Taras Shevchenko National University

✓ **Profession:** owner of More Dash PR agency

✓ **Did you know?** She was born in Novosibirsk, Russia

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Alyona Shkrum

Young lawmaker seeks overhaul to end Soviet ways of governing Ukraine

By **Olena Goncharova**
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Alyona Shkrum, a 28-year-old member of parliament from the 19-member Batkivshchyna Party, is one of the youngest lawmakers in Ukraine's parliament. However, she's already achieved more than some of parliament's veterans.

As a head of parliament's civil service subcommittee, Shkrum has been leading the reform of the civil service, with the aim of cleaning up Ukraine's cumbersome and corrupt state bureaucracy. Passing the law on civil service reform was a tedious battle, as parliament several times failed to gather the 226 votes needed for its approval. It finally came into force in May. For Shkrum, this was a great personal victory.

The law sets up an open competition process for government jobs, which is intended to prevent officials from handing out positions as rewards for political allies. Also, by the end of the year, each ministry is to appoint a state secretary. These officials will oversee the daily work of the ministries and ensure that work goes on even if the cabinet resigns.

Since 2014, Shkrum has submitted more than 110 draft laws that she authored or co-authored, including a law on the rights of internally displaced people.

She started her career studying law at Kyiv's Taras Shevchenko National University, and then went on to obtain a master's in law from the Sorbonne. However, she was still hungry for more learning.

A fan of British culture, she set the goal of studying in the United Kingdom, and, at the third attempt, was accepted to study law at Cambridge University. She describes the old British university town as a "magical place."

After returning to Ukraine, she joined a group of Western-educated Ukrainian activists, who launched the Professional Government Initiative in March 2014. In the run-up to the 2015 parliamentary election campaign, the group's members were courted by a range of parties, and the Batkivshchyna Party approached her.

Shkrum said she underwent a number of interviews before the party's leaders decided to include her on their election list. It was not an easy choice to make, she told the Kyiv Post, as she had dreamed since childhood of becoming a diplomat.

Still, coming to work in parliament was not an entirely novel experience for the young lawmaker. Before starting her own political career, Shkrum worked as a lawyer for Iryna Gerashchenko, the Ukrainian lawmaker who currently heads the European integration committee in parliament.

"So it wasn't that unusual for me to come to parliament," Shkrum said in an interview with the Kyiv Post, but she added that being a lawmaker is a "great emotional pressure."



✓ **Name:** Alyona Shkrum

✓ **Age:** 28

✓ **Education:** Taras Shevchenko National University in Kyiv; Sorbonne University (Paris, France) and Cambridge University (Cambridge, United Kingdom)

✓ **Profession:** lawmaker with the Batkivshchyna parliamentary faction

✓ **Did you know?** Alyona Shkrum speaks four languages and counts Winston Churchill as her role model. In her spare time, she likes to watch TV series related to law.

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Oleksiy Skvordyakov

Ex-soldier makes sure that others who leave war get help they need to adjust

By **Olena Goncharova**
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Oleksiy Skvordyakov left the battlefield for civilian life, but he always keeps an eye on his fellow soldiers – now as a head of the Assistance Center to the Veterans of Russia’s War against Ukraine in his native Zaporizhzhya Oblast.

Already more than 6,000 people reached out to the center asking for psychological, medical and legal help since its opening in October 2015. Skvordyakov, 28, explains they try to solve any problems the veterans and their families might encounter.

“People often come to us, because they don’t know where to find answers,” Skvordyakov told the Kyiv Post. They often deal with job-seeking and property questions. One of the accomplished projects, he says, was to ensure free nutrition for the children of war veterans.

At the center, he works together with fellow veterans which makes this process “a lot easier” because he understands the soldiers’ routine.

Skvordyakov was mobilized to the army in early 2014 after Russian annexation of Crimea. He served with the 79th Airmobile Brigade. He never hesitated to join the army and his family accepted his choice. Now his father is serving in the disputed Donbas.

Over the course of 2014, Skvordyakov went through a number of hot spots, including Luhansk Oblast’s Izvaryne and Zelenopillya where Kremlin-backed separatists attacked Ukrainian positions using Grad missile launchers in July 2014. According to official figures, at least 19 Ukrainian servicemen were killed in Zelenopillya. He also took part in a battle for Donetsk Oblasts Sloviansk and Savur Mohyla, a hill of strategic importance in Donetsk Oblast close to the Russian border.

“I was basically all over the border,” he adds.

When he came back home after serving in the army, it took him at least three months to adjust to civilian life. Being with fellow soldiers helped a lot. “It was a very difficult time,” Skvordyakov recalls. “When we came back, we shared a place together and just tried to go out, walk, watch movies or go dance sometimes.” Later, he was nominated to work for the local Assistance Center to the Veterans.

One of his main activities now is to inculcate young Ukrainians with patriotism. They invite soldiers to talk to students and they all benefit from this experience.

“Talking to young people helps soldiers to forget about the war, and children have great respect to people in uniform,” Skvordyakov explains.



✓ **Name:** Oleksiy Skvordyakov

✓ **Age:** 28

✓ **Education:** Zaporizhzhya National University

✓ **Profession:** heads the Assistance Center to the Veterans of Russia’s War against Ukraine in Zaporizhzhya Oblast

✓ **Did you know?** Oleksiy Skvordyakov was recently honored by the Cabinet of Ministers for his work in national-patriotic education of young Ukrainians. He likes to play billiards and sing karaoke in his spare time.

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Iryna Slavinska

Human rights and promoting gender equality high on list of leading journalist

By **Alyona Zhuk**
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For 10 years, Iryna Slavinska has been one of Ukraine's top journalists writing about culture and, in particular, literature. About six years ago, she also started covering gender issues, calling for gender equality in the media and in life.

She has worked with online news website *Ukrainska Pravda*, the cultural magazine *Sho (What)*, and women's magazine *Elle Ukraine*. In 2012, Slavinska worked for the TVi television channel, but she, along with about 30 colleagues, left after a scandal over the change in the channel's ownership.

Together with other prominent journalists, she worked on the revival of non-commercial and non-governmental *Hromadkse Radio* in 2013.

Slavinska took on one more project in the summer of 2015, when she started to work for *Povaha (Respect)*, a campaign that promotes equal rights for men and women.

Slavinska calls herself "sensitive to everything that concerns human rights protection."

Gender equality "has been always obvious to me, as well as to every woman or girl who went through school or university in Ukraine, but I haven't been thinking about it that much," she said. "There are some things that you need to see, you kind of know them but don't pay attention to them."

During her first year at the university, Slavinska was reading Ukrainian female literary scholars, who used instruments of feministic criticism. The issue clicked for her.

Slavinska also remembers how once a man refused to shake her hand simply because she is a woman.

"It was very funny, it wasn't any kind of trauma, it was a simple situation, but I felt a collapse in my head," Slavinska said. "It was just another one of those moments when I thought that something was not right."

Slavinska focuses in particular on sexism in the Ukrainian media, monitoring their coverage and giving lectures to journalists.

"You don't have to be some special media or some special journalist not to use hate speech, not to use all these idiotic stereotypes. If you write in normal language about all people – this is a part of journalistic standards."



✓ **Name:** Iryna Slavinska

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** French philology, Kyiv National Linguistic University

✓ **Profession:** journalist, translator, literature critic

✓ **Did you know?** Slavinska translated the book "This is Not the End of the Book" by Umberto Eco and Jean-Claude Carrière into Ukrainian.

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Anastasia Sleptsova

She boosts Ukraine's IT sector in several ways, including with Black Sea Summit

By **Isobel Koshiw**
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At the age of 26, Anastasia Sleptsova has already built a name for herself for developing and promoting Ukraine's information technology sector.

Her first exposure to Ukraine's IT world was when she worked as a tech supporter at an outsourcing company. Sleptsova then moved to work in business development in one of Ukraine's largest outsourcing companies.

It was her job to communicate with different international bodies, businesspeople and conference holders in order to promote the company. It was there that she realized that she could have a hand in developing Ukraine's IT sector: "I thought everything that was going on was so cool, but there weren't enough meetups or conferences."

So together with friends, Sleptsova organized the first IT meetup in Odesa, resulting in several e-governance hackathons and IT-related social projects. The meetups became so popular that they started to attract people from across Ukraine. Only five people attended the first meetup, she said. Now they get crowds as large as 200 people.

"The main idea is to develop ideas by having a community. The biggest problem in Ukraine is the developers' lack of business skills and global knowledge," said Sleptsova. With this in mind, her colleague Karina Lapina has created partnerships with the likes of the Columbia Business School to train developers in how to present and monetize their products.

By 2015, one thing had led to another and Sleptsova decided to start an international English-language conference: the Black Sea Summit. Her plan is to develop the conference for at least the next five years. More than 1,000 participants have already bought tickets for 2017, which means that their original venue is over capacity. International conferences, said Sleptsova, can open Ukraine up to the world.

"The aim is to show people that Ukraine is not only about the economic crisis and the war. That we have a lot of bright ideas and talent. We want people to come to Ukraine for business trips, not just to check out girls," said Sleptsova.

On the sidelines of the forum in 2016, Sleptsova initiated Start Up Odesa, an umbrella for all the IT startups in the region. Mentoring the new venture is Start Up Amsterdam, civil society members and the Odesa City Council will also help out.

"I like to meet people who work in the IT sector because they play outside the rules. I want them to be a drive of the country. Everyone should start from themselves, by doing a little bit."



✓ **Name:** Anastasia Sleptsova

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** Ukrainian language and literature, English language at Odessa National I.I. Mechnikov University

✓ **Company:** SPREAD, Black Sea Summit

✓ **Did you know?** Anastasia can read Latin and Old Church Slavonic. She enjoys going to the opera and consequently learned Italian.

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Iryna Suslova

Parliament member wants to boost status of women in politics, military, education

By **Alyona Zhuk**
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Iryna Suslova heads the parliamentary subcommittee on gender equality and non-discrimination, working on several laws that would give women more rights in politics, military and education.

She also takes part in educating projects, aimed to fight gender stereotypes among Ukraine's youth. Suslova searched for missing activists after the EuroMaidan Revolution. She was invited to join the Civic Lustration Committee, an organization launched to clean the state from officials loyal to ousted President Viktor Yanukovych.

Early parliamentary elections in 2014 brought Suslova to the parliament. She entered on the party list of Samopomich. She was kicked out after she voted for the appointment of Viktor Shokin as prosecutor general. Later she joined the leading faction of President Petro Poroshenko.

Suslova wants to ban discrimination against women who want to serve in the Ukrainian army. At the moment, women can't serve as snipers, sappers or military drivers. They can work in the kitchen or medical department. Female soldiers, who still go to the war front on unofficial basis, are not eligible for benefits and official payment. Neither their families can ask for state financial support if the female soldier gets injured or killed on the duty.

Suslova as well wants to change the legislation on education that prevents girls from studying in cadet schools.

"We don't ask for the mandatory quotas for women in army or in military schools. But give the person an opportunity to choose what to do," Suslova said. "State's functions are disrupted. The state has to provide services to its citizens, but it, on the contrary, only creates obstacles."

Suslova does, however, stand for mandatory quotas for women, but in politics. She has co-written the draft law that does not allow the Central Election Commission to register a party if there is less than 40 percent of women on its list.

Another problem she is trying to solve is an outdated and slow process of public appeals to the officials. As it is now, it takes too much time, as there isn't any joint system where officials would be able to transfer the received appeal to the responsible person, and they communicate via paper mail.

"Our task is to change this, to launch the unified system of electronic document flow," she said, adding that it would increase the responsibility of the officials for dragging their feet on responding to the appeals of the citizens. With this new system, each person will be able to track his appeal online, knowing who is working on it.



✓ **Name:** Iryna Suslova

✓ **Age:** 28

✓ **Education:** Economics, State Fiscal University of Ukraine

✓ **Profession:** Lawmaker in Verkhovna Rada

✓ **Did you know?** When Suslova became a lawmaker, she had to give Dzhyna, a dog that had lived with her for five years, to her parents, as she didn't have time to take care of the pet.

In partnership with





Alina Sviderska

Western-educated professional takes aim at overregulation to boost investment

By **Olena Goncharova**
goncharova@kyivpost.com

Alina Sviderska never dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but she's always had a sense of what is fair. Now she's working for EasyBusiness, a non-profit organization that aims to create a level playing field for business in Ukraine by improving the country's regulatory environment.

However, joining the EasyBusiness team was one of the biggest challenges she's ever faced.

"I had the boldness to start something new in my career," Sviderska told the Kyiv Post. "I decided to leave an amazing law firm and went to a newly created non-profit organization - with no funding - in 2014."

But her decision has already proved to be the right one. The most rewarding part of career has become the team and its results, according to Sviderska.

"I love that with our great team we manage to help with the adoption of sometimes difficult, unpopular but necessary decisions in our country," she says, adding that people joined the organization not for money, but for the "ideas, and positive changes."

"We're all friends in EasyBusiness," Sviderska said.

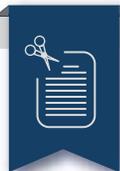
Together with the team, Sviderska has helped to prepare some 30 draft laws that have eased excessive business regulation and reduced its administrative burden. For instance, EasyBusiness cooperated with lawmakers on preparing a draft law on simplifying the business environment in 2015. They also worked on a law on protecting investors' rights, which aims to strengthen the rights of minority investors.

Following her sense of fairness, Sviderska decided to enroll in the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, where she studied law. She then went on to study in the United Kingdom, where she received an M.A. in law from Cambridge University in 2012. After returning to Ukraine, she worked as legal adviser at law firm Clifford Chance, and was an adviser to Aivaras Abromavicius, who headed Ukraine's Economy Ministry until his resignation in February.

Sviderska also joined the group of Western-educated Ukrainian activists who launched the Professional Government Initiative in March 2014. She believes these people are "slowly penetrating the system," and says that she can already see a difference in management and the kinds of decisions being made.

They "fight with populism and are more transparent," Sviderska explains. Even though the changes she wants to see in the country are not happening at lightning speed, her motivation is to work with honest and responsible people, she says.

"I love achieving results with such people, and I love helping them to achieve noble aims. There is nothing better than exchange of positive vibes while building something great," she says.



✓ **Name:** Alina Sviderska

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Cambridge University (Cambridge, United Kingdom)

✓ **Profession:** lawyer with EasyBusiness, President of the Cambridge Society of Ukraine

✓ **Did you know?** Alina Sviderska wanted to create a shelter for homeless animals when she was a child.

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Yuliya Sychikova

Her passions include helping students in Ukraine enroll in top American universities

By **Bermet Talant**
bermet.talant@gmail.com

Yuliya Sychikova was 14 when she left her hometown of Berdyansk, an Azov Sea port city in Zaporizhzhya Oblast, and went to the United States for the first time. She spent one academic year studying in a high school in Iowa through the Future Leaders Exchange Program, or FLEX, a scholarship funded by the United States for high school students from Eurasia. Her exchange year influenced her so much that, upon her return, she was determined to continue her education at a U.S. university.

“The educational model in the United States was different from Ukrainian universities. I was amazed that students learned more outside the class through interaction with their peers and professors. Free discussions were welcomed, it was possible to have opinion different from that of the professor’s,” says Sychikova, who obtained her bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 2011.

She says her foreign education changed her mindset, and after working in a startup in Boston, she decided to return to Ukraine and give something back to her homeland.

The result was Ukraine Global Scholars, a non-profit initiative founded by Sychikova and other alumni in 2015. It helps bright Ukrainian 8-11th graders enroll in the best U.S. colleges or boarding schools and receive financial aid to cover tuition and living expenses.

Selected finalists get assistance in the application process, preparation for examinations and language tests and coverage of standardized test costs. They also join a network of high-potential young leaders.

Besides criteria like excellent academic standing and good English, the Ukraine Global Scholars’ selection committee is looking for patriotism.

“The most important trait is what this young person wants to do for Ukraine or has already done for their local community,” explains Sychikova, emphasizing the importance of returning home and leading Ukraine to better prosperity.

Comparing her generation with today’s teenagers, she touts their energy, openness and absence of prejudice. They are better informed and better at making use of presentation and media tools. “We see that the number of those who want to study science, technology, engineering and mathematics is increasing.”

In its first year of operation, Ukraine Global Scholars helped five Ukrainian teenagers get into U.S. universities and win \$1.1 million in scholarship aid. This year it has 20 finalists. Sychikova is also an associate at A Ventures Capital Fund and wants to help startups enter global markets. She loves ecotourism and off-the-beaten-path travel destinations. The next trip she has planned will be to Botswana.



✓ **Name:** Yuliya Sychikova

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** University of Pennsylvania

✓ **Profession:** A founder of Ukraine Global Scholars; Associate at A Ventures Capital Fund

✓ **Did you know?** She is fascinated by Africa.

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Anastasia Topolskaia

From small town in Donbas to big-time star DJ on world's nightclub scene

By **Anna Yakutenko**
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Anastasia Topolskaia, 29, who performs under the stage name DJ Nastia, is one of the high-paid in her profession from Ukraine. She's rather famous among electronic music lovers abroad than at her homeland: Topolskaia has about 200 performances a year in clubs in Europe, South and North America and Asia and Australia.

Unlike many DJs of her level, Topolskaia says that she likes playing different music instead of sticking to the single format.

Topolskaia was born in a small town in Luhansk Oblast called Fashchivka, 764 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. She and two her older sisters were raised in a family with "less than average income," She didn't dream to be a DJ in a childhood. She wanted to be a dancer. Topolskaia recalls that she was going to single club Fashchivka since she was 10-11 years old.

After finishing school, she moved to Donetsk, where her sisters have already settled, and started working as a go-go dancer in the club. Soon, however, she decided to switch to DJ-ing, because she realized that dancers have short career.

Topolskaia asked her boyfriend, a local DJ who was then one of the most prominent in the city, to show her how to mix tracks. In 2005 Topolskaia gave her first gig in Fvano-Frankivsk city in western Ukraine under the stage name DJ Natia Beauty. And that's how her career started.

In 2006 Topolskaia became a resident of Kazantip, one of Ukraine's most prominent festival of electronic music that was held in Crimea from 1992 to 2013. Topolskaia soon married DJ Anatoly Topolsky, who performs under the stage name DJ Tapolsky. The couple broke up several years ago, and now Topolskaia lives with lawmaker and former journalist Sergii Leshchenko.

In 2009 Topolskaia got several offers from nightclubs abroad, after a video of her mixing her tracks and dancing got more than 1,000 views on YouTube. She said that she is constantly developing her music style.

Topolskaia loves playing in Kyiv, adding that she has several favorite clubs in the capital and in the Black Sea port city of Odesa, where the audience demands more interesting and complicated music.

"People come to these parties not just to hang out, have fun and forget everything. They need concept and the idea. It's interesting because it's not for mass audience. It's underground," Topolskaia said.

To support unknown but talented Ukrainian musicians, Topolskaia created her own label "Propaganda." Among Ukrainian clubs, Topolskaia points out Closer and Scheme in Kyiv and Port in Odesa.



✓ **Name:** Anastasia Topolskaia

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Donetsk National University of Economics and Trade

✓ **Profession:** DJ

✓ **Did you know?** The Closer art club in Kyiv's Podil district holds the Strichka Festival that originally was a party to celebrate Topolskaia's birthday.

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Yuliya Tychkivska

Vice president of Kyiv School of Economics runs to make Ukraine ‘open, transparent’

By **Olena Goncharova**
goncharova@kyivpost.com

Yuliya Tychkivska, Kyiv School’s of Economics vice president, jokes that she doesn’t have time for anything.

However, Tychkivska, 27, managed to launch several new programs at one of Ukraine’s top business schools and co-founded Bendukidze Free Market Center, a Ukrainian think tank named after Georgian philanthropist Kakha Bendukidze that aims to create “open and transparent society” based on individual and corporate liberty.

Now Tychkivska devotes lots of time to her “most important project” – her newborn son, but doesn’t forget her long-time passion – running.

“There’s no secret,” she says, adding that everything she does brings her joy, because she knows why they’re doing it for.

In 2015, the Kyiv School of Economics teamed up with the Finance Ministry and launched the Leadership in Public Finance project, educational program for civil servants that want to increase expertise in the management of public finances.

“I’m glad that we not only shared the knowledge with the participants, but created a community of experts that landed in different spheres and they keep in touch with each other and coordinate,” Tychkivska explains.

In January, Kyiv School of Economics launched a 24-day Knights of Honor program. It aimed to boost management skills and educate police officers who underwent the vetting launched in November 2015. The program educated police officers on how to ensure proper work of the central and local units of Ukraine’s National Police. They selected 12 people out of 2,000 police officers who studied leadership and management courses, personal development and effectiveness of law enforcement. Tychkivska says they plan to run this program again.

It was a “touching program,” she says, adding that some of the graduates reached out to her thanking for experience or asking for her advice.

Her career started with the National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy where she studied economics. During her freshman year, she became involved in AISEC, an international non-governmental organization that provides young people with cross-cultural global internship and volunteer exchange experiences around the world.

Tychkivska’s always open to new opportunities. During the EuroMaidan Revolution that toppled ex-President Viktor Yanukovich, she founded an Open University of Maidan that offered daily free lectures on politics, economics and civic education. Later she headed an advisory group at the Economy Ministry.

Her recipe to unwind in difficult situations is running. “It cleans your head,” Tychkivska explains, adding that her first five kilometer run after giving birth felt “incredible.”



✓ **Name:** Yuliya Tychkivska

✓ **Age:** 27

✓ **Education:** National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

✓ **Profession:** economist, vice president for management education at Kyiv School of Economics

✓ **Did you know?** Tychkivska has four sisters and four brothers. She also was an active Plast member, a non-political scout organization in Ukraine.

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Oleksandr Usyk

Simferopol's world champion boxer says keys to success are high aims, hard work

By **Maria Romanenko**
mro@ukr.net

Oleksandr Usyk won the World Boxing Organization cruiser-weight champion belt in just his 10th professional fight on Sept. 17, breaking the previous record of Evander Holyfield, who won his first world title in his 12th professional fight.

"We aimed high and people were saying I wasn't ready yet, but my team and I always set goals that are not easy," Usyk says.

Born in Simferopol, Usyk still considers it his home and visits frequently, despite Russia's annexation of Crimea in March 2014. But these days, Usyk lives in Kyiv.

"We moved for my work. A big city means more opportunities, including opportunities for my children, but Crimea remains my home," Usyk says.

Usyk started boxing at the age of 15 in Simferopol. As his amateur boxing career continued, he got financial support from a sports club, which helped him buy food for his family and diapers for his baby daughter Liza. Even now that he has become a European champion, he has still had to ask friends for financial help, he says.

"Of course you will be poor at times, you will lose, and you will get criticized. But you need to get out there and train, you need to work hard to succeed."

Usyk believes that sport is important for Ukraine's national image, and that more should be done to promote sports in Ukraine.

"This last Olympics I think there were more Ukrainian politicians present than sportsmen... If people have three or five jobs, where can they find time to fit sport into their life?"

Usyk first became widely known after winning a boxing gold medal at the 2012 London Olympics: A video of the celebratory Ukrainian hopak dance he performed in the ring after his win immediately went viral. As of today, he has fought around 300 amateur fights and 10 professional fights. As a professional, he is undefeated.

In his free time the boxer spends time with his wife Kateryna and their three children. He reads psychological, religious and educational literature, and writes poems. He has also been a devout Christian since childhood.

Usyk admires the late U.S. boxer Mohammad Ali - for his personal qualities above all. He says boxers become great through actions and words, rather than just their fight record.

"I don't do what I do just so that people say how great I am. We shouldn't be saying bad things about each other, but just do our jobs instead."



✓ **Name:** Oleksandr Usyk

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Lviv State University of Physical Culture

✓ **Profession:** Boxer

✓ **Did you know?** Usyk lost his very first amateur fight

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Lesia Vasylenko

NGO gives free legal aid to soldiers, and it all started with a trip to a military hospital

By Maria Romanenko
mro@ukr.net

Lawyer Lesia Vasylenko never thought she'd work in the public sector - until a trip to a military hospital changed everything.

It was June 2014. She had come to the hospital as a visitor, bringing money collected to pay for an operation needed by a soldier. She then saw other wounded soldiers and their families, and found that they were all talking about the difficulty of finding money to pay for treatment.

"Something clicked in my head and I thought: 'It can't be true that these people are not entitled to any support from the government,'" Vasylenko said.

She started studying Ukrainian law on this subject and found she was right - it wasn't true.

So Vasylenko asked her graphic designer friend for help in creating illustrated brochures explaining soldiers' rights. With her friend, Olga Tkachenko, she went around military hospitals all over Ukraine distributing the brochures and speaking with war veterans.

"Every soldier felt lost and abandoned by the government, so it was very eye-opening for them," Vasylenko said.

Then, in January 2015, Vasylenko founded the Legal Hundred NGO, which now has around 218 lawyers who offer free consultations. The Legal Hundred now helps soldiers understand and protect their rights, especially in regions lacking protection.

Legal Hundred is the biggest military law organization in Ukraine. Its lawyers have already helped close to 10,000 soldiers.

Vasylenko was born in Kyiv and is the daughter of human rights activist Volodymyr Vasylenko. When the EuroMaidan Revolution started in 2013, she spent every night on Independence Square, despite having just given birth. Now she finds motivation all around her.

"I admire the field volunteers who travel to the war zone frequently. I admire the lawyers who help soldiers free of charge. I'm inspired by the soldiers, their wives and mothers, who stand by them in the most difficult situations."

A new project in cooperation with the Invisible Battalion organization focuses on the civil rights of female soldiers. "Women in the war zone fight in exactly the same way as men do, but are paid less; there are also no female toilets in barracks, and no uniforms and army boots designed for women," said Vasylenko.

The Legal Hundred has also teamed up with the Ministry of Social Policy to work on the rehabilitation of veterans. "Until the army learns to protect each of its soldiers, nobody will want to serve in it," said Vasylenko. "There will be no trust in the armed forces."



✓ **Name:** Lesia Vasylenko

✓ **Age:** 29

✓ **Education:** Masters in international law from the Institute of International Relations of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv; LLM at University College London, UK.

✓ **Profession:** Founder and Chairwoman of the Legal Hundred NGO

✓ **Did you know?** Her two children both went through "the baptism of fire," with the older one born in October 2013, a month before the EuroMaidan Revolution started, and the younger one in May 2015, during the war.

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Yana Zinkevych

She nearly loses her life saving soldiers, but her fighting spirit refuses to give up

By **Veronika Melkozerova**
melkozerova@kyivpost.com

Yana Zinkevych, 21, born in Rivne and now living in the Dnipropetrovsk Oblast city of Pavlograd with her soldier-husband Maksym Korablev, has a personal story worthy of a dramatic movie about strength, courage, love and faith.

At 19, Zinkevych was preparing to enter the Medical Faculty of Lviv National University, but then the outbreak of war in the Donbas in the spring of 2014 changed her life. She decided to go to the front and founded the Hospitaliery medical volunteer battalion, which has become the part of the DUC (Volunteer Ukrainian Corps) – a fighting unit created by the Right Sector organization.

In 2014-2015, the hardest years of the Donbas war, Zinkevych and her fellow soldiers from Hospitaliery saved thousands of Ukrainian army soldiers and volunteer battalion fighters in the most dangerous hot spots in Russia's war against Ukraine: Ilovaysk, Shyrokyne, Debaltseve, Pisky and Donetsk Airport. Zinkevych has herself saved 200 lives on the front line.

Although Zinkevych has no medical qualifications, she learned how to perform operations - even at the front line and under fire. Zinkevych told Fakty newspaper it was hard for her to give commands to a battalion full of men, all older than her, although nobody argued with her.

In December 2015, Zinkevych survived a terrible car crash when the Hospitaliery Battalion crashed into a ditch after skidding off an icy road.

Zinkevych suffered serious spine, rib and internal injuries. For two months, Ukrainian and then Israeli doctors fought for her life, repairing her spine piece by piece. Zinkevych went through a six-month rehabilitation period. A month after the car crash, Zinkevych also discovered she was pregnant.

Doctors warned her that it would be very hard for her to carry the baby, but Zinkevych decided to take the risk.

On May 27, Yana and her long-time boyfriend Korablev, a 27-year-old DUC fighter, got married in Dnipro. Yana is still in a wheelchair, but continues to manage the Hospitaliery Battalion. On Oct. 31 she gave birth to a girl and named her Bogdana, which means "Given by God," and describes the child as a miracle for her parents.

"She was definitely given by the God," Zinkevych told TSN news service. "All the doctors and diagnoses were telling me I couldn't carry the baby due to my (spinal) injuries."



✓ **Name:** Yana Zinkevych

✓ **Age:** 21

✓ **Education:** Rivne Educational Complex Collegium

✓ **Profession:** Medical volunteer, founder of the Hospitaliery medical volunteer battalion

✓ **Did you know?** Zinkevych has been given four awards: the Hero of the People of Ukraine award, the Order of Merit, Third Class, the For Saving Lives award, and the Martial Prowess award.

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Valeriy Chybineyev

A Hero of Ukraine, this soldier wants to set up sniper school to help train the best

By **Anna Yakutenko**
Yakutenko@kyivpost.Com

Ukrainian soldier Valeriy Chybineyev got the surprise of his life when President Petro Poroshenko granted him a Hero of Ukraine medal, the country's highest award, during the military parade on Ukraine's Independence Day on Aug. 24.

Chybineyev, 28, the commander of the sniper battalion within the 79th Airborne Brigade, had no idea he was going to get the award until his name was announced on Kyiv's Independence Square. Seconds later, Poroshenko handed him the medal.

Chybineyev didn't even want to go to the parade. He wanted to stay with his battalion in Avdiyivka in Donetsk Oblast, in one of the hottest spots of the war between Ukraine and joined Russian-separatist forces.

The sniper is one of only nine people who received a Hero of Ukraine award in 2016, and the youngest one of those still living. Six of the nine received it posthumously.

Chybineyev got his award for "valor, heroism and professionalism in protecting Ukraine's sovereignty." The sniper company led by him conducted several successful operations in Donetsk Oblast.

Chybineyev also was among the soldiers who valiantly but unsuccessfully defended Ukrainian army positions protecting the ruined Donetsk Airport in January 2015.

He was born in Berdyansk, an Azov Sea port city of 116,000 people in Zaporizhzhya Oblast, 718 kilometers southeast of Kyiv. He grew up in an orphanage and decided to go into the military, inspired by the son of the orphanage's director, who was a paratrooper.

When Russia started its war in the spring of 2014, Chybineyev's unit was sent to the front. Combat came as a shock to him. His company faced their first enemy fire in Chervony Lyman; several soldiers near him were wounded. He endured much danger since then. Once, Chybineyev and two other soldiers saved three soldiers from inside a tank that had hit a land mine. Another time, Chybineyev was nearly taken captive by Russian-backed forces, but pretended to be one of them and returned to his military base under fire. Thanks to his warning, the base soldiers were able to fight off enemy troops, forcing them to retreat.

Chybineyev was wounded when a shell fragment hit him in the shoulder. Still, he refused to leave his company. Some of his hardest moments came during the battles of the winter of 2015. "You couldn't do anything but pray. It's hard to realize that nothing depends on your actions," he said.

Now Chybineyev wants to create a sniper school based on his battalion to help other people "to share the experience we get at war, and help newcomers avoid making the mistakes we made."



✓ **Name:** Valeriy Chybineyev

✓ **Age:** 28

✓ **Education:** Odessa Institute of Ground Forces

✓ **Profession:** Captain of a sniper company of the 79th Brigade

✓ **Did you know?** Chybineyev became famous after a Facebook post that volunteer Roman Sinicyn wrote about him went viral and was liked 27,000 times.

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25 YEARS IN UKRAINE



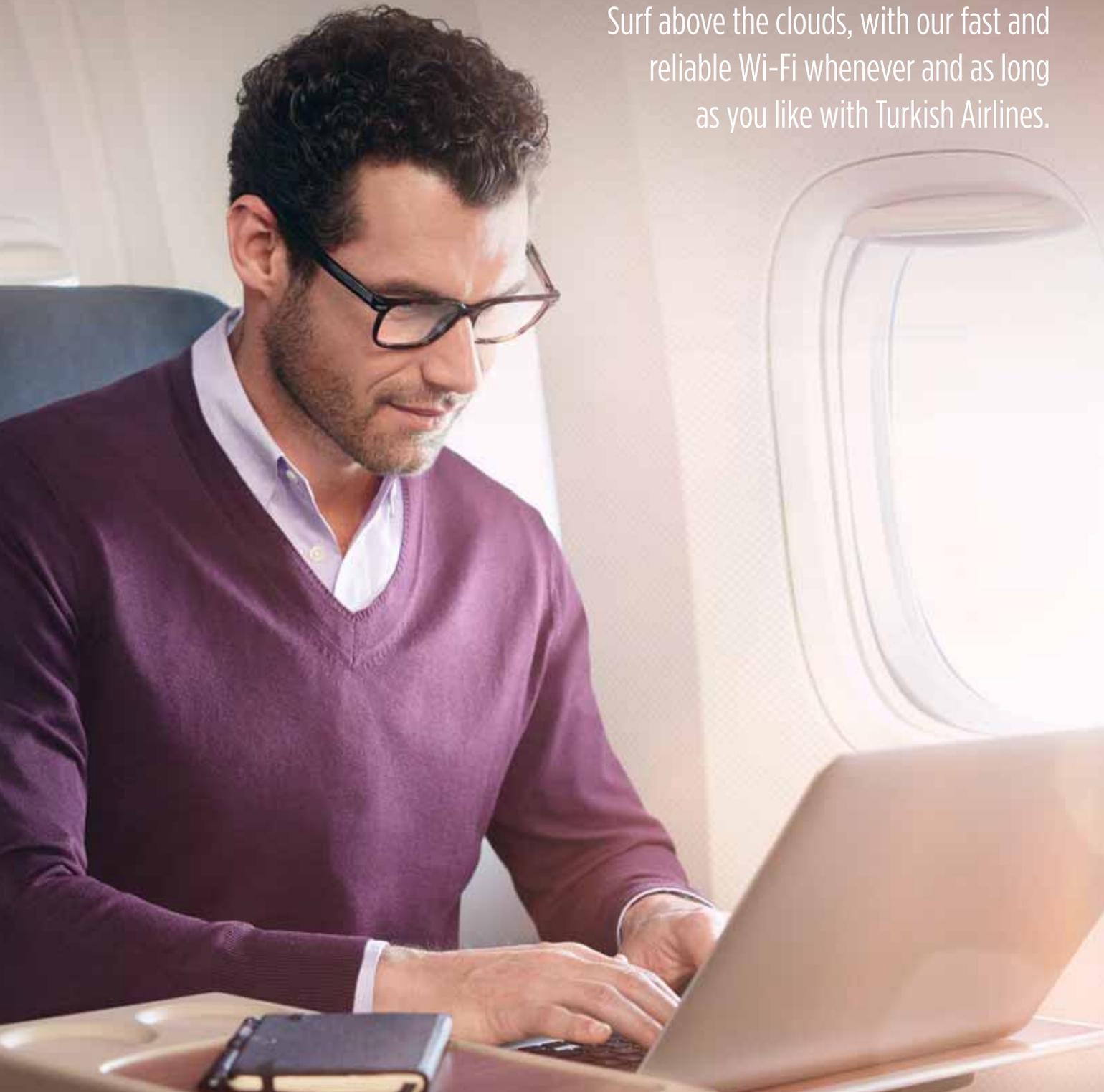
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